

OPINION 6
NEP: PROMISE
OR PLATITUDE?**WORLD 8**
TRUMP'S PICK AMY BARRETT
SWORN IN AS SC JUSTICE**AVENUES 10**
IMPORTANCE OF SKILL
DEVELOPMENT

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

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India, US focus on China threat

Both exert China must respect rule of law; US assures help to deal with LAC face-off, Chinese assertiveness in Indo-Pacific, South China Sea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an obvious reference to China's expansionist and aggressive behaviour, India and the US on Tuesday made it clear that Beijing must respect the rule of law and sovereignty. The US also assured India of all help in the backdrop of the ongoing face-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh and the growing Chinese assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region and the South China Sea.

This strong and terse message came after the extensive 2+2 dialogue between the two countries here. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar discussed the entire range of strategic issues with their respective counterparts Mark Esper and Mike Pompeo. The two visiting US dignitaries also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval.

Rajnath and Jaishankar put forth India's assertions strongly but refrained from naming China during their statements. However, Pompeo was forthcoming and blunt in blaming Beijing as he said the coronavirus pandemic that "came from Wuhan" has set off a "robust discussion" about the Chinese Communist Party.

Giving details of his discussions during the 2+2 conference and bilateral meeting with Esper a day earlier, Rajnath said at the joint Press conference after the dialogue that the two sides shared assessment of the security situation across the Indo-Pacific.

"In that process, we reaffirmed our commitment to peace, stability and prosperity of all countries in this region. We also agreed that upholding the rules based international order, respecting the rule of law and freedom of navigation in the international seas and upholding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states are essential. Our defence cooperation is intended to further these objectives," he said. India and the US also welcomed Australia joining the forthcoming Malabar exercise.

Pompeo maintained, "Our leaders and our citizens see with increasing clarity that the CCP is no friend to democracy, the rule of law, transparency nor the freedom of navigation, the foundation of a free and open and prosperous Indo-Pacific. I'm glad to say India and the US are taking all steps to strengthen cooperation against all threats and not just those posed by the CCP. Last year, we've expanded our cooperation on cyber issues, our navies have held joint exercises in Indian ocean."

es in Indian ocean."

In a joint statement later, the two nations reaffirmed their commitment to fight the scourge of terrorism and resolved to jointly face the challenge posed by the coronavirus pandemic. The two countries discussed ways to further strengthen four pillars of the Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) covering Oil & Gas, Power and Energy Efficiency, Renewables and Sustainable Growth. Pompeo said the US "stands with India to deal with any threat."

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and US Defence Secretary Mark T. Esper during a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and US Ambassador to India Ken Juster are also seen

PTI

India, US take ties to new heights

Sign BECA to help Indian forces gain precision data

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and the US on Tuesday elevated their strategic and defence ties to new heights with the signing of the critical Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) after the 2+2 dialogue here. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the pact as a "significant move" and said the military co-operation between the

two countries was moving forward positively.

BECA will see the US sharing advanced satellite and topographical data for navigation for missiles in the military sphere. Indian armed forces will gain access to precision data and topographical images on a real-time basis from the US military satellites under the BECA.

BECA is called the foundational agreement and completes finalisation of three other pacts crucial for strengthening strategic ties. The three pacts are the General Security of Military Information

Agreement (GSOMIA), Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) and the Communications, Compatibility and Security Arrangement (COMCASA). While GSOMIA was inked in 2002, LEMOA was signed in 2016 and COMCASA came about in 2018.

Besides BECA, the two sides this time also signed four other agreements namely Agreement for Technical Cooperation on Earth Sciences; Arrangement extending the arrangement on nuclear cooperation; agreement on postal

services; and agreement on cooperation in Ayurveda and cancer research.

BECA comes at a time when India and China are engaged in a stand-off for the last five months at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. The BECA will provide the Indian security establishment latest high technology images through satellites.

The LEMOA enables reciprocal logistics support including refueling and berthing facilities at each other's ports and airports for warships and aircraft.

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5 States buck national Covid decline trend

At 4,853, Delhi sees highest single-day hike, while national daily count lowest in 3 months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is a contrasting trend being witnessed in India. While India has been registering a consistent decline in the Covid-19 death rate in the past five weeks with the new confirmed cases in the last 24 hours falling below 40,000 for the first time in three months, States like Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi are reporting high number of cases, which the Government on Tuesday said is the second wave of the infection.

At 4,853, Delhi recorded its highest single-day coronavirus cases on Tuesday. Delhi is inching towards its third peak while an unprecedented rise is being witnessed in Kerala and West Bengal.

The Centre expressed apprehensions that winters, ongoing festivals as well as the slowing down of the contain-

ment strategies could be playing a role.

"We are fortunate that today we are showing a decline of the (Covid-19) pandemic, except in two or three States. This decline is particularly noteworthy because in other countries of the northern hemisphere there is a severe increase in the intensity of pandemic," chairperson of the National Task Force on Covid-19, VK Paul, said at a Press briefing here on Tuesday while comparing India's status with the world.

"The situation related to the pandemic in the world is particularly concerning and it has been seen that countries of much greater economic capability and per capita income, and having a good health system, can succumb to a huge second peak," he said.

"This must be a lesson for all of us," Paul, who is also the NITI Aayog member for

health, said as he pointed out that rising cases in three States and a few UTs has remained a matter of worry.

Around 49.4 per cent of new Covid-19 cases in the last

24 hours were reported from Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi.

Similarly, 58 per cent new Covid-19 deaths in the last 24

hours were reported from Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said.

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Covid-19 IN INDIA
TOTAL
CASES: 79,79,139
DEATHS: 1,19,871
RECOVERED: 72,43,180
ACTIVE: 6,14,720



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	16,48,665	43,348	14,70,660
Andhra Pradesh	8,11,825	6,625	7,77,900
Karnataka	8,09,638	10,991	7,27,298
Tamil Nadu	7,14,235	10,983	6,75,518
Uttar Pradesh	4,74,054	6,940	4,40,847
Kerala	4,02,675	1,377	3,09,032
Delhi	3,64,341	6,356	3,30,112
West Bengal	3,57,779	6,604	3,14,003
Odisha	2,83,942	1,325	2,68,115
Telangana	2,31,834	1,311	2,11,912
Bihar	2,13,383	1,065	2,03,244
Assam	2,04,789	914	1,91,027
Rajasthan	1,89,844	1,867	1,72,028
Chhattisgarh	1,77,608	1,861	1,53,654
Gujarat	1,69,073	3,698	1,51,988
Madhya Pradesh	1,67,969	2,890	1,54,222

CAPSULE

NMC SR DOCTORS GO ON INDEFINITE STRIKE

New Delhi: Patients of North Corporation-run hospitals faced hardship as the senior doctors there went on an indefinite strike on Tuesday, a day after they had gone on casual leave en masse over pending salaries.

SALLAHUDIN, BHATKAL BROS NAMED ULTRAS

New Delhi: Continuing to deal with terrorism with an "iron hand", the government on Tuesday designated 18 more individuals as "terrorists" including chief of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen Syed Sallahudin, founders of Indian Mujahideen Bhatkal brothers and a close lieutenant of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, Chhota Shakeel, taking the total number of such proscribed persons to 31.

BIHAR: 1 DEAD IN FIRING DURING IDOL IMMERSION

Munger: One person was killed and over two dozen people, including security personnel, were injured in firing and stone-pelting during goddess Durga idol immersion in Munger.

315 students get Covid positive in Mizoram after schools reopen

Setback to school resumption plan; ICMR says kids can be spreaders or super spreaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a setback to various State Governments' planning to open schools post Diwali, the Centre on Tuesday said children can be spreaders or super spreaders. The observation came following reports of at least 315 active cases among children in Mizoram, prompting the Northeastern State to close down the schools.

Talking to reporters here on Tuesday at a Press briefing, Dr Balram Bhargava, DG of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said, "Children were thought to be protected but we now have some evidence which states



that children can be spreaders and even super spreaders."

He was replying to a question about the Mizoram decision to close down the schools after 315 school students were found to be infected with the virus.

The Mizoram Government closed all schools from October 26 after a number of Class 10 and 12 students, who had been attending classes since October 16, tested positive for coronavirus.

When asked if the children were suffering with Kawasaki disease, he said in negative and explained that "This (Kawasaki) is a rare condition and common among males. Kawasaki disease is an autoimmune disease that affects

children who are less than 5 years of age. It is less common in India. I don't think we have had any experience of Kawasaki with Covid-19 in India so far."

He further said overall the figure in India is that below the age of 17 years, only 8 per cent are found to be Covid-19 positive, and below the age of 5 years, that figure would be much less.

While, school students found Covid-positive have been probably first of such kind instance in the country on record, a study carried out by researchers from the Princeton Environmental Institute (PEI), Johns Hopkins University and the University of California Berkeley in collaboration with public health officials in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu showed that children and young adults have more propensity to transmit novel coronavirus, especially within households.

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SC: HC to monitor Hathras probe, CRPF to provide security to victims

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI investigation in Hathras case, in which a Dalit girl was allegedly brutally raped and died of injuries, is to be monitored by the Allahabad High Court and the CRPF would provide security to the victim's family and witnesses in the case, the Supreme Court said Tuesday.

The issue of transferring the trial out of Uttar Pradesh would be considered if the need arises in future, apex court said, observing that all aspects of the matter are left open to be considered by the high court.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde noted in its verdict that Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court has taken note of Hathras incident and passed order directing registration of suo motu petition.

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Bihar campaign gets acerbic as leaders hit below the belt

Nitish targets Lalu's family, Tejashwi hits back, drags in PM

DEEPAK UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The air is toxic as the tongue has gone acerbic in Bihar that on Wednesday goes to poll for the first of the three-phased elections. The captains of political parties in their quest to damn and damage each other to the hilt are hitting below the belt, leaving aside their "gentleman façade". And in the process, Prime Minister Narendra Modi too is being dragged in.

Turning the big battle for Bihar more personal this week, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, otherwise known for attacking his rivals from within the dignified confines, took potshots at rival Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav for having nine children, in his pursuit for a son.

Though the Chief Minister didn't mention the Yadavs in his jibe, he did not leave much to the imagination of his poll audience when he said, "They have eight-nine children. They have no faith in daughters."



After so many daughters, they had a son. You all can see — this is the kind of Bihar they want to make."

Nitish Kumar could say so about Lalu's "numbers" as his own family is small and inconspicuous.

In a sharp response, Lalu's son Tejashwi Yadav, reminded Kumar that Narendra Modi also has several siblings and by commenting on my family, he is targeting the Prime Minister also. "Using such language, Nitish Kumar has insulted women and my mother's sentiments. They don't speak on the main issues, like inflation, corruption, unemployment," Tejashwi, who has been targeting Nitish by calling him "mentally and physically tired", said.



Siding with its ally, the Congress said Nitish's conduct shows he is upset and worried about his defeat.

But this is not the first time that the Chief Minister took up the "cause" of "daughters" in the ongoing Bihar poll. Early this week, he raised the issue of the alleged misbehaviour with Aishwarya Rai, the estranged wife of Lalu Yadav's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav.

"Look at what kind of ill-treatment was meted out to an educated girl...whatever happened made us feel very ashamed," Nitish exclaimed while addressing her father Chandrika Rai's election rally. Rai is seeking re-election as JD(U) candidate from Parsa Assembly segment.

Continued on Page 2

Credit of 'interest on interest' during moratorium by Nov 5: Govt to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that lenders have been directed to credit in the accounts of eligible borrowers by November 5 the difference between compound interest and simple interest collected on loans of up to ₹2 crore during the RBI's loan moratorium scheme.

The Ministry of Finance has said that after crediting this amount, the lending institutions would claim reimbursement from the Centre.

In an affidavit, the Government has said that the Ministry has issued a scheme as per which lending institutions would credit this amount in the accounts of borrowers for the 6-month loan moratorium period which was announced following the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Continued on Page 2

Ankhi Das quits FB for public service

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ankhi Das, the controversial India policy head of Facebook who was accused of opposing blocking of right-wing hate content, has quit the company. "Ankhi has decided to step down from her role in Facebook to pursue her interest in public service. Ankhi was one of our earliest employees in India and played an instrumental role in the growth of the company and its services over the last 9 years. She has made enormous contributions. We are grateful for her service and wish her the very best for the future," Facebook's Managing Director India Ajit Mohan said in an e-mailed statement.

Ankhi was accused of posting messages in support of the BJP for several years on a Facebook group of the company's employees.

Over 40 human rights and internet watchdog organisations had called on Facebook to place Das on leave until the company finishes conducting an ongoing audit of its India operations.

Continued on Page 2

FARIDABAD GIRL MURDER

Killer held, he was forcing girl to marry him, convert

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Police on Tuesday arrested two men for allegedly killing a 21-year-old woman outside her college in Haryana's Ballabhgarh, a murder which triggered protests with students and local residents blocking the road to Sohna.

A special investigation team has been formed to ensure a quick probe into the case, Haryana's Home Minister Anil Vij said. Police said main accused Tausif, hailing from Sohna in Gurgaon, and his accomplice Rehan, who is from Nuh, have been arrested.

The two men were produced before a court in Faridabad district and sent to two-day police remand.

Nikita, a student of B.Com final year, had come out of her college after appearing for an exam on Monday afternoon when the incident took place, Ballabhgarh ACP Jaiver Singh Rath had earlier said.

The accused, who arrived at the spot in a car, had tried to pull the woman inside, in a bid to abduct her, but she resisted after which the key accused shot her, police had said.

She was taken to a hospital, but she succumbed to injuries, the ACP had said.

The woman's father alleged that Tausif had been harassing her for the last two years and pressing her for marriage, which she refused. He also claimed Tausif was trying to convert Nikita. "He should be

given capital punishment and our family should be given security," the father said.

During investigation, it emerged that the main accused was the woman's classmate earlier, police said. The entire sequence of the crime was captured by someone over mobile phone, the footage of which went viral over social media. In the video, Tausif, along with his accomplice, is seen arriving outside the college and parking the white-coloured car on the road.

Nikita is seen walking on the road accompanied by one of her friends and the accused suddenly takes out a pistol and shoots her behind her ear from a close range leaving her in a pool of blood at the spot.

Bihar campaign...

From Page 1

Nitish is indeed also losing his cool in many rallies, getting aggressive, asking his men to push away protesters in his rallies and picking up arguments with those shouting 'murdabad' in his public meetings. May be it has to do with the attacks against him from all corners - even from Nitish's erstwhile NDA ally and BJP leader Chirag Paswan, who has threatened to put him behind the bars if party comes to power in Bihar.

"Nitish Kumar and his officers will be behind bars if we come to power," Chirag said while addressing a rally in Buxar's Dumraon for Bihar Assembly elections. The JD(U) responded with a sharp retort with its State Minister Sanjay Jha terming him a "jamura" (someone dancing to master's tune).

"The statement made by Chirag about Nitish ji is part of 'jamura' role he is playing nowadays. Now, you can interpret to your own understanding who Chirag's 'madaari' is. Someone is making Chirag dance to their tunes, so he's dancing," said Jha.

Paswan reacted to Jha's "jamura" comment by interpreting it as an insult to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by calling him a "madaari". "If I am a jamura, who is the madaari? Do they know who they are mocking? They say that I am acting on the orders of the Prime Minister. By calling me jamura, they are insulting the Prime Minister and calling him a madaari. The continuous insult of the Prime Minister is beyond me. By being against just one person, you are speaking against the PM as well," he said, creating a flutter in the BJP ranks who want him not to show his slip before the polls are wrapped up.

5 States buck national trend

From Page 1

Except these States, overall continuous decline in average daily new coronavirus cases has been observed and the figure has come down from 83,232 between September 23-29 to 49,909 for October 21-27, Bhushan said. "India's Covid-19 case fatality rate has declined from 1.77 per cent on September 1 to 1.50 per cent as on date. India's Covid-19 recovery rate has increased from 76.94 per cent on September 1 to 90.62 per cent as on date," he said. Bhushan cautioned that more festivals are coming and "wherever we have faltered in the last few days, it will show in 10 to 12 days".

HRERA bars real estate brokers from charging more than 1% commission

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In the interest of the buyers and sellers of real estate, the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram (HRERA) has imposed a ban on brokers/property dealers who charge more than the officially prescribed commission of 1 per cent. During the investigation conducted by the authority, they noticed that around 5 to 10 percent of the value of the property is being charged by agents and the burden of this additional commission is ultimately borne by the buyers.

The authority has warned the brokers/agents that if they find such irregularities from their part a string action will be initiated against them. The bench also ordered forensic audit of accounts of nearly two dozen of such builders and brokers. A bench headed by Dr. K.K. Khandelwal, Chairman and S C Kush, member of the HARERA, Gurugram bench has taken cognizance of the matter that property dealers are charging arbitrary commission both from the sellers as well as the buyers properties.

The authority has also decided to issue restrain orders to all promoters and brokers not to charge commission more than what is prescribed in the Haryana Regulation of Property Dealers and Consultants Rules, 2009 made under the Haryana Regulation of Property Dealers and Consultants Act, 2008.

Delhi air quality drops to very poor category with 23% farm fire addition

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With 23 percent farm fire adding Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) 2.5 more in Delhi's environment, the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded 331 Microgram per Cubic and tagged the air in 'Very Poor' category on Tuesday.

According to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), a unit of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), a pollution monitoring body, the values of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) recorded - 292 and 161 for PM₁₀ and 2.5 respectively. [SAFAR said in its official statement on Delhi's air that an increase in Delhi surface winds resulting in better ventilation, and improvement in air quality is expected.

Syed Salahuddin, Bhatkal brothers, Abdul Rauf Asghar declared designated terrorists

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday classified banned terror group Hizbul Mujahideen founder Syed Salahuddin, Indian Mujahideen's founding members Bhatkal brothers and hijackers of IC 814 flight Abdul Rauf Asghar among others as designated terrorists under anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Salahuddin's deputy Ghulam Nabi Khan alias Amir Khan has also been designated a terrorist.

The Government has designated 18 more individuals as "terrorists" including a close lieutenant of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, Chhota Shakeel. With this, the total number of such proscribed individuals now stands at 31.

[The Union Home Ministry also designated the hijackers of an Indian Airlines plane in 1999, Abdul Rauf Asghar, Ibrahim Athar and Yusuf Azhar and named them in the list.

Farm bodies to hold all-India 'chakka jam' on November 5

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to expand the ambit of farm laws enacted by the Parliament, farmers organizations' under the banner of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), on Tuesday decided nationwide 'chakka jam' (road blockade) between 12 noon and 4 pm on November 5. The AIKSCC also decides a two-day "Delhi Chalo" protest on November 26-27.

According to AIKSCC, a five-member coordination committee, including him and Haryana leader Gurnam Singh Chanduni, was also formed at the meeting held at Gurdwara Rakabganj. Other members of the coordination committee include Yogendra Yadav, VM Singh and Raju Shetty.

Ankhi Das quits...

From Page 1

Das, on her departure, said she had decided to step down from Facebook "to pursue my personal interest in public service".

"When I joined Facebook in 2011, internet growth in the country was woefully low and I often wondered how social and economic asymmetries will be addressed. We were a small unlisted startup back then guided only by our mission and purpose to connect people in India. After nine long years, I feel that mission has largely been met," she said. Facebook did not link her departure to stories around her controversial stand but said Tuesday was her last day at the company.

"I have decided to step down from Facebook after long service to its mission of connecting people and building communities to pursue my personal interest in public service," she said in her departure message.

She thanked Mark Zuckerberg for creating "something beautiful for the

world."

"This is a special company and a special group of people," she wrote. "I hope I have served you and the company well."

"I know we will be in touch on Facebook," she added.

The controversy around her began on August 15 when The Wall Street Journal report alleged that Ankhi Das had blocked action against leaders associated with the BJP and other Hindutva groups.

According to the report, a day before the BJP won the 2014 Parliamentary elections, Das had written: "We lit a fire to his social media campaign and the rest is of course history."

She also wrote that Modi was the 'strongman' who had broken the former ruling party's hold. "It's taken thirty years of grassroots work to rid India of state socialism finally," she wrote in another post about Congress.

The Wall Street Journal also reported that Ankhi Das had trained the BJP for its social media campaign for the 2012 Assembly polls.

India, US take ties...

From Page 1

The COMCASA has now allowed India to gain better access to highly advanced defence technology with encrypted communications.

Highlighting the importance of the latest agreement signed after the 2+2 dialogue here, Rajnath said: "Signing of Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation, BECA, today after signing of LEMOA in 2016 and COMCASA in 2018 is a significant achievement in that direction."

He said, the two sides held comprehensive discussion on a range of key issues and "our military to military cooperation with US" is moving forward very well. "We identified projects for joint development of defence equipment," the Minister said adding the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to peace and security in Indo-Pacific region.

US Secretary of Defence Mark Esper said the growing defence and security partnership between India and the US will keep a check on the situation in the Indo-Pacific at a time when China is

attempting to expand its economic and military clout in the region.

The sensitive satellite and sensor data provided by the US under the agreement will allow India to keep a close watch on the movements of Chinese warships in the Indian Ocean.

The two US Ministers also held talks with National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and sources said the parleys were constructive. The two sides also discussed a number of issues and challenges of strategic importance.

Giving details of his talks with Esper, Rajnath also mentioned about posting a US Navy liaison officer at the Information Fusion Centre (IFC)-Indian Ocean Region of India. The Indian Navy will also position a liaison officer at the Central Command of the US at Bahrain signaling closer interaction and information sharing. Rajanath said the two Ministers also explored probable capacity building and other joint cooperation activities in third countries, including our neighbourhood and beyond. "We have convergence of views on a number of such proposals and will take those forward," he added.

SC: HC to monitor...

From Page 1

"From the order passed by the high court it is noticed that the high court has adequately delved into the aspects relating to the case to secure fair investigation and has also secured the presence of the father, mother, brother and sister-in-law of the victim and appropriate orders are being passed, including securing reports from various quarters," said the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

"In that circumstance, we do not find it necessary to divest the high court of the proceedings and take upon this court to monitor the proceedings/investigation," the bench said in its 16-page judgement.

The court delivered the verdict on a batch of pleas which have raised concern regarding the incident and also the manner in which victim was cremated.

The bench referred to the affidavit filed by the Uttar Pradesh government which gave details of security provided to victim's family members and witnesses.

"Having taken note of the contentions and having perused the affidavit filed on behalf of the state government we are convinced that steps have been taken by the state government to make adequate arrangement for security to the victim's family and witnesses," it said.

"However, in a matter of the present nature it is necessary to address the normal perception and pessimism which cannot be said as being without justification," the bench said.

"In that view, without casting any aspersions on the security personnel of the state police; in order to allay all apprehensions and only as a confidence building measure, we find it appropriate to direct that the security to the vic-

tim's family and the witnesses shall be provided by the CRPF within a week from today," it said.

The bench noted that contentions were urged before it but the undisputed fact is that investigation has been entrusted by the state itself to the CBI on October 10.

"Therefore, the apprehensions expressed by the petitioners/applicants that there would be no investigation if the Uttar Pradesh Police conducted the same would not remain open for consideration at this stage and the grievance to that extent stands redressed," it said. It said the incident having occurred within the jurisdiction of high court and all particulars being available, "it would be appropriate for the high court to proceed to monitor the investigation in the manner in which it would desire".

The bench said it would be open for petitioners to seek to intervene in the matter before the high court subject to consideration of such request by the high court.

"On the aspect relating to the investigation, since we have indicated that the high court would look into that aspect of the matter, the CBI shall report to the high court in the manner as would be directed by the high court through its orders from time to time," it said.

Dealing with the request for appointment of a special public prosecutor in the case, the bench said this aspect could be considered by high court in light of the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

"Therefore, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the rival contentions, all aspects of the matter are left open to be considered by the high court.... Relating to the incident regarding which the investigation is to be conducted by the CBI and also with regard to the grievance put forth alleging illegal cremation," it said.

Credit of...

From Page 1

"Under the scheme, all lending institutions (as defined under clause 3 of the scheme) shall credit the difference between compound interest and simple interest in the respective accounts of eligible borrowers for the period between March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020," the affidavit said. It said: "The Central government has directed that all lending institutions described in clause 3 thereof shall give effect to the scheme and credit the amount calculated as per the scheme in the respective accounts of borrowers by November 5, 2020." The affidavit was filed in the top court which is hearing a batch of pleas which have raised issues, including that of interest on interest, concerning the loan moratorium period.

The affidavit said the amount shall be credited by lending institutions irrespective of whether such eligible borrowers have "fully availed or partially availed or have not availed of the moratorium viz. Deferment in payment of instalments as per the circulars dated March 27, 2020 and May 23, 2020 issued by RBI." After crediting the said amount in the respective accounts of eligible borrowers, the lending institutions would claim reimbursement from the Central government through the nodal agency of State Bank of India as stipulated under the scheme," it said.

It said the decision has been taken "after careful consideration, keeping in mind the overall economic scenario, the nature of borrowers, impact on the economy and such other factors as a policy decision earmarking the above referred class of borrowers for grant of benefits".

On October 14, the apex court had observed that the Centre should imple-

ment "as soon as possible" the interest waiver on loans of up to Rs 2 crore under the RBI's moratorium scheme and had said that the common man's Diwali is in the government's hands.

The Centre had earlier told the court that going any further than the fiscal policy decisions already taken, such as waiver of compound interest charged on loans of up to Rs 2 crore for moratorium period, may be "detrimental" to the overall economic scenario, the national economy and banks may not take "inevitable financial constraints".

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had also filed an affidavit in the apex court saying that loan moratorium exceeding six months might result in "vitiating the overall credit discipline", which will have a "debilitating impact" on the process of credit creation in the economy.

These affidavits were filed following the top court's October 5 order asking them to place on record the K V Kamath committee recommendations on debt restructuring because of the COVID-19 related stress on various sectors as well as the notifications and circulars issued so far on loan moratorium. It has also said that the apex court's interim order of September 4, restraining classification of accounts into non-performing accounts in terms of the directions issued by the RBI, may kindly be vacated with immediate effect. The Kamath panel had made recommendations for 26 sectors that could be factored by lending institutions while finalising loan resolution plans and had said that banks could adopt a graded approach based on the severity of the coronavirus pandemic on a sector. Initially, the RBI on March 27 had issued the circular which allowed lending institutions to grant a moratorium on payment of instalments of term loans falling due between March 1, 2020, and May 31, 2020, due to the pandemic.

Now, any Indian can buy non-agri...

From Page 1

However, there are several exemptions in the Act which enable the transfer of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, including setting up educational or health care facilities, he added.

As per the Gazette notification, 12 State laws have been repealed and 26 others have been adapted with changes or substitutes.

Those completely repealed include the Jammu and Kashmir Alienation of Land Act, 1956, the Jammu and Kashmir Big Landed Estates Abolition Act, the Jammu and Kashmir Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1956, and the Jammu and Kashmir Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1962. The notification issued by MHA also says that the Government can now, on the written request of an army officer not below the rank of Corp Commander, declare an area as Strategic Area within a local area, only for direct operational and training requirements of armed forces, which may be excluded from the operation of this Act and rules and regulations made thereunder in the manner and to the extent.

The Government also can allow the transfer of land in favour of a person or an institution for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or senior secondary or higher or specialised education after the new notification.

Slamming the centre's move, former Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah said that the amendments to the land ownership law has put J&K up for sale. "With these new laws in place tokenism of the domicile certificate has been done away with as purchasing non-agricultural land has been made easier. These new laws are unacceptable to people of J&K, Ladakh," he said.

He further added that the BJP remains unchallenged in the opportunistic politics and that the issuance of the amended land rules notification smacks of its cheap politics and deceit.

Reacting sharply to the move, Peoples Democratic Party Chief Mehbooba Mufti also posted a series of tweets to vent her ire. In her first tweet Mehbooba mufti wrote, "After failing on all fronts to provide roti & rozgar to people, BJP is creating such laws to whet the appetite of a gullible electorate. Such brazen measures reinforce the need of people of all three provinces of J&K to fight unitedly".

In her second tweet she said, "Yet another step that's part of GOI's nefarious designs to disempower & disenfranchise people of J&K. From the unconstitutional scrapping of Article 370 to facilitating loot of our natural resources & finally putting land in J&K up for sale".

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) also rejected the new

land laws whereby anyone can purchase land in Jammu and Kashmir which is against the repeated assurances to the contrary by the BJP.

In a written statement JKPCC has termed it another betrayal of BJP with people of J&K, as time and again the people were assured that their right to land and jobs shall be protected at all costs, even post 370 abrogation. Now the cat is out of the bag and people especially youth feel cheated, it further says.

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday reiterated his Party's position vis-à-vis restoration of Statehood to J&K along with comprehensive domicile rights on land and jobs for its residents.

Bukhari said the party will go through the gazette notification issued by the union Government today with regard to land rights in J&K and would take up its reservations before the top leadership in the country.

Labeling it as a huge betrayal, Spokesman of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration Sajjad Lone also condemned the decision to repeal the J&K Land laws thereby stripping the Permanent Residents of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh of exclusive rights to acquire and hold immovable property in the State - now constitutionally divided in to two Union Territories and granting such rights to non-state subjects.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Jyoti, D/o Anand Jha, R/o H.No. 496, Devli Village, near Durga Vihar, New Delhi, Age : 16 years, Sex: Female, Height: 5', Built: Strong, Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Red colour stripped kurta and lagging.** She has been missing from P.S. Neb Sarai area, Delhi since **11.10.2020**. In this regard a case vides **FIR No.: 457/20 U/s 363 IPC Dated 12.10.2020** has been lodged at P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cbc@cbi.gov.in
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/283/SD/2020

SHO
P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi
Ph. 011-29551597, 8750870835

India, US focus on China threat

From Page 1

He also expressed his country's support for India in its efforts to "defend its sovereignty".

The visiting US Secretary of State said: "We visited the National War Memorial to honour our brave men and women of Indian armed forces who sacrificed for the world's largest democracy, including 20 killed by PLA in Galwan Valley. The US will stand with India as they confront threats to their sovereignty, liberty."

Highlighting the growing ties between the two countries, Pompeo said the "US values India as a multilateral partner, whether it's through the Quad,

making Afghan peace negotiation successful or working together during India's upcoming term on UN Security Council(UNSC), we continue to support India's permanent membership of UNSC."

On other issues discussed during the high-profile third 2+2 dialogue, Pompeo said the two sides discussed at a "great length" their joint efforts to fight the Covid-19 pandemic and the two countries are committed to working together and expanding partnership across many fronts. "The US health agencies are working closely with Government partners of India on the Covid-19 response," he said.

In their interaction with Modi, Pompeo and Esper conveyed the American Government's continued interest

in building stronger relations with India as well as discussed several issues of regional and global concern. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Doval and US Ambassador to India Ken Juster were also present during the meeting.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the US secretaries conveyed greetings from President Donald Trump to the Prime Minister.

Recalling the successful visit of Trump to India in February 2020, the Prime Minister warmly reciprocated the greetings, the statement said.

"Pleasure meeting @SecPompeo and @EsperDoD. Happy to see tremendous progress made in India-US relations and the results of the third

2+2 dialogue. Our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership stands on a firm foundation of shared principles and common strategic interests," Modi tweeted after the meeting.

The secretaries briefed the Prime Minister on their bilateral meetings and the fruitful and productive third India-US 2+2 dialogue held earlier in the day, the statement said. They conveyed the US Government's continued interest in building stronger relations with India and working together to realise the shared vision and goals, the PMO said.

Modi appreciated the successful conclusion of the third 2+2 Dialogue and expressed his satisfaction over the multifaceted growth in the bilateral Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership in recent years, it

said.

The Prime Minister underlined the strong foundation of trust, shared values, and robust people-to-people ties between both countries, the statement said.

US State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Cale Brown said Pompeo and Modi discussed several issues of regional and global concern on which the United States and India collaborate, including Covid-19 response, security and defence cooperation, and shared interests in a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Pompeo and Modi welcomed the warm and close relationship between the two countries, which is rooted in their vibrant democratic traditions and fostered by strong ties between their citizens.

315 students get Covid...

From Page 1

Yet some other studies suggest that kids could be asymptomatic, act as silent carriers, shedding the virus for weeks at a stretch, an observation that is likely to put the schools and authorities in the dilemma as they plans to open the schools.

The Centre has already allowed schools to re-open for Class VI to 12 with strict implementation of the Standard Operations of Procedures (SOPs) so that students and teachers can come to school and carry out the teaching process in the safe environment.

India, US vow to fight terror, Covid jointly

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



India and the US on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to fight the scourge of terrorism and resolved to jointly face the challenge posed by the Coronavirus pandemic. The two countries also discussed ways to further strengthen four pillars of the Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) covering Oil & Gas, Power and Energy Efficiency, Renewables and Sustainable Growth.

These issues came up for detailed discussion in the third 2+2 Minister-level talks between the defence and foreign ministers of the two countries here. The first such high profile dialogue was held in 2018 in New Delhi while the second annual event was in Washington.

A joint statement issued after the latest edition of 2+2 here said the two sides welcomed the virtual convening of the 17th meeting of the India-U.S. Counter Terrorism Joint Working Group and the 3rd Session of the India-U.S. Designations Dialogue on September 9-10, 2020.

They denounced the use of terrorist proxies and strongly condemned cross border terrorism in all its forms. They emphasised the need for concerted action against all terrorist networks, including al-Qaeda, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar-e-Taayyiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Hizbul-Mujahideen.

The Ministers called on Pakistan to take immediate, sustained and irreversible action to ensure that no territory under its control is used for terrorist attacks, and to expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators and planners of all such attacks, including 26/11 Mumbai, Uri, and Pathankot.

The Ministers also com-

mitted to continued exchange of information about sanctions and designations against terror groups and individuals, particularly in light of recent legislative changes in India, as well as countering the financing and operations of terrorist organizations, countering radicalism and terrorist use of the internet, cross-border movement of terrorists, and prosecuting, rehabilitating, and reintegrating returning terrorist fighters and family members.

The Ministers intend to enhance their ongoing cooperation in multilateral fora, including the UN. They also reaffirmed their support for the early adoption of a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) that will advance and strengthen the framework for global cooperation and reinforce the message that no cause or grievance justifies terrorism.

As regards co-operation during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the two delegations applauded the exemplary cooperation between India and the United States in confronting challenges emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic.

They reiterated their resolve to strengthen cooperation in the development of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, ventilators and other essential medical equipment. Recognizing that bilateral engagement in the research & development and the mass production of vaccines and therapeutics plays to our respective strengths, the Ministers sought to jointly promote access to high quality, safe, effective and affordable

COVID-19 vaccines and treatments on a global scale.

The Ministers looked forward to the conclusion of an overarching MoU between India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including their component agencies and departments, to enhance health cooperation, including on health emergencies and pandemics, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases, and biomedical research and innovation.

The Ministers also looked forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD/NIH) to collaborate through an International Center of Excellence in Research focused on infectious diseases including COVID-19 and other emerging threats.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction the significant strides made under the four Pillars of the Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) covering Oil & Gas, Power and Energy Efficiency, Renewables and Sustainable Growth. They also appreciated the progress made under the India-U.S. Gas Task Force and the launch of industry-led projects.

In view of the announcement made during President Donald Trump's visit to India to establish a new India-U.S. Counter-Narcotics Working Group, the Ministers welcomed the proposal to convene the first such virtual meeting later this year, with an in-person meeting in 2021, to enhance cooperation between Indian and U.S. drug and law enforcement agencies.

Modi slams Opp parties for dynastic corruption



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday slammed the Opposition parties for "dynastic corruption" and said it has become a part of the political culture in some States and has emerged as a formidable challenge that is hollowing out the country like a termite. He was inaugurating a three-day national conference on vigilance and anti-corruption organised by the CBI, the prime minister said that inaction in a single corruption case forms the foundation for future scams and corruption. His remarks came ahead of the polling in the Bihar assembly election, where the BJP-JD(U) alliance has been targeting Tejashwi Yadav, the chief ministerial candidate of 'Mahagathbandhan', over corruption cases against his jailed father and RJD leader Lalu Prasad.

"Dynastic corruption, as in corruption transferred from one generation to another, has grown over decades to become a formidable challenge before the country," he said, reiterating strong action against the "dynastic corruption." "During the past decades, we have seen that when one generation of corrupt people is not punished adequately, its subsequent generations indulge in corruption with more impunity," said Modi. When a generation sees that a corrupt person in the family is let off without or very little punishment, their courage to indulge in corrupt activities grows manifold, he said.

Bihar poll: 34% candidates in second phase crorepati

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite Bihar being one of the country's poorest States, the Assembly election has thrown up a high number of crorepati candidates. Out of the 1,463 candidates contesting during the second phase, 495 (34%) are crorepatis. The average of assets per candidate contesting in the Bihar Assembly Elections 2020 Phase II is ₹1.72 crore. Congress' Sanjeev Singh, who is fighting the Vaishali seat, is the richest candidate in the second phase of the election with Rs 56.6 crore, followed by RJD's Deo Kumar Chaurasia contesting the Haripur constituency with assets worth ₹49 crore. Anunay Singh, another Congress candidate, has assets worth ₹46 crore and is contesting from the Muzaffarpur Paru seat.

According to data collated by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) based on candidate affidavits filed with the Election Commission, out of the 1,463 candidates, 495 (34 per cent) are crorepatis. "Among the major parties 39 (85 per cent) out of 46 candidates from BJP, 20 (83 per cent) out of 24 candidates from Congress, 46 (82 per cent) out of 56 candidates from RJD, 35 (81 per cent) out of 43 candidates from JD(U), 38 (73 per cent) out of 52 candidates from LJP and 11 (33 per cent) out of 33 candidates from BSP have declared assets worth more than Rs 1 crore," it said. The average asset of candidates in the second phase election is ₹1.72 crore, the report said.

"Among major parties, the average assets per candidate for 24 Congress candidates is ₹10.25 crore, 43 JD(U) candidates is ₹4.95 crore, 56 RJD candidates have average assets of ₹4.82 crore, 52 LJP candidates have average assets of Rs 3.86 crore, 46 BJP candidates have

MP Assembly bypoll: EC notice to Imarti for calling rival insane

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday issued a notice to BJP's Imarti Devi, who is contesting a bypoll in Madhya Pradesh, for allegedly describing an unnamed political rival as "insane" and making remarks against women members of his family. She has been given 48 hours to respond to the notice, failing which the EC would take a decision without further reference to her.

Earlier, taking note of former Madhya Pradesh chief minister and Congress leader Kamal Nath's "item" jibe against Imarti Devi, the commission had on Monday advised him against using such words during the period of the model code.

Imarti Devi, who is also a minister in the Madhya

Pradesh Government, did not name the political rival in a video on social media.

The commission also refused to identify the leader, saying it does not know whom she was referring to. "Let the person reply to the notice. We have the transcript of the video," a senior EC official said. According to the transcript of the video, made part of the notice, Imarti Devi said after the person left the chief minister's post in Madhya Pradesh, he became "insane" (pagal). She also allegedly said that the person's mother and sister could be "item" of Bengal. "We don't know," Imarti Devi said. The notice said her statement was found to be violative of the provisions of the model code.

Bypolls to 28 Madhya Pradesh assembly seats will be held on November 3.

average assets of ₹3.44 crore and 33 BSP candidates have average assets worth ₹1.30 crore," it said.

The richest candidate in the election so far is RJD's Anant Singh, the don-turned-politician who is currently in jail on UAPA charges. Singh, who is contesting from Mokama, has declared assets worth ₹68 crore.

There are three candidates who have declared zero assets while 683 (47 per cent) candidates have declared liabilities in their affidavits.

Besides, of the 1,463 candidates, 502 have criminal cases against them of which 389 are serious in nature. The report said that out of the 1,463 candidates analyzed, 502, which is 34 per cent, candidates have

declared criminal cases against them. "While 389 candidates, which is 27 percent of 1,463 candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves," the report said.

The report also claimed that the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has the maximum candidates with criminal cases registered against them followed by the BJP. It said, "Out of 56 RJD candidates, 36, which is 64 per cent, candidates have criminal cases against them, followed by the BJP with 29 out of 46 candidates which is 63 per cent." According to the ADR, red alert constituencies are those where three or more contesting candidates have declared criminal cases registered against them.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED PERSON



General public is here by informed that one Person **Namely:** Raj Kumar, S/o Sh. Lila Ram, R/o A-397, Gaon Wala Chowk, Raghubir Nagar, New Delhi. **Age:** 40 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White Shirt & White Pant, Black Colour Shoes in feet has been missing since 06.10.2020 at 03:00 PM from his shop, D-362, Tagore Garden, New Delhi.

In this regard a FIR No. 865 U/s 365 IPC dated 13.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

SHO
E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi**
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **Ph. 011-25453990**
Fax: 011-24368639 **8750871127**
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 **DP/246/WD/2020**

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Jyoti W/o Bram Parkash R/o H. No. 138, Village Jhagola, Delhi has been missing since 21.09.2020 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 63A dated 23.09.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Alipur, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age : 31 Years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing :** Red colour suit-salwar and sleeper in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Alipur, Delhi at E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: **SHO**
011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Alipur, Delhi**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **Outer North Distt., Delhi**
DP/547/ONI/2020 **Ph. No. 011-27202265, 7065036325**

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting Tender

1.1. General: - UMB Division of northern railway invites single tender through E-tendering system from eligible agencies who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in tender document for "Dismantling, Shifting & Re-commissioning of 01 No. CNC Pit Wheel Lathe, Make HYT from MEMU Car Shed, SRE to MEMU Car Shed, KJGY".

1.2 The key details are as follows:

Tender No.	30-EL-MEMU-T-12-20-21	Type of Tender	Single
Name of work	Dismantling, Shifting & Re-commissioning of 01 No. CNC Pit Wheel Lathe, Make HYT from MEMU Car Shed, SRE to MEMU Car Shed, KJGY.		
Approximate Cost	₹48,08,500/-	Earnest Money	₹96,200/-
Completion Period	04 (Four) Months from the date of issue of the letter of acceptance.		
Validity of offer	45 Days		
Tender papers issued by	Sr.DEE/MEMU/SRE.		
Date of Closing/Opening	11.11.2020 at 10:30 Hrs./thereafter.		
Cost of Tender Document	Free of Cost		

NOTE: - 1) The required earnest money will only be accepted through on line payment mode available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. up to tender closing date and time. Exemption from submission of Earnest Money for tenderer shall be as per Railway Board Guidelines. 2) Manual payments through demand draft, banker cheque, deposit receipt, FDR etc are not allowed. Offers which are not complying above will be considered invalid. 3) Tender must provide validity of the offer for 45 (forty five) days from the date of opening of tender. 4) Public procure order 2017 issued by Rly. board vide L. No. 2015/RS(G)/779/5 Dt. 16.03.2018 shall be followed. 5) The tender can be seen or upload on web portal as under: **Website Portal:** <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
Tender Notice No.-12/2020-21 **2360/20**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

15% global Covid deaths due to long-term exposure to pollution, reveals study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bad news to India which is grappling with air pollution besides Coronavirus, a global study has said that around 15 per cent of Covid-19 deaths worldwide may have been due to long-term exposure to pollution.

The study published in the journal Cardiovascular Research. The death proportion is highest in East Asia, in Europe, it was about 19 per cent and in North America it was 17 per cent.

"Since the numbers of deaths from COVID-19 are increasing all the time, it's not possible to give exact or final numbers of COVID-19 deaths per country that can be attributed to air pollution," said study author Jos Lelieveld from Max Planck Institute in Germany.

Referring to previous work that suggests that the fine particulates in air pollution may prolong the atmospheric lifetime of infectious viruses and help them to infect more people. Lelieveld said: "It's likely that particulate matter plays a role in 'super-



spreading events' by favouring transmission."

According to the researchers, the particulate matter seems to increase the activity of a receptor on cell surfaces, called ACE-2, that is known to be involved in the way COVID-19 infects cells.

"So, we have a 'double hit'—air pollution damages the lungs and increases the activity of ACE-2, which in turn leads to enhanced uptake of the virus by the lungs and probably by the blood vessels and the heart," the authors wrote.

According to a recently release State of Global Air 2020, long-term exposure to outdoor and household air pollution contributed to over 1.67 million annual deaths from stroke, heart attack, diabetes, lung cancer, chronic lung diseases and neonatal diseases in India in 2019.

IIT-G develops low-cost technology to produce anti-aging compounds

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A low-cost membrane technology to produce psychoactive drugs and anti-aging compounds from a wide range of agricultural resources like camellia sinensis, citrus fruits and peels especially orange peels, berries, ginkgo biloba, parsley, pulses, tea, sea buckthorn and onions has been developed by a researcher of Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG).

Professor Mihir Kumar Purkait, head, Centre for the Environment, and Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati along with his M Tech student V L Dhadge who have patented and developed the technique did not use any expensive organic solvents, but only water. Hence, the cost of the process and price of pharmaceuticals thereon is much cheaper than that of existing solvent-based separation technique.

Professor Purkait, said, "The technology is exclusively pore/particle size based pres-



sure driven membrane separation process. The water extracts of above mentioned plants/fruits/leaves at optimum operating conditions are passed through a specially made cascade membrane units of fabricated with appropriate molecular weight cut off (MWCO) membranes capable of separating targeted flavonoids selectively. "Permeate and retentive part from appropriate membrane unit is then fridge dried to get the powdered product. We have synthesised stimuli responsive smart membrane for the selective separation and purification of targeted compound from the mixture of plants or leaves or fruits extract in simple water."

The commercially available techniques are using various costly organic solvents like: Chloroform, Acetone, Acetonitrile etc. As a result the price of these important pharmaceutical raw materials is quite high that ultimately increases the price of the antioxidant.

Hence, the patented membrane based green technology has enormous scope to replace existing costly organic solvent based techniques and can be used for continuation mode of operation in industrial scale, said Prf Purkait.

He also asserted that the developed technology will support "Make in India" initiative of the Government by producing these compounds in the country. "This will definitely reduce the import of said polyphenolic compounds. Implementation of the said technology will also create job opportunities in agriculture sector of the country," he said.

Lakshadweep first UT to become 100% organic

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After Sikkim, Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory to become 100 per cent organic as all farming is carried out without the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, providing access to safer food choices and making agriculture a more environment-friendly activity. The ministry of agriculture has declared the island as organic.

"Lakshadweep can benefit much from marketing organic products such as desiccated coconut and coconut milk. The organic tag will allow farmers to realize a premium for the farm produce there," said OP Mishra, Secretary, agriculture, Lakshadweep.

Coconut is the only major crop on the islands. There are eight lakh coconut trees that produce 11 crore coconuts in a year. Besides, horticulture crops such as brinjal, spinach, Banana, Drumstick, Pumpkin, Chillies, Snake Gourd,

Cucumber, Beans, Ladyfinger, Ridge Gourd, Papaya, Watermelon are grown but in very small quantities. As per data, 1500-2000 tons of vegetables are grown through natural processes. The coconut palms are grown under natural surroundings. As per data, there are 12450 farmers in the island.

In a communique to Secretary, (agriculture) Lakshadweep, the agriculture ministry said, "After going through the evidences and certificates provided by the administration of UT, competent authority has approved the proposal for declaration of the entire territory of Lakshadweep as organic".

Mishra said that despite organic certification in 2012, Coconut farming which is the mainstay on the islands, but neither nuts nor copra fetch a premium, falsifying the belief that organic farming will bring fortune to the farmers.

According to Mishra, that



the coral island has been certified as the 100 percent organic on the eve of 55 formation day of the UT on November 1." Actually one third of its area was documented and certified as Organic since 2012 as per US/EU standards for organic coconut farming but the department of agriculture was struggling to bring 100 percent area under the certification owing to one or the

other reasons. Now the central sector scheme of Paramparagath Krishi Vigas Yogana launched by the central government and the financial assistance earmarked for Lakshadweep under this scheme became a breakthrough for farmers of this territory," he said.

"Now more than 12,000 coconut Farmers and about 100 million coconuts pro-

duced from this territory as well as value added products made from them will get a premium status and price in the consumer market," Mishra added. Agriculture is confined only to specific areas around habitations. The soils are medium to deep, alkaline in reaction and low in soil fertility. The land use is dominated by plantation crops like coconut and arecanut. The important crops grown are rice and pulses under rainfed conditions.

India's smallest Union Territory Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sq km. It is a uni-district Union Territory and comprises 12 atolls, three reefs, five submerged banks and ten inhabited islands. The islands comprise 32 sq km. The Capital is Kavaratti and it is also the principal town of the UT.

In January 2016, Sikkim became India's first "100 per cent organic" State.

Cinemas, theatres, multiplexes to continue op till Nov 30 with current guidelines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said the current guidelines allowing various activities like opening of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity will continue to be applicable till November 30 in areas outside the containment zones.

The re-opening guidelines issued on September 30 are extended till November 30, said the MHA spokesperson. Opening up of schools, colleges and universities are already allowed subject to the decisions of the concerned States.

The guidelines said that international travel, except those permitted by the Centre, would remain shut while state and UT governments were given the flexibility to decide on reopening of schools and coaching institutions in a graded manner. The coronavirus induced country-wide lockdown was first announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from March 25 and it was extended in phases till May 31. The Unlock process in the country had begun on June 1 with the graded reopening of commercial, social, religious and other activities.

Political gatherings in poll-bound Bihar and those constituencies where by-elections will be held were allowed with attendance of a maximum of 200 people in a close space or hall and in an open space depending on its size. In respect of certain activities, having relatively higher degree of risk of COVID infection, State and UT Governments have been permitted to take decisions for their re-opening, based on the assessment of the situation and subject to SOPs. These activities include schools and coaching institutes, state and private universities for research scholars and allowing gatherings above the limit of 100 etc.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that my client Mrs. Veer Man W/o Mr. Gangra Pant owner of House built on land area measuring 47.22 Sq. Yards, out of Kharsa No. 200, and situated at Waka Village (Unites Ward Morala Sri Vihar Colony Murad Nagar Pergana Jajalabad Tehsil Modi Nagar Distt. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh) has been sold by virtue of Sale Deed dated 16.05.2013 vide doc. No. 7764, Book No. 1 Vol. No. 6169 on pages 121-140, registered on 16.05.2013 with SRI Mod Nagar and Insimilance of Original sale deed dated 19.05.2010 if was executed in favour of Mrs. Seema W/o Mr. Raju and same property sold to be Smt. Priy Sharma and same property to be loan financed by Mrs. Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. A-32, 2nd Floor, Industrial Area, Phase-1, Naraina New Delhi-110028. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or Claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property then contact us within 7 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below failing which my client i.e. Mrs. Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. A-32, 2nd Floor, Industrial Area, Phase-1, Naraina New Delhi-110028 shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.
Naresh Kumar Verma, Advocate
F-211, Sector-3 vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201018

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Phone: 011-26441015-18,
Website: www.perfectpac.com
E-mail: complianceofficer@perfectpac.com
NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, November 04, 2020, inter-alia**, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2020 (the "Financial Results"). A copy of this Notice and Financial Results shall also be available at the Company's website www.perfectpac.com and the website of the Stock Exchanges BSE: www.bseindia.com and CSE: www.cse-india.com.
For Perfectpac Limited
Place : New Delhi **Shafali Chauhan**
Date : 27.10.2020 **Company Secretary**

LEGAL NOTICE
It is Here by Inform that my client Smt. Manju Sharma D/O Sh. Jai Dayal Sharma, R/O H. No. 1/5981 Kabool Nagar, Near Shishu Gyan School, Shahdara, Delhi- 110032, I/ly Client Lost all the Original Property papers Chain/ Documents Namely:
1. Original Will dated 17.04.1989 executed by Sh. Jagdish Parshad Bhatnagar in favour of Sh. Rajinder Parshad Bhatnagar, Sh. Vijaijnder Parshad Bhatnagar & Sh. Krishan Parshad Bhatnagar.
2. Original Relinquishment Deed dated 06.02.1991 executed by Sh. Krishan Prashad Bhatnagar in favour of Sh. Vijaijnder Prashad Bhatnagar (both s/o Late Jagdish Prashad Bhatnagar) in respect of his share in the Entire area of the First Floor and Half Property of the Second Floor, (Doc. No. 2652, Book No.1, Volume No. 2356, on Pages 168-173, Dated 11.12.1991, SRO-Delhi).
3. Original Relinquishment Deed dated 11.12.1991 executed by Sh. Rajinder Parshad Bhatnagar in favour of Sh. Vijaijnder Prashad Bhatnagar (both s/o Late Jagdish Prashad Bhatnagar) (Doc. No. 2652, Book No.1, Volume No. 2356, on Pages 168-173, Dated 11.12.1991, SRO-Delhi).
4. Original Sale Deed dated 29.05.2006 executed by Sh. Vijaijnder Prasad Bhatnagar in favour of Smt. Suman Bhatnagar in respect of the Property, area measuring 110 sq. yards, out of Kharsa No.17, (Doc. No. 2742, Book No.1, Volume No. 153, on Pages 73-83, Dated 29.05.2006, SRO-IVA).
5. Original Patwari Letter issued by Concerned Tehsildar in respect of the Property. (for mentioning that Kharsa No.17 & Kharsa No. 1869/17 are Part of Same Kharsa).
6. Original mutation Letter issued by Concerned Authority in favour of Smt. Manju Sharma in respect of the Property.
That the Documents has been misplaced/ lost on Dated: 06.09.2014 at New Delhi. In any case anybody Finds it the same may be returned to My Client. I also Registered the Said Information to Crime Branch LR No.685476/2020.
Harsh Dhingra (Advocate)
D-218, 2nd Floor, D Block,
Karkardooma Court, Delhi
Mobite: 8660844461

Bihar's new chapter

As the State goes to the polls today, the question is whether BJP will sweep federalism away or a young Tejashwi can halt the tide



This is probably one time when Nitish Kumar is relevant because of his irrelevance. And his young opponents, sons of his peers, thought to be irrelevant, are carving their own generational relevance at his jaded expense. The Janata Dal (United) leader and Bihar Chief Minister is for all practical purposes a face that nobody wants to see despite the BJP's repeated endorsement of him as a chief ministerial candidate. And for a short time he may own the chair, towed by his hefty alliance partners, who don't want to be seen as sinking him mid-course or appear unprincipled. For a man, who was once seen as a messianic figure and deeply trusted to pull the State out from the dark ages of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Yadav's misrule, he has ended up being as one of its worst performers. For all the gush of the early years and the morality of prohibition, he stumbled and fumbled along the way without notching up the State's development index significantly. And the pandemic sealed his fate as an inept administrator who had bungled on rehabilitating returnee migrants, students and flood refugees. For an entire generation growing up under Nitish's rule, development has still been a pipe dream. Politically, the man who crafted his survival by pitting the majoritarian BJP against the secular-socialist Lalu, swinging between both depending on trade winds, and retaining the throne in the bargain, is now trapped by his own machinations. He cannot go back to Lalu, having shut the door forever when he deserted him and chose the BJP. And his relationship with the BJP, built on political expediency, is coming apart as its ideological push is against the grain of his inclusive politics. And although he crafted a new caste equation, rallying the downtrodden and nowhere people, the extreme backward castes and Mahadalits, that, too, can no longer be overplayed in a statewide epidemic of joblessness and hopelessness. At one time an asset as a regional leader, today Nitish is the BJP's biggest liability. He knows that and can scarcely do anything about it except give in to uncharacteristically angry outbursts. The BJP, by all estimates so far, is expected to be the biggest gainer in these elections, and will be chariotsteering Nitish. For long, it has been ambitious about being the single largest party in the State and having its own CM face but publicly, it didn't want to appear as an unreliable ally, which used regional partners for its own benefit and gobbled them up in the end. And despite promising big economic packages and special status in 2015, it didn't quite push them, unwilling to benefit Nitish by association. But it did push the Modi aura and Central schemes aggressively and even deployed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who is the new-found favourite of Bihar's electorate, comprising a large number of migrants and students, whom Nitish did not want to accept for fear of a disease spread but who found a home at camps in UP. And for all the public denials of losing faith in Nitish and denouncing co-ally Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan for contesting against JD(U) outside the NDA fold, the fact is it wants the exact opposite. Chirag has been relentless and savage in his criticism of Nitish and proportionately laudatory about Modi, even vowing a life-long commitment to him and promising a BJP-LJP Government. The tacit support is evident as the central BJP leadership has barely pulled up Chirag in public or shared the stage, Modi included, with Nitish. If the verdict swings decisively in the BJP's favour, then there's no guarantee how long it will continue to back its CM nominee. As more and more of its allies get pushed into a corner, are choked and part ways, like the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in Punjab, the big question arising out of the Bihar results, assuming the BJP does deepen its footprint, will be whether the central party's new target will be co-optive federalism, transplanting regional satraps with single-party rule in States and subverting the local agenda altogether. In his speeches, Modi has largely focussed on Central achievements than his plans for the State. The BJP's biggest strength, that of the Modi aura, is also its biggest handicap at the State-level where it lacks magnetic leaders. The halo is good for swinging a verdict but deliverables need to be felt at the State level with a well-meaning leader.

It is here that RJD leader and Lalu's son Tejashwi Yadav has undoubtedly seized the narrative in the public imagination. The huge crowds may not be a litmus test of a vote shift but he has certainly given what would have been a colourless election a talking point. Criticised much for not performing as Nitish's deputy and cooling heels in Delhi, he has woken up to the duty of legacy, parked himself in the State, worked the grass-roots and built a connect across segments. He knows full well that he cannot fill his father's big shoes just yet and that RJD would still get the traditional caste-based loyalty and minority votes based on Lalu's goodwill. He also knows that people know why his father is incarcerated, because of the scams in his time. So he wants to carve out a broader constituency for himself that is more contextual than historic, which will focus on what he has to offer afresh and help him bury taints of the past. So instead of harping on the RJD's core plank of caste, he has made unemployment of the State's youth the pivot of his campaign, promising 10 lakh jobs to the surging crowds that gathered to hear him out. Such was the impact of his speeches that the BJP, while appearing unfazed, had to promise 19 lakh jobs in its manifesto as a reactive strategy. He has even co-opted the Left to appeal to all marginalised voters irrespective of caste and evolved an inclusive umbrella of those cheated by the NDA-Nitish combine. In that sense, he embodies Bihar's cure. Question is if he is too late for this round?

Be prepared

As India and the US enter into more formal agreements on the military front, we are also making major operational adjustments



The founder of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, had a simple motto for the children who signed up. Just "be prepared", he would say. Twice in the space of 20 years, India's military intelligence and border guards have been caught napping, first during the Kargil intrusion and then the recent events in eastern Ladakh. The ferocious riposte by our soldiers has caught the enemy off-guard in both instances albeit with a heavy price in blood. However, the recent incident with the Chinese has led to further strengthening of the India-US military relationship and the presence of the US Secretaries of State and Defence

in New Delhi a week ahead of the presidential election is a sign that this will be priority for any regime that comes in. The signing of the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), the fourth and final foundational agreement between both nations, is significant. While this does not mean that India and the US are military partners or are close to forming any alliance, it does set in stone the military partnership for the coming decades, particularly with respect to the Indo-Pacific where China wants to make a mark. In addition to these changes, there is also the dramatic shift in India's own military preparedness with the creation of five theatre commands and finally better integration between the various arms of the forces. Until now, communications frequencies of the three forces were separate even in an era of combined arms warfare. That it took the lives of 20 of our gallant soldiers to commit to such changes is tragic but it appears that the loss of Colonel Babu and his men will not have been in vain. An integrated northern command keeping an eye on China is a start but India needs to dramatically improve its intelligence gathering resources and on that front, the collaboration with the US will help tremendously. One thing is certain now, while China might benefit from a less aggressive Democratic-led US, India is certain to have a permanent ally. India is preparing to be prepared.

NEP: Promise or platitude?

Without increasing public investment, neither the infrastructure, nor the standards required for the New Education Policy 2020 can be achieved



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

There have been plenty of debates and discourses about the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP) but not many focussed on its implementation. No doubt, the NEP is the most progressive and futuristic document and if implemented with sincerity in letter and spirit, it has a tectonic potential to transform India from an educationally laggard nation into a knowledge superpower. Indeed we have never had any education system, only a system of examinations and that, too, an inefficient one, based on rote learning that kills all creativity and innovation. The NEP aspires to transform this moribund system by aiming to produce "good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals," who are needed to transform the 21st century India. But it has failed to provide a specific implementation roadmap, except specifying some broad targets.

Neither has it prescribed any accountability mechanism for its implementation. But most importantly, any great idea like this needs great finances. Education being a concurrent subject, both the Centre and the States need to share the responsibility for its implementation as well as finances. But the NEP has almost skirted the issue altogether.

The higher education in the country has seen phenomenal growth during the last two decades. The number of colleges, universities and students has quadrupled since 2001, and the private sector has grown much faster than the public institutions. Today, we have 993 universities, about 40,000 colleges and 10,000 standalone institutions, and nearly four crore students. But unfortunately, most of these institutions produce unemployable graduates and postgraduates annually, with very little knowledge and skill.

If we can forget for a moment our current military standoff with China, a comparison with that country might be instructive in many respects. In *India Unlimited: Reclaiming the Lost Glory*, Arvind Panagariya has provided some tale-tell statistics about China and India. Based on the Scopus database of articles published and cited in international journals, the National Science Foundation of US brings out annual rankings of different countries. In 1996, in almost all subject areas, China and India were ranked more or less evenly. In fact, India was a tad better. In terms of the total citations, India was ranked 19th



amongst all countries, while China was ranked 21st. In social sciences, India was ranked 21st against China's 24th, in chemistry and molecular sciences, India was ranked 11th and in physics 17th against China's 13th in both. But by 2017, China moved far ahead of us in all subjects — third in terms of total citations against India's 14th. In social sciences, chemistry and physics, China ranked fifth, first and second while India lagged way behind with 14th, fifth and eighth ranks respectively in these subjects. In the Times Higher Education Ranking 2020, China has three universities among the top 100 of the world, four in the next 100 and altogether 72 among the top 1,000. India has none among the first 200 and 36 among the top 1,000, half of China's 72.

How could China race so much ahead of us in just two decades? Actually, it had started its economic liberalisation in 1976, a good 15 years ahead of us. But it started reforming the education system in 1995, 25 years ahead of us. It realised that to become a great power and a great nation, the primary need is to have a good system of education.

What is a good system of education? If we take the US as the model, we would appreciate that a good system of education needs basically two things: adequate funding and decentralised governance with a very high degree of autonomy to the institutions. The US universities have complete autonomy in deciding admission, courses and faculty and they compete amongst

themselves to attract the best faculty, students and research endowment funds. They function independent of federal and State Government regulations with practically no interference by the State.

We had inherited a colonial legacy of higher education where universities were primarily tasked with granting degrees with very little focus on research, and by and large, we still remain the same. China has modelled its system of education in the Soviet-style after 1949 but Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution nearly did it in. Then in 1995, as Panagariya informs, it launched the so-called Project 211 with the slogan: "For the 21st century, manage the top 100 universities successfully." In 1998, it passed the Higher Education Law, which liberalised and decentralised its higher education just like the US, with academic and administrative freedom given to higher educational institutions (HEIs). That law recognised the need for ensuring adequate funding and allowed tuition fees to be hiked by the universities, with State subsidies for those who couldn't afford it. So the tuition fees rose steeply from ¥600 in 1992 to ¥10,000 by mid-2010. The Project 211 funded \$4.6 billion (30 per cent on infrastructure) to 107 universities between 1995 and 2005. In 1998, China launched another project — Project 985 — to create world-class universities out of the 107 universities selected for Project 211. Under this, the top two universities (Peking and Tsinghua) received \$240 million for three

years. By 2007, the project had covered 39 universities. Of these, 27 are now ranked within the top 600 universities of the world.

The NEP has correctly identified many of the problems that beset our higher education system — like a severely fragmented ecosystem characterised by a rigid separation of disciplines with little emphasis on cognitive skills, learning outcomes or quality research, limited institutional autonomy, poor leadership and ineffective regulatory and governance systems. The result is that the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education is a paltry 26 per cent compared to 58 per cent in Senior Secondary and 79 per cent in Secondary schooling. The NEP promises to correct this by focussing on multi-disciplinarity, flexibility, emphasis on skill acquisition and quality research. To fix the problems, it prescribes that there would no more be any rigid separation between arts and sciences, curricular and extra-curricular activities, or vocational and academic streams. Students will select subjects of their choosing across all streams to excel wherever they can and discover their aptitude and potential. For this, it prescribes a roadmap of credit-based undergraduate degree courses with multiple exit options.

It has also suggested a new institutional framework comprising a new overarching body — the Higher Education Commission of India — with four verticals for regulation, accreditation, funding and learning outcomes, which will end the

multiple conflicts of interest that bedevil our current regulatory system. Research gets the maximum emphasis with a National Research Foundation to "seed, grow and facilitate research" in academic institutions. Most importantly, the NEP recognises that the HEIs need to be depoliticised and educationists appointed on their Board of Governance instead of bureaucrats. But given the present stranglehold of retired bureaucrats and politicians over the HEIs and their stubborn objections to any reform, it would be difficult to end their dominance over our higher education anytime soon.

The most revolutionary part of the NEP is perhaps its single-minded focus on multi-disciplinarity by creating large universities and HEI clusters and ending the present system of affiliated colleges. But such a major shift would also need enormous resources, and it is here that the NEP disappoints. The total combined public expenditure on education by the Centre and the States, currently at only about four per cent of GDP, falls way behind the target of six per cent envisaged in all our previous education policies. Consequently, our expenditure on research remains a pathetic 0.69 per cent of GDP. Without investment, neither the infrastructure nor the standards required for the NEP would be achieved.

The NEP only paid some lip-service to this crucial element — by hoping that the Centre and the States will work together to raise expenditure to six per cent of GDP which it recognises as essential for "progress and growth." But it stops short of recommending that a law should be enacted to enforce the same. Thus, there is neither any commitment nor an accountability structure built into the NEP to ensure implementation. Maybe the committee had felt restrained by pandemic-related budgetary stress. This would be over some day but the future will wait.

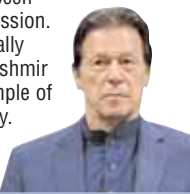
Meanwhile, universities can think of going beyond operating from their individual silos. They can form provincial and regional consortiums for better synergy. By mapping their educational resources and sharing these among themselves, they can together provide students access to the best facilities. Each institution can expand capacity in its strength area to optimise investment and specialisation and share this through a network of institutions. The mantra should be to give access to quality learning to all who desire to learn.

(The writer is former Director-General from the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and an academic)

SOUND BITE

Minorities in India have been under continuous suppression. Lockdown in Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is the worst example of suppression and barbarity.

Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan



International cooperation is the only way to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate emergency, rising inequality and the spreading of hatred.

UN Secretary-General —Antonio Guterres



We had taken up a target of covering at least two people in each panchayat who are in need of financial assistance. I'm happy to announce that we have covered nearly 10,000 cases.

J&K Lieutenant Governor —Manoj Sinha



The plan for the Olympics is very clear to everyone and more importantly all players are clear about their own roles. Everyone is gaining confidence day by day.

Hockey player —Navjot Kaur



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Air quality in Delhi worsens after Dussehra

Air pollution levels in Delhi have drastically increased after the city celebrated Dussehra and burnt firecrackers in the process. The concentration of pollutants nearly doubled post the celebrations but bear in mind that Diwali is yet to come and with it, the Air Quality Index (AQI) will deteriorate further. However, this has become a yearly phenomenon and the problem lies with the Government taking only reactive measures like Graded Response Action Programme (GRAP) rather than opting for institutional steps before the quality of air decreases. In these grim times when the entire world is fighting the pandemic, this is aggravating our chances of falling sick.

Burning of agricultural waste in Punjab and Haryana is the main reason for the high air pollution levels and the Centre and State Governments should introduce an action plan to recycle the waste. Alternative uses of crop stubble should be discovered and made viable for the farmers. Improving public transport, increasing the use of clean renewable energy, using more electric vehi-



cles, introducing less polluting fuel and strict emission regulations can also keep us away from serious detriments. Obviously, there is no quick fix for reducing air pollution, it requires a series of different actions. However, the time has come to prioritise people's health by controlling the factors which affect the quality of air.

Ravi Teja Kathuripalli
Hyderabad

A new Bill

Sir — As the world continues to live with the Coronavirus and there is no vaccine in sight, Governments across the world are trying everything possible to curb its spread. In a first, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that he is considering to make wearing face masks mandatory in the State by proposing a Bill in the forthcoming Assembly session. Interacting with district collectors, college principals and other officials through a video conference on October 27, Gehlot said that every section of society should join the Government's initiative and make it successful. Given the fact that many are reluctant to follow the necessary precautions even during these trying times, passing a law to implement the same might help curb the spread of the virus, especially since we have just entered the festive season.

Amit Singh Kushwaha
Satna

Free vaccine?

Sir — The announcement of free Corona vaccine in the poll-bound State of Bihar by the BJP

should not agitate those in the Opposition as people are well aware that such a promise will not be translated into action. It is no secret that scientists across the globe are racing to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 which has killed over 1.16 million people globally. And several dozen vaccine candidates are currently undergoing clinical trials. So, if and when a vaccine does work,

every citizen of the country should get the vaccine free of cost. BJP's sad attempt to lure the electorate in Bihar with "free vaccine" has not worked but it has definitely started a debate on whether these kinds of promises should be allowed to be made during elections. Also, while the BJP is trying to play the COVID card, it seems to have forgotten to take the basic preventive measures

during its rallies where people are neither following social distancing nor wearing masks. It is crucial to remember that such mass gatherings can easily become large virus spreading events. Though the BJP claims to be concerned about the people of Bihar, in reality, its only concern is winning the elections.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Goa's blue economy

Sir — Goa's locational advantages have allowed it to exploit economic gains from tourism and fisheries. While arguments over the under-utilisation of the available resources to boost marine tourism cannot be overlooked, it must be said that the ingenuity of locals in tapping the business potential from the ocean has been less innovative and more destructive. The matter of big trawler owners using Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights to net a better catch of fish comes readily to one's mind. Given its natural dependence on marine assets, the State could only be charting a disastrous course if it doesn't follow eco-friendly practices. Hence the foundation stone ceremony of the construction of a common facility centre for the Konkan Maritime Cluster at Verna Industrial Estate could be seen as a welcome step towards the State reaping the benefits of a sustainable ocean-based development pathway.

Pachu Menon
Margao

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Next poll stop in Tamil Nadu

One thing is for sure, the Sasikala and Rajinikanth factors will certainly play out in the 2021 elections in the State



KALYANI SHANKAR

The ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu (TN) is quietly preparing to face the Assembly elections scheduled for early next year. With just a few months left for the polls, the party is sorting out its internal problems by declaring the incumbent Chief Minister E Palaniswami (EPS) as its chief ministerial candidate and sidelining the other claimant and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam (OPS). Significantly, the 2021 polls will be the first without the two icons, M Karunanidhi and J Jayalalithaa, and will be a litmus test for the AIADMK and DMK leadership. In fact, none of the two parties has a charismatic leadership and more importantly, no party has ever had a hat-trick so far.

Though the fight is between the two major Dravidian parties, there are two X factors. The first is Sasikala Natarajan, companion and confidante of Jayalalithaa for years. Sentenced to four years in jail in a disproportionate assets case, she will come out of prison in February 2021. She has enough money and political skills to either take over the AIADMK or join hands with her nephew TTV Dinakaran. He has floated an outfit (Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam) of which Sasikala is the chief. So far Sasikala has kept her cards close to her chest. *Chinnamma*, as she is affectionately called by her followers, Sasikala has many loyalists within the AIADMK, too, as she was a major force during Amma's time.

Sasikala's re-entry in the Tamil political scene at this time might ruffle many feathers. The only consolation is that as per law she cannot contest elections for the next six years. The party backed Sasikala soon after the demise of Jayalalithaa but after her sentencing, it united under EPS. The Chief Minister believes that his Government has managed to deliver on several fronts, including the management of the Coronavirus crisis, and he has strengthened himself within the party and the Government. Second, it is not clear whether *Chinnamma* will continue to have the same clout in the influential Thevar community, whom she empowered earlier. Third, Sasikala could also break the AIADMK and draw the disgruntled elements in the party to her side.

Fourth, the party faces several other challenges, including anti-incumbency, internal instability, the absence of a charismatic leader, and the onslaught of the DMK, which has been painting the EPS Government as weak and a pawn in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is not surprising as the BJP has so far controlled the AIADMK Government from Delhi as EPS has a good equation with the Centre. The BJP has also worked to keep the party united in the State. It has no interest in dealing with Sasikala or her nephew and the sudden raid on Sasikala's property in Poes Garden last month reveals the party's strategy. Sasikala plans to move into the palatial mansion which she is currently constructing opposite Jayalalithaa's house in Poes Garden. As many as 64 of her properties have been attached, too.

The second unknown factor is the Tamil superstar Rajinikanth. Though he is depending on his fan clubs, it is not known whether he has the skills to organise and run his proposed party. Though wooed equally by the Congress and the BJP, it was only in 2017 that Rajinikanth announced his intention to launch a political party, ending two decades of suspense. In March he announced that his proposed party would contest all 234 seats in the Assembly elections. Rajinikanth is now focussed on strengthening Rajini Makkal Mandrams (a political variant of his fan clubs).

He also stated that issues such as power-sharing in case of an alliance with fellow superstar Kamal Haasan, who had floated his Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) last year, would be discussed only ahead of the polls. Together, the two superstars would certainly draw a huge crowd but their vote-catching capacity is as yet unknown. Rajinikanth has been out of touch with the masses due to the contagion while Kamal's party got just two per cent votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and failed to win any seat. Rajinikanth wants to fill the huge political vacuum left by Jayalalithaa and Karunanidhi. "This is the opportune time to create a movement (to oust the Dravidian behemoths). If not now, it will be never," he commented some time ago. The superstar once declared that he would not project himself as the chief ministerial candidate and would prefer to nominate someone young for the job in 2021. This clearly shows that he wants to be a puppeteer. However, many of Rajinikanth's fans believe in his famous dialogue from the blockbuster movie *Muthithu*, "Nobody knows when I will come, how I will come, but I will be there when the time comes."

The political momentum and regrouping of parties will pick up in the next few weeks. As of now, it will be a huge challenge for Rajinikanth to fight the cadre-based Dravidian parties. He might have an alliance with the BJP given his Right-wing sympathies. The forthcoming polls in TN will show whether the arithmetic or the chemistry of the players wins. One thing is for sure, the Sasikala and Rajinikanth factors will play out certainly.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

UDDHAV DID NOT SAY A WORD ABOUT THE CONGRESS CRITICISING SAVARKAR AND NOW HE HAD TO ADDRESS A RALLY FROM SAVARKAR AUDITORIUM. POETIC JUSTICE
—MAHARASHTRA BJP SPOKESPERSON
KESHAV UPADHYE

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THOSE WHO ARE RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT US...WHY ARE THEY NOT GIVING THE BHARAT RATNA TO VEER SAVARKAR, THE MENTOR OF HINDUTVA?
—SHIV SENA'S CHIEF SPOKESPERSON
SANJAY RAUT

The FCRA fracas

When a few entities flout norms, the governmental system reacts by clamping down with more controls, inspections, reports, which are a hassle for all



SUBHASH CHANDRA PANDEY

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) play an important role in the development of society and a country. In India, too, many NGOs are engaged in implementing Government schemes to help the poor and many of them have their own ways of aiding the underprivileged, restoring human rights or working for the environment and so on. However, friction between NGOs and the Government arises when foreign-funded ones venture into prohibited areas like politics and take a stand on communal and social disharmony. The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 1976, was enacted to regulate foreign funding, requiring prior permission or intimation of/to the Government. While retaining the basic framework, the Act was rewritten in 2010 and amended in the last Parliament session in September. The law aimed at curbing foreign funding influencing politics, religious conversions and fomenting strife among communities. We are a proud, open democracy. Like any human institution, our systems may not be perfect. We do have problems to resolve but we don't need foreigners who try to accentuate divisions, disaffection and alienation among people, playing on the insecurities of the wronged, deprived and misguided sections.

The NGOs engaged in "proxy politics" were unwelcome right from 1976. If they fish in troubled waters, they will face a pushback. They are free to go to undemocratic countries to help their voiceless people if they are allowed to operate there. Specifically, the 1976 Act banned election candidates, "correspondent, columnist, cartoonist, editor, owner, printer or publisher of a registered newspaper", judges and Government/PSU employees, legislators, political parties and their office-bearers from accepting any foreign funds. (The 2010 Act added television and digital media too.) It prohibited "organisations of a political nature, not being a political party" from accepting any foreign contribution directly or indirectly through any proxy without prior permission of the Government.

It allowed non-political entities "having a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme" to receive foreign assistance provided they register with the Government and keep it informed about its quantum, source, time, purpose, bank account and actual utilisation. But the 2010 Act tightened control on ultimate recipients of foreign contributions by stipulating that FCRA-registered entities can transfer funds only to other FCRA-registered/regulated entities. The recent 2020 amendment has totally banned transfer of funds to others. The receiving NGO must spend all foreign contribution itself. It cannot become a distributing intermediary. The 1976 Act authorised the Government to deny access to foreign contributions if it prejudicially affected the sovereignty and integrity of India; or public interest; or freedom/fairness of election to any legislature; or friendly relations with any foreign State; harmony between religious, racial, linguistic, regional, social groups, castes or communities. The term "social" was added in 2010. The evolution of the FCRA law clearly shows its basic intent: Foreigners indulging in local politics are not welcome. The legislative intent was to curb foreign interference in domestic politics, the media, judiciary and the Government.

Critics saw the law as an attempt to clamp down on political dissent and the religious freedom of people to preach and of citizens to change their faith if they so wished. There was also criticism that the broad, vague restrictions for NGO funding and operations would have a stifling effect on the constitu-

“LIKE ANY HUMAN INSTITUTION, OUR SYSTEMS MAY NOT BE PERFECT. WE DO HAVE PROBLEMS TO RESOLVE BUT WE DON'T NEED FOREIGNERS WHO TRY TO ACCENTUATE DIVISIONS, DISAFFECTION AND ALIENATION AMONG PEOPLE, PLAYING ON THE INSECURITIES OF THE WRONGED, DEPRIVED AND MISGUIDED SECTIONS”



tionally guaranteed rights to freedom of association, expression and assembly. Plus there were fears that with the amendments, the Government had expanded its own discretion, bureaucratic control and oversight with respect to the day-to-day functioning of NGOs in India and left them vulnerable to partisan behaviour and favouritism. While basic human rights are assured by India to everyone, including foreigners, some rights are available only to Indian citizens. Foreigners everywhere are expected to comply with local laws. Foreign debt, equity and grants are regulated when they prejudicially affect national security, local culture, education, religion and social harmony. If an NGO indulges in political and religious activities, it is bound to invite political backlash. The following amendments to the FCRA Act have generated controversy.

Cap on administrative expenses: The 2010 Act stipulated a ceiling of 50 per cent on administrative expenses, which can be relaxed with the approval of the Government. The recent amendment has reduced this 50 per cent to 20 per cent. NGOs must seek Government approval to exceed the 20 per cent limit with proper justification (like expenses on a non-recurring event or being advocacy NGOs, not having projects). NGOs should spend more on implementation of projects, help poor beneficiaries rather than lavishly spend on their salaries, office rent, allied charges, business class travel, expensive event venues and so on. Only 1,328 NGOs reported administrative expenses over 20 per cent in 2018-19.

AADHAAR/Passport/Overseas Citizenship of India card for key managerial personnel: The new law requires NGOs to furnish Aadhaar numbers of all key functionaries while seeking FCRA registration, renewal of registration or prior permission to obtain foreign contribution. For foreigners/OCIs, a copy of passport or OCI card will do. This is a one-time requirement.

Routing of funds through a bank account in the SBI: The new law requires foreign contributions to be routed through a bank account with the SBI in New Delhi. From there, funds can go to other FCRA accounts and these must not receive other funding to avoid mixing of regulated and unregulated funds. NGOs can continue using their preferred bank account after foreign funding inflows pass through this SBI account. This is a one-time hassle. NGOs don't need to come to Delhi. They can approach the nearest SBI branch. Of the 21,490 NGOs filing FCRA returns in 2018-19, 1,488 were Delhi-registered. As many as 2,214 NGOs were registered in three years between 2017 and 2019. The SBI is expected to facilitate/fast-track the process. The Government may give some transition time so that the fund flow does not come to a halt during the current pandemic.

NGOs can't be financial intermediaries to route foreign contributions: The most substantive change in the 2020 amendment is that an FCRA-registered NGO cannot transfer funds to other NGOs. It has to directly spend all foreign funds it receives. Under the 2010 law, such transfer was permitted to other FCRA-registered entities. So bigger NGOs could act as a funnel to route foreign funds to grassroots organisations. Now these larger NGOs will have to re-orient their working to start either direct spending or start connecting foreign donors and FCRA-registered grassroots organisations. Foreign funds will bypass the bank accounts of these intermediary NGOs and go directly to the ultimate beneficiary NGOs.

Foreign funds received by NGOs totalled ₹18,337.66 crore in 2016-17, ₹19,764.64 crore in 2017-18 and ₹20,011.21 crore in 2018-19. About half of 21,490 NGOs filing returns in 2018-19 reported nil foreign grants in 2018-19.

In 2018-19, 4,107 NGOs received ₹1,768 crore as re-grants from bigger NGOs, with a median transfer value of ₹7.6 lakh. Half of them received less than

₹7.6 lakh. Pruning of intermediation cost would mean more bang for the buck for genuine foreign donors. It will help the Government to know which foreign donor is funding which Indian NGO. Intermediary NGOs were an obstruction to this transparency and may be adding to the cost. Sub-granting entailed double counting of foreign contribution, by intermediary and final recipient. Who received what and from which foreign donor was unclear. Transparency should be welcomed. Of course, to avoid sudden disruption of fund flow during the pandemic, some transition time should be allowed.

Non-compliance: The 2010 Act barred following types of entities from getting/renewing FCRA registration: Fictitious or *benami* entities; entities prosecuted or convicted for indulging in activities aimed at religious conversions through inducement or force; prosecuted or convicted for creating communal tension; found guilty of diversion or misutilisation of funds; engaged in propagation of sedition or advocating violent methods to achieve its ends; using foreign contributions for personal gains or diverting for undesirable purposes.

The Government has strengthened the mechanism to root out non-compliant NGOs. The period of cancellation of registration has been changed from up to 180 days to 360 days. The FCRA registrations of 14,500 NGOs were cancelled in five years ending December 2019. These were mostly duplicate registrations held by some NGOs. Failure to file annual returns also invited some cancellations as was the case with the crackdown on shell companies. In 2017-18, names of 2.26 lakh companies were struck off.

When a few entities flout norms, the governmental system reacts by clamping down with more controls, inspections, reports, which are a hassle for all. But it is necessary to keep errant NGOs in line.

(The writer former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry)

Still awaiting an inclusive election

The political participation of *divyangs* and the elderly remains slim even though 2019 was pitched to be 'Year of Accessible Elections' by EC



SANTOSH BISWAL



SHIBA PARHI

With Bihar Assembly elections beginning today, political parties have been busy wooing voters with major sops. The BJP's promise to provide free Coronavirus vaccines to all in poll-bound Bihar stirred a political controversy and drew the attention of the Election Commission of India (ECI). However, most parties are ignoring voters with disabilities.

About 13 per cent of the elderly and *divyang* voters have decided to opt for the postal ballot drop-off and pick-up facility for the first phase of the election. Significantly, Bihar is

the first State to go to the polls since the enactment of the Rights of Persons With Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016. Though the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has made extensive efforts to ensure greater participation of *divyang* voters, there have been some oversights. In Bihar 50 per cent of *divyangs* do not use public transport and nearly 70 per cent do not access Government buildings. Only 40 per cent possess the disability certificate that is required to avail all governmental incentives. This is because to procure that certificate, they have to visit a primary health-care centre, which is usually situated too far from rural areas. Further, the job does not get done in one trip and they have to make frequent visits because of the callous attitude of the medical authorities.

However, Bihar cannot be singled out for such irregularities. Even though Delhi saw a rise in the number of *divyang* and elderly voters in the last Assembly election, polling

booths, help desks, obstacle-free, wide and levelled pathways to the voting compartment and ramps were not as per Government regulations. Previously, too, various States like Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh failed to organise the voting system for this disadvantaged segment.

Hence, the political participation of *divyangs* and the elderly remains slim even though 2019 was pitched to be the "Year of Accessible Elections" by the EC. The REV-UP campaign (Register-Enable-Vote) was badly affected and the political rights of the elderly and the *divyangs* have been denied.

Equity and inclusion remain a distant dream for the differently abled who constitute 2.21 per cent of our total population. Now, with the exercise of social distancing necessitated by the pandemic, meeting the pressing needs of the elderly and the *divyangs*, right from sourcing essential supplies to accessing medical treatment, has become problematic.

This has also made them doubly marginalised and invisible in these troubled times.

The Accessible India Campaign, launched by the Government in 2015, attempts to make the overall environment more inclusive for the differently-abled. However, the campaign for equal opportunities and protection of rights is still unheard of and unnoticed and has taken a back seat in Government agenda. The picture remains grim as State governments have not shown a good response. Despite the Accessible India Campaign, accessibility to public institutions remained a major challenge and as of today, several Government-run and aided institutions are not disabled-friendly.

If data provided by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) are to be believed, initially out of the 1,653 buildings audited by access auditors, State Governments had sent proposals for only 647. As many as 12 cities had not sent even

a single proposal. There have been glaring differences between the Centre and the States in terms of coordination, framing and execution of the policies for a barrier-free environment. Apart from accessibility issues, the differently-abled are subjected to socio-economic, educational and political deprivations.

The dimension of gender cannot be ignored, too, as 44 per cent of the total *divyangs* are women with challenges. Of this, around 21 per cent are married and divorce cases remain high for several reasons. Significantly around 69 per cent of the *divyangs* reside in rural India. The kind of predicament that the differently-abled face in rural pockets is significant. Yet, this is missing in the mainstream discourse and warrants urgent attention.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation reveals that 75 per cent of differently-abled children are deprived of elementary education. The scene is again dismal in higher education

because of varied reasons. Only about 28.8 per cent of the *divyangs* in the country possess the certificate of disability, which is required to avail their rights. As a result of this and due to the policy paralysis and inaccessibility pattern of workplaces, only 34 lakh *divyangs* out of 1.34 crore are employed in the country.

Recently, the Centre asked State Governments to make a list of the *divyangs* who are yet to be a part of the Public Distribution System and cover them under the National Food Security Act, 2013. However, the callous attitude of the State machinery is quite apparent.

There are umpteen cases which signal the violation of the human rights of the disabled. There should be an overhaul of public policy to mainstream this marginalised segment and achieve inclusive development.

(Biswal and Parhi are Assistant Professors at SIMC and SSBF respectively and are working at Symbiosis International, Pune)



FOREIGN EYE



NOT A JUST THING TO DO

The unpredictable American system of life tenure has led to four presidents picking six or more justices and four presidents selecting none, as happened with Jimmy Carter. This gives some presidents too much influence on the Supreme Court and others too little. It also leads to justices remaining on the court when they are unable either physically or mentally to do the job. This must change. (The NYT editorial)

US ELECTIONS

‘Youngsters to vote in higher numbers’

Biden’s favourability increases: Harvard poll

New York: Young Americans adults are expected to vote in large numbers in the 2020 US Presidential elections, and Democratic nominee Joe Biden’s favourability has increased considerably in the last few months, according to a poll conducted by the Harvard University’s Institute of Politics.

The nation-wide poll, which surveyed the age group of 18 to 29 years, found “historic interest in the upcoming election, with a higher proportion of respondents indicating they will ‘definitely be voting’ than has been observed in the twenty years the poll has been conducted, suggesting higher turnout than has been observed in this age group in several decades.”

Youth enthusiasm to vote and likelihood of turning out on track will hit record levels in 2020, with 63 per cent of respondents indicating they



will “definitely be voting,” a contrast to 47 per cent during the 2016 elections.

The 2008 election saw the highest youth turnout since 1984, with 48.4 per cent of the 18-to-29-year-olds voting, according to the United States Elections Project, a reputed Census platform on poll turnout.

The turnout of young voters this year seems closer to 2008 compared to 2016, the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School poll data indicated.

The survey found that Biden holds a 24-point lead in the youth voter category over incumbent President Donald Trump.

Biden’s favourability among young voters has increased by

13 percentage points since April this year.

The youth poll said 63 per cent of Biden supporters expect the Democratic challenger to win, with six per cent anticipating a Trump win and 30 per cent ‘not sure’.

In contrast, about 74 per cent of Trump supporters expect Trump to win, with only 6 per cent anticipating a Biden victory.

Biden is viewed favourably by 47 per cent of all young adults, compared to 41 per cent who view him negatively.

Biden’s favourability is slightly higher among likely voters (56 per cent), although the percentage who view him unfavourably remains unchanged (41 per cent). **PTI**

Trump’s pick Amy Barrett sworn in as SC justice

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Conservative jurist Amy Coney Barrett was sworn in as a justice of the US Supreme Court, an hour after the Republican-controlled Senate confirmed her controversial nomination, handing President Donald Trump a major victory just a week before the election.

The deeply-divided Senate confirmed the nomination of Barrett as the 115th Supreme Court Judge by 52-48 votes on Monday, pushing the top court in a more conservative direction for generations to come.

Barrett, a 48-year-old religious conservative, was administered the official constitutional oath by Justice Clarence Thomas on the South Lawn of the White House alongside President Trump.

“I stand here tonight, truly honoured and humbled,” she said shortly after she took the constitutional oath.

“This is a momentous day for America, for the United States Constitution and for the fair and impartial rule of law,” said Trump in his remarks on the occasion.

“She is one of our nation’s most brilliant legal scholars, and she will make an outstanding justice on the highest court in our land,” he said about his nominee.

China tells US not to bully Sri Lanka ahead of Pompeo’s visit

Colombo: China has raised objections to what it called U.S. bullying of Sri Lanka after Washington said the Indian Ocean island must make “difficult but necessary choices” regarding its ties with China.

The comments by the Chinese embassy in Colombo came shortly before the arrival on Tuesday of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is on an Asian tour aimed at pushing back against China’s growing influence in the region.

“We are firmly opposed to the United States taking the opportunity of the State Secretary’s visit to sow and interfere in China-Sri Lanka relations, and to coerce and bully Sri Lanka,” the embassy said in a statement late on Monday.

China has invested billions of dollars in infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka as part of President Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road Initiative, aimed at linking Asia, Europe and beyond, to the alarm of India and the United States.

The embassy said China’s ties with Sri Lanka stretched back 2,000 years and the two countries did not need a third party to dictate terms.

Pompeo’s trip to Sri Lanka, and later to the Maldives, another Indian Ocean island nation, is seen as part of an attempt to counter China’s dominating economic presence in smaller countries that has left some of them in deep debt.

Ahead of the trip, Dean Thompson, the senior State

Department official for South and Central Asian affairs, said Sri Lanka must make tough choices to secure its economic independence over the longer term.

China also raised concern about Pompeo making the trip at a time when Sri Lanka is struggling with the novel coronavirus.

“Is it helpful to local epidemic prevention and control? Is it in the interests of the Sri Lankan people,” the embassy asked.

A Chinese delegation led by its top diplomat, Yang Jiechi, visited Colombo this month but it kept its personnel and activities to a minimum in line with guidelines to prevent a surge in cases, the embassy said. **AFP**

Around the Globe

Taipei: Taiwan said Tuesday that proposed US sales of missiles and other arms systems will boost the island’s ability to credibly defend itself, amid rising threats from China.

Vilnius: The Baltic nation of Lithuania sent a protest note Tuesday to Belarus over a planned nuclear power plant close to their border that is scheduled to start operating in early November.

Brussels: The long-running royal scandal that has riveted Belgium and damaged those involved reached a new milestone when former King Albert II reunited with the daughter he fathered out of wedlock over half a century ago.

Philadelphia: Police shot and killed a 27-year-old Black man on a Philadelphia street after yelling at him to drop his knife, sparking violent protests that police said injured 30 officers and led to dozens of arrests.

Erdogan sues Dutch anti-Islam lawmaker for insults

Ankara: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is suing Dutch lawmaker Geert Wilders after the anti-Islam politician posted a series of tweets against the Turkish leader, including one that described him as a “terrorist.”

The state-run Anadolu Agency said Erdogan’s lawyer on Tuesday filed a criminal complaint against Wilders at the Ankara Chief Prosecutor’s office for “insulting the president” — a crime in Turkey punishable by up to four years in prison.

Wilders posted a cartoon depicting Erdogan wearing a bomb-resembling hat on his head, with the comment: “terrorist.”

Wilders continued posting tweets targeting Erdogan this week amid a growing quarrel between Turkey and European countries sparked by Erdogan’s sharp comments against French President Emmanuel Macron, including remarks questioning Macron’s mental health over his stance on Islam.

Erdogan has persistently

sued people for alleged insults since he took office as president in 2014. Thousands have been convicted. More than 29,000 people were prosecuted on charges of insulting Erdogan last year, according to the Birgun newspaper.

The complaint against Wilders, whose political career has been based largely on his strident anti-Islam rhetoric, accused him of using language “insulting the honour and dignity of our president and of targeting Erdogan’s personality, dignity and reputation,” according to Anadolu.

Wilders, who leads the largest opposition party in the Dutch Parliament, shrugged off the Turkish criminal complaint and described Erdogan as a “loser.” Wilders has lived under tight security for 16 years due to death threats following his anti-Islam rhetoric.

On Monday, Turkey’s Daily Sabah newspaper, which is close to Erdogan, printed pictures of Wilders and Macron, with the headline: “the two faces of hatred and racism in Europe.” **AP**

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead Near Under Pratap Nagar, Metro Station, Delhi dated **25.10.2020**. In this regard a Vide **DD No. 044A** dated **25.10.2020** has been registered at **PS Gulabi Bagh, Delhi**. The dead body has been preserved at Sabzi Mandi Mortuary for identification
The description of the dead body is given as under **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 40 years, **Height:** 5’4”, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Yellow dharidar Shirt and Black Paint and chappal in feet.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.



SHO
PS Gulabi Bagh, Delhi
DP/678/N/2020 Ph.: 011-2365 1692, 8750871634

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that the Original Allottee of a Residential Flat No. D-137-A, Sector-26 Noida, Shri Jalesh Bhatia son of Shri Ram Ratan Bhatia Resident of B-17, Dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi had executed a G.P.A. in favour of Shri Shakti Nath son of Shri Vishwanath Resident of 2003, Katra Lachhu Singh, Bhagirath Palace, Delhi vide GPA/Agreement to Sell Dated 10.01.1985 and the same was duly registered in the office of SubRegistrar, Noida.
The same property further had executed an Agreement to Sell between Shri Shakti Nath Son of Shri Vishwanath & Mrs. Poonam Khubani wife of Shri Anand Khubani Resident of 1386, Sector 37 Noida on 11th April, 1997 and the same was duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Noida. Now after immense efforts to locate Shri Shakti Nath at his residence address and other places. I found Shakti Nath untraceable.
Mrs. Poonam Khubani, the present Agreement to Sale Holder requested me to transfer the papers in her favour. So now I am executing the transfer papers in her favour without any consideration. So with the help of this notice it is informed that if any one have any objection he/she will submit his/her objection with proofs to me within 15 days of publication of notice.
Jalesh Bhatia Son of Shri Ram Ratan Bhatia

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Vinod Sharma S/o KC Sharma R/o H.No. 100, 4th Floor, Vigyan lok, Delhi-110092** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 524/16 u/s 420/34 IPC & PS: Krishna Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Vinod Sharma** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Vinod Sharma** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Vinod Sharma of FIR No. 524/16 u/s 420/34 IPC & PS: Krishna Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **05.01.2021**.

By order
Ms. Aakansha Vyas,
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Court No-03, Karkardooma Court,
Shahdara, Delhi

DP/253/SHD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Savita

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Savita D/o Kaptan Singh R/o H.No. 14/47, Dakshinipuri, New Delhi** **Age:** 27 years, **Height:** 4’8”, **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Pink colour suit & Salwar has been missing since **13.09.2020** from her house. In this regard a case **DD No. 09A** dated **14.09.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.
E-mail : c/cbci.gov.nic.in **SHO**
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi.**
Fax : 011-24368639 **Ph.: 011-29052304, 29051917,**
DP/272/SD/2020 **8750870832**

Kamala Harris is smart as devil: Biden

Washington: Kamala Harris is smart as a devil, has a backbone like a ramrod and is vastly experienced, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has said, defending his decision to select the California senator as his running mate.

Biden named Harris as his running mate in August, making her the first Black woman to run on a major political party’s presidential ticket.

“Number one: her values. Number two: She is smart as a devil. Number three: She has a backbone like a ramrod. Number four: She is really principled. And number five: She has had significant experience in the largest state in the union, running a Justice Department that’s only second in size to the United States Justice Department,” Biden told CBS News in an interview on Monday. **PTI**

Iran summons French diplomat over Macron’s remarks

Tehran (Iran): Iran summoned a French diplomat in protest at what it says is France’s support for the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, state media reported on Tuesday, in the latest fallout over France’s response to the beheading of a teacher.

The report by state TV said an Iranian official in the country’s Foreign Ministry told the French diplomat that Paris’ response to the killing was “unwise.”

The Iranian official said it was regrettable that France was permitting hatred against Islam under the guise of support for freedom of expression, state TV reported.

Countries across the Middle East have been outraged by French President Emmanuel Macron’s remarks last week in which he refused to condemn the publication or showing of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad. **AP**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is notice for the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of “RASHTRAVADI VIKAS PARTY.” The office of the party is located at – “Rashtravadi Vikas Party” 217, 2nd Floor, Devaki Tower, Chandra Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201011. The party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 .

Party Office Bearers:-

1.President- A.C. Bhatnagar, C-186 A, Hari Nagar Clock Tower, N. Delhi 110064

2.General Secretary- Brigadier Anil Kumar Srivastava, A-801, Sujjan Vihar, Sector-43,Gurgaon,Haryana, Pin-122003

3.Treasurer- Smt. Kiran Srivastava, A-802, Sujjan Vihar, Sector-43,Gurgaon,Haryana, Pin-122003

If any one has any objection to the registration of **Rashtravadi Vikas Party** they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary, Election Commission of India , Nirvachan Sadan. Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.


SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED BOY

General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Rahul S/o Ramgopal R/o Jagdish ka gher, Near Rameleela Road, Sannoht, Delhi Aged-15** Years has been reported kidnapped since **11.10.2020** at 11 am from his residence vide **FIR No.542/2020 u/s 363 IPC, Dated 12.10.2020** registered at Police Station Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5’3”, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** White coloured shirt, black coloured pant and White coloured shoes in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this kidnapped boy, may inform **SHO, Narela Industrial Area, Delhi** at E-mail : **c/cbci.gov.in** or website : **http://cbi.nic.in**



Rahul

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 **SHO, Narela Industrial Area, Delhi**
FAX No. : 011-24368639 **Tel.: 011-27787593**
DP/550/ON/2020 **Mob.: 7065036324**



DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar,
New Delhi-110 017.
Website: www.derc.gov.in
Telefax: +91-11-26673608, +91-11-41080417

TENDER NOTICE

APPOINTMENT OF CAG EMPANELLED AUDITORS FOR REGULATORY AUDIT OF BOOKS OF ACCOUNT OF DISCOMS IN NCT OF DELHI

- The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission invites bids for hiring audit services for undertaking Regulatory Audit of Books of Account of DISCOMS in NCT of Delhi for True up of FY 2019-20.
- At the end of the contract period, the contract may be further extended on year to year basis for a maximum of two years on the same terms and conditions subject to satisfactory performance of the Consultant.
- The copy of the Bid Document is available on DERC website (www.derc.gov.in). Interested Bidders may submit their Bid to the Secretary of the Commission latest by 1300 hours on 10.11.2020, as per the following schedule:

Pre-Bid Meeting	2/11/2020 at 1500 hours
Last date of submission of Bid Proposals	10/11/2020 at 1300 hours
Opening of Technical Bids	10/11/2020 at 1500 hours

Sd/-
Secretary
Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission

WEAR FACE MASK	WASH HANDS REGULARLY	MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING
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Dip/shabdarth/0390/20-21

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Nand Kishore S/o Jagram, R/o A-6/155-D, Janta Flat, Paschim Vihar, Delhi and Village Nandigram, P.O. Bohala Bauri, Bageshwar, Uttarakhand** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 216/18 u/s 408 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Naraina, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Nand Kishore** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Nand Kishore** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Nand Kishore of FIR No. 216/18 u/s 408 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Naraina, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **03.12.2020**.

By order
Ankit Lal,
DP/242/WD/2020 **MM, Patiala House Court, New Delhi**

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Deepa (along with two children namely Name 1. Jatan , Age: 12 years, and 2. Golu, Age: 06 Years)** W/o: **Babu Lal, R/o: B-297, Ph-2 Metro Vihar, Holambi Kalan, Delhi** has been reported missing since **11.07.2020** at **09:00 AM** from her house. In this regard **DD No. 58-A, dated 12.07.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Narela Ind. Area, Delhi**. The description of missing female and her two children is as under:

Name: Deepa, **Age:** 30 Years, **Height:** 4’8”, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Black Colour Suit-Salwar and Chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing female and her two children please inform **P.S. Narela Ind. Area, Delhi**.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: c/cbci.gov.in **SHO**
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 **Police Station, Narela Ind. Area, Delhi**
DP/543/ON/2020 **Ph: 011-27787592, 7065036324**

Amazon flexes muscles but Reliance holds deep war chest

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The face-off between Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and Jeff Bezos-run behemoth Amazon over the retail assets of Future Group in India has once again exposed the ambition of the so-called "gate-keeper for e-commerce" to keep the reins of a growing retail market in the country in its hands.

The legal battle in Singapore aims to stop Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), a subsidiary of RIL, from dominating the burgeoning retail market in India -- estimated to reach \$1.1-\$1.3 trillion by 2025, from \$0.7 trillion in 2019, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9-11 per cent (according to the lat-

est report by Boston Consulting Group and the Retailers' Association of India).

That Amazon does not like new and direct competition to its business in any country and will do anything to somehow scuttle it, was conveyed earlier this month by the US House Judiciary Antitrust Subcommittee examining the health of competition in digital markets and the business practices of Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google.

"Amazon's acquisition strategy has primarily focused on purchasing its competitors and companies that operate in adjacent markets, providing access to additional valuable customer data.

This strategy has effectively protected and expanded Amazon's market power in e-

commerce and helped Amazon extend that power to other markets. Over the past two decades, Amazon has acquired at least 100 companies," the US House panel said in its 450-page report.

"Amazon has monopoly power over many small- and medium-sized businesses that do not have a viable alternative to Amazon for reaching online consumers," the report further read.

"Amazon has engaged in extensive anticompetitive conduct in its treatment of third-party sellers. Publicly, Amazon describes third-party sellers as 'partners'. But internal documents show that, behind closed doors, the company refers to them as 'internal competitors,'" the US House panel report stressed.

Economy reviving, but GDP growth to be negative or near zero this fiscal: FM

New Delhi:Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said there were visible signs of revival in the economy but the GDP growth may be in the negative zone or near zero in the current fiscal.

She said the economy saw a contraction in the April-June quarter, but demand has picked up in the festival season. Speaking at the India Energy Forum of CERAWEEK, she said infrastructure, fintech and all employment generating and asset creating industries would be priority sectors for the government.

Sitharaman further said recent data indicates revival in the economy, with PMI number being the highest since 2012. "Which sort of indicates that the revival is there which is going to be steady and sustainable revival. If that sustainable revival is going to happen between quarter three and quarter four, we expect that the overall GDP growth... (is) going to be in the negative or near zero this time," she said.

PTI

Covid-19 to erode 3 yrs of fiscal consolidation gains of States: RBI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The additional outgo to combat the impact of Covid-19 will significantly erode the fiscal consolidation achieved by the State Govts in the past three years, an RBI report said on Tuesday. In its study of the state budgets of 2020-21, the RBI report which has dwelled on the theme 'Covid-19 and its Spatial Dimensions in India,' said that Gross Fiscal Deficit of the States would spiral during

the current fiscal.

"States have budgeted their consolidated GFD at 2.8 per cent of GDP in 2020-21; however, the Covid-19 pandemic may alter budget estimates significantly, eroding the gains of consolidation secured in the preceding 3 years - average GFD for States that presented their budgets before the outbreak of Covid-19 is 2.4% of GSDP, while the average for budgets presented post-lockdown is 4.6%," the report said.

'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' about creating globally competitive enterprises: Prime Minister

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called upon exporters to create "globally competitive" enterprises in India in the spirit of his flagship mission, 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. In his message to the EEPIC India, Modi said: "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" is about creating globally competitive enterprises in India. The Prime Minister's message was aired during the inauguration of the engineering exporters' apex body, EEPIC India's first virtual exhibition, 'India Subcontracting Expo 2020' for overseas buyers. Through his message, the Prime Minister conveyed that science and engineering have a major role in realising the objectives of the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' programme.

He said that India is creating the right ecosystems for local manufacturing and supply chain.

Markets buck weak global trend; Kotak Bank zooms over 12 pc

Mumbai:Domestic equity benchmarks shrugged off bearish global cues to end with smart gains on Tuesday, propelled by heavy buying in Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Investor sentiment got a leg up after MSCI said it would rejig its global indices to reflect changes in the country's foreign ownership limits for stocks, which is expected to spur FII inflows into Indian equities, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 376.60 points or 0.94% to finish at 40,522.10. The broader NSE Nifty

INBRIEF

PNB DONATES EMERGENCY VEHICLE

New Delhi: As a part of a CSR initiative, the nation's leading public sector bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), today donated emergency vehicle to Bhaoroo Deoras Sewa Nyas. The vehicle is to be used by the Nyas for the help of sick persons and their families who visit Delhi for treatment at AIIMS. Honorable Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan along with Shri CH SS Malkikarjuna Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer handed over the key to the Trust.



NORTHERN RAILWAY CELEBRATES VIGILANCE WEEK

The Vigilance Awareness Week for the year 2020 was kicked off by Northern Railway at its Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi today i.e. on 27.10.2020. The oath of integrity was administered by Shri. Rajiv Chaudhry, General Manager, Northern & North Central Railway. The ceremony was attended by a large number of Railway Officials and Senior Officers. The week is observed all the Government bodies and seeks to spread awareness about the necessity of honesty and uprightness. The theme of the week this year is "Satark Bharat Samridhd Bharat".



VIGILANCE PLEDGE TAKES PLACE IN CLW

Chittaranjan: Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 is being observed in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) from 27th Oct' to 2nd Nov., 2020. Shri Praveen Kumar Mishra, General Manager administered the Vigilance Pledge in the Administrative Office foyer on 27th October 2020. On this occasion, Shri R. Yadav, Chief Vigilance Officer & Sr.DyGM, Shri M. K. Chatterjee, Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer along with other Head of departments, Sr. Officers, Staff Council members and Staff of CLW were present on the occasion, adhering to the safety norms of COVID-19 such as wearing face mask, maintaining social distancing etc.



WEARING MASKS WILL BE MADE MANDATORY IN STATE: CM


Jaipur: Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot said that to prevent the spread of corona infection, the state government is considering making it mandatory to wear masks in the state. For this, the bill will be brought in the upcoming assembly session. He said that Covid-19 can be avoided only by adopting measures such as wearing masks, maintaining a distance of two yards and washing hands repeatedly until the vaccine comes.



Gold declines ₹137 amid tepid demand

New Delhi:Gold prices in the national capital dropped ₹137 to ₹51,108 per 10 gram on Tuesday amid rupee appreciation and subdued demand, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had closed at ₹51,245 per 10 gram in the previous trade.

PTI

PUBLIC NOTICE									
			Registered office: Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara 390 007. Corporate office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai 400 051.						
GOLD AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE									
The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments ("Facility") availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold ornaments on Nov 07, 2020 , as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove account /change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online https://jewel-auction.procuretiger.com between 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website. In case of deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs.									
Loan A/C No. Customer Name			Loan A/C No. Customer Name			Loan A/C No. Customer Name			
Branch Name: Bapini			Branch Name: Jodhpur - Pal Road			Branch Name: Jodhpur-Mandoremadi			
681105600937 Ghamada Ram			219705001074 Indubala Ji			683305600562 Narpat Singh			
681105600937 Ghamada Ram			219705001082 Dilip Kumar						
Branch Name: Bheekamkor									
681405600654 Madan Lal			424705000141 Janak Singh			051005006178 Siddharth Singh Tanwar			
681405600841 Pappu Devi			Branch Name: Jodhpur - Paota C Road			051005005893 Shiv Lal			
681405600982 Papu Devi			682805602309 Yogesh Giri			051005005971 Shiv Lal			
Branch Name: Bilara			682805602291 Dinesh Dinesh			051005004574 Champa			
681605602581 Jeevan Ram Devasi			682805600974 Narendra Narendra			051005002556 Dinesh Sankhla			
681605601387 Shankar Lal			682805600981 Kanchan Kanwar			051005003118 Satyendar Singh Rathore			
681605601843 Rajendra Kumar			682805601067 Manak Ram			051005003805 Gopal Singh			
681605601884 Durga Singh			682805601354 Rama Ram			051005004418 Unmad Ram Choudhary			
681605602028 Shyam Lal			682805601360 Govind Govind			051005004386 Prashant Baghrana			
681605602171 Bheru Singh			682805602358 Pardeep Vishnoi			051005004504 Om Singh Rathore			
681605602602 Abhishek Sharma			682805602378 Mona Mona			051005004507 Gajendra Singh Sankhla			
681605602472 Indra Devi			682805602106 Ramniwas Ramniwas			051005004531 Gajendra Singh Sankhla			
681605602494 Jitendra Jitendra			682805602189 Rajesh Solanki			051005005051 Neetu Harsh			
681605602502 Ajay Bhargav			682805602194 Auanindra Pratap Singh			051005005109 Mukesh Das			
681605602547 Ravi Vishnoi			682805602219 Chetan Chetan			051005005146 Suman Kanwar			
681605602633 Omprakash Omprakash			682805602235 Kishore Singh			051005005259 Mrs Shma			
Branch Name: Boranada, Rajasthan			682805602388 Minakshi Rathore			051005005322 Babu Lal			
683205601277 Bhalla Ram Choudhary			Branch Name: Jodhpur Avm			051005005413 Bhagwan Das			
683205601027 Bhavri Devi			682505600872 Murla Manohar Rajpurohit S/O Sawai Singh			051005006258 Ganesh Ram			
683205600753 Rajesh Meghwal			682505600151 Bharat Singh			051005005896 Ritesh Parihar			
683205600832 Surendra Singh			682505600366 Vikram Singh Rajpurohit			051005005986 Hardev Ram			
683205600933 Kailash Kailash			682505600493 Yogesh Kumar			051005005868 Shyam Lal			
683205601167 Sita Sita			682505600509 Laxman Ram Rao			051005006007 Puspender Singh Rathore			
683205601233 Binda Ram Petel			682505600749 Mahendra Singh Shekhawat			051005006033 Kanchan Kanwar			
683205601252 Tilok Ram			682505600752 Kanihya Lal Dassani			051005006105 Adu Ram Choudhary			
683205601403 Ikabal Khan			682505600795 Shankar Singh			051005006137 Mrs Anita			
683205601436 Bhagvan Singh			682505600814 Mahaveer Kothari			051005006278 Mrs Anita			
Branch Name: Dhundhara			682505600857 Mahaveer Kothari			051005006160 Achal Das			
681905600628 Bhavri Devi			682505600835 Sunil Sunil			051005006268 Din Mohammed			
681905600658 Gajendra Singh			682505600852 Shaharukh Khan			051005006296 Sangeeta X			
681905600663 Kan Singh			682505600863 Mohan Balani			Branch Name: Jodhpur-Saraswatnagar			
681905600669 Bhvri Devi			682505600959 Harish Chaudhary			080005001482 Banshi Lal Bishnoi			
Branch Name: Jodhpur			Branch Name: Jodhpur Avm Saraswati Nag			080005000945 Ram Ratan			
016705010338 Nemaram Banjara			682605600710 Narpat Singh			080005000660 Rupraj Magraj Purohit			
016705011082 Anil Kumar			682605600742 Arun Kumar Pareek			080005000731 Nitesh Singh Rathore			
016705011411 Ramesh Ramesh			Branch Name: Jodhpur Lal Sagar			080005001527 Kamlesh Kumar			
Branch Name: Jodhpur - 5th Upper Chopansi Rd			683005600839 Manisha Manisha			080005001423 Anda Ram			
683505600396 Ajeet Singh Bhati			683005600842 Maya Kanwar Rathore			080005001470 Dinesh Panwar			
683505601859 Chhagan Singh			683005600851 Vinod Parihar			080005001486 Bhagirath Ram Jat			
683505601050 Chandra Dhaniya			683005600868 Kailash Gehlot			080005001506 Sahi Ram			
683505601847 Sonam Kumari			683005600869 Kishan Singh			080005001535 Sahi Ram			
683505601130 Prem Prakash Puri			Branch Name: Jodhpur Mandore Road			080005001605 Sahi Ram			
683505601151 Mahesh Parihar			683405600229 Baby			080005001507 Priya Ashiya			
683505601214 Bhom Singh			683405600824 Shakir Shakir			080005001532 Himpal Singh Deval			
683505601815 Jitender Singh Rajpurohit			683405600839 Jahirulla Jahirulla			080005001533 Madan Lal			
683505601526 Manju Devi			683405600845 Jethi Devi			080005001554 Bala Ram			
683505601557 Sumit Naskhawat			683405600861 Shanti Devi			080005001591 Neeta Panwar			
683505601579 Naveen Choudhary			683405600864 Sohanlal Naval			Branch Name: Osian			
683505601927 Santosh Devi			683405600867 Chhail Singh			360905000449 Rupa Ram			
683505601918 Pinki Pinki			683405600875 Ram Lal			360905000500 Banwari Lal Vishnoi			
683505601933 Bajrang Lal Jat			683405600895 Tejaram Devda			360905000684 Chann Das			
683505601943 Puna Ram Bishnoi			Branch Name: Jodhpur Sojati Gate			360905000711 Mahipal S Singh			
683505601961 Rajesh Rajesh			683105600427 Nitesh Gehlot			360905001057 Rafik Khan			
Branch Name: Jodhpur - Akhaliya Circle			683105600786 Ram Niwas			Branch Name: Phalodi			
219705000604 Mohan Kishan			683105600211 Govind Singh Rathore			684405602669 Habib Khan			
219705000509 Satyapal Singh Rajpurohit			683105600549 Govind Singh Rathore			684405601230 Govind Ram Suthar			
219705000516 Geeta Bhati			683105600433 Rajani *			684405601457 Girdhari Lal Mali			
219705000543 Jai Ram Solanki			683105600787 Anu Choudhary			684405601864 Abdul Malik			
219705000843 Javed Huseen			683105600617 Vishvanath Singh			684405602201 Mr Guljar			
219705000935 Shakil Beg			683105600999 Girish Manwani			684405603005 Abdul Rauf			
219705000937 Vijay Singh			Branch Name: Jodhpur,Chopansi Housing			684405602555 Sanwari Dan Charan			
219705000950 Ramesh Jangid			682705600823 Gita Gita			684405602733 Raju Ram			
219705000971 Rajkaran Joshi			Branch Name: Jodhpur,Nai Sarak			684405602907 Gaji Khan			
219705000990 Pukhraj Choudhary			682905600759 Shabnam Khanam			684405602943 Mr Maksud			
219705000993 Bhanwar Singh			682905600754 Samar Singh			684405602959 Ramesh Kumar Palwal			
219705001022 Laxman Singh			Branch Name: Jodhpur-Lachoo College			684405603050 Mr Habu			
219705001030 Kishana Ram Bhargva						684405603057 Sang Singh			
219705001031 Raju Ram						684405603058 Ugam Singh			
219705001033 Mohammed Farukh									
Date : 28.10.2020			S/D						
Place : Jodhpur			Authorised Officer For ICICI Bank Limited						

Date : 28.10.2020
Place : Jodhpur

JAMIA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. Administrative Office: 2/30, Okhla Road, Sarai Jullena, New Delhi-110025, Tel.: 011-26322236, 64558232 Telefax: 011-26322236, Email: info@jamiacoopbank.com, Website: www.jamiacoopbank.com

Balance Sheet As on 31st March, 2020			Profit & Loss Account For The Year Ended 31st March, 2020			INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT		
(Amount in Rupees)			(Amount in Rupees)			The Members JAMIA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. OPINION We have audited the accompanying financial statements of JAMIA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2020, the statement of Profit and Loss and the Receipts & Payments Account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and Delhi Co-operative Societies Act, 2003 in the manner so required for Banking Societies and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the Bank as at March 31, 2020, its profit and the Receipts & Payments for the year ended on that date. BASIS FOR OPINION We conducted our audit of the financial statements in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Bank in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India ("ICAI") together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements under the provisions of the Act and Rules made thereunder, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ICAI's Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence obtained by us is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on the financial statements. EMPHASIS OF MATTER We draw attention to Accounting policy no. 7 regarding accounting of retirement benefits which is not in conformity with AS-15 (revised) issued by the Institute of Chartered of Accountants of India so far it relates to accounting of Leave Encashment on cash basis. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter. INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT THEREON The Bank's Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Board's Report but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained during the course of our audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard. RESPONSIBILITY OF MANAGEMENT AND THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS The Bank's Board of Directors is responsible for the matters stated in Banking Regulation Act, 1949, Delhi Co-operative Societies Act, 2003 and the Reserve Bank of India circulars, guidelines and directions with respect to the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and other accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the Act for safeguarding the assets of the Bank and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Bank's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Bank or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The Board of Directors are responsible for overseeing the Bank's financial reporting process.		
Capital & Liabilities	As on 31st March, 2020	As on 31st March, 2019		For the Yr. Ended 31st March, 2020	For the Yr. Ended 31st March, 2019			
Capital	7,18,19,800	6,96,89,900	I. Income					
Reserve fund & other reserves	29,84,59,736	25,65,92,718	Interest & Discount	27,15,13,840	26,38,44,730			
Deferred Tax liability	51,14,077	74,33,903	Commission Exchange & Brokerage	3,80,827	6,14,078			
Deposits & Other Accounts	2,40,80,21,517	2,56,91,55,434	Income from Non Banking Assets	Nil	Nil			
Borrowings	Nil	Nil	Profit on sale of GOI securities	Nil	112,500			
Bills for collection being bills receivable as per contra	4,96,844	5,80,076	Depreciation on Govt. Securities (Written Back)	37,012,525	15,755,775			
Branch adjustment	Nil	Nil	Other receipts	25,492,276	27,948,424			
Overdue interest reserve	8,29,98,392	5,85,17,680	Total	33,43,99,468	30,82,75,507			
Interest Payable	36,77,347	31,33,705	Balance of Profit b/d	6,93,00,601	7,12,15,238			
Prov. for Interest on NPA A/c	94,049	13,09,546	Total	6,93,00,601	7,12,15,238			
H.O. Prov. for ITAX (Liability) (Net of TDS & Advance Tax)	34,04,867	88,60,830	Expenditure					
Other liabilities	10,80,78,758	13,60,07,679	Interest on Deposits, Borrowing etc.	11,12,20,151	10,60,25,600			
Profit & Loss A/c	4,27,20,427	4,60,42,737	Salaries & Allowances	6,56,27,598	5,03,87,764			
Total	3,02,48,85,814	3,15,73,24,208	Board & Sub-committees sitting fees	15,31,000	12,16,000			
ASSETS			Rent, Taxes, Insurance, Lighting etc.	2,59,02,882	2,30,51,587			
Cash & Balances with other banks	57,16,32,069	61,73,71,598	Law Charges/Professional Fee Exps.	99,83,132	84,81,722			
Money at call & short notice	Nil	20,000,000	Postage, Telegrams & Telephone Charges	377,272	418,941			
Investments	937,394,156	106,56,88,065	Auditor's Fees	1,32,000	1,32,000			
Investment out of principal / subsidiary state partnership fund	Nil	Nil	Depreciation & Repairs on fixed assets	56,92,775	61,13,569			
Deferred tax assets	Nil	Nil	Stationary, Printing and Advt. etc.	12,41,935	13,38,992			
Advances	1,36,10,85,698	1,32,55,42,430	Loss from Sale of Non Banking Assets	Nil	Nil			
Interest receivable	11,07,83,803	9,03,62,671	Depreciation on Govt. securities	Nil	Nil			
Bills receivable being bills for collection as per contra	4,96,844	5,80,076	Loss on Govt. securities	57,68,679	Nil			
Branch adjustment	446,816	38,39,450	Contingent prov. on standard assets	45,43,980	700,000			
Premises less depreciation	Nil	Nil	Contingent prov. on bad & doubtful debts	13,927,926	13,912,844			
Fixed Assets	2,12,68,580	1,96,37,937	A.G.M. Expenses	14,50,679	13,33,902			
Other Assets	2,17,77,848	1,43,01,981	Election Expenses	663,672	Nil			
Non-banking assets acquired in satisfaction of claims	Nil	Nil	Other Expenditures	1,70,35,186	2,39,47,348			
Total	3,02,48,85,814	3,15,73,24,208	Balance of Profit c/d before tax	6,93,00,601	7,12,15,238			
Contingent liabilities	16,820,985	20,918,705	Total	33,43,99,468	30,82,75,507			
Total	16,820,985	20,918,705	Provision for Income Tax					
Note: Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts as per annexure 1 form an integral part of accounts.			(a) Current Tax	28,900,000	27,674,194			
			(b) Deferred Tax	-2,319,826	-2,501,693			
			Income Tax related to previous year	Nil	Nil			
			Bal. of Profit transf. to Balance Sheet	42,720,427	46,042,737			
			Total	69,300,601	71,215,238			
			Note: Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts as per annexure 1 form an integral part of accounts.					
Sd- Mohammad Adil	Sd- Rajesh Gupta	Sd- Dr. Pushpa Bhargava	Sd- R.N. Srivastava	Sd- M.Q.H. Beg	Sd- Chairman			
Sd- Director	Sd- Director	Sd- Director	Sd- Vice Chairman	Sd- Chairman	Sd- Chairman			
As per our Audit Report of even date			For PREM GUPTA & CO. Chartered Accountants					
Place: New Delhi Date: 30.09.2020			Sd- Anil Kumar Gupta (Partner) M.No. 082847, FRN. 000425N					

FOR A FULFILLING FUTURE

It is important to engage the rural youth in productive ways, to make them future-ready and ensure a sustainable livelihood, says DR NEELAM GUPTA



While India is aiming to be the 5 trillion dollar economy, it also is sitting on a goldmine of raw talent, waiting to be nurtured, developed, and added to the growing human resource pool in our rural setups. A big economic opportunity for India, lies in creating a competent and trained manpower. According to a study, an Indian worker today needs about 100 days for reskilling to be ready for future jobs by 2022. One particular concern has been the skilling of the rural youth, who constitute nearly 68 per cent of the country's total population. It is important to engage the rural youth in productive ways, to make them future-ready and ensure a sustainable livelihood. Apart from the technical skills, the rural youth have to be trained in cognitive and interpersonal skills to adapt to a technology-enabled and truculent world.

Especially during Covid-19 pandemic, it has unleashed multiple challenges in different geographies, especially for the vulnerable groups living in rural set ups that already have existing issues of water and food security. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only hit the manufacturing, services and business industries but also pushed back Prime Minister Narendra Modi Government's ambitious programme to double farmers' income by 2022. Both big and small scale farmers are in deep distress after the lockdown caused disruptions in

the food supply chain, scarcity of labor and the decline in overall demand. India has majority of its population below the age of 25, a number that will look for jobs for the next decade. And so with half of India's population expected to be in rural India by 2050, there is a pressing need to make quality skill training more accessible to the rural youth.

Even while having cognizance of the challenge and the opportunity on our platter, the hurdles in skilling rural youth are many. Dearth of quality trainers, inadequacies in training programmes and high dropout rates remain the hurdles to proper skill development. Most training institutes are located in the nearest small towns, inaccessible to most, especially women, due to the lack of public transport facilities. The Government-run Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) have severely limited capacity and offer outdated courses with limited placement options. Due to the absence of proper skillset, the literate rural youth end up working as unskilled migrant workers in the nearest towns and cities.

Still the Government is fighting pillar to post, to capitalise our rich demographic dividend in nation's development. A significant, and, highly welcoming step in addressing this skill gap is the New Education Policy 2020 which integrates Vocational education into all schools and higher education institutions in

a phased manner over the next decade. A bulk of workforce (70 per cent) emanates from rural India, and if by effective implementation of the policy, we can get them interested in vocational training and provide them that training through their formative schooling years; then we would be close to realising our dream of a developing a competent and trained manpower.

Degree Apprenticeship is a new education route, recently introduced by the Government, bringing together the best of higher and vocational training. This new option enables university study and the invaluable on-the-job training typical of an apprenticeship. While pursuing a degree course the candidate can undergo apprenticeship training as an integrated component of the curriculum.

Another blessing in disguise has been the sudden shoving of education, trainings into e-learning methods, which has the potential to revolutionise the vocational training landscape in rural India. This deep penetration of digitisation shall enable the remotest locations also to come to one single platform and learn. Especially for girls, in rural back-grounds, who otherwise are unable to go out and learn due to family and societal pressures.

There is huge opportunity in rural areas for the growth of numerous off-farm sector activities and in particular the healthcare sector. The

pandemic has focused the spotlight on our poorly equipped public healthcare system and the shortage of frontline workers i.e. nursing cadres, lab technicians, paramedics and ASHA workers. In the coming years there is expected to be spurt in demand for these professions; and the skill training institutes should respond to this situation by offering a greater number of healthcare courses.

Another priority area for training are the skills relevant to the rural economy; newer opportunities are emerging in information technology (IT)-linked agri-extension services, food processing, agri-based e-commerce, solar technicians, amongst many others. A key part of such a push would be to create awareness and aspirations for these vocations, and their potential to offer a fulfilling career. The pandemic has forced most of us into remote working and telecommuting. This is likely to become a larger phenomenon in the future, opening up new employment vistas for rural youth, women in particular. Another initiative aimed at creating local employment has been through the BPOs being set up in rural or semi-rural areas. Today, it is entirely possible for the daughter of a rural landless worker to work as a programmer or content developer out of her home. So the COVID-19 situation could also become as the catalyst for the emergence of a new par-

adigm of skill training and work opportunities in our rural areas.

Skill development and new models of learning will be central to the recovery of our precious workforce post-COVID-19. One of the major challenges affecting the efficiency of this skill development programme is the lack of awareness around the opportunities, and numerous government skilling initiatives. Different stakeholders like the NGOs, the Government, the corporate sector, social businesses should work in cohesion in a collaborative ecosystem to address the need of competency-based skill-oriented training and placement, capacity building, promoting entrepreneurial activities, and up-skilling for agricultural and allied practices. These higher authorities can also counsel to determine their interest and enable different types of in-demand skills and achieving real-world outcomes. Empowering rural human capital through Skill Development is an essential for developing the country's economy. The CSR teams of reputed companies can also help in creating an impact to empower the rural youth in local communities, engaging with the ITI and polytechnic institutions in the villages with the support of expert NGOs.

The writer is CEO & Founder – Aroh Foundation

QUOTE OF THE DAY

True education does not consist merely in the acquiring of a few facts of science, history, literature, or art, but in the development of character.

— David O McKay

Virtual internship is in

One of the many benefits of remote international internships is that anyone can kick-start his international career from anywhere, says SACHIN GUPTA

The Coronavirus has disturbed traditional methods of learning as in recent times learning offline is not a viable option but to tackle this crucial time learning has become technically advanced i.e. you can attain global experience while working from your home. With the rising uncertainties, turning education and work online is the new normal and also the best alternative to bridge the learning gap. What does remote working look like? Remote working refers to attaining international experience from a remote location, without being physically present at the office during office hours and gaining global exposure. Remote international internship is the new normal in today's world. There are numerous benefits of remote international internships. It helps students to create global markets and connect to like minded peers who can be their future partner, stakeholders etc, anyone can kick-start his international career from anywhere.

International virtual internships can help to build up your global experiences.

Higher chances of employability: Remote internship with a global company will help you attain the career relevant skills that can help you to become valuable assets to future employers, such as time management, cross-cultural fluency and self-discipline and creativity. Having a cognitive skill-set in your resume can boost up your resume which eventually will lead to higher chances of your employability.

Boosts up global connectivity: Participating in a remote global internship can help you broaden your own network and encourage you to grow and nurture your own global perspective. You'll become part of a global community of peers from different countries. You will learn according to the new global requirements and develop a greater understanding and appreciation of another culture and their distinct working practices, find inspiration and new ideas through connections.

Learn leading international career relevant skills: As we notice the drastic changes in operation of every sector. Many employers around the world are changing their traditional working systems to the new digitised working environment. Therefore, participating in these internships helps you to attain digital literacy. It will eventually build up new skills which are globally used. Communicating at video conferences, presenting your work through online platforms, interacting with the team online will help boost up your overall employability skills.

Mould your career goals: Virtual global internship can bring up clarity to your career goals and helps you choose what industry is meant for you? How does your chosen industry work? You can define your goals and decide where and why to invest your time and efforts.

Save travelling time and expenses: Remote internship eliminates commuting. If you're interning abroad in a global city, it's often normal to commute up to an hour or more each way. Working from home cuts down the huge travelling costs and also saves time.

The writer is Chancellor, Sanskriti University

It's a matter of skills

These uncertain times have made employers realise the worth of a few key business skills that they would like their employees to possess to enable the companies to survive and flourish, says DR V V RAVI KUMAR

The Covid-19 pandemic across the world has made companies rethink their business strategies. Right from saving on real estate costs by reducing office space to making employees work from home on a remote virtual basis for a long time and into the future, there have been across the board multiple changes to the way companies run their businesses. The natural corollary of this has been the effect on the employees who have been impacted to a great extent and have had to make many adjustments to their way of life itself. These uncertain times have made employers realise the worth of a few key business skills that they would like their employees to possess to enable the companies to survive and flourish.



employee should readily accept that it is a VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex & Ambiguous) world and prepare for the continuous challenges it would throw up.

Being responsive to change: The current dynamic environment requires that an employee has all the eyes and ears to the ground and ready to adapt to change. The rigid approach of the past would not work and quick response to change is what is required. Becoming agile is a requirement that organisations would look forward to. Customer requirements in these times may become more demanding and becoming agile

is a skills that employers will look forward to from their employees.

Problem solving skills: Employers would expect that employees develop the habit of critical thinking and thereby be able to solve complex problems facing the organisation. Employees providing solutions to the problems would be preferred over employees simply sharing or bringing the problems to the notice of the leaders.

Digital skills: Remaining with gaps in digital skills is no longer an option. Businesses today work in multiple technologies and different platforms. Employees with solid dig-

ital skills especially in the emerging areas like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and the ability to manage large sets of data would definitely be a cut above the rest.

Creativity and innovative thinking: Companies which were not in the business of selling masks and sanitizers quickly spotted a business gap in the market and filled the same. Such creative and innovative thought processes from the employee side would be highly appreciated in these Covid-19 times. Bringing up an innovative and feasible idea for quick implementation by an employee would be recognised.

Communication and advanced interpersonal Skills: Communication in these times has moved more to online and digital medium rather than face to face. Employees need to develop appropriate skills to communicate and operate in a fully digital environment and work as a part of the team. Online communication should be inspiring. The interpersonal skills need to be advanced and strong despite working digitally. For employees in leadership positions comes the added responsibility of motivating their team members who are working remotely.

The writer is Deputy Director — SIBM Pune

Amp up your career in style

Studying fashion and design today opens up a wide range of careers that did not exist a decade back. ANTONIO MAURIZIO GRIOLI tells you how students can make it a lucrative option

Creativity is defined beyond boundaries and that is what the fashion industry believes in. It is not necessary that you have to design clothes to make a mark for yourself in fashion. What is more important is: 'Just do what you love, and love what you do.'

Studying fashion and design today opens-up to a wide range of careers that did not exist a decade back. And if you have an eye to create something appealing to the eyes of the beholder; you have just nailed the purpose of being in Fashion.



The boom in the popularity of social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter has fueled the careers of the many who were on a path to draw attention to fashion.

Hence, Gen Z needs to understand how these platforms and technology have helped the fashion industry to evolve and create spaces for new careers.

Let us take a sneak-peek into the changing world of fashion and look at some of the career options that are trending in this field:

Fashion influencer: Is a person with a large number of followers on social media that influences the fashion purchase behavior of customers by creating recommendations online. So, if you

follow fashion closely and have a knack to experiment with what is already existing; many brands around the world would love to use you as an influencer to promote their products.

Personal stylist: Personal Stylist is synonymous with aspiring for style. And no matter what you are wearing; the proficient eye of a stylist can add that much-needed touch of glamour to your regular outfit. The demand for personal stylists has increased manifolds with the advent of E-Commerce. Platforms like Thread.com have dedicated stylists and their job is to make personalised style simpler by providing personal assistance. It is a clear example of how technology and a human touch can help thou-

sands of people sharpen their looks by combining online communication with AI. Considering, how e-commerce has become a dominant way to shop across the globe, the role of Personal stylists has and will continue to change as there is a need in the market to give a more personal touch to online shopping.

AI in fashion: Another emerging career. If you follow fashion closely, you must have heard of 3d apparel designers. The strategy that fashion brands have adopted especially during this time of lockdown had everything to do with AI. The fashion world has realised the potential of launching their new collections via virtual modes harnessing the potential of AI.

To the benefit, the use of software in recent years has helped the fashion industry to reduce waste consumption and be able to use software programs to create virtual, true-to-life garment visualisation with cutting-edge simulation technologies for the fashion that has become more and more popular around the world. It has paved the much-needed way to sustainability for the fashion industry which without any doubt is the need of the hour.

The writer is Dean School of Fashion,

Learnflix sees massive growth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The S Chand and Co India's oldest and largest textbook and education content company has reported a staggering increase in usage of its home learning app — Learnflix — during the coronavirus lockdown.

With schools being closed since March, Learnflix has seen a robust growth of 513 per cent in subscriptions during the lockdown specially from tier II and tier III cities with similar growth in down-loads, signups as well as a 100 percent increase in schools and channel partners.

Learnflix has seen the increase in the number of the subscriber from 3,000 to

around 20000 in last four months since the complete shutdown of educational institutions across the country.

The massive jump and increase are noticed particularly in Tier II & III towns like Agra, Bhatinda, etc. where students can easily afford it from their monthly pocket money. The app is aggressively priced and highly affordable compared to other available learning apps to ensure easy adoption by schools and students across India. It is currently being used in 600+ towns and cities across 86 Countries

Learnflix offers Math and Science classes for VI to X, based on the CBSE syllabus, while also being of use to students of other state boards.

Vahdam partners with Byju's

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vahdam Teas, a leading global premium tea & superfoods brand from India has partnered with Byju's to empower children of tea estate workers through digital learning across various tea estates in India.

The partnership kicked off the pilot in across 8-10 tea estates in Darjeeling covering 1,000+ children through Vahdam's flagship social initiative, TEAch Me. This will include tea estates where TEAch Me is working directly, as well as through TEAch Me's partner NGOs — CINI and CRY — who will pro-

vide ground-level support. By the end of the academic year, the partnership plans to further expand to 20 tea estates and benefit over 2,000 children. By 2025, the partnership aims to cover over 50,000 children across all tea-growing regions in India.

Elaborating on the partnership, Bala Sarda, Founder & CEO of VAHDAM Teas said, "With our TEAch ME Social initiative at Vahdam Teas — we consistently try to find gaps & opportunities, to better enhance education for the less privileged children folks in the tea industry. One of the key gaps was

access to high quality digital education due to high costs & limited school infrastructure. With this partnership, we aim to accelerate democratisation of digital education in the tea-estates on a long-term and sustainable basis. I am confident that with Byju's, we will be able to make a meaningful impact in bridging the educational gap and the digital divide."

Under the partnership, VAHDAM will focus on making available infrastructure like smart devices and connectivity wherever needed, to help these children get access to quality education.

Online vaccine programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With COVID-19 dramatically altering vaccine decision making globally, the world is faced with new challenges on how to maintain routine vaccine coverage and plan rapid deployment of a coming COVID-19 vaccine.

To address questions associated with these emerging challenges, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA and IIHMR University, Jaipur have designed two new online courses for vaccine policy mak-

ers and programme managers. The online programmes are aimed at educating policy makers and programme managers on using the tools of economics to optimise vaccine coverage during the challenges of COVID-19.

"Our online courses aimed at helping immunisation managers optimise vaccine delivery in these challenging time. We are happy that the programme has received an overwhelming response," said Prof PR Sodani, President (officiating), IIHMR University, Jaipur, India Program Lead.

Technology is disrupting and transforming professional and personal landscape. Therefore, it is important to equip students with the tools to deal with these developments, says DR JITIN CHADHA



Today's age is one of cut-throat competition and challenges lurking around every corner. In such a demanding environment, the old-school model of rote-learning that results in negligible ability to implement knowledge is widely becoming inadequate to prepare students for a 21st-century world of complex enigmas.

When it comes to creating a generation that is adaptive, innovative and future-ready, education is the primary driver. Technology is disrupting and transforming both professional and personal landscape at an unprecedented pace. Herein, the responsibility of equipping students with the tools to deal with these developments lands on the shoulders of instructors across the educational paradigm.

What is Project-based Learning (PBL)? Contrary to the conventional methods of teaching, project-based learning is a collaborative and application-driven approach. It uses real-world situations as vehicles to facilitate enhanced learning and a spirit of inquiry, while also integrating academic subjects across the curriculum.

These projects are different from the regular, short-term projects that are undertaken after a course ends, for instance, as a tool to revise the course components. On the contrary, these projects drive the primary framework of curriculum and course instruction.

BE A CRITICAL THINKER

Within PBL, as this approach is often referred to, students can further use any medium viable for their research - field trips, presentations, exploring various materials, creating 3D models, experiments, and many more.

Students engage in such a project for an extended period, depending on their coursework - ranging up to an entire semester - working on finding innovative solutions to a complex question around a real-world problem. Ultimately, they demonstrate the skill learning through a report, a presentation or an actual product at the end of the project cycle.

Not only does this model inculcate deep knowledge about the subject in the students, but it also unleashes a hoard of soft skills like communication, team-building, collaboration and creativity in them.

There have been numerous researches over the years on the impact of project-based learning approach on the learning outcomes, students' and teachers' motivation, skill-building and general attitude towards learning (Strobel &

Project-based learning bridges the gap between theoretical and practical education, promoting true knowledge and a better understanding of the subject

van Barneveld, 2009).

Project-based learning encourages students to become independent workers, critical thinkers and problem-solvers. It urges students to form questions of their own, developing a sense of ownership of their learning process and outcome.

Teachers, in this ecosystem, function as facilitators rather than instructors, moving away from the overworked 'chalk and talk' pedagogy, as was also demonstrated in research by Barron & Darling-Hammond in as early as 2000. Fostering agency and competence in learners is an intrinsic outcome of a project-based approach to learning, also diminishing the need to regulate and supervise.

Connecting real-world situations to academics is perhaps one of the biggest benefits of project-based learning, pushing students to learn from trial and error and succeed based on their interpretations and logical deductions. This equips them for the professional world since these techniques are what will eventually be used by them at their workplaces.

Additionally, since such projects are often large and complex, students are forced to work in groups, encouraging even the most silent of the lot to speak up and work collectively with conflicting personalities to find mutual accord, learning how to defuse tensions in a diverse team. This not only has a high impact on their interpersonal skills, but it also introduces them to specialisation, optimal allocation of resources and delegation, concepts prominent in the

material world.

The market need for skilled workers necessitated the shift from classical models of blackboard teaching, and project-based learning does just that - simulating real-world problems to prepare students for progress by developing a balanced and diverse approach, as an individual as well as a team member.

Project-based learning effectively bridges the gap between theoretical and practical education, promoting true knowledge, initiative and a better understanding of the subject.

With the advancement of technology and its embodiment in all aspects of life, the move to more technologically inclusive and application-oriented education is not only welcome but a need of the hour and should be adopted far and wide by educators across all strata.

The model is already being integrated at the graduate level, wherein, most universities ask students to work on a Capstone Project at the end of the programme to successfully graduate.

The writer is Director, Indian Institute of Art and Design

Career in foreign language lucrative

Learning a foreign language does not only offer a good salary, it also fulfills one's passion for knowing different cultures and an opportunity to travel the world, says SANJEEV RAWAT

The scope in foreign languages is increasing internationally. There was a time when everybody wanted to be a doctor and engineer. But opportunities in these sectors are very less now and the numbers of candidates are increasing day by day because everybody is running for it. The best way to make a future bright is choosing a career in foreign language.

Prospects

The future of learning of foreign languages is all time high, on being able to learn a language and have acquired fluency in the same, a person can think of becoming a foreign language specialist, interpreter and translator or you can get a job in multinational companies even person get a job at different levels and platforms Entertainment, Tourism, Public Relation, BPO, Teaching, Online Content writer etc.

Eligibility

Candidate must have cleared high school studies 10+2 with any recognised board after this, person can do Bachelor degree in any foreign language is required and the duration of UG is mostly of three years. Doing Master degree in any foreign language but the candidate have to pursued graduation in relevant stream (same language) the duration of masters degree is usually of two years. The most important requirement is to have native level proficiency in English and at least one other language. And active interaction should be needed to communicate with people; no one is perfect in native language so talk more to improve it.

Nature of work

Many people do not understand the foreign language, so the most common work is to translation because translator is the only person who commonly visible during public events to translate, without missing a beat converting the second language into their native tongue. Same as for a tour guide, teacher, researcher and liaison officer who coordinates between two parties or companies. These are the common work to do in the field of foreign language.

There are countless reasons to learn foreign languages, you can meet



Sanjeev Rawat
Director, Langma School of Languages
New Delhi

new people around world and quickly get connected, can help you to boost your brainpower, or you can expose yourself to new career opportunities.

After getting a degree or certificate a student can find their way in healthcare, education, and business administration or in embassy. In some media houses there is a need of translator and they may get a person as a reporter. During these days career in foreign language is becoming a great platform in all countries because language skills are essential attribute in the most profession and advanced

Salary

The translator can expect to get anything between ₹15000, to ₹20000, as far as starter is concerned. After gaining some on job experience one can earn ₹30000, plus per month.

If person is cleared the graduation in European language like French or German so may he get around ₹50000, to ₹90000, per month. And top interpreter may get more than ₹10 to ₹12 lakh per annum. By doing freelancing person can earn ₹50,000 to ₹60,000 per assignment and senior person earn more than that.

While COVID-19 may have plunged the entire world into uncertainty, the education sector went through undoubtedly some of the biggest changes of all. Overnight, schools and colleges shut down as lockdown came into place.

Online learning, once a niche pursuit of working professionals and distance learners became the norm worldwide, with colleges and schools scrambling to translate their curriculums to this new online medium. While online learning left both students and facilitators with more free time for self-study and other projects, it left many missing the social aspect of higher education, and many students began counting down the days until the government gave colleges the green light

to re-open. However, in a world where nothing is as it used to be, what new safety measures can students, parents and facilitators expect when they finally set foot back in their beloved institutes?

Batches will be divided into smaller groups

Due to social distancing, the number of people on campus at any time will be limited. This means that batches will most probably be broken down into smaller groups to allow them to fit into classrooms as per new distancing measures and avoid campus overcrowding.

One benefit to this new change would be that smaller batches will result in more

MIND IT

concentrated learning, allowing students to do any catching up they require after the months of lockdown.

The learning model will be a blend of physical and online classes

With smaller student batches on campus, it begs the question as to what will happen to those who have to wait their turn to come to campus. This is exactly where blended learning will come in. Carrying on from the online model of teaching that's been delivered during lockdown, colleges

will most probably end up continuing to teach online classes, while delivering practical sessions and seminars physically on the college premises. This way, the curriculum keeps running smoothly, and no aspect of the education is overlooked, while avoiding overcrowded campuses and the risk of community transmission.

Stricter health & safety protocols

While a pre-pandemic sniffle or fever might have warranted a quick forehead feel and some paracetamol, all health issues will

now be treated with the utmost seriousness and attention. Prepare for temperature scans before entering the college, mandatory masks at all times on the premises, and sanitization stations moving from one area to another.

Anyone who feels unwell will have to report to the designated point of contact immediately and will be escorted to a healthcare facility, while those in close contact will most probably undergo testing to ensure their wellbeing. With the rapid development of new COVID testing kits, we can expect colleges to have their own stash of testing equipment on campus by early next year.

More attention to overall health and wellbeing

Prevention is the best policy - and maintaining a record of good health is sometimes the strongest defense against not only COVID, but other viruses and illnesses too. With statistics showing that people with underlying conditions or poor health, including obesity, suffer from COVID the most, we can expect to see colleges adding wellness, fitness and yoga to their co-curricular activities to encourage both staff and students to take better care of their physical and mental wellbeing.

While we wait for a vaccine, the best protection is precaution

The writer is Dilip Puri, Founder, ISH



The METU Study Grant at Budapest Metropolitan University in Hungary invites applications from students who want to study the bachelor and master degree programmes. The scholarship offers 500 EURO. Indian students can apply.

Eligibility: Students who participate in a fee-paying, Bachelor's or Master's program and whose student status is not suspended (active student status in the current semester). Per semester and per class. Per the mode of study — full-time. Per faculty: HFTGK including Commerce, Business and Tourism programmes. KMK: including Art and Social science programmes. Per the language of training: English (including all students studying in the English language, also Hungarian students).

Submit your application with all the necessary documents. Student with the highest corrected credit index and whose weighted grade point average (GPA) is at least a 4.5.

Language requirement: You should check all the English language requirements when you come to study at Budapest Metropolitan University.

How to apply: In order to

apply for this grant, applicants need to take admission in at the university. Thereafter, they should apply online for the opportunity.

The University of Calgary invites applications for its International Entrance Scholarship.

Award: \$15,000

Eligibility: Must be an international student entering the first year in any undergraduate degree in the upcoming fall term. Must have satisfied the university's English Language Proficiency requirement. Renewable in the second, third, and fourth year at the University of Calgary, provided recipients to achieve a GPA of 2.60 or more over a minimum of 24.00 units in the previous fall and winter terms.

Candidates must send: Pre-qualification degree, copies of academic transcripts, certificates of English language proficiency, a statement, and a copy of passport.

Admission requirements: High school diploma.

Language requirement: If your first language is not English, you will have to fulfil the language proficiency requirement in by presenting one of the following: TOEFL, MELAB exam, CAEL, International English Language Test System or Pearson Test of English (Academic).

Application deadline: December 1, 2020.

DATABASE DEVELOPMENT AT VIKINGS AUTOMOBILES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5733595
Deadline: November 5, 2020

MARKETING AT INFRONT

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹18,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5733618
Deadline: November 5, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT NURTR

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5733607
Deadline: November 5, 2020

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT INFRONT

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5733643
Deadline: November 4, 2020

FULL STACK WEB DEVELOPMENT AT DATA FOLKZ

Location: Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5733717
Application deadline: November 5, 2020

PROJECT ENGINEERING (FACULTY-AI) AT ORETES CONSULTING

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹4,000-₹9,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5733927
Application deadline: November 4, 2020

ARCHITECTURE AT ARCHITECTURE PLUS DESIGN LAB

Location - Ranchi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5733869
Application deadline: November 3, 2020



STUDY ABROAD

Choose the university that suits you best

Many students have resumed their plans to study abroad. But before they zero-in, they must see what is best for them

With the world adapting to the global pandemic of COVID-19, October ushers in fresh and advanced rounds of applications for overseas education destinations. At

a time when students contemplate resuming their plans to study abroad, they might still need to consider what would be the best option for them to choose.

In the wake of the situation, Study Group, a global education company that prepares international students for foreign university degree programmes is providing language, academic and social skills that students need for university progression and continued success after they graduate.

The group has been working with leading universities across the UK, Europe, North America and Australia and nurturing ambitious students from diverse academic backgrounds to help them land in their chosen university through their on-campus international study centres.

The students have advanced to undergraduate and postgraduate study in a broad range of subjects ranging from law and business, to science and engineering, at a wide range of universities from the most established and traditional to newer institutions focused on professional qualifications and innovation. One partner university that may be of interest to Indian students

Charles Sturt University, Australia:

The university is a well-reputed higher-education institution that is located in the most exciting cities of Australia. With a network of regional campuses, the university also boasts three dedicated Study Centres in Brisbane, Melbourne, and Sydney, all of which are within the top 20 most liveable cities in the world (Economists Intelligence Unit Limited, 2019). Students can look forward to great weather, stunning scenery, a vibrant culture, food from around the world and welcoming locals. The university's study centres provide hands-on, practical courses that prepare students for a range of exciting employment opportunities.

IN BRIEF

MOU FOR RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Weizmann Institute of Science (WIS), Israel and the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) was signed this month.

The MoU covers a range of opportunities for collaboration between the two institutions including research exchange, student and postdoctoral fellow exchange, short-term educational programmes on topics of mutual interest, organising of joint seminars, conferences and workshops.

The MoU will provide a strong platform for various collaborations that

involve academic, research and human resource development. The aim of the collaboration is to help in the identification of problems and work jointly by exchanging research and academic expertise.

Prof. Naveen Garg, Dean Alumni Affairs and International Programmes, IIT-D said: "We are happy to collaborate with the Weizmann Institute of Science, an institute recognised world-wide for its basic research. We look forward to some interesting collaborative research and finding solutions to world's most pressing challenges."

TEACHERS TRAINING AT MARWADI UNIVERSITY

With online classes set to become an integral part of a hybrid learning system, Marwadi University (MU) successfully conducted a teacher training programme, for more than 1,000 teachers from leading universities and high schools in Indonesia.

The university conducted the programme

on a pro-bono basis, with the aim of strengthening international ties and setting up of a global collaborative network. Since many teachers are still struggling to effectively conduct classes online due to the sudden shift post-COVID, the programme focused on *Communication Strategies for Effective*

Virtual Lessons, led by Professor Dhananjay Singh and his team at the MU L&D department.

Jeet Marwadi, director, MU said: "We hope to become an indispensable source of information and guidance, to seamlessly continue quality education and promote highest standards of knowledge."

VIRTUAL FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee organised a five-day virtual faculty development programme on Modelling and Simulation of Energy System that received an enthusiastic response from about 160 members of various AICTE-approved engineering colleges across India.

It was the joint initiative of the Department of Hydro and Renewable Energy, IIT Roorkee, in association with AICTE Training and Learning Academy. The initiative aimed at sensitising

participants towards research in renewable energy technologies along with imparting hands-on training for their modelling and simulation in line with energy swaraj.

"Adoption of renewable energy will play a pivotal role in mitigating the adverse impact of climate change and also improve decentralised generation of energy. It will help improve consumption of locally generated energy thus improving self reliance" said Professor Ajit K Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Roorkee.

