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*Late City Vol. 13 Issue 291
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RANCHI, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2020; PAGES 12-13



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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 forthright 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."

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."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and US Defence Secretary Dr 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

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 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 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 refuelling and berthing facilities at each other's ports and airports for warships and aircraft.

Now, any Indian can buy non-agri land in J&K

MOMHT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Govt lifts domicile condition in UT

Lifting the barrier on the purchase of non-agricultural land, the Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday notified the new land laws for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir triggering widespread condemnation from various Kashmir-based political parties who termed it as a huge betrayal and step towards putting "J&K up for sale".

Significantly, the new land laws were notified on the same day when the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir had acceded with the dominion of India on October 26, 1947.

As per the new notification, the Centre has set no precondition like the requirement of Permanent Resident Certificate or Domicile Certificate on the purchase of land in Jammu & Kashmir, as existed under Article 370 for the outsiders.

The MHA in its release stated that the order will be called the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020. It added that it will come into effect immediately.

The Centre also notified that the "permanent resident of the State" clause has been omitted now.

Before the Abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35-A in



August last year, non-residents could not buy any immovable property in Jammu & Kashmir.

Responding to the negative campaign spearheaded by the vested interests, including leaders of different Kashmir based political parties, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha swiftly clarified that the new land laws being introduced in the Union Territory will not impact agricultural land.

"I want to say this forcefully and with full responsibility that agricultural land has been kept reserved for farmers; no outsider will come on those lands. The industrial areas that we have defined, we want that like rest of the country, here too industries come so that Jammu & Kashmir also develops and employment is generated," the LG said.

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 few 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 count, while in Karnataka, 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, all of us, Paul, who is also the NITI Aayog member for

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.

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



Chief Minister Hemant Soren addresses villagers during an election campaign, ahead of the Dumka bypoll, in Dumka on Tuesday

Triumph certain, results won't affect Govt in State: CM

Soren attacks BJP on farm laws, DVC dues

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Executive president cum Chief Minister Hemant Soren today held several public meetings at Dumka Sadar area for the upcoming bypoll on November 03 and flayed the Central Government for its "anti-poor" policies. Soren reaffirmed that the win of the ruling coalition is certain and the bypoll results will have no impact on the ruling coalition in the State; rather it will strengthen the government to work for the poor and the subjugated sections of society in Jharkhand.

The CM is going all out to ensure victory of his younger brother Basant Soren, who is contesting from Dumka on JMM's ticket after the seat was vacated by the Sr Soren. Santhal Pargana being a stronghold of the JMM, the prestige of the party is attached with the



Chief Minister Hemant Soren addresses villagers during an election campaign, ahead of the Dumka bypoll, in Dumka on Tuesday

Dumka seat, where it is contesting against BJP's Louis Marandi.

The JMM executive president on Tuesday strongly attacked the BJP in the public meetings. Hemant said that both the Grand Alliance can-

didates from Dumka and Bermo are certain to win. However, he said that this victory and defeat will not affect the health of the government, but the victory of the Grand Alliance will strengthen the government. He said that with

the strong will of voters, they will chase the BJP more vigorously and defeat them.

The CM said that the government in Jharkhand is not of capitalists, but is of Jharkhandis, tribals, poor, downtrodden, farmers, back-

ward and minorities. He also talked about local businessmen and charged them with helping the BJP with corrupt practices.

Launching an attack on the Central government, Soren said that the State government was giving impetus to development, but the Central government was withdrawing money directly from accounts of the State and depositing it in its account. He alleged that the Centre was giving step brotherly treatment to Jharkhand. The CM said that JMM has to fight on many fronts simultaneously. Soren further said that a government of absolute majority has been formed in 20 years with great difficulty. "Election is being held in two seats. Currently there are 50 MLAs with the government. Two seats will not affect the government and no government is going to fall. Every voter must exercise his/her franchise," he said.

The CM asked voters to increase the winning percentage of JMM this time and appealed to them to come out in large numbers to cast their votes.

Covid-19 tally crosses 1 lakh mark in Jharkhand

25 per cent cases from Ranchi

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Covid-19 tally in Jharkhand crossed the 1 lakh mark on Tuesday after as many as 318 people, including 127 from Ranchi alone, were found infected in 24 hours, the health department stated in a bulletin.

As per figures compiled by the National Health Mission (NHM), as many as 1,00,224 people have been infected by the lethal virus in Jharkhand so far, and more than 25,000 of them were from Ranchi.

Meanwhile, four more Covid-19 patients died during treatment on Tuesday, taking the toll in Jharkhand to 876. Bokaro, Dhanbad, East Singhbhum and Ranchi reported one death each on the day.

While the number of Covid casualties has been on the rise in Jharkhand, the state's recovery rate too has improved significantly. The Covid-19 recovery rate in the state reached 93.66 per cent on Tuesday against the national Covid recovery rate of 90.60 per cent. As many as 93,974



Covid patients recovered from the infection by Tuesday night in Jharkhand, government data highlighted.

The number of active cases of Covid-19 infection continued to fall in the state on Tuesday after at least 506 Covid patients recovered according to the 300-odd fresh cases surfacing on the day.

As per figures with NHM, at least 5,474 of the 1-lakh-odd people infected by the virus so far were still battling the viral infection in Jharkhand.

Ranchi, which reported the highest number of fresh cases of infection on Tuesday, also saw the highest number of Covid-19 recoveries. As many as 179 patients recovered in the district on Tuesday, bringing the count of active cases here down at 1,778, which is the highest among all the 24 districts in Jharkhand.

East Singhbhum reported only 43 cases of infection on the day, which was the second highest among all districts in Jharkhand. The count of active

cases in this district reached 1,310, revealed government data. Bokaro reported 28 cases, while Pakur and Deoghar districts reported 21 and 18 cases respectively.

As per government figures, the doubling rate of Covid-19 infection in Jharkhand was 160.23 days against the national average of 118.61 days. The growth rate of the virus in the state in the past one week was 0.41 per cent against the national growth rate of 0.59 per cent.

The government in Jharkhand has so far collected swab samples of 31,67 lakh people for Covid-19 tests and tested around 31.52 lakh of them. On Tuesday, health workers tested swab samples of 22,162 people and 21,844 of them tested negative for the virus.



Chief Minister Hemant Soren, with father and JMM chief Shibu Soren, mother Rupi Soren and wife Kalpana Soren worshipping Goddess Durga on the eve of Maha-Navami for the betterment of citizens of the State during Durga Puja at his official residence in Ranchi on Sunday

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 faded 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 chartering 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 grassroots 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 core. 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 whom he 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 US, India is certain to have a permanent ally. India is preparing to be prepared.

opinion

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 have focused 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 lagging 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 the entire education system 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 schools 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's education system 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, while India is 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-disciplinary, 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 by their own choice of 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-disciplinary by creating large interdisciplinary clusters and endorses 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 at 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 at 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. It is neither a law nor a 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 not 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 strengths and sharing them 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 create 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)

SOUNDBITE

Minorities in India have been under continuous suppression. Lockdown in India illegally occupies 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. We are all in this together. 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 am 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.

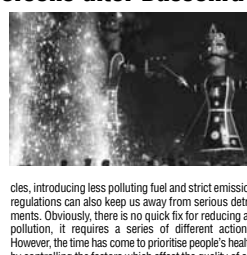
Hockey player — Navot Kaur

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 Gated 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 failing 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-



Ravi Teja Kathuripalli Hyderabad

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.

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 of 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 commercial facility centre for the Konkani 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.

Pachin 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 Jayalitha, 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 Jayalitha 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 TV Dinakaran. He has floated an outfit (Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam) to 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 Anna'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 Jayalitha 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 panning 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. 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 Jayalitha'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 Maam (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 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 Jayalitha 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 *Muthu*, "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 caste-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

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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 NGOs 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 do so. 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 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 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 intention 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 ”



nationally 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-recurrent 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/OICs, 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 earnest 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 spots. 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 there were not as per Government regulations. Previously, too, various States like Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh failed to organise the voting system in 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 REVUP 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 States in terms of the 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* possess the certificate of 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 unmet 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 was 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 newly-divided Senate confirmed the nomination of Barrett as the 115th Supreme Court Justice by 52-48 votes on Monday, pushing the top court in a more conservative direction for generations to come.

The 41-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 before you 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 faithful 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 US bullying of Sri Lanka after 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 Asia 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.

"It is 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 feared 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 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 Sazbi Mandi Mortuary for identification.

The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown, Sex: 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
Ph: 011-2365 1692, 8750871634
DP/678/N/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that the Original Affidavit of a Residential Plot No. D-137-A, Sector-26, Noida, Shri Vishal Shakti Son of Shri Ram Narain Shakti 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 Lachru Singh, Bhagrat Palda, Delhi vide G.P.A. Agreement to Sell Dated 10.01.1985 and the same was duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Noida.

The same property had been 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-27 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 Sell 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 having any objection he/she will submit his/her objection with proofs to me within 15 days of publication of notice.

Jalesh Shakti Son of Shri Ram Narain Shakti

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, Vignay Lok, Delhi-110092 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 524/16 u/s 420/34 IPC & P.S. 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 & P.S. 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, Karkardoma Court,
Shahdara, Delhi

DP/253/SHD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Savita D/o Kaptan Singh R/o H.No. 14/47, Dakshinpur, 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
Ph: 011-24368633, 24368641
P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi,
Ph: 011-24368639
DP/272/SD/2020

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, the Iranian official said Tuesday, in the latest fallout over France's response to the beheading of a cleric.

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 Ramleela Ground, Sannoth, 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.nic.in or website : http://c/cbci.nic.in

DP/550/ON/2020

DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Vinayak 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 EMANELLED AUDITORS FOR REGULATORY AUDIT OF BOOKS OF ACCOUNT OF DISCOMS IN NCT OF DELHI

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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	21/10/2020 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

WEAR FACE MASK WASH HANDS REGULARLY MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING

Dip/shabdarth/0390/20-21

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIENDUM
Tender No.: DY CE (CJ-775/R), dated 23.10.2020. This Tender published in this newspaper. NIT Cell (RA) should be read as 5.14.46.942/- instead of 5.14.46.942/- All other contents remain unchanged.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
PROCUREMENT OF DIGITAL ULTRASONIC DOUBLE RAIL TESTER
E-tender for and on behalf of President of India, are invited by the Dy. Chief Engineer (SPL), Principal Chief Engineer's Office, Civil Building, 2nd Floor, Central Railway, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai - 400 001 for Supply of USFD Machines. Complete details of the tender are available on Central Railway's website www.irapp.gov.in and the complete tender document can be downloaded from the above website.
Tender No.: TM SM 2020/001. Brief Description: Digital Ultrasonic Double Rail Tester with all standard accessories as per RDSD specification no. RDSO/M & C/N D T/1.3.0/21.01.17 (B-Scan) Rev-II, July 2017. Qty: 6 Nos. Date of Tender Opening: 16/11/2020. Tender Value: ₹ 1,02,66,000/- EMD to be Submitted: ₹ 2,00,320/- Consignee: Section Engineer (P/WH) USFD BSL-06/No. Tender Notice No.: STM/3/2020 Date: 23/10/2020 RPF Security Helpline 182

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 1. Jatan, Age: 12 years, and 2. Golu, Age: 06 years) W/o Balraj 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 has any information about this missing female and her two children please inform P.S. Narela Ind. Area, Delhi.
Web: <http://c/cbci.nic.in>, Email: c/cbci.gov.nic.in
Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
Police Station, Narela Ind. Area, Delhi
Ph: 011-27787592, 7065036324

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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 ■ MUMBAI

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

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al: FM enterpris

IAN S ■ NEW

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

IAN S ■ 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, 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. In his message to the EPEC India 2020, Modi said, "Atmanirbhar Bharat" is about creating globally competitive enterprises in India. The Prime Minister's message was delivered during the inauguration of the engineering experts' apt. body, EPEC India 2020's first virtual exhibition apt. '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 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

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

Markets b
Kotak Ban

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 FDI 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

PNB DONATES EMERGENCY VEHICLE

New Delhi: As a part of a CSR

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 Bhaoraa Deoras Sewa Nyas. The vehicle is to be used by the Nyas for to their families who visit Delhi for treatment. Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Science and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan along with Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive key to the Trust.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CELEBRATES
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 Railway Officials and Senior Officers. The Government bodies and seeks to spread a necessity of honesty and uprightness. The year is "Satark Bharat Samridh Bharat".

VIGILANCE PLEDGE TAKES PLACE

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. Shri R. Yadav, Chief Vigilance Officer & Sr. Chatterjee, Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer along with departments, Sr. Officers, Staff Council members were present on the occasion, addressing to COVID-19 such as wearing face mask, maintain social distancing, etc.

WEARING MASKS WILL BE MADE MA
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 adopting measures such as wearing masks, maintaining two yards and washing hands repeatedly

Weak weak global trend;
Zooms over 12 pc

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.

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PTI

FOR A FUTURE 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 turbulent 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 on its 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 showing 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 exposure 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 bring 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 returning 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.

Six key business skills employers would want post Covid-19 from their employees are discussed here.

Becoming flexible: The employees should be prepared for the fact that quite a few of the existing roles may get automated and make them redundant. What can save the day is for employees who are flexible and ready to reskill themselves and continually push the benchmarks for themselves upwards. The mind of an



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 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 have existed 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 many into wearing 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 influence the fashion purchase behaviour 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 the right wardrobe and a clear example of how technology and a human touch can help thou-

sands of people sharpen their look 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 virtually, thus 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, but 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 downloads, signups as well a 100 per cent increase in schools and channel partners. Learnflix has seen the increase in the number of the subscriber from 3,000 to

around 20,000 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 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 IHMR 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), IHMR 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.

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 outcome, 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 diffuse 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 or 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's degree in 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. 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, Lingma 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 health-care, 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 languages like French or German so may be 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 with 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.

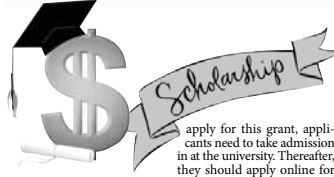
Anyone who feels unwell will have to report to the designated point of contact immediately and will be escorted to a healthcare facility, while those in close contact will most probably undergo testing to ensure their wellbeing. With the rapid development of new COVID testing kits, we can expect colleges 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 involves 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. For 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 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 fulfill the language proficiency requirement 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/j/5733595
Deadline: November 5, 2020

MARKETING AT INFRONT

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

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT NURTR

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

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT INFRONT

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

FULL STACK WEB DEVELOPMENT AT DATA FOLK

Location: Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/j/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/j/5733927
Application deadline: November 4, 2020

ARCHITECTURE AT ARCHITECTURE PLUS DESIGN LAB

Location - Ranchi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/j/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 student 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 (Economist 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 provide the 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 swara.

"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 profiting self reliance" said Professor Ajit K Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Roorkee.

