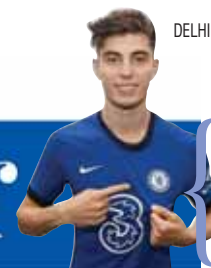


**OPINION 6**  
**PLA'S 'PEACE**  
**DISEASE'**
**WORLD 8**  
**NAVALNY POSTS HOSPITAL PHOTO**  
**OF HIMSELF, PLANS RUSSIA RETURN**
**AVENUES 10**  
**DETAILED ANALYSIS**  
**OF NEET 2020**

BHOPAL, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹1.50



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# Ready for any eventuality: India

In LS, Rajnath raps China for violating established rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is committed to peace but "it is also ready for any eventuality," was Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's stern message to China from the floor of Parliament on Tuesday with regard to a massive build-up on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the eastern Ladakh.

Repeatedly blaming China for attempted transgression of LAC and aggressive behaviour, Singh said in the Lok Sabha that the country's forces are fully-prepared, stocked with arms, ammunition, food, and winter clothing.

Speaking about the prolonged stand-off with China on the Ladakh border, the Defence Minister accused China of violating established rules and conventions laid down by 1993 and 1996 agreements between the two countries and "transgressing" the border.

While stating that the Indian Army is "battle-ready", Rajnath said the border issue could be resolved by talks and dialogue. He said that the onus is on Beijing which has "provoked us" by "violent conduct" when talks were still on between the two sides.

The Defence Minister said in the middle of May China attempted to transgress in many places in the western sector, including Kongka La, Gogra, Galwan and North

Bank of Pangong Lake. This invited counter-measures from Indian side.

In his brief statement in the House, Rajnath said China has mobilised a large number of troops on the LAC and India too has made "suitable counter-moves". He said he could not go into more details but assured that armed forces are fully prepared to protect the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Rajnath said the country is facing the challenging situation in Ladakh and the entire House should make a unanimous resolution to strongly back the bravehearts at the borders protecting the country in a difficult situation. "Jawanon ka hosla unhand hain", he said amid thumping of desks by the members.

Congress MPs who wanted to ask questions on the issue later walked out from the House when Speaker Om Birla reminded them of rule 370 saying "no question can be asked after Minister's statement".

The Defence Minister constantly alluded to the "disturbance" created by China by its actions on the ground while talks between the two sides on the military and diplomatic level were underway during the last few months.

He said China had increased its mobilisation on the LAC since April and May, this year, and tried to "transgress" LAC.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the Lok Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament on Tuesday PTI

## Cong questions absence of PM from LS, demands LAC reality

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday questioned the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a statement on the India-China border standoff. The Congress also wanted to know if the Chinese have encroached on Depsang Plains, Gogra, Pangong-Tso Lake till Finger 8, Y-junction in Bhutan, Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and in Arunachal Pradesh.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who is abroad currently accompanying his mother and interim party chief Sonia Gandhi for a

health check-up, attacked the Prime Minister for "misleading" the country over Chinese transgressions.

"The country has always stood by its armed forces and will continue to do so in



Congress MPs stage a walkout as they protest near Mahatma Gandhi statue at Parliament House on Tuesday PTI

future. But Modiji, when will you stand against China? When will we take back the land of our country from China? Don't be scared of taking China's name," Rahul tweeted.

## Modi inaugurates ₹540 crore projects for poll-bound Bihar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the run up to the Bihar Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated another set of infrastructure projects worth ₹540 crore for the State through video conference in the presence of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The projects include sewerage treatment plants at Beur and Karam-Leechak in Patna city, as well as water-related projects in Siwan and Chhapra under the "AMRUT" Yojana.

Apart from this, the PM laid foundation stones for water supply projects in Munger and Jamalpur and River Front Development Scheme under Namami Gange in Muzaffarpur.

The Prime Minister said even during the times of corona, the work on various development projects progressed uninterrupted in Bihar.

Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi assured that projects will be completed on time.

The Prime Minister on Sunday inaugurated a slew of petro chemical projects worth



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches multiple development projects in Bihar through video conferencing from in New Delhi. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is also seen PTI

₹940 crore in the poll bound State.

The PM lauded the contribution of the engineers to the development of the country on the occasion of Engineer's Day, which is celebrated in the memory of India's pioneering modern civil engineer, M Visvesvaraya.

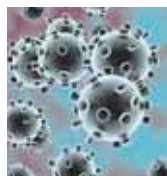
Modi said Bihar also significantly contributed towards

development of the country by producing millions of engineers. Modi said Bihar is the

land of historical cities and has a rich heritage of thousands of years.

## Cabinet approves AIIMS in Darbhanga

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet has approved establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Bihar's Darbhanga, an official statement said on Tuesday. The institute will come up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) at a total cost of ₹1,264 crore, it said.



Congress MLA Govardhan Dangi, 1 urge the almighty to bless his soul PTI

MPCC president chief Kamal Nath alleged that Dangi was not given proper treatment in Bhopal and sufficient attempts were made to save him at Medanta but he could not be saved. He was a man of

## India's Covid-19 cases cross 5 million mark

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's Covid-19 caseload crossed 5 million marks on Tuesday as the pandemic showed no sign of plateauing out any sooner.

Maharashtra breached a landmark of 30,000 deaths on Tuesday, as an all-time high 515 people succumbed to Covid-19, while 20,482 more people tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of the State. The number of new cases is nearly 4,000 lower than the State's highest single-day tally.

India on Tuesday recorded 82,375 new cases and 1,237 deaths. There has been a general trend that due to the lag effect of reduced testing at the weekend, the first two days of the weeks show relatively fewer cases. This may explain slightly subdued numbers on Monday (81,000 cases and Tuesday. Last week, India recorded more than 97,000 new cases twice in a single day.

Each of the four worst-affected States — Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka — recorded fewer cases than their highest single-day spike. But Uttar Pradesh (6,841 cases), Delhi

(4,261 cases) and West Bengal (3,237 cases) showed no sign of any weakening in the spread of the pandemic.

As far as fatality, the country has an impressive record of a mere 1.64 per cent death due to Covid-19. This is nearly half the global average of death due to pandemic. India is constantly recording 1,100 plus deaths every day for the last month.



An elderly man reacts as his swab sample is taken to test for Covid-19 at a Government hospital in Jammu on Tuesday AP

## Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 50,12,509

DEATHS: 82,057

RECOVERED: 39,35,987

ACTIVE: 9,93,750

## COVID-19 IN MADHYA PRADESH

District	Total Cases	Fresh Cases
Bhopal	13,646	215
Indore	17,547	386
Gwalior	8,029	204

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	10,97,806	30,409	7,75,273
Andhra Pradesh	5,83,925	5,041	4,86,531
Tamil Nadu	5,14,208	8,502	4,58,900
Karnataka	4,75,265	7,481	3,69,229
Uttar Pradesh	3,24,036	4,604	2,52,097
Delhi	2,25,796	4,806	1,91,203
West Bengal	2,09,146	4,062	1,81,142
Bihar	1,61,101	836	1,46,533
Telangana	1,60,571	984	1,29,187
Odisha	1,58,650	698	1,25,738
Assam	1,46,575	492	1,15,052
Gujarat	1,16,345	3,245	96,809
Kerala	1,14,034	467	82,341
Rajasthan	1,05,898	1,264	87,873
Haryana	98,622	1,026	77,166
Madhya Pradesh	93,053	1,820	69,613

## Metropolitan area in MP for metro rail project rollout: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The State Cabinet that met here on Tuesday decided to form a Metropolitan area (Mahanagar Kshetra) for the implementation of the metro rail project in Bhopal and Indore cities. Bhopal Metropolitan Area will include Bhopal Investment Area and Mandideep Investment Area. Mhow Investment Area and Pithampur Investment Area have been added in Indore Metropolitan Area.

The Cabinet approved a project related to developing a new industrial area in the Indore-Pithampur Investment

Region. Under the project, the Pithampur Industrial Investment Sector 4 and 5 will be developed in two phases at a cost of ₹550 crore on 586.70 hectares of land.

The Cabinet approved the proposal related to allotment of 7,902 hectare land for the construction of stadium in Gwalior for disabled boys and girls.

The Cabinet also granted approval to the proposal of setting up a bulk drug park in the state. Pharma units under this park to be set up under the Bulk Drug Park Incentive Scheme of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Continued on page 2

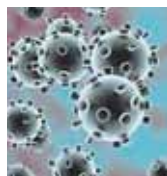
## Cong MLA Dangi succumbs to corona at Medanta hosp

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Gowardhan Dangi, Congress MMLA from Bhaora in Rajgarh district died of covid 19 during treatment at Gurugram's Medanta hospital on Tuesday.

Dangi, a first time MLA who was elected in year 2018 had fallen prey to the fatal virus around three weeks ago and after being treated at local Chirayu hospital in Bhopal was shifted to Medanta hospital where he succumbed to the infection on Tuesday.

Leaders from various parties extended condolences on the demise of Dangi. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in a tweet said, "I learnt about the demise of



Congress MLA Govardhan Dangi, 1 urge the almighty to bless his soul PTI

simplicity and humility and such leaders are rare in present day politics, may his soul rest in peace," said Nath.

Meanwhile, with the demise of Dangi, another seat has fallen vacant in MP assembly and now 28 assembly by-polls are necessitated in the state.

Scores of leaders of both the BJP and Congress including several ministers have already contracted the virus and on Monday, soon after his appointment as BJP organisational secretary in Madhya Pradesh, Hltanand had reported covid 19 infection. Another Congress MLA Babul Jandel, a lawmaker from Sheopur, too had contracted infection on Monday.



BJP Mahila Morcha activists take a selfie at an exhibition on Prime Minister Narendra Modi after its inauguration, organised to celebrate the 70th birthday of PM Modi at BJP State headquarters in Bhopal on Tuesday Pioneer photo



# Assembly run to be limited due to virus

**ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY MOHD SULEMAN GAVE A PRESENTATION REGARDING COVID-19**

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the all-party meeting, after consultation with the 39 sitting Vidhan Sabha members, mainly affected by Covid-19, in view of the death of Biora MLA Govardhan Singh Dang, it was decided that due to Covid-19, the proposed session of the Legislative Assembly would be limited to necessary financial and legislative work

committee presence.

At the all party meeting convened under the chairmanship of Protem Speaker Shri Rameshwar Sharma Leader of the House Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Leader of Opposition, Kamal Nath, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narottam Mishra, Urban Development Minister Bhopendra Singh, Former Minister MLA Vijayalakshmi Sadhu, Former Minister, M.L.A. PC Sharma, Legislative Assembly Principal Secretary AP Singh and Additional Chief Secretary of Health Department Mohammad Suleman and other officials were present.

On 21 September, official work will be done along with the mention of deaths.

Questions received on September 21, 2020, at attention, Zero Hour notifications will be received in writing to the members. The session will be completed by meeting the presence of both the parties on the basis of consent. In view of Covid-19, Rapid Test of Corona in Allopathic Hospital located in the Legislative Assembly Secretariat will be done with the support of Health Department of all legislative members and staff of Legislative Assembly Secretariat mandatorily.



Protem Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh State Assembly Rameshwar Sharma with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, leader of the opposition Kamal Nath and other leaders during all party meeting for upcoming monsoon session of the State Assembly in Bhopal on Tuesday.

## Police arrest vehicle lifter

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Ayodhya Nagar police has nabbed a vehicle lifter and recovered two two-wheelers and car worth ₹5 lakh from his possession on Monday.

According to the police, acting on a tip-off, the a youth was detained who failed to provide details of motorbike and it was found to be owned by Nitesh Rajput.

The accused was identified as Akash Jathav alias Pawar who confessed stealing of a car and two motorbikes. In the initial investigation, police found that the accused was addicted to drugs and would be disposing the vehicles for selling them to buy drugs and liquor.

The accused stole car from Ayodhya Nagar on September 12 this month.

The accused used to receive vehicles parked in deserted

places for 2-3 days and later stole them using master keys.

Meanwhile Sukhieshwar Pawar has nabbed a miscreant who was involved in two burglaries in Sai Vihar Colony and Narmada Colony. Police have recovered two gold chains, two gold bangles, gold nose ring and silver jewelry worth Rs 2 lakh. The aides who helped the accused in stealing and disposing the vehicles would be searched in the investigation, said police. The accused would confess more crimes in the further investigation and more recoveries are likely to be made later in the investigation.



Undergraduate students of Barkatullah University in a queue for submission of answer copies at a college centre after their final year exams amid Covid-19 pandemic, in Bhopal on Tuesday

## Abhinav Bindra interacts with players

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Renowned sportsperson Abhinav Bindra and his team interacted with the players of State through an online conference on Tuesday. The online conference was held at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium.

In an effort to modernise and upgrade the Sports High Performance Centre, the conference was organised. It is to be noted that the centre was initiated by State Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare Department Yashodhara Raju Scindia. She has been working in the field of high performance to upgrade the sports scientists, trainers, sportspersons and

Sports Science Center.

Here on Tuesday, Bindra and his team through online video conferencing gave a presentation for Sports High Performance. Abhinav Bindra Foundation's High-Performance Director Digpal Singh Ranaut explained about the Sports High-Performance Model by Abhinav Bindra Foundation. In his presentation, he told about the new techniques of sports science and sports science.

He informed that Abhinav Bindra Target Performance Center is established at six locations. These include Mohali, Delhi, Pune, Odisha, Gurgaon and Bangalore.



Ranaut also informed that through these centres, more than five lakh players have been assisted by them. He also said that his foundation is working for athlete development. He is working with innovative techniques in the field of coach education, athlete assessment and testing, injury and

rehabilitation.

Moreover, he informed that his foundation has brought the world's most modern sports science techniques to India including Isokinetic Machine, EMS (Electro Mayo Simulation), IceBath, Athletic Management System, Kindact, Games Specific Talent ID Systems are predominant.

Later, India's Olympic gold medalist player and Abhinav Bindra Foundation's head, Abhinav Bindra informed the Sports Minister that he is ready to cooperate to take the sports and sportspersons of Madhya Pradesh to a higher level.

Bindra called the need for new sports science techniques

today. He also informed the Sports Minister that his foundation along with the ELMS Foundation is going to conduct a Mental Wellness Programme for the currently trained sportspersons at Madhya Pradesh State Sports Academy from September 21 to October 11.

In this programme, Singapore's High-Performance Sports Psychologist Sanjana Kiran will train sportspersons, coaches and sports leaders from Madhya Pradesh. He informed that in the current Covid-19 transition period, this workshop will play an important role in making a comeback for the players.

## Bhopal records intense rain spell for two days

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

State capital continued to witness heavy rainfall for the past two days along with the other parts of the State. On Tuesday State capital recorded 2.7 cm of rainfall during the day.

Heavy downpour lashed the state capital in the evening while the cloud cover was witnessed throughout the day. The state capital has received 221 mm of rainfall which is above normal rainfall in the season so far. In the state around 7-8 districts have witnessed below normal.

State received heavy rainfall in the past two days and same pattern was witnessed on Tuesday.

Dark and dense clouds were present but they failed to pour in the day and later spell of heavy shower was witnessed in the evening.

In the past 24 hours, few

places in Indore, Ujjain, Bhopal divisions, at some places in Jabalpur, Shahdol, Sagar, Rewa, Hoshangabad and Gwalior witnessed rainfall. In the Chambal division remained dry.

According to the forecast thundery activities and showers would be witnessed at several places in Indore divisions and Ratlam, Indore, Dewas, Shajapur and Agar districts while in some places in Rewa, Sagar, Shahdol, Bhopal and Jabalpur districts. At few places in Neemuch, Mandasaur, Guna, Ashoka Nagar districts.

Warning has been issued by Met department of heavy rainfall in Raipur, Betul, Harda, Khandwa, Khargone districts.

The Met department has issued warning of thundery activities and thunder lightning in Rewa, Sagar, Shahdol, Jabalpur, Bhopal, Indore and Hoshangabad divisions and Ratlam, Ujjain, Dewas, Shajapur and Agar districts.

## Depressed youth commits suicide under financial stress

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Unable to bear financial problems and family in getting admission in college a 26-year-old youth committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at his house in BDA Colony under Awadhपुरi police station area on Monday; youth made a video and asked to pardon family members for his failures.

Police said that the deceased, Vikram Ahirwar committed suicide at his house. The deceased was B.Com third year student.

In the initial investigation, police found that the youth was working as security guard at Biji Nagar colony to earn for his studies. Recently he appeared in the entrance for post graduation admission but failed to clear.

On Monday the deceased failed to open his room and after failing to get response, his friend and neighbours broke the door and entered to find



him hanging.

Later, the body was sent for the post mortem after the pre-arranged investigation. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPc and started further investigation.

The deceased was a resident of Bhensakhedi Berasia and used to live at a rented room in Awadhपुरi. The video he made was sent to his family members and friends in

which he had asked to pardon him as he failed to do nothing for them.

Police have seized the mobile phone used to make the video and would investigate the reason behind the suicide as the reason remained unclear. The deceased had three sisters and one brother. It was found that the financial condition of the family was not good enough to support the children for studies.

## Metropolitan area in MP for metro rail project ...

From page 1

Government of India, will be provided special financial facility as per the scheme. The proposal for setting up a medical device park in the state was also approved by the Cabinet.

He informed that his foundation is working for athlete development. He is working with innovative techniques in the field of coach education, athlete assessment and testing, injury and

The Cabinet granted administrative approval to 10 group water supply schemes to be constructed at a cost of Rs 6 thousand and 111 crore. Drinking water facility will be made available to each household in 4,404 villages of eight districts of Dhar, Dewas, Guna, Shivpur, Ashok Nagar, Sagar, Singrauli and Agar through domestic tap water supply through these schemes to be implemented by Madhya

Pradesh Jal Nigam. The Cabinet granted an administrative approval of Rs 170.08 crore for Jera Medium Irrigation Project. This project to be built in Jaisainagar block of Sagar district will develop 5,400 hectares of land with a potential in 5,400 hectare area.

The administrative approval of Rs 314.54 crore was granted for the implementation of Atal Ground Water Scheme in the Cabinet meeting. Under the scheme, the ground-water level in 678 gram panchayats of 9 development blocks viz. Sagar, Pathariya, Chhatarpur, Nagauna, Rajnagar, Baldevghar, Niwari, Palera and Ajaygarh of 6 districts viz. Sagar, Dham, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Panna and Niwari in Bundelkhand region will improve.

In the meeting, the Cabinet approved the Madhya Pradesh Goods and Service Tax (Amendment) Bill 2020 and the Resolution of All Areas of Madhya Pradesh Taxation Acts Bill 2020.

## Haryana CM resumes works, reviews progress of welfare schemes

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After recovering from Covid-19 infection, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday resumed his work by presiding over a high-level meeting of senior officers of various departments at his residence in Chandigarh. In the meeting, he reviewed the progress of various welfare schemes and programmes, besides issuing necessary directions to the officers concerned. Various decisions like planning a film city in Pinjore, hiring drones to check illegal mining, making Agri-Market functional among others were also taken in the meeting. While reviewing the arrangement for the procurement of kharif crops in the State, Khattar directed that every farmer registered on the 'Fasal Mera Byora' portal should be asked to provide dates for bringing their produce to the mandi of their choice.

## Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor to be a reality in five years

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With the Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approving the Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor (HORC) at an estimated cost of Rs 561.69 crore, the Roads and Railways network in the National Capital Region got a major boost on Tuesday.

The HORC, a 121.742 km long new electrified Broad-gauge double line from Palwal to Sonapat, will be completed in five years and will render rail travel facility to 20,000 passengers everyday other than carrying more than 50 million tonnes of freight every year.

The concept of the Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project was suggested by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to the Prime Minister in November 2018. Various stakeholders of Gurugram also gave a presentation to the Chief Minister subsequently in February 2019. The Haryana Cabinet also approved the scheme in July 2019. On the initiative of the Chief Minister, a joint venture had been formed in Haryana under the name of

Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, headed by Rajeev Arora, Additional Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary P.W. (B&R) Department. Various railway projects are being implemented in Haryana following the Public-Private Partnership, in which private stakeholders will also be able to invest.

Deputy Chief Minister, Dushyant Chautala who also holds the portfolio of Public Works Department has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the approval of this project. He said that after the completion of this project, the vehicular congestion in Delhi will decline and the passengers going to Gurugram, Palwal-Faridabad will have direct access to better rail facilities. After the formation of Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway and Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal Eastern Peripheral Way, there is an existing route via road to Gurugram, Palwal-Faridabad and onwards to Agra. Giving detailed information about the project, Chairman of Haryana

Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited and Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Arora said that along the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway, a 50-meter strip has been laid towards Delhi and has been approved in Master Plan for NCR area. He said that there will be 19 new stations on this railway track, including 14 new and five existing stations. Among the new stations are New Pithala, Silani, Sohna, Dhulawati, Chanda Durgam, Manesar, New Patli, Badli, Deverkhana, Badli, Mandothi, Jasaur, Kheri, Kharkhoda Kirdi and Tarapur. The HORC will have suitable connectivity to existing Palwal Station and proposed Pithala Yard of Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) with the implementation of this project, direct connectivity for districts of Gurugram, Sonapat, Palwal, Nuh and Jhajjar with all districts of Haryana will be attained, thereby enhancing economic and social activity of the Haryana sub-region of NCR, added Arora.

## COVID SCARE IN THE REGION

### Chandigarh reports one death, 347 fresh Covid cases

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Union Territory of Chandigarh on Tuesday reported one Covid-19 fatality and 347 fresh positive cases. With this, the Covid-19 toll reached 96 while the total case tally stood at 8592 in the city.

"There were 2991 active cases in Chandigarh while 64 percent so far recovered from the deadly virus," according to the Chandigarh Health Department's evening bulletin. A day before, the positive cases in Chandigarh had crossed 8000 mark. The city had on September 13 reported its biggest single-day spike with 449 fresh cases.

Giving details of the Covid-19 fatality, the bulletin stated, "A 45 years old male resident of Burali, was brought dead at GMCH-32 on September 9. He was tested Covid positive post death as per the information received on Tuesday," a total of 202 patients have been discharged including patients from home isolation in the past 24 hours, the bulletin stated.

As far as Covid-19 parameters are concerned, Chandigarh on Tuesday reported 64 percent recovery rate against the national average of around 77 percent. A daily test positivity rate (TPR) of 13 percent

and a cumulative positive rate was 15.8 percent. "2653 samples were tested in the last 24 hours. A total of 54371 samples have been tested so far in the city. Report of 159 was awaited, the bulletin added.

Manimajra, which is Covid-19 hotspot in Chandigarh reported the highest number of 31 fresh cases in the past 24 hours. Sector 20 which is among the worst affected sectors in the city has reported 20 fresh cases as per the health bulletin. 16 fresh cases were reported in Sector 15, 14 positive cases each were reported in Mauli Jagran and Sector 37, 12 cases in Sector 19, nine cases each in Dhanas, Sector 46, Sector 42, Sector 26 and Sector 28 and eight cases each were reported in Sector 49 and 32, the bulletin stated.

According to the bulletin, the new cases were reported from Sectors 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 63, Sector 38 west, Bapu Dham colony in Sector 26, Burali, Daria, Dadumajra, Dhanas, Hallomajra, Industrial Area Phase I, Kaimbawala, Kajiheri, Kishangarh, Manimajra, Khuda Lahora, Mauli Jagran, PGIMER campus, Raipur Khurd, Ram Darbar and Sarangpur.

### 2493 more Covid-19 cases in Haryana, tally reaches near 99K

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Twenty-six people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Haryana in the last 24 hours taking the death toll to 1,026 on Tuesday, while a daily spike of 2,493 cases pushed the tally in the state to 98,622.

Of the fresh death, five were reported from Karnal, four from Panchkula, three from Kaithal, two each from Ferozabad, Kurukshetra, Hissar, Ambala, Gurugram and Faridabad and one each from Bhiwani and Sirsa, according to the state health department's daily bulletin. Among the districts which reported a big spike in cases include Gurugram (324), Faridabad (270), Hissar (195), Ambala (190), Panchkula (181),

Fatehabad (173), Rohtak (151), Karnal (149), Kurukshetra (145), Yamunanagar (123) and Panipat (121). Meanwhile, Haryana's previous record of highest single-day spike of 2591 witnessed on September 10 followed by 2526 on September 13, 2488 on September 14, 2388 cases on September 11, 2294 cases on September 9, 2289 cases on September 5 and 2286 on September 8. Among the 1,026 fatalities, 719 are males and the rest females. The State has 20,430 active cases while 77,166 have been discharged following recovery. As of Tuesday, the state has a recovery rate of 78.24 per cent, fatality rate was 1.04 per cent, doubling rate is 27 days and positivity rate 6.45 per cent, according to the bulletin.

### UT Covid patients want removal of posters outside their houses

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With the Punjab Government recently deciding not to affix the posters at the entrance of homes of Covid-19 patients in home isolation, the infected patients in Chandigarh have also put up the same request with the UT Administration.

The senior officers of UT Administration have been receiving calls from representatives from various sectors to do away with putting up posters outside the houses of COVID patients under home isolation or quarantine to reduce the stigma surrounding the infected patients. The total case tally stood at 8592 in the city as on Tuesday. There were 2991 active cases in Chandigarh and more than 1000 patients were in home isolation.

## GAREEB KALYAN SAPTAH

# Lakhs of people to be linked: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has told the Ministers to take part in public welfare programmes to be held in the Gareeb Kalyan Saptah from September 16 to 23 in Madhya Pradesh. This programme will be held for 8 days continuously at State and district level. Lakhs of people will be connected to these programmes through Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms.

Chouhan has instructed all departments to connect more and more people to these programmes. Chief Minister Chouhan said that this programme is not of any one or two departments but is the State Government. It is fulfilling the purpose of people's welfare. Therefore, every department should be actively involved in the programmes.

In a discussion with the ministers before the cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Chouhan said that September 17 is the birthday of Prime Minister Shri Modi. He is not just an individual but is an institution. He has been nurturing feelings of compassion towards the poor in his heart

since his childhood. We get to know stories of courage from his childhood. Narendra Modi has read the literature of Swami Vivekananda and dedicated his life towards social service. Whichever organization he joined, he made it progressive.

Chouhan said that when Gujarat was in a bad condition, Modi became the Chief Minister of Gujarat and he transformed the entire state of Gujarat. The Gujarat model also became popular. Modi is a scholar of art, culture, history.

Since 2014, he has taken effective steps to build a glorious, rich and prosperous India. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that India has become a superpower under the able leadership of Shri Modi. Be it an example of a surgical strike or a decision to fight China, he has changed the scenario of the country. Be it the case of Ayodhya, or the abolition of Article 370 from Kashmir or even the topic of triple talaq and citizenship law everyone is familiar with his grit. He is a Yogi Prime Minister who works with the spirit of patriotism.

Chouhan told that a programme has been scheduled to provide benefits to the benefi-



ciaries of various public welfare schemes from September 16 to September 23 under Gareeb Kalyan Saptah in Madhya Pradesh. This programme will add joy to the lives of the poor. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan informed that an Anna Utsav (food festival) will be organized on September 16. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan informed that milk will be distributed to malnourished children in Anganwadi centres on September 17 on the Prime Ministers birthday. On the same day, there will be an orientation of sarpanchs and Ladli Laxmi Yojana amount will also be distributed. Ministers will participate in these programmes.

The Chief Minister

informed that on September 18, crop insurance amount of Rs 4,500 crore will be deposited in the accounts of 18 lakh farmers. Similarly, forest rights pattas will be distributed on September 19 and an amount of Rs 150 crore will be given to self-help groups on September 20 to empower them. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan informed that street vendors of rural areas will be benefited on September 21 in which the beneficiaries will be able to upgrade their small buses by obtaining a loan of Rs 10,000 each as working capital.

Chief Minister Shri Chouhan informed that Kisan Credit Card will be distributed to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi on September 22 in the Gareeb Kalyan Saptah. An amount of Rs 800 crore will be deposited in cooperative banks for farmers at zero percent interest. Chouhan said that benefits will be given to Sambal Yojana beneficiaries on September 23. Chief Minister Chouhan said that all these programmes will work to change the fate and picture of the state by simultaneously benefiting different sections in the Corona period.

## Youth arrested for animal abuse tested +ve for virus

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Shyamla Hills police station in Bhopal went into a tizzy on Tuesday after the covid 19 test report of the youth who was arrested for throwing a stray dog into the lake, was received as positive.

The youth, Mohd Salman was tested for covid 19 as part of medical examination before the police produced him in the court on Monday and after his test report was received on Tuesday, the panicked police station got all the personnel tested for the virus.

Total 18 personnel including the Thana in Charge was tested for the virus and one of them was tested positive for the infection. The policemen also got their vehicles sanitised to counter the infection.

Shyamla Hills SHO Tarun Bhat speaking to the media confirmed that the youth in police custody was tested positive for covid19 on Tuesday.

On September 10, accompanied by his friends, Salman had thrown a stray dog into the Upper Lake for shooting a video meant for social media.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan with Prime Minister Narendra Modi after his inauguration, organised to celebrate the 70th birthday of PM Modi at BJP State headquarters in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

## Madhyanchal Professional varsity celebrates Engineers Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Engineers Day was observed on Tuesday at Patel Group of Institutions Madhyanchal Professional University.

Preeti Patel was present as the Chief Guest, Chancellor Madhyanchal Professional University, Aji Singh Patel, Prof. Chancellor and Air Marshal PK Srivastava, Vice Chancellor Madhyanchal Professional University and Rajneesh Karan, Dean Engineering were present.

PK Srivastava shared the story of his life with all the staff present in which he achieved a huge achievement in the field of engineering during his service to the Indian Air Force of an American company during his deployment to Ambala Airbase. He shared that the fighter plane, which was found

in junk-like condition of 1947, was again rebuilt by him and his entire engineering team in such a way that it could fly again. Srivastava was awarded by the former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

He told everyone that for engineers, whatever is in a junk like situation is not useless, engineers should find opportunities for that useless thing and that is why it is called Engineers.

Rajneesh Karan, Dean Engineering told that Engineers Day is celebrated every year on 15 September to commemorate the birthday of Bharat Ratna Vishveshwaraya. Engineering education will be truly meaningful only when you prove to be helpful in improving the standard of living of the general public.

India has achieved

achievements in the field of software, we have to come forward in other areas including machinery, automobiles. Professor Saurabh Mandloi told that how machine learning is beneficial for engineers, how can it be carried forward in this field and in the coming time more and more work is to be done by machine learning itself.

Ajit Singh Patel, Prof. Chancellor congratulated everyone on Engineers Day and said that the institute is doing better work. All directors, principals, teachers of Madhyanchal Professional University and Patel Group were present in the program and the guidelines issued by the Government of India and the State Government for Covid-19 were strictly followed in this programme.

## Tiff between police head constable, IMC anti-encroachment team over mask

PMS ■ INDORE

In the Musakhehdi area of Indore, a dispute occurred between a police head constable and the anti-encroachment team of the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) on Tuesday.

The anti-encroachment team noticed a head constable of MP police, in uniform posted in the Indore police motor department, was not wearing mask.

The head constable told that he was carrying the mask in the scooter but he forgot to wear the mask for which the IMC employees forced him to pay the fine for not wearing mask later the conversation between the IMC employees and the police head constable turned into a hot brawl and heated argument. During the brawl the Indore municipal employee who himself was not wearing mask hit the police constable with a punch in the stomach.

A large crowd witnessed this incident on the busy market road and for some time a situation of chaos prevailed in the area. Few days back the removal team also overturned the legal pulling cart of the egg seller in the name of removal



of encroachment from the main road side which for which the behavior of the IMC removal team was highly criticized by Indore residents. And now this hitting of the policeman in the stomach in broad day light by the IMC removal team employee in the name of not wearing mask is again became a talk of the town as the video went viral on the social media.

## Dr Leo Cornelio raises concern over pvt schools demanding full fee

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

We already know that the educational institutions have remained closed for these months and online classes are going on for children. On the other hand parents are constantly protesting against the schools as they are charging full fees to the students.

Dr Leo Cornelio addressed this problem and said that government schools give free education, private schools charge a huge amount of fees so that they are able to run the schools and develop their infrastructure and the rich people are always been rushing to those schools which only provide great facilities and amenities but they do not focus on quality education.

"Missionary schools on the other hand have been always charging very reasonable tuition fees, and still there is objection from most of the people. Government has said that the tuition fees could be charged and if the tuition fees are not paid by the parents how will the teachers survive? Many

**The parents are constantly objecting the charging of fees and also have trouble in paying the tuition fee**

teachers would be jobless and they will not be able to fill their families and survive during a pandemic," the bishop explained.

"The parents are constantly objecting the charging of fees and also have trouble in paying the tuition fee. The government employees are paid by the government and they don't have to face any problem. Big businessmen who send their children to private schools are also not a big problem.

But the middle class people really have to strive to pay the fees that is why the missionary schools have always been charging a very affordable amount of fees for every student," he added.

## Burglars decamp with valuables worth ₹95K from Shobha Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Valuables worth ₹95000 were burgled from Shobha Nagar under Kolar police station area police have started investigation.

Police said that the victim GR Somnath along with his family had gone to Vishakapatnam to visit his ailing father and on Monday his neighbor found locks broken and door open and informed the victim.

A complaint was lodged with the police stating that gold and silver jewelry and silver idols were stolen. The estimated loss is around Rs 95000 and total loss in the burglary would

be provided by the victim on his return.

After the preliminary investigation, the police have registered a case under sections 457 and 480 of the IPC. Police have detained few suspects who are habitual criminal and would be quizzed in the further investigation.

Police suspects that the burglars were aware regarding the whereabouts of the family and committed the burglary when the family was away. The near deployed CCTV footage cameras would be checked. The almirah having the valuables was targeted while other things were not disturbed.



Madhya Pradesh police personnel wearing PPE kits pay tributes to police constable Ramkumar Sharma who died of coronavirus, during his funeral on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

**AXIS BANK LTD.**

Registered Office: "Trishul", Opp. Samartheswar Temple, Law Garden, Ellishbridge, Ahmedabad - 380006, Gujarat  
Branch Office: Dhan Trident, Block B-3, PU-A, Sck No. 54, Opp. Satya Sai School, Nr. Metro Tower, Vijay Nagar, Indore (M.P.)

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISION TO RULE 6 (F) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) concerned that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession (as detailed below) of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Axis Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on (shown below in respective column) for recovery of the amount (shown below in respective column) due to the Axis Bank Secured Creditor from respective borrower(s) and guarantor(s) shown below. The reserve price and the earnest money deposit of respective properties, as shown below in respective column.

Sr. No.	Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagee Name	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Property/House having Total area about	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	Outstanding dues (in Rs.)	Last date and time for submission of bids	Date and Time of opening of bids.
1.	M/s. Suryabhan Singh Rathore & Mrs. Shashika Singh Rathore	30-09-2018	28-01-2019	All that piece and parcel of the property in the name of Mr. Suryabhan Singh Rathore & Mrs. Shashika Singh Rathore And Mrs. Shashika Singh Rathore U/o. Shri Suryabhan Singh Rathore Of Purchase House No. A-62, P.H. No. 05, Situated At Elvir Garden, Phase-II, Municipal Ward No. 66, Village Paladi, Tehsil Huzur, Bhopal (M.P.) Land Admeasuring 75 Sq. Mt. Boundaries: East: Road, West: House No. A-76, North: House No. A-61, South: Other's Land	₹ 22,50,000/-	₹ 225,000/-	₹ 12,55,712/- (Rs. Twelve Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twelve Only) As on 30.08.2018	16-10-2020 (Till 4.00 PM)	17-10-2020 (11.30 AM)

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. <https://www.axisbank.com/auclion-retail>

Date: 16.09.2020, Place: Bhopal

Authorised Officer-Axis Bank Ltd.

**EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD.**  
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD.)  
Corporate Office: No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai, TN-600 002

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(U/s. Rule 8 (1) - for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 (f) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers to repay the total outstanding amount due to the Secured Creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Since the below mentioned Borrowers having failed to repay the below stated amount within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the below mentioned Borrowers and the public in general that, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (13) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule mentioned properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited and further interest and other charges thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
Branch: Anand Nagar LAN No: SEBANO010107 Borrowers: 1. Mr. Pandhari Darwal, S/o. Shankar, 2. Mrs. Geeta Darwal, W/o. Pandhari, 3. Mrs. Pravin Darwal, W/o. Shankar.	All that Piece and parcel of land and Plot/Residential House situated at Residential Plot No.81 Sector - 8, Mayur Bihari Gram-Hindiyi Kachhyan, within in the Municipal Area of Bhopal Municipal Corporation Ward No. 69, Tehsil Huzur District Bhopal total Admeasuring area of 450 sq.ft. and bounded on the East by Plot No.62, West by Plot No.60, North by 15ft, Wide Road, South by Land of Seller, Measurement: 450 Sq ft Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Bhopal and Registration District of Bhopal.	Rs.4,67,780/- & as on 02.01.2019	05-11-2019 & 10.09.2020
Branch: Gulmohar LAN No: SEBHOP0072865 Borrowers: 1. Mr. Jagdish Choksey, S/o. Narayan, 2. Mrs. Dipika Choksey, W/o. Jagdish Choksey.	All that Piece and Parcel of land and Residential House situated at Abadi land Kharsara No.260, P.H. No. 25, Village Katara Tehsil Huzur District Bhopal within in the Municipal Limits of Bhopal Municipal Corporation ward No. 85 total Admeasuring area of 650 sq.ft. North by Road, South by House of Ram Bharsae, East by House of Ania Myan, West by Road, Measurement: 260x650 sq.ft. Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Bhopal and Registration District of Bhopal.	Rs.2,22,836/- & as on 28.03.2019	02-04-2019 & 10.09.2020
Branch: Anand Nagar LAN No: SEBHOP0119446 Borrowers: 1. Mr. Manoj Kumar Namdev, S/o. Awaraharayan 2. Mrs. Rajni Namdev, W/o. Manoj Namdev	All that piece and parcel of Plot/Residential House Situated House Plot No. LIG 254, Sector 8, Situated at Rajeev Nagar, Tehsil Huzur Dist. Bhopal (M.P.) Municipal Corporation Ward No. 68, District Bhopal Municipal Corporation Ward No. 68 Tehsil Huzur, District Bhopal Total Admeasuring area of 514.05 Sq ft Boundary as: East: Road, West: Open, North: Road, South: LIG 255, Measurement: 514.05 Sq ft Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Bhopal & Registration District of Bhopal.	Rs. 3,15,248/- & as on 03.01.2020	10-01-2020 & 10.09.2020

Place: Madhya Pradesh  
Date: 16.09.2020

Authorised Officer  
Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd.

**Bank of Baroda**

**e-Dena Bank now Bank of Baroda**  
Arera Colony Branch, Bhopal

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 (f) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated mentioned below to the following borrowers/guarantors, calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notices.

The under mentioned borrowers/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned in respective columns.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda, Arera Colony Branch, for an amount herein below mentioned & interest thereon.

Name of Account / Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Amount outstanding as per Notice
Borrowers: M/s Sarvesh Builder & Developer Partner / Co-applicant : 1. Mr. Vivek Mishra S/o Mr. R C Mishra 2. Pratheep Nair S/o Sukumar Nair 3. Mr. Narendra Kumar Vishwakarma S/o Mr. Nandkishore 4. Mr. Sunil Mishra S/o Ramesh Kumar Mishra	1) House No. 133, SBD Cosmos City, Village- Borda, Tahsil-Huzur, Distt- Bhopal in the name of Mr. Vivek Mishra S/o Mr. R C Mishra Area- 840 sqft. Boundaries are: East: Plot No. 102, West: Road, North: Plot No. 132, South: Road 2) Plot No. 10, SBD Cosmos City, Village- Borda, Tahsil-Huzur, Distt- Bhopal in the name of Mr. Vivek Mishra S/o Mr. R C Mishra, Area- 990 sqft per Plot, Boundaries: East: Road, West: Plot No. 7, North: Plot No. 11, South: Plot No. 9 3) Plot No. 11, SBD Cosmos City, Village- Borda, Tahsil-Huzur, Distt- Bhopal in the name of Mr. Vivek Mishra S/o Mr. R C Mishra, Area- 990 sqft per Plot, Boundaries: East: Road, West: Plot No. 6, North: Plot No. 12, South: Plot No. 10 4) Plot No. 13, SBD Cosmos City, Village- Borda, Tahsil-Huzur, Distt- Bhopal in the name of Mr. Vivek Mishra S/o Mr. R C Mishra, Area- 990 sqft per Plot, Boundaries: East: Road, West: Plot No. 14, South: Plot No. 12 5) Plot No. 14, SBD Cosmos City, Village- Borda, Tahsil-Huzur, Distt- Bhopal in the name of Mr. Vivek Mishra S/o Mr. R C Mishra, Area- 990 sqft per Plot, Boundaries: East: Road, West: Plot No. 3, North: Plot No. 15, South: Plot No. 13 6) Plot No. 15, SBD Cosmos City, Village- Borda, Tahsil-Huzur, Distt- Bhopal in the name of Mr. Vivek Mishra S/o Mr. R C Mishra, Area- 990 sqft per Plot, Boundaries: East: Road, West: Plot No. 2, North: Plot No. 16, South: Plot No. 14	as on 31.08.2019 <b>18,58,694/-</b> interest & other charges Demand Notice Date 03.03.2020 Demand Notice Publication Date 04.07.2020 Possession Date 14.09.2020

Date: 15-09-2020, Place: Bhopal

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda





**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**



## No dignity of labour

Govt coldly denies compensation to dead migrants saying it doesn't have data. Can it heartlessly ignore facts or credible media reports?



**B**enjamin Disraeli once said, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics." Perhaps this is what the Government has internalised in dealing with a national crisis. Since it doesn't believe in any kind of data collection that has not been commissioned by it, it denies that there has been any migrant death during the pandemic-induced lockdown. It doesn't matter that its white lies are caught out by countless heart-breaking stories in the media of labourers turfed out of their city jobs overnight, forced to trudge back to their villages and without money, succumbing to hunger and illness on the way or even to destitution at their homes,

without relief or dole of any kind. This denial of reality by the Government is not only brutal in its insensitivity but also a shabby disowning of its responsibility in keeping a nation together in the middle of an unprecedented crisis. Worst, its inhuman response came on the floor of the Parliament where, to a question on whether families of those who had lost their lives while trying to reach home during the lockdown had been compensated, the Union Labour Ministry put out a clinical statement that since there was no data on migrant deaths, the "question does not arise" of relief and aid. Even if one were to assume that the concerned Minister, his office and bureaucrats had for some curious reason blacked themselves out from news about India's worst reverse migration, how does the Ministry explain its own admission that more than one crore migrants made their way back to their home States from various corners of the country? Can it blithely assume, therefore, that no hazard befell them, considering most were daily wage earners and had nothing to fall back upon? Hungry, sick and walking for days, were they in an endurance test on a reality show where their deaths could be easily dismissed as collateral damage? Is the figure not an indication of the jobs lost in the country's largely unorganised labour market? For once, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reacted rightly, tweeting, "If you haven't counted, have the deaths not taken place?" Also, how can the Government discount the deaths recorded by its own Railway Ministry of the many migrants who died on Shramik trains that were organised much later to ferry them back home? Or were run over by trains as they fell asleep on tracks, exhausted and beaten? More than 1,400 road accidents killed 750 people, including 198 migrant workers, between March 25 and May 31.

Even if the Government doesn't believe in statistics, the world does. Especially, those that come from credible organisations of long standing and which are relied upon by policy-makers themselves. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have already listed that 41 lakh jobs were lost in the country during the pandemic. A World Bank report in April indicated that the livelihood of nearly 40 million internal migrants had been affected. Recently, the Centre for Monitoring India Economy (CMIE) said that five million salaried people had lost their jobs in July alone while that figure had peaked in April at 17.7 million unemployed. Further, 37.5 million students have been out of campus and are staring at a year without prospects. Without direct cash transfers, the credit-based stimulus packages, which address structural facets of the economy, have made little sense to the wage earners. A lot of them have sought refuge in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), participating in schemes with a 100-day work assurance. Such is the plight that there has been a surge in enrolment with even degree holders (MA, BBA) and self-employed youth signing up for project work and digging as they have lost their jobs in the cities. About 14 crore people across the country have MGNREGA job cards. The Government will need a massive ₹2.8 lakh crore if each card holder can get a guaranteed 100 days of work this year. Still MGNREGA, in its present form, alone cannot take care of the returning migrants unless its scope is extended to include agricultural activities. The Centre did well by raising the allocation for this scheme but a chunk of this has gone in clearing arenas. Even this financial year began with pending wage and material liabilities of ₹16,045 crore. An allocation of ₹1 lakh crore for FY 2020-21 would mean that ₹84,000 crore is available for employment generation this year. Besides, even with the scheme receiving the highest allocation since it was first rolled out, it accounts for just 0.47 per cent of the GDP. This is much lower than the World Bank's recommendation of 1.7 per cent for optimal functioning. The second challenge is of uniform implementation as States with differing priorities and machineries are entrusted with it. With fund leakages and corruption at the level of local self-Government, the scheme has gone askew in many places. There has been a consistent demand for expanding the number of work days beyond the existing 100 days but the national average number of days employed per household in the last four years has been just 47. May be this is an opportune moment to align the scheme with economic imperatives. But more needs to be done. While individual States are already setting up job portals to list returnee workers with their skill sets and allocate them appropriate work zones, this ought to be pan-India so that labour-starved States can benefit too. Till we value the labourer, recovery will be a chimera, a smart India a paper town. Besides, *atmanirbharata* can truly take off when we value and respect fellow human beings and not deny their existence.

## Equality in marriage

Going through courts will only harden extremist viewpoints on same-sex spouses. There needs to be a public debate



**W**hen the Supreme Court struck down the penal provisions of Section 377 that criminalised all but vaginal intercourse, it effectively removed the legal persecution of homosexual relationships. Now a group of petitioners has approached the Supreme Court asking that it mandates that same-sex marriage be legalised in India. Surprisingly, for some in the LGBTQ community, this petition is being led by Right-wing agent provocateur Abhijit Iyer-Mitra, who has identified himself as a homosexual for many years. Yet the Solicitor-General (SG) of India Tushar Mehta, arguing before the Division Bench, has toed the cultural line that our values

will not allow us to recognise same-sex marriage.

Make no mistake, a same-sex marriage has been a contentious and highly debated issue for many years in many parts of the world. In Australia, the debate ran for years until a much-publicised direct referendum approved it and allowed lawmakers to legislate to that effect. This newspaper feels that same-sex marriages should ideally be first debated in the public sphere and then in Parliament because any changes to laws governing marriage would have to be effected in the legislature, not in courts. That will take a certain amount of time and that will allow for the hardest views against such a move to soften as happened in the US. Going through the courts will only harden the viewpoints of religious and social extremists of every hue. The signature of a judge does not do away with centuries of discrimination and hate, which are very often wrapped up in what we call "values." This is why the view of the SG is disappointing, and ideally he should have argued that this is something for Parliament to discuss and the time is right for the discussion to start. Anyone who understands the legislative process knows that such a major change will take time but unless a process is started, no change can ever take place. Is the time right for India to start discussing how to legalise same-sex marriage? Yes, it is. And we should have no pretence that our values do not allow such things. The law should not discriminate against same-sex marriages and the shared rights of partners. And like in most other nations where same-sex marriage is now legal, the happiest people are always the divorce lawyers, because same-sex marriage means same-sex divorce as well.



BHOPINDER SINGH

**N**one less than the Chinese leader Xi Jinping himself has conceded that the PLA is the world's largest standing military, the People's Liberation Army (PLA), with more than 2.1 million active-duty strength, is afflicted by the "Peace Disease." Since taking over the reins of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) as the General Secretary and chairmanship of the Central Military Commission (CMC) in 2012, Xi has unleashed transformational investments and restructuring in the PLA in terms of doctrinal, strategic, technological, cultural and on-boarding of weapon platforms. Yet, he remains acutely conscious of the combat inexperience that besets a military force that has not been tested since 1979, where it came a cropper against a decidedly inferior Vietnamese force. Importantly, the Vietnamese forces that had fought the Chinese in 1979 were still blood-soaked from fighting the American forces for nearly two decades, and had even worn out the supposedly better organised, trained and equipped military then. The essential mass of the Chinese PLA in 1979 had last seen a full theatre-level combat only in the early 1950s (Korean War) and soldiers, therefore, were raw and untested when they had taken on the Vietnamese. They were soon made to pay a price for lazily assuming that a larger force, better equipped and aggressive posturing could compensate for combat inexperience. It is this forbidding pertaining to the obvious inexperience of today's PLA that Xi has been alluding to in the context of "Peace Disease," even as it continues its optics of aggressive posturing, intimidation and global expansionism.

There are other elements compounding the "Peace Disease" that are pertinent in questioning the core spirit of PLA's fighting abilities. First, the perennial concern of ensuring PLA's loyalty and subservience to the civilian CCP — this got magnified by the purges initiated against the PLA Generals in the initial Xi years and elevating his own "young guard." Not only was this "young guard" of post-1979 vintage but the essentiality of "unity of command" in a Chinese combat unit (at compa-

# PLA's 'Peace Disease'

Battle experience cannot be bought and this could expose the Chinese chimera on the battlefield



**“XI HAS UNLEASHED INVESTMENTS AND RESTRUCTURING IN THE PLA IN TERMS OF DOCTRINAL, STRATEGIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, CULTURAL AND ON-BOARDING OF WEAPON PLATFORMS. YET, HE IS CONSCIOUS OF THE COMBAT INEXPERIENCE THAT BESETS A MILITARY FORCE THAT HAS NOT BEEN TESTED SINCE 1979”**

ny levels) is always diluted and compromised with the shared command responsibility of the political officers, who are responsible for ensuring the non-military task of loyalty to the party, i.e. CCP. A vital chink in the structural formation of the PLA is the relative under-developed of the non-commissioned officers (NCO cadre), which is invaluable for operational efficacy. The steel of the Indian Army that shone in the Kargil operations was attributable among other things to the "junior command" that led from the front, where the role of NCO cadre was significant. Unlike the militaries of India (or even Pakistan), which are bloodied in real time operational experience in internal urgencies or restive borders, the Chinese "Peace Disease" comes with accompanying laxities. Even the 1967 Nathu La and Cho La border clashes in the Indo-China history were symptomatic of a recalibrated Indian military that was by then battle-hardened and in a very different frame of mind from the Indian military of 1962.

Undoubtedly, China has embarked on mammoth military investments that ensure that its annual budgetary allocation (estimated at \$261-266 billion in 2019) towards its armed forces is almost four times that of India. There is debatable realism about the Chinese claims in cutting-edge military technologies (the Chengdu J-20 Stealth 5th gen-

eration fighter plane) or about the quality of training, restructuring, command systems and so on. Despite its claimed proficiency in indigenous weaponry, China has openly sought S-300 and S-400 anti-aircraft systems, SU-27 and SU-35 fighter jets from Russia, among other platforms and technologies to "reverse engineer." But where the Chinese score over countries like India is in the way they have internalised "security" as an integral component of their national vision, international manoeuvres and strategic calculus for all policy decisions, be it internal or external. Whereas, beyond selective invoking of the "Indian soldier" whenever tensions looms, the Indian governance has diminished the role, relevance or priority on defence matters and only displays knee-jerk or politically competitive "investments" in the said domain. Ironically the mismanagement of India's domestic affairs by its political classes has ensured that the armed forces have not suffered any "Peace Disease."

Battle experience is one of the most important features that determines the fate of forces, along with others like the lethality of weapons, processes, leadership, numerical strength or even environmental factors like social, cultural or political moorings. Japan's "banzai" culture and motivation levels could compensate for material disadvan-

tages. The numerically far-superior and experienced Iraqi military (after the decade long Iran-Iraq war) got decimated within 100 hours by the superiority of American weapons, training and professionalism in the first Gulf War. At the same time, the same battle-experienced and obviously more professional American military has been forced to "pull out" of Afghanistan when faced by the rag-tag Taliban militia who neither have the matching weaponry, training, nor the infrastructural wherewithal.

The Chinese awkwardness with the reciprocal state-down at Doklam, Galwan gallantry and recent operations of the Indian Army in occupying advantageous heights is reflective of the "Peace Disease" that has been sought to be compensated by sabre-rattling, deceit and troops/infrastructural build-up.

Lieutenant General He Lei of the PLA had famously remarked a couple of years ago that his biggest regret before retiring was that he never fought a war — his successors are even more distant from war experience, whereas, those on the other side may have other concerns and deficiencies, but "Peace Disease" is certainly not one of them. Battle experience cannot be bought and this could expose the Chinese chimera on the battlefield.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

## SOUNDBITE

AFG winning with the highest votes the competitive CSW election today represents a victory for the process started 19 years ago when we committed to the empowerment of our women.

Afghanistan Ambassador  
—Adela Raz

I have worked on a few deliveries especially for the T20 format. It will be fun for all to see during the IPL. You have to plan every time.

Cricketer  
—Kuldeep Yadav

Pakistan has fully facilitated the process that culminated in the US-Taliban Peace Agreement in Doha on February 29 and has reached this juncture.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister  
—Shah Mahmood Qureshi

I am Black, son of a Black, grandson and great-grandson of a Black. I am proud and do not see myself as different from anyone. Racism exists.

Footballer  
—Neymar

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Where is the logic?

Sir — The recent statement by the Government in Parliament about not maintaining records or the non-availability of data about the actual number of deaths of migrant labourers and the total number of job losses is immature and illogical. On one side, the Government had proudly announced a package of ₹20 lakh crore to meet the losses occurred due to the lockdown along with infinite advertisements about it. On the other hand, it has simply denied sharing the actual position of the migrant labourers. The working class, along with the farmers, are regarded as the backbone of the economy and if they remain unemployed, then the GDP of the nation will never recover. The Government must seriously consider the proposition as the GDP is at an all-time low and unemployment has broken all previous records. It cannot disown labourers.

Navneet Seth  
Punjab

### Fair play

Sir — It is noteworthy that Janata Dal (United) MP

### Crime graph shoots up in Goa

**C**onsidering the sudden spate of high-profile offences, involving drugs, gambling and fake currency notes in Goa, one is led to believe that crime is a perennial affair and not the consequence of the vagaries of the economic scene prevalent at any time of the year. Although revelling in its fame as a highly sought after tourist destination, it would not be wrong to state here that Goa has also been much maligned by activities of criminal gangs and their nexus.

Goa has frequently been in the news for gambling, sex and drugs. Crimes like rape, murder and gang wars are the inevitable consequences. Sadly, the Government has not done anything exceptional to dispel notions of the State being a vice capital of the nation. While it is contended that Goa witnessed virtually zero crime between March and May, when the lockdown was in force, it would imply that the policing during this period was at its best, where the stern measures adopted deterred any criminal activity. Or was it the fear of the virus that kept those with a criminal bent of mind indoors?



It would, however, be unfair to criticise Goa Police for failing to take advantage of the lull period to subsequently improve the law and order situation in the State. Simply because alertness levels and vigilance are dependent on manpower and there is an acute shortage of personnel.

Pachu Menon  
Goa

### Abe's legacy

Sir — Japan's governing party has elected Yoshihide Suga as its new leader to succeed Shinzo Abe. Suga received 377 votes and won the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) elections, which were held after Abe resigned on health grounds. Suga received support from the party, whose members expect

him to continue Abe's policies. Suga is known for his iron fist and getting the job done. He is reformist and has worked to achieve policies by breaking territorial barriers. His efforts in achieving a boom in tourism and decreasing cellphone bills are praiseworthy. He is expected to continue the stepped up alliance with India, one that Abe had worked hard on with our Prime

Minister Narendra Modi.  
Sanjana Soni  
Ujjain

### A clarification

In an article dated August 5, 2020, titled *Turning liability to asset*, authored by Prof Gourav Vallabh, the following paragraphs were inadvertently attributed to him. They were in the nature of collaborative information. "Merely privatising the PSBs will get us nowhere. Along with this move, the need is for sector-specific reforms. In his book, *What the Economy Needs Now*, Rajan (former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan) has suggested that privatisation be just one element of the overall reform process. It should not become the foremost plank in banking sector reform and is fraught with adverse consequences. To put it simply, Rajan is of the view that 'simple' solutions like privatising PSBs may be no panacea. Consolidation and privatisation of PSBs can have little to do with setting Indian banking right as these actions may be necessary but will not be sufficient by a long chalk..."

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

**FIRST COLUMN**

## US showing ominous signs

It would be a very big deal if the US started distributing a vaccine that has not been properly tested. Yet the signs are that this is just what is going to happen



GWYNNE DYER

None of the world's biggest pharmaceutical companies have just promised not to apply for regulatory approval for any new COVID-19 vaccine before it has gone through all three phases of clinical study. Why would they do such a thing? You'd be surprised if brain surgeons got together and promised not to operate while drunk, or if the bus drivers' union publicly pledged that its members will not drive recklessly. They don't do that because operating sober and driving carefully are just part of the job. So is ensuring that new vaccines are safe and effective. Yet nine major players in the international pharmaceuticals market — AstraZeneca (UK-Sweden), BioNTech (Germany), GlaxoSmithKline (UK), Johnson & Johnson (US), Merck (Germany), Moderna (US), Novavax (US), Pfizer (US) and Sanofi (France) — all felt obliged to reassure the public that they won't cheat. What's up? Obviously, it's the perception that other players in the same market may indeed be cutting corners. We're not taking here about Russia and China, both of which have begun inoculating some key workers with vaccines that are still listed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as being in clinical trials. No surprise here. Everybody knows that those regimes break the rules whenever they feel like it.

Usually the Donald Trump Administration's actions are viewed with weary resignation by the rest of the world, but it would still be a very big deal if the US started distributing a vaccine that had not been properly tested. Yet the signs are that this is just what is going to happen. Last month at the Republican national convention, the US President told the delegates and the country: "We are developing life-saving therapies and will produce a vaccine before the end of the year, or maybe even sooner." On September 4, the US Government's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) told American health officials that "limited COVID-19 vaccine doses may be available by early November 2020."

More specifically, the CDC urged State authorities to consider "waiving requirements" and grant permits to McKesson Corporation so they can start distributing a vaccine by November 1. You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows. The presidential election is on November 3, two days later. That's long enough for the glad news to get around and floating voters to be swayed in favour of Trump, but too short for any defects in the rushed vaccine to come to light. Donald Trump is going to liberate Americans from the curse of COVID in a little less than two months. If the vaccine's miraculous properties subsequently fade, even if it turns out to kill large numbers of people, that won't matter. The votes will have been counted and Trump will be back in office for another four years. That, at least, is the scenario that is currently envisaged by the people around Trump.

It is a plausible one, especially if the race has tightened by then. Just 1,00,000 votes in three States, mostly from people who had previously voted Democratic, put Trump in the White House in 2016. A miracle vaccine could certainly swing that many votes again.

The nine pharmaceutical majors, who felt the need to issue a "historic pledge" to uphold scientific and ethical standards, were doubtless driven by this scenario. Even if there really has been an American breakthrough, they would still have to cope with the public's suspicion that Trump is cheating — and the mistrust that will also attach to any other early vaccines. It is possible that the vaccine or vaccines that Trump is about to unleash on the American public really do work and are safe. It would be a historic first in the development of vaccines — having a COVID vaccine ready for general use by next June or July would normally be seen as a remarkable achievement — but miracles do happen. The problem is that they don't happen often, and if the full testing regime is not followed, you don't know if this is one of those times.

It's only because the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine was going through the full third phase of tests, involving tens of thousands of individuals and many months of testing, that they spotted a bad reaction requiring hospitalisation and paused the tests. Now they have resumed them again. The American miracle vaccine will only start third-stage tests at the same time that it is made generally available. Pausages like AstraZeneca/Oxford University's happen often in the development of a vaccine. And the pause was temporary because one person in the UK had a side effect but later it was deemed safe to continue with the testing. But even a very low-frequency bad reaction can be a mass killer when tens of millions of people are being vaccinated, and these are not desperately sick people willing to risk anything for a cure. They are people in good health, and you mustn't kill them.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work'.)

THE PROBLEM OF DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ADDICTION IS INCREASING. DRUGS COME TO INDIA VIA CHINA AND PAKISTAN. OUR FILM INDUSTRY TOO IS AFFECTED.

—BJP MP AND ACTOR  
 RAVI KISHAN

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



YESTERDAY ONE OF OUR MEMBERS IN THE LOK SABHA, WHO IS FROM THE FILM INDUSTRY, SPOKE AGAINST IT. IT IS A SHAME. THE INDUSTRY NEEDS PROTECTION.

—SP MP AND ACTOR  
 JAYA BACHCHAN

# Move the needle on cooling

After experiencing the catastrophic effects of climate change, it's high time for all nations to join hands in adopting low carbon pathways to restore the ozone layer



SHANMUGANATHAN K



ASHISH SARASWAT

The ozone layer, the Achilles' Heel of our Earth's atmosphere, is responsible for protecting our terrestrial and marine life. The layer, which is a highly reactive and made of trace gas, constitutes about three molecules for every 10 million molecules of air and absorbs bits of the sun's ultra-violet (UV) radiation that hits the Earth. However, decisive research in the early 1970s underlined signs of trouble in this vital blanket. In 1974, late Professor Sherwood Rowland and Professor Mario Molina at the University of California, Irvine, published an article in *Nature* elucidating the detrimental threats to the ozone layer from chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases.

It was found that CFC, which is commonly used in refrigerators for cooling applications and aerosols, was eating away at the ozone layer once it was released into the Earth's atmosphere. The situation got worse as the consumption of CFC exponentially increased in various business and industries due to its low cost and properties, namely non-inflammability and non-toxicity.

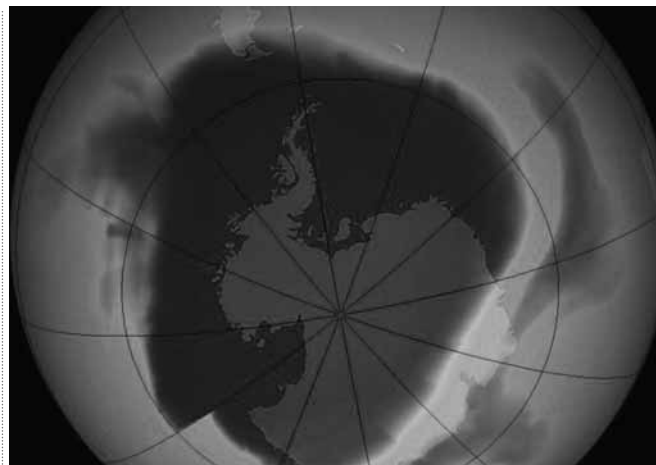
**Beginning of the world's most successful environmental agreement:** Eleven years after the findings of Professor Rowland and Professor Molina, a team of English scientists, too, learnt about the thinning of the ozone layer, which is popularly known as the "Ozone Hole." They realised that the CFCs had started to break down the ozone, leading to the entry of harmful UV rays into the Earth's surface. This had led to an increase in skin cancer cases among humans and was harming terrestrial and marine ecosystems, too. With the objective to preserve human health and protect the environment from the harmful effects of the depleted ozone layer, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer came into existence on March 22, 1985.

The convention provided the framework for the Montreal Protocol (MP), the most successful environmental agreement till date to achieve universal ratification. On September 16, 1987, the United Nations (UN) and 46 other countries signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. It aimed to preserve the protective shield through worldwide control, reduction and phasing out of production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Three decades ago, the speech of a 12-year-old girl, Severn Cullis-Suzuki from Vancouver, Canada at the 1992 Earth Summit, caught the attention of leaders of parties and the UN in strategising expeditious measures for phasing out of ODS. "I am afraid to go out in the sun now because of the hole in our ozone. I am afraid to breathe the air because I don't know what chemicals are in it. If you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it," said Cullis-Suzuki in her landmark speech.

In 1994, the UN General Assembly proclaimed September 16 as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol. Today, the Parties to the Montreal Protocol have phased out 98 per cent of their ODS, which were an estimated two million people from skin cancer annually.

**Refrigerants, the key determinants:** The establishment of a regime for refrigerants started taking shape during the 18th century when the world embraced the technological advancement

“ IN 1994, THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCLAIMED SEPTEMBER 16 AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER. COMMEMORATING THE DATE OF THE SIGNING, IN 1987, OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. TODAY, THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL HAVE PHASED OUT 98 PER CENT OF THEIR ODS, WHICH SAVED AN ESTIMATED TWO MILLION PEOPLE FROM SKIN CANCER ANNUALLY ”



known as the vapour compression refrigerating system which later became the most successful commercial technology.

The unprecedented need for cooling resulted in the application of early adopted natural refrigerants (carbon dioxide, ammonia, sulphur dioxide, water and air). The first generation of refrigerants was gradually succeeded by the fluorocarbons, commonly known as Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) and Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) like R13, R123, R22 due to their varied properties like stability, non-flammability and so on. Initially, this regime of refrigerants was hardly looked at by researchers from the environmental perspective.

Later, their detrimental impacts on the ozone layer led to usage of Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) and Perfluorocarbons (PFC), which are not ozone depleting, but had global warming potential that can be thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide in contributing to climate change. During the early 2000s, the unprecedented adoption of HFC refrigerants in majority of applications led to the rise of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the associated global warming effects.

**Continuing the momentum:** Realising the colossal impact of the carbon footprints caused by HFC refrigerants, world leaders and the UN had convened at the capital of Rwanda for the 28th meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in October 2016. The convention led to the formation of the Kigali Amendment, intending to reduce the emissions of GHGs in a move that could prevent up to 0.5° Celsius of global warming by the end of this century, while continuing to protect the ozone layer. Aiming at a sustainable climate, as a course of action under the Kigali Amendment, the world economies are now making efforts in a phased manner to scale down the currently-used HCFC

and the high global warming potential (GWP) HFC by the late 2040s to countermeasure global warming.

Thus, swift adoption of low-GWP refrigerants can be well addressed by exploring environmental benefits as well as market readiness. However, while pushing the envelope, it is important to see the refrigerant transition from the perspective of market adaptability, maintaining the business-as-usual scenario. The overall environmental impact of the refrigerant can only be reduced by integrating refrigerants with low upfront costs, energy efficiency of overall refrigeration systems and safety aspects.

For instance, merely changing a refrigerant in an existing refrigeration system without modifying it may reverse the desired economic and environmental benefits. To avoid such scenarios, the cooling industry has been putting its efforts into designing systems to ensure commercial viability of next-generation low-GWP refrigerants. However, the use of such new systems is very limited and primarily depends on end users who are inclined to the existing systems with commonly used refrigerants due to their low costs and already proven results.

This year, the theme of the Ozone Day is "Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection", commemorating the success of the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. At the same time, the continuous release of GHG emissions into the atmosphere has resulted in the decade of 2010-2019 being the hottest-ever. After experiencing the catastrophic effects of climate change, it's high time for all nations to join hands in adopting low carbon pathways for our future generations. The deployment of sustainable energy options and the adoption of environment-friendly refrigerants in the cooling sector are expected to avoid up to 0.5° Celsius of global warming by 2100.

**Cooling:** India harbours 16 per cent of the world's population but currently only around seven to nine per cent of its people have access to air-conditioners. Cooling is cross-sectoral, spanning wide thematic areas like space cooling, industry, transport, food security and so on. According to the 2018 International Energy Agency (IEA) report, India's cooling industry is expected to grow exponentially by 2050. Recognising the accelerated growth of cooling needs in the future, India proactively introduced its strategic document, *India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)* in March, 2019 to show its commitment to explore and adopt cutting-edge solutions for more sustainable cooling with less environmental impacts.

To tackle this unprecedented growth, it is imperative for the Indian cooling industry to strategise accelerated methodologies by promoting indigenous research and development activities to practise the best energy-efficient technology options and adopt the next generation environment-friendly refrigerants in a business-as-usual scenario.

This can be well-supported by actions like ensuring the synergies among inter-ministerial actions, creation of a strong institutional framework to identify, certify and financing innovative cooling technologies, fast-tracking the patenting procedures for new cooling technologies and effective implementation of existing cooling policies.

In the long-term on the demand side, the emphasis should be placed on factors like creating a user demand pool in favour of cooling aided by public-private partnership and facilitating credit-linked incentives to the manufacturers and users adopting newly-developed cooling technologies and so on.

(Shanmuganathan is Associate Fellow and Saraswat is Project Manager, Cooling, Centre for Global Environment Research, TERI)

# The death of a credible media with a backbone

Those in charge of publicity policies hardly realise that by attacking critics they are instigating an equally vitriolic counter-narrative



SIDHARTH MISHRA

The criticism of the present turmoil in the Indian media, particularly television, comes with the rebuffal of the critic being a Libtard. The next volley is about the media being sympathetic to the earlier regime too and why then no questions were asked for such sympathies. There is no denying the fact that many present-day vociferous flag-bearers, protesting the slant being brazenly projected in the media, were themselves guilty of enjoying undue access and patronage, blighting the line between honest journalism and patronised pen-pushing.

Having said this, the aforementioned premise cannot be justified as the only factor for acrimony and rancour, which has come to define the

state of Indian television. It has more to do with the market and the revenue models. This writer worked with *The Pioneer* at a time and in an era when it was seen as the only major Right of the Centre English daily. But to the credit of the editorial leadership of the newspaper, despite the slant, it never discouraged contrary opinion and gave prominent space to it.

More importantly, it held the ideological position, paying a commercial price as many Government agencies and departments worked overtime to demolish the revenue model of the newspaper. It indeed was a challenging task to be the paper of the Opposition and also being the paper of the Right of the Centre thought.

The same cannot be said about the present-day votaries of the Right of the Centre ideology. It's more a case of being on the right side of the Government. Being honest to an ideology demands a price, which these ideological pretenders did not pay then, nor are they paying now, as on both the occasions they were on the right side of the Government.

Then there is another issue.

Does being supportive of a political thought make a media house mortgage its right to question a Government of the same ideology? During the prime ministership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, there was this instance of a border skirmish with Bangladesh in which a Border Security Force officer was killed. His corpse was returned in a most undignified manner. The images made one shudder and at the same time angry even as the Government talked of peace.

The front-page editorial in *The Pioneer* said, "Bend, don't genuflect." Now this was a startling criticism coming from the newspaper known for its ideological proximity to the Government of the day. This must have needed much courage on the part of the editor, and a real large heart on the part of the Government to take the criticism in the right spirit.

The current news trend followed by the media houses, of the Government never going wrong, should make the powers that be worry. This worry should be on two counts: First, the loss of credibility of

these media houses and anchors known to be sympathetic to the Government. Second, by giving no space to the Opposition, the mainstream media has pushed it into a situation where it has launched a vitriolic agitprop vehicles, expressing distrust in the media houses, calling them vehicles of Government propaganda.

Those in charge of the publicity policies of the Government, by unleashing a vendetta of jawabdaris, realise little that they are instigating an equally vitriolic counter-narrative. With social media and technological advancements completely democratising the media space, a Government's image cannot be lynched on mere whataboutery of prime-time anchors.

We live in times where troll armies are ever-ready to provide their services at mud-slinging. It's just the question of who is hiring them. While it has taken more than half-a-century to create memes of Jawaharlar Nehru, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is being subjected to this obnoxious criticism in his lifetime. Nehru and several Prime Ministers

after him were lucky that they were subjected to such criticism by erudite scholar-cartoonists like RK Laxman. They were at the same time fortunate that the space of social media did not exist, which could have dragged them into the muck.

Today counter-narratives on Government claims make it to various social media platforms within moments of being released in the public domain. Dependence on fake and misrepresented facts has come to create an atmosphere of distrust, where ready acceptance of a news, however true, is not easy.

This situation has given rise to such an atmosphere that reason is the biggest casualty. When fake information becomes a marketable commodity, there would not be very many clients for evidence-based, well-reasoned information. Let's take the case of the "infodemic", a term coined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the surge of information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The contagion in fact has hit the media hardest both in matters of finances and credibility. The failure of journalists, both television and

newspaper, to go beyond the Government's briefings on the pandemic and its opinionated criticism has left the consumers of news absolutely chafed. Nobody has a clear picture on where the virus is steering the world.

If there is distrust for a product, there obviously would not be a market for it. The market searches for such products which can be easily consumed. So here is a case of a market looking for news products. In fact, the present situation reminds one of Italian dramatist, novelist, poet and short story writer Luigi Pirandello's early 20th century play titled, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. The initial reception to the play from the audience was it being incomprehensible. It was only after Pirandello added a foreword to the play a few years later that it came to be better appreciated. The connoisseurs of news are today eagerly waiting for the foreword to the current incoherent and unsustainable media scenario.

(The writer is professor-chairperson, Vivekananda School of Journalism and Mass Communication, VIPS, GGSIPU, Delhi)



**FOREIGN EYE**



## DO NOT ISOLATE THE ELDERLY

A survey of British doctors has found that almost nine in 10 expect a second peak of the Coronavirus in the next six months. Data suggest the rate of viral transmission nationally is again lurching out of control. A national lockdown may be only weeks away. The Government must find a way to ensure that the elderly and vulnerable do not endure an autumn and winter of total isolation from their loved ones. (The Guardian editorial)

## IRAN PLANNING TO AVENGE SOLEIMANI KILLING

# Trump: Retaliation will be 1,000 times greater

Washington: President Donald Trump has warned Iran that any attack against the US would be retaliated with "1,000 times greater in magnitude" after media reports that Tehran is planning to avenge the killing of top general Qasem Soleimani in January.

The death of Gen Soleimani, head of Iran's elite Quds Force, in a US airstrike near Baghdad's airport marks a major escalation in the stand-off between Washington and Tehran, since US President Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal and imposed crippling sanctions.

Iran had vowed to seek revenge for Gen Soleimani's killing. "Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude," Trump said in a tweet after news reports emerged that Iran is planning some kind of attack against the US.

"Iran may be planning an assassination or other attack, against the US in retaliation for the killing of terrorist leader Soleimani, which was carried out for his planning a future attack, murdering US Troops, and the death & suffering caused over so many years," Trump wrote.

In a news report based on unnamed intelligence sources, the Politico said "the Iranian government is weighing an assassination attempt against the American ambassador to South Africa Lara Marks."

"If carried out, it could dramatically ratchet up already serious tensions between the US and Iran and create enormous pressure on Trump to strike back — possibly in the middle of a tense election season," the American news outlet said.

An intelligence source told Fox News that the intel community is taking the threat against the ambassador seriously and believe the Iranian

regime potentially has the ability to act on an assassination plot.

Iran has in the past planned assassinations of American ambassadors — which is partly why the intelligence community is taking this particular threat assessment seriously, the news channel said.

Iran has denied the allegations.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement that the assassination allegations were part of ongoing anti-Iranian propaganda by the Americans ahead of the elections scheduled for November 3.

Meanwhile, reacting on the reports South Africa's State Security Agency (SSA) said that it has "noted the rising public interest on the matter and would like to assure all South African citizens and interested parties that the matter is receiving the necessary attention."

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran warned the US on Tuesday against making a "strategic mistake" after President Donald Trump threatened Tehran over reports it planned to avenge the killing of top general Qasem Soleimani.

"We hope that they do not make a new strategic mistake and certainly in the case of any strategic mistake, they will witness Iran's decisive response," government spokesman Ali Rabiei told a televised news conference.

A US media report, quoting unnamed officials, said that an alleged Iranian plot to assassinate the US ambassador to South Africa was planned before the US presidential election in November.

"Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude," Trump wrote on Twitter on Monday.

Rabiei expressed regret that "the president of a country who has claims to global management and order would make hasty, agenda-fuelled and dubious remarks on such a weak basis."

He warned that reacting to such reports would "achieve nothing but disruption to the region and to world calm" and advised Trump to "refrain from fresh adventurism... for the sake of winning a new term as president."

On Monday, the foreign ministry denied the report of an assassination plot as "baseless" and part of "repetitive and rotten methods to create an anti-Iranian atmosphere."

Relations between Washington and Tehran have been tense ever since the Islamic revolution of 1979. They have deteriorated sharply since Trump unilaterally pulled out of a landmark international nuclear deal with Iran in May 2018 and reimposed crippling sanctions.

## Navalny posts hospital photo of himself, plans Russia return

Berlin: Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny posted a picture of himself from his hospital bed in Germany on Tuesday, looking gaunt but joking wryly about his condition and saying that he was enjoying the ability to finally breathe on his own after being poisoned with a nerve agent.

The Instagram post was the first image of the 44-year-old released since he was taken to Berlin's Charite hospital two days after falling ill on a domestic flight in Russia on Aug. 20.

"Hi, this is Navalny," he wrote in the Russian-language post. "I have been missing you. I still can't do almost anything on my own, but yesterday I managed to breathe on my own for the entire day." Navalny had been kept in an induced coma for more than two weeks as he was treated with an antidote before hospital officials said on Sept. 7 that his condition had improved enough for him to be brought out of it.

On Monday, the hospital said he had been removed from mechanical ventilation and was able to leave his bed for "short periods of time." In the



Picture from Navalny's Instagram account

photo, Navalny is being given a hug by his wife Yulia and is flanked by his two children as he sits upright in his bed in a hospital gown. His statement even had the ring of his well-known sarcastic humor.

"Just on my own, no extra help, I didn't even use the simple valve in my throat," he said of being able to breathe without ventilation.

"I liked it very much. It's a remarkable process that is underestimated by many. Strongly recommended."

Despite his recovery, doctors have said they cannot rule out long-term health issues associated with the poisoning. Navalny's spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh, tweeted that once he had recovered, Navalny plans to return to Russia.

"No other option has ever been considered," she wrote. Leonid Volkov, a top associate of Navalny, refused to give any details on his condition or his possible return when reached by The Associated Press on Tuesday. AP

## No info on reported detentions in Taiwan, says Hong Kong

Hong Kong: Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said Tuesday that Taiwan has not disclosed information about the reported detentions of five Hong Kongers who may have attempted to flee there by boat to escape possible prosecution at home under a tough new national security law.

The Hong Kong government reached out to Taiwan on Monday but has yet to receive a reply, Lam told reporters before a weekly meeting with advisers.

"We have no information, and haven't received any assistance requests from family," she said. AP

## US issues sweeping new travel warning for China, Hong Kong

AFP ■ BEIJING

The US on Tuesday issued a sweeping new advisory warning against travel to mainland China and Hong Kong, citing the risk of "arbitrary detention" and "arbitrary enforcement of local laws."

The advisory is likely to heighten tensions between the sides that have spiked since Beijing's imposition on Hong Kong of a strict new national security law in June that has already been met with a series of US punitive actions.

The new advisory warned US citizens that China impos-

es "arbitrary detention and exit bans" to compel cooperation with investigations, pressure family members to return to China from abroad, influence civil disputes and "gain bargaining leverage over foreign governments."

"US citizens travelling or residing in China or Hong Kong, may be detained without access to US consular services or information about their alleged crime. US citizens may be subjected to prolonged interrogations and extended detention without due process of law," the advisory said.

## China successfully launches 9 satellites into orbit from ship

Beijing: China successfully launched on Tuesday a solid-propellant carrier rocket from a ship in the Yellow Sea, sending nine satellites into orbit in the second such sea-based launch mission, the official media reported.

The Long March 11-HY2, the 10th member of the Long March 11 family blasted off at 9:22 am from the Debo 3, a self-propelled deck barge that was modified for the mission, China Daily reported.

The nine satellites belong to the Jilin-1 Gaofen 03-1 group. About 13 minutes later, after travelling 535 km, it has deployed nine Jilin 1-high-resolution Earth-observation satellites, three to take videos and six to take photographs in sun-synchronous orbits, the report said. PTI

## Germany plans to take in 1,500 refugees from Greek islands

AFP ■ BERLIN

Germany plans to take in 1,500 migrants currently taking shelter on Greek islands, government sources told AFP, in addition to around 150 unaccompanied minors from the burnt-out Moria camp.

Under a plan agreed by Chancellor Angela Merkel and Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, Berlin will take in migrants who have already secured refugee status, giving priority to families with children, the sources said.

Merkel's right-left coalition government is in talks over the plan, with her junior partner Social Democrats expect-

ing a deal by Wednesday.

After a fire laid waste to Greece's biggest refugee camp Moria last week, pressure has grown on Merkel's government to offer refuge to the 1,500 left homeless by the disaster.

While Berlin has voiced readiness to open its doors to more than the 150 minors, German media reported however that Athens opposed Germany taking in more asylum seekers from Moria.

Doing so may incite more migrants to set fire to their shelter in Greece in the hopes they would then be offered refuge by Europe's biggest economy, according to Bild daily.

## Boat capsizes near Libya, 24 migrants presumed dead: UN

Cairo: The UN migration agency said on Tuesday that a boat carrying migrants bound for Europe capsized in the Mediterranean Sea off Libya, leaving at least two dozen people drowned or missing and presumed dead, the latest shipwreck off the North African country.

Safa Msehi, a spokesperson for the International Organisation for Migration, told The Associated Press that Libya's coast guard intercepted three boats on Monday, and one of them had capsized. AP

## Around the Globe

Baghdad: A roadside bombing targeted British diplomatic vehicles in Baghdad on Tuesday, the British Embassy and Iraqi officials said. There were no injuries but the attack is fueling concerns of armed groups outside of the state's control.

Washington: US President Donald Trump said Tuesday he would have "no problem" selling advanced F-35 warplanes to the United Arab Emirates, despite objections from close ally Israel. "I personally would have no problem with it," he said on Fox News. "I would have no problem in selling them the F-35."

RATHI BARS LIMITED					
Regd. Office: A-247, Mohan Co-operative Ind. Estate, New Delhi-110017 Ph: +91-11-43165400 E-mail: contact@rathiteels.com, Web: www.rathiteels.com, CIN No: L74899DL1983PLC004781					
Statement of Standalone Unaudited Results for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2020					
Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended		(Rs. In Lacs)
	30-06-20	31-03-20	30-06-19	31-03-20	
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	
1 Total Revenue From operations	4,290.72	10,636.73	11,400.50	38,333.59	
2 Net Profit/Loss for the period (Before Tax)	13.69	76.24	59.22	287.37	
3 Net Profit/Loss for the period (After Tax)				272.09	
4 Total Comprehensive Income	13.69	76.24	59.22	272.09	
5 Equity Share Capital	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04	
6 Reserves/Excluding Revaluation Reserves)				6,603.53	
7 Earning Per Share/Of Rs. 10 Each)					
Basic:	0.08	0.47	0.36	1.67	
Diluted:	0.08	0.47	0.36	1.67	
* Not Audited					
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites i.e. www.bseindia.com and also at the website of the Company at www.rathiteels.com.					
2 The Company does not have any Exceptional and Extraordinary item to report during the above periods.					
3 The Company has not discontinued any of its operations during the above periods.					
4 Tax expenses / Provision for Taxation has been made on annual basis only.					
5 The figures of previous year / Quarters have been re-arranged/re-grouped wherever felt necessary.					
By order of the Board for Rathi Bars Limited sd/- Anurag Rathi Whole Time Director DIN : 00963345					

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED					
CIN : L25199DL1980PLC010173 Regd. Office : 2/8, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110 007 Website : www.cosco.in Email : mail@cosco.in Tel : 91-11-23843000 Fax : 91-11-23846000					
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2020					
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		30.06.2020	30.06.2019	31.03.2020	31.03.2020
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations	2,723.63	3,327.29	3,335.30	13,435.82
2	Net Profit for the period before Tax	57.97	48.53	4.23	221.78
3	Net Profit for the period after tax	37.02	75.09	19.58	180.72
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	37.02	75.09	18.67	179.81
5	Equity Share Capital	416.10	416.10	416.10	416.10
6	Other Equity	-	-	-	3,504.85
7	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10 each)				
(a)	Basic (₹)	0.89	1.80	0.47	4.34
(b)	Diluted (₹)	0.89	1.80	0.47	4.34
Notes:- 1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites (www.bseindia.com/corporates) and on the Company's website www.cosco.in. 2 The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the respective meeting held on September 15, 2020. By Order of the Board for Cosco (India) Limited Devinder Kumar Jain Managing Director and CEO DIN : 00191539					

**ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED**

CIN:- L74899DL1976PLC008036

Regd. Office: Unit No. 8, Ground Floor, Pocket M, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi 110076  
Telephone:- 011-47366690 E-mail:- info@rotoindia.co.in Website:- www.rotoindia.co.in

**EXTRACT OF UN-AUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS  
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30 2020** (In Lakhs Except EPS)

Particulars	Quarter Ended 30.06.2020 (Un-audited)	Quarter Ended 30.06.2019 (Un-audited)	Year ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)
Total Income from Operations(Net)	0	0	14.72
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(1.15)	(2.28)	1.90
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(1.15)	(2.28)	1.90
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(1.15)	(2.28)	1.37
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(1.15)	(2.28)	1.40
Equity Share Capital	360.13	360.13	360.13
Earning Per Share Basic and diluted (not annualised)	(0.03)	0.00	0.04

**Notes:-**

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI(LODR) Regulations 2015. The full format of Quarterly financial results are available on the stock exchange website [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and Company's Website at [www.rotoindia.co.in](http://www.rotoindia.co.in).

2. The above unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the board of Directors at their meeting held on 15.09.2020

**For Rotographics (India) Limited**  
Naresh Kumar Bansal  
Director

**Place: New Delhi**  
15.09.2020

BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED					
CIN: L01403AS1999PLC005741 Regd. Office: Debendra Nagar, Jhoom Basti, P.O. Badarpurhat, Dist. Karimganj, Assam-788803 Corp. Office: 28/1, Despathi Pithampur, New Delhi-110034 Tel No.: 0345-269258/81, Fax: +91-3643-268665 Website: www.barakcement.com; E-Mail Id: cs@barakcement.com					
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 <sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2020.					
(Rs. in Lakhs)					
PARTICULARS	STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED		Year Ended
	Quarter Ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	30.06.2019 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	30.06.2019 (Unaudited)	
Total income from operations (net)	2,231.22	4,146.64	3,852.38	15,033.13	2,357.11
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	106.98	151.32	437.79	(70.69)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	106.98	151.32	437.79	(70.69)
Net Profit for the period after Tax (After exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	182.87	104.67	422.31	(70.69)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period	(79.86)	169.60	104.67	409.04	(70.69)
Paid Up Equity Share Capital (face value of Rs. 10/- per share)	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)	(0.36)	0.83	0.47	1.91	(0.32)
Diluted:	(0.36)	0.83	0.47	1.91	(0.32)
NOTES:- 1 The above Unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and have been approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup> September, 2020. Limited review of the results as required under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulation 2015, have been carried out by the Statutory Auditors of the Company. 2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) 3 Figures of the previous period have been regrouped/rearranged, wherever necessary.					
For and on behalf of Board BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED sd/- Kamakhyia Chamarla Vice Chairman & Managing Director					

Metro Railway, Kolkata Kolkata's Pride				
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.: 08/20-21 Date : 14.09.2020				
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Metro Railway, Kolkata, 33/1, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700071 for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tender for following items already uploaded in website www.irops.gov.in. Tenderers may visit website www.irops.gov.in for full details/description/ drawing/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online.				
Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Tender closing time & date	
02205136	1.1 KV 3CX50 SQ. MM XLPE Insulated Copper Cable	4000 MTRS	01.10.2020, 14.00 Hrs.	
	1.1 KV 4CX50 SQ. MM XLPE Insulated Copper Cable	2000 MTRS		
02205135A	Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Ventilation Panel	At KGPK & KJPK At KBEL At Mid Point At KRBS	2 Sets 1 Set 3 Sets 1 Set	01.10.2020, 14.00 Hrs.
02205124	Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of L. T. Panel	At Esplanade Ass At Maidan Ass At Noapara TSS	1 Set 1 Set 1 Set	28.09.2020, 14.00 Hrs.
	Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Ventilation Panel	At Mid Point At Central	3 Sets 1 Set	
Principal CMM, Metro Railway/Kolkata				
FASTER SAFER SMOOTHER CLEANER				

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/Dankuni/E-Procurement/20-21/13 Dated:14-09-2020. PCMM/CLW/DKAE on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tenders is/are for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.irops.gov.in. These are E-Tenders; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website. Sl.: Tender No.: Description of Stores; Qty; Due On: Cost of Tender; (1): 34202529; Blower for Oil cooling Unit with casing including 30 KW Motor for OCU as per specification No. RDSO/2016/ELSPEC/0123, Rev (0) and SPMC/E-10/3/09 (MOTOR) with amendment Nos. 01 to 05; As Per Tender Doc. 28.09.2020; 0.00. PCMM/CLW/DANKUNI	
ADK-107	
Like us on: www.facebook.com/citrailways	



## US import curbs on Chinese textile to benefit India: Icr

**Mumbai:** The US restrictions on some textile imports from Xinjiang in China is likely to augur well for the Indian textile exporters, according to a report.

On September 14, the US imposed restrictions on the import of certain products originating from the Xinjiang Autonomous Region in China, citing concerns on illegal and inhuman forced labour in the region, rating agency Icr said in a report.

The agency said it expects this development to benefit domestic textile exporters.

While there were speculations of a more broad-based ban on the products originating from the region, the restrictions have been limited to a few entities, for now, it said.

Besides banning imports of other product categories, including hair products and computer parts, it also includes restrictions on some entities from the region involved in producing and processing cotton.

Xinjiang is a major cotton-producing belt, which accounts for an estimated 80-85 per

cent of China's cotton output. "While the immediate impact, in terms of the market catered to by the identified entities, is not quantifiable, this development could have major repercussions for the global textile trade."

With China being the leading apparel exporter, accounting for more than 35 per cent of the global trade and more than three-fourths of China's cotton originating from the Xinjiang region, any extension of the ban to a wider base in China could trigger a material shift in global apparel trade in coming years," Icr Ratings Senior VP and Group Head Jayanta Roy said.

Amid concerns on origin of the cotton from China, there have already been reports of several international buyers looking at diversifying their sourcing base across countries, the report opined.

Several major apparel exporters in the region have either already started receiving increased orders or are in active discussions with large international buyers, looking at increasing their sourcing from

India. The shift, which was previously expected to take place gradually over the medium term, could be expedited in the light of this recent development, the report added.

"While over the past few years, Vietnam and Bangladesh have been the key beneficiaries for a shift away from China, India also stands to gain from any such market opportunity which may arise, given its strong presence in the cotton-based apparel," Roy added.

Widening of the scope of the ban, could, however, be practically challenging as the existing systems are not adequate to track the origin of the raw material.

Accordingly, cotton origin in the Xinjiang region could end up as yarn or fabric in another region/ country, which could be processed further to manufacture apparel.

Further, there could be likely retaliatory actions by the US. Measures of the scope of years amid the ongoing US-China trade war, which could prevent widening of the scope of the ban, Icr report added. **PTI**

## Sensex, Nifty tick higher on global cues; banking, finance stocks in demand

**Mumbai:** Equity indices found firmer ground on Tuesday as investors poured money into banking and finance counters amid a positive trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex overcame bouts of volatility to end 287.72 points or 0.74 per cent higher at 39,044.35.

The broader NSE Nifty rose 81.75 points or 0.71 per cent to finish at 11,521.80.

Induslnd Bank topped the gainers' chart on the Sensex, climbing 4.03 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, HDFC and Kotak Bank.

On the other hand, Titan, Maruti, ITC, Asian Paints, Reliance, L&T and Bajaj Auto were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.20 per cent.

Mid and small-cap stocks extended their gains as participants wagered on increased inflows into the segment following the US Fed's classification norms for multi-cap mutual funds.

Global equities were buoyed by encouraging industrial output data from China,

which also propelled yuan to a 16-month high. "Market breadth improved for the second consecutive day as several mid-cap stocks across diverse sectors posted handsome gains."

"The small-cap Index rose 1.5 per cent today on the back of a stellar 5 per cent gain yesterday, sending out a clear message that investors are looking at a more broad market rally after having witnessed a polarised market for a considerable length of time," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit witnessed high volatility. It opened on a strong note at 73.33, but lost ground during the day and finally closed at 73.64 against the US dollar, registering a fall of 16 paise over its previous close of 73.48. During the session, the local currency witnessed an intra-day high of 73.33 and a low of 73.72 against the greenback.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.16 per cent to 92.90. **PTI**

## Rupee settles 16 paise lower at 73.64 against US dollar

**Mumbai:** The rupee pared early gains to settle 16 paise lower at 73.64 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday even as domestic equity market traded in the positive territory.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit witnessed high volatility. It opened on a strong note at 73.33, but lost ground during the day and finally closed at 73.64 against the US dollar, registering a fall of 16 paise over its previous close of 73.48. During the session, the local currency witnessed an intra-day high of 73.33 and a low of 73.72 against the greenback.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.16 per cent to 92.90. **PTI**

## Indian economy to shrink 9 pc in FY2: ADB

**New Delhi:** India's coronavirus-battered economy will shrink by 9 per cent this fiscal, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) predicted on Tuesday, saying growth outlook remains highly vulnerable to either a prolonged outbreak of the pandemic or a resurgence of cases.

This will be the first time in four decades that the Indian economy will contract.

In its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2020 Update, ADB forecasts a strong recovery for the economy in FY2021, with gross domestic product (GDP) growing by 8 per cent.

ADB projected the Indian economy to contract 11.5 per cent and 10.5 per cent respectively in the current fiscal. However, Goldman Sachs has estimated the contraction at 14.8 per cent.

India Ratings and Research expects contraction at 11.8 per cent, while Crisil estimates the contraction at 9 per cent.

For the 2021-22 fiscal, S&P expects economic growth at 10 per cent.

ADB said Government initiatives to address the pandemic, including the rural employment guarantee program and other social protection measures, will aid rural incomes protecting the vulnerable people, but private consumption may continue to suffer. Investment is also expected to contract as investors remain deterred by heightened risks and uncertainties. The fiscal deficit is expected to rise significantly in FY2020 as government revenues fall and expenditures rise. The Government also initiated reforms in response to the COVID-19 pandemic focusing on enhancing agricultural markets, upgrading industrial park infrastructure, and implementing the National Infrastructure Pipeline.

could further weaken the financial sector and its ability to support economic growth.

ADB joins a chorus of international agencies that have predicted a contraction in the Indian economy in the current fiscal.

S&P Global Ratings on Monday slashed its FY21 growth forecast for India to (-) 9 per cent, from (-) 5 per cent estimated earlier, saying that rising COVID-19 cases would keep private spending and investment lower for longer.

Last week, two other global rating agencies Moody's and Fitch projected the Indian economy to contract 11.5 per cent and 10.5 per cent respectively in the current fiscal. However, Goldman Sachs has estimated the contraction at 14.8 per cent.

India Ratings and Research expects contraction at 11.8 per cent, while Crisil estimates the contraction at 9 per cent.

For the 2021-22 fiscal, S&P expects economic growth at 10 per cent.

## US tariffs on China ruled to be illegal by world trade body

**Geneva:** The World Trade Organization said Tuesday that Trump administration tariffs on Chinese goods totaling more than \$200 billion are illegal under the rules of the global trade body. The decision marks the first time the Geneva-based trade body has ruled against a series of tariffs that President Donald Trump's government has imposed on a number of countries, allies and rivals alike. Trump has repeatedly criticized the WTO, which oversees international disputes on trade, for allegedly treating the U.S. unfairly.

In its decision, the WTO ruled against the Trump administration's argument that China has engaged in practices harmful to U.S. interests, on issues including intellectual property theft, technology transfer and innovation.

The ruling, in theory, would allow China to impose retaliatory

tariffs on billions worth of U.S. goods - if the process is completed. But the U.S. Government can appeal the decision announced by the WTO's dispute settlement body, and the WTO's appeals court is currently no longer functioning - largely because of Washington's single-handed refusal to accept new members for it.

The U.S. Tariffs target two batches of Chinese products. Duties of 10% were imposed on some \$200 billion worth of goods in September 2018, and were jacked up to 25% eight months later. An additional 25% duties were imposed in June 2018 against Chinese goods worth about \$34 billion in annual trade.

The administration has justified the sanctions under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, a common tool used by the government to impose sanctions. The U.S. Argued that

China's actions had amounted to 'state-sanctioned theft' and 'misappropriation' of U.S. Technology, intellectual property and commercial secrets.

The WTO panel ruled that the U.S. Measures violated longstanding international trade rules because they only applied to products from China, and that Washington had not adequately substantiated its claim that the Chinese products hit with the extra duties had benefited from the allegedly unfair Chinese practices. **AP**

## Sebi provides clarity on penalty for non-collection of margins in cash segment

**New Delhi:** Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday provided clarity on levy of penalty for non-collection of margins from clients in the cash segment by trading and clearing members.

The clarification, which comes after the watchdog received various representations, is with regard to levy of penalty for non-collection of 'other margins' on or before T+2 days from clients. The 'other margins' exclude VaR (value at risk) margin and ELN (extreme loss margin).

"If pay-in (both funds and securities) is made by T+2

working days, the other margins would be deemed to have been collected and no penalty for non-collection of margin, including other margins, would not arise.

In case a client fails to make pay-in by T+2 working days and the trading member or clearing member concerned does not collect other margins from the client within the given time period, the same would result in levy of penalty. "It is reiterated that clearing corporation shall continue to collect upfront VaR plus ELN and other margins from TMI/CM as applicable from time to time," the circular said. **PTI**

Further, it said if early paying of securities has been made to the clearing corporation, then all margins would be

deemed to have been collected and no penalty for non-collection of margin, including other margins, would not arise.

In case a client fails to make pay-in by T+2 working days and the trading member or clearing member concerned does not collect other margins from the client within the given time period, the same would result in levy of penalty. "It is reiterated that clearing corporation shall continue to collect upfront VaR plus ELN and other margins from TMI/CM as applicable from time to time," the circular said. **PTI**

## SBI extends OTP-based ATM withdrawal facility round the clock

**Mumbai:** The country's largest lender State Bank of India will extend its OTP-based cash withdrawal facility operational round the clock at its ATMs for transactions of ₹10,000 and above from September 18.

In January this year, the lender had introduced OTP-based cash withdrawals for above ₹10,000 between 8 PM-8 AM through all its ATMs.

For withdrawals of ₹10,000 and above, the bank's debit cardholders will now have to enter OTP (one-time password) sent on the registered mobile numbers along with their debit card PIN each time, a release said.

"With the enablement of 24x7 OTP authenticated ATM withdrawals, we believe SBI customers will have a secured and risk-free cash withdrawal experience," the bank's managing director (retail and digital banking) C S Setty said.

Implementing this facility throughout the day would prevent SBI debit cardholders from the risk of falling prey to fraudulent, unauthorised withdrawals, card skimming, card cloning and the likes, the release said.

The lender has urged all its customers to register or update their mobile numbers. The OTP-based cash withdrawal facility is available only at SBI ATMs; this functionality has not been developed at non-SBI ATMs in National Financial Switch (NFS), the bank said. **PTI**

The Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) had signed a memorandum of understanding with Forefront Group to set up this port terminal at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit held in January 2019, the Government release said.

In principle approval was given by the Gujarat government in November 2019, and now with the issuing of LOI, the private players will have to take all the necessary permission before starting the work, it said. Apart from the CNG terminal, the investors would also develop a Ro-Ro terminal (for roll-on/roll-off ships), liquid cargo terminal and container terminal at Bhavnagar port with a cumulative investment of ₹1,900 crore. The proposed CNG port terminal will have a capacity of 1.5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA).

The GMB manages the existing port at Bhavnagar, having a capacity to handle 3 MMTPA cargo. While the consortium would invest ₹1,900 crore in the second phase, To develop CNG and other terminals on the north side of the existing port would require major modifications in the existing infrastructure, including dredging in the water channel of the port basin, construction of two lock gates and off-shore infrastructure for CNG transportation, the release said.

**UJVVN LTD.**  
H.O.: UJJWAL, Mahanadi Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones : 0135-2763008 & Fax : 0135-2763008  
CIN No. U40101UP201500252508 Web: www.ujvvn.com

**Schedule time extension Notice 1**  
The schedule time of the Tender are extended as follows Tender No: 01/EEJ&C&M/2020-21

Name of work : Procurement of new Transformer Oil for various Power Stations of UJVVN Ltd. for the FY.2020-21  
Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal : 26.09.2020 up to 16:00 Hrs  
Date/Time for submission of original documents : 30.09.2020 up to 11:00 Hrs  
Date/Time of opening of bid on website : 30.09.2020 from 13:00 Hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in/>

Letter No. 555 Dated 15.09.2020 **EEJ&C&M**

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division, HMT, Srinagar**

**GIST OF TENDER**  
**e-NIT No.: PHE/QC&PD/08/1e-Tender Dated: 12-09-2020**

For and on behalf of L. Governor of UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis, in two copies, in Gem approved format, from all interested parties holding valid CML certification for the manufacture of said diameters of G.I. Pipes who have Supplied Such Items in India and possess Satisfactory Performance and excellent track record in the said field, with documentary evidence from Respective Govt./Semi Govt. Departments /Corporations /State or National level Undertakings for the following subject item:

**S. No. 1. Subject of Supply: - Supply of ISI marked GMS Tubes Conforming to IS: 1239 (Part-I) 2004 Sixth Revision read with up to date amendments of assorted sizes ranging from 20mm NB upto and including 100mm NB (Light class), 125mm NB upto and including 150mm NB (Medium class) from Govt. Registered / Gem Approved Manufacturers holding valid CML certification for the manufacture of said diameters of GMS Tubes required for petty and maintenance works of the Department.**

**Estimated Cost - Rs. 15.00 Crores**  
**EMD Fee - Rs. 30.00 Lakhs**  
**Cost of tender Documents - Rs.2500.00**  
**Validity of Rates - 180 days from opening of the Price Bid.**

The NIT containing of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Materials (BOM), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed /downloaded from the website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in) as per the schedule of dates given below:

**Time Schedule of e-Tender**

1. Date of Inviting Tender : 12-09-2020.....10.00AM
2. Documents Downloading Period : 14-09-2020 (02.00PM) to 05-10-2020 (02.00PM)
3. Clarification Period : 14-09-2020 (02.00AM) to 26-09-2020 (04.00PM)
4. Pre Bid Consultation : 28-09-2020 (02.00PM)
5. On Line Document Submission Period : 14-09-2020 (02.00PM) to 05-10-2020 (04.00PM)
6. Date of opening of Cover 1st. : 06-10-2020.....02.00PM
7. Tender Document Resolving Authority : Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jai Shakti HMT Srinagar. E-mail: [xenmndp@gmail.com](mailto:xenmndp@gmail.com)
8. Tender Inviting Office : Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jai Shakti HMT Srinagar payable at Srinagar.
9. Document Fee :- In the shape of treasury Challan forwarded to Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jai Shakti HMT Srinagar payable at Srinagar or e-transfer to J&K Bank A/c No: 0005010100005110 IFSC: JAKAACHINAR
10. Earnest Money :- In the shape of CDR/FDR/BG from nationalized banks only having a branch in Srinagar.
11. Bid Opening Authority : Chief Engineer, Kashmir PHE, Jai Shakti Deptt. Srinagar.
12. No. DIPK-5689/20  
Dated: 15-09-2020
- Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Jai Shakti QC&PD PHE (K) HMT Srinagar.

## Gujarat approves letter of intent for world's first CNG terminal at Bhavnagar

**Ahmedabad:** The Gujarat government on Tuesday approved a letter of intent (LOI) for the world's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal at Bhavnagar port with a proposed investment of ₹1,900 crore, an official statement said.

The LOI was approved by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and it will be handed over to the consortium of companies to develop the CNG terminal, it added. The project will be developed jointly by UK-headquartered Foresight Group, Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group and a Netherlands-based consortium.

The Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) had signed a memorandum of understanding with Forefront Group to set up this port terminal at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit held in January 2019, the Government release said.

In principle approval was given by the Gujarat government in November 2019, and now with the issuing of LOI, the private players will have to take all the necessary permission before starting the work, it said. Apart from the CNG terminal, the investors would also develop a Ro-Ro terminal (for roll-on/roll-off ships), liquid cargo terminal and container terminal at Bhavnagar port with a cumulative investment of ₹1,900 crore. The proposed CNG port terminal will have a capacity of 1.5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA).

The GMB manages the existing port at Bhavnagar, having a capacity to handle 3 MMTPA cargo. While the consortium would invest ₹1,900 crore in the second phase, To develop CNG and other terminals on the north side of the existing port would require major modifications in the existing infrastructure, including dredging in the water channel of the port basin, construction of two lock gates and off-shore infrastructure for CNG transportation, the release said.

  
**"KAVYAM"-AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT**

Applications are invited from general public for Part booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof (details available at the Department website, i.e. [tchpharyana.gov.in](http://tchpharyana.gov.in)).

**Project Details**

1. Project Approvals	Coloniser/Developer: Agrante Realty Ltd License No/ Year: 101/2017, Building Plan Approved on 06.07.2018 Haryana RERA Registration No. RC/REPHARERA/GGM/2018/23 dated 22.11.2018.
2. Location	Sector 108, Gurugram, Haryana
3. Provisions	<b>Project Area :</b> 5 acres comprising a total 723 no. of apartments. <b>Community Facilities :</b> One Community Hall of 2000 sqft and One Anganwadi-cum-Creche of 2000 sqft.
4. Apartment Details	<b>Category 1:</b> Part Draw of 48 no. of apartments of 512.50 sqft (approx.) carpet area and balcony(ies) with an aggregated area of 130.30 sq ft (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking. <b>Category 3:</b> Part Draw of 25 no. of apartments of 488.30 sq ft (approx.) carpet area and balcony(ies) with an aggregated area of 79.73 sq ft (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking.
5. Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)	<b>Category 1: Rs. 21 lakhs/ apartment. Category 3: Rs. 19.93 lakhs / apartment.</b> The above rate is an all-inclusive cost of apartment as per rates prescribed under the policy notified vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof (details available at the Department website, i.e. <a href="http://tchpharyana.gov.in">tchpharyana.gov.in</a> ).
6. Payment Terms	<b>* Statutory &amp; government taxes are as applicable.</b> i. With application/Booking amount, i.e., 5% of cost of flat. ii. On allotment: Additional 20% of cost of flat. iii. Balance 75% of the amount in six equal monthly instalments over three year period. No interest shall fall due before the due date of payment. Any default in payment shall invite interest as provided in rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Rules, 2017
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	2 BHK + 3 Balconies 2 BHK + 2 Balconies (Detailed specifications are provided, in application form)
8. Applications Timelines	i. Applications can be procured from: 704 DLF Tower-B, Jasola, New Delhi by paying an application fee of Rs 1000/- starting from 16.09.2020. ii. Last Date of submission of Applications: 01.10.2020. iii. All Applicants who have already applied and the prospective applicant are also directed to submit an affidavit declaring "weather applicant is or not identified beneficiary under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna and relevant documents.

**Eligibility:-**

1. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT of Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.
2. Any applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retain only one flat.

**Allotment Criteria:-**

1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.
2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.
3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy 2013 notified vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof (available at the Department website, i.e. [tchpharyana.gov.in](http://tchpharyana.gov.in)).

Agrante Realty Ltd 704 7th floor DLF Tower-B, Jasola, New Delhi., CIN: U070101DL2013PLC248731

Contact at - website: [www.kavyamhomes.com](http://www.kavyamhomes.com); 011-41924100-199, 8800499674.

The overall level of exam was easy as compared to the previous years, says  
**ANURAG TIWARI**



# IT'S A NEET ANALYSIS

The NEET 2020 was conducted on September 13, 2020 from 2 to 5 pm. Over 15 lakh students had registered for the exam. The exam was overall easy.

Here is a detailed analysis of the paper.

## PHYSICS

- Difficulty level: Easy in comparison to previous years.
- About 30-40% questions directly based on the NCERT textbook.
- Easy calculations.
- Questions asked from the prescribed syllabus only.
- No controversial questions.

## CHEMISTRY

- Difficulty level: Easy to moderate
- Physical Chemistry: 16 Questions
- Organic Chemistry: 13 Questions
- Inorganic Chemistry: 16 Questions
- All questions based on the NCERT textbook. Statements directly taken from the NCERT textbooks.
- Straightforward questions & easy to comprehend.
- One controversial question with more than one correct answer.

- Not lengthy. Students should have completed the Chemistry part within 45 minutes. Enough time for revision.
- Barely a few calculations.
- An average student should have been able to attempt approximately 40 questions with ease. While others could have attempted 44 questions.

## BOTANY

- Difficulty level was high in comparison to previous years
- XI — 25 questions & XII — 18 questions
- Two controversial questions with more than one correct answer
- Two questions were beyond the NCERT textbooks.
- Majority of questions were conceptual in nature with a few fact-based questions as well
- Not at all lengthy.

## ZOOLOGY

- Difficulty level: Moderate with a few difficult questions.
- Multi-conceptual questions requiring incisive thinking and precision.
- Some questions were tricky & lost in terminology.

- A couple of terms beyond the NCERT domain.
- Two questions required linguistic prowess.

- Overall, the questions were quite thought provoking requiring alertness of mind and critical approach.
- Comprehension, application & synthesis required to interpret the questions.

## Detailed analysis

**Physics:** The Physics section was easy as compared to previous years' papers. About 30-40% of the questions were directly based on the NCERT textbook. Graphs, data as well as some statements were directly picked from the NCERT textbook.

Calculations were comparatively easy. All the questions were from the prescribed NEET syllabus with absolutely no controversial questions. Mechanics dominated with 12 questions followed by Electricity with 9 questions and Modern Physics with eight questions. Overall, we can say, Physics was easy.

**Chemistry:** The Chemistry section was of easy to moderate difficulty level. All the questions were from

the prescribed NEET syllabus and completely based on the NCERT textbooks. In fact, statements were directly picked from the NCERT textbook. Questions were straightforward and easy to comprehend.

There was one controversial question with more than one correct answer. Overall, the Chemistry section was not lengthy and students should have completed this part in 40-45 minutes. With minimalistic calculations, an average student should have been able to attempt approximately 40 questions with ease, while others would have been able to attempt a minimum of 44 questions.

**Botany:** The Botany part was of high difficulty level in comparison to previous years. While 25 questions were tested from class XII syllabus, 18 questions were from class XI syllabus. There were two controversial questions with more than one correct answer. Although the majority of questions were within the prescribed syllabus and based on the NCERT textbook, two questions were beyond the NCERT. The questions were conceptual in nature and required great conceptual and application-based understanding.

There were also a few fact-based questions. Plant Physiology dominated with 9 questions followed by Ecology and Genetics with 7 questions each. Overall, the Botany part was not lengthy and should have been completed in the stipulated time period.

**Zoology:** The Zoology section was of moderate difficulty level with a few exceptions. Some questions were tricky and lost in the terminology. A couple of terms were also beyond the NCERT domain.

The questions were multi-conceptual in nature and required incisive thinking and precision on the part of students. While two questions tested linguistic prowess, others required comprehension, application and synthesis to interpret the questions. Human Physiology dominated with 12 questions followed by Animal Husbandry & Biotechnology with 10 questions and Biomolecules with 6 questions.

Overall, the questions were quite thought-provoking and required alertness of mind and critical approach.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty.**  
— James Madison

## Second NATA 2020 held

The second test of National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) for admission to first year of five year BArch degree Programme for the academic year 2020-2021 has been successfully conducted by the Council of Architecture (COA), all over India on September 12, 2020.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Aptitude Test was conducted in two modes i.e. Centre Based and Home Based and candidates were free to choose the mode convenient to them as a comprehensive online aptitude test with both components — Part-A (Cognitive skills for Drawing and Visual Composition Test) and Part-B (Test on Scientific Ability & General Aptitude) to be answered online.

The HBT mode was introduced by the Council for the first time as an online proctored examination using Artificial Intelligence technology.

A total of 30999 aspiring candidates enrolled for second test out of which 22289 candidates appeared for the examination. 8202 candidates appeared from their homes and 14087 candidates appeared for online examination in 158 designated centres pan India and at one centre in Dubai in two shifts.

The Centre-based Test was conducted in a fully observing protocols/SOPs mandated for the safety of Candidates at the test centres. The result will be declared on or before September 17, 2020. The best score obtained by the candidate in the two tests shall be the final valid score for admission.

## BTech programme

### PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Mahindra University's Ecole Centrale School of Engineering (MEC), Hyderabad, announced September 18, 2020 as the last date for applications for admissions to the four-year B.Tech. programme at its Hyderabad campus for the academic session 2020-2024. The students can apply on [www.mechy.ac.in](http://www.mechy.ac.in) by September 18. Eligible students will be counselled online on the branches available to them and online offers will be rolled out.

MEC has a total of around 400 seats available in its B.Tech programme offered in seven academic disciplines — Computer Science & Engineering, Electrical & Electronics Engineering,

Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Electronics & Computer Engineering, and Computation & Mathematics. The admissions will be granted on the basis of either JEE Mains (Qualify in JEE Main examination and eligible to write the JEE Advanced 2020 exam) or valid SAT Subject Test Scores or SAT Scores or ACT scores or Class XII exams result (80% or equivalent grade cumulatively in Mathematics, Physics & Chemistry Subjects in Class XII from any Statutory Board).

MEC's UG programmes in engineering are interdisciplinary in nature. The four-year degree will empower students with the unique ability to adapt to global engineering challenges.

## Get ready to play

The gaming sector today has evolved beyond its nascent stages to transform into a broad field. The industry offers a series of career options, says  
**ARVIND BALAKRISHNA**



Online gaming is one of the largest segments of the entertainment industry. In India, the online gaming market currently stands at \$930 million and is projected to reach \$3.7 billion by 2024. Several factors including the advancement of digital infrastructure, the proliferation of low-cost smartphones, and improved quality and engagement of gaming content are contributing to this market volume, reveals a report by Maple Career Advisors.

According to the report — Gaming — India, India is now home to more than 400 gaming startups with mobile gaming capturing 85% share of the total online gaming market. The profound growth of India's gaming industry makes it amongst the most promising sources of employment. There are ample career opportunities available for both

freshers and experienced candidates across a wide variety of job roles. It is also a good time for gamers who want to turn their passion into a career.

### Opportunities galore

The gaming sector today has evolved beyond its nascent stages to transform into a broad field. The core industry offers a series of career options such as game developer, game designer, game artist, game programmer, network programmer, scriptwriter, audio engineer, game tester, and game manager. Additionally, there is a heightened demand for graphic designers, security engineers, product managers, operations personnel, supply chain managers, legal professionals, and marketing managers.

For gamers, large PC companies, as well as gaming startups, now organise large-scale gaming

tournaments wherein participants can win attractive cash rewards and gaming merchandise. The emergence of real-money skill gaming, too, has presented an earning opportunity for gaming enthusiasts.

### Pursuing a career in gaming

While the arrival of online gaming in India can be dated back to 2000s, it was only in this decade when gaming became a part of the mainstream entertainment culture. Hence, the job prospects in the gaming sector were fairly restricted until a few years ago. Today, however, pursuing a career in gaming can be highly rewarding and satisfactory. Moreover, many gaming companies allow employees to work on flexible hours and/or even work remotely.

When it comes to qualifications, most recruiters in the gaming

industry focus primarily on technical skills and applied knowledge over professional degrees. However, if one becomes a game developer, having an engineering degree is mandatory. For aspiring game designers, there are several diploma and certificate courses offered by premium institutes. The minimum eligibility required for applying for these courses is Class XII. Besides this, one should be well acquainted with digital tools such as Photoshop, Maya, Max, Substance Designer etc. In terms of remuneration, freshers start with a modest salary, but experienced professionals can earn up to ₹10-₹12 lakhs or even more.

### Analysing the future potential

The Indian online gaming market is growing rapidly, both in terms of monetisation and user base. With increased investor interest, enhanced customer lifecycle, better gender parity and the rise of localised gaming content, it is touted as one of the most lucrative sectors. As suggested by industry estimates, 190 million Indians will actively participate in online gaming by 2021. Looking at its dynamic expansion, it is expected that the industry will become a hotbed for jobs.

The COVID-19 pandemic will also play a significant role in the growth of new users as more people turn to gaming apps and platforms to unwind themselves. Against this background, the gaming industry will generate more and more employment opportunities. Of course, there are still misconceptions around gaming, but the mindset of students and their parents are slowly changing and they are now considering starting their professional journey in the gaming world.

The writer is Founder, Pacific Gaming

## Upskilling is key

One in four employees in India lost their jobs between March-May alone and there is still a downward trend in the job market. Today, the one and only way to sustain the crisis is upskilling, says **DEEPSHIKHA KUMAR ANAND**

The pandemic has brought significant stress and has added pressure on both sides of the money divide. While almost all businesses have been hit with huge drops in demand for products, many are compelled to lay-off their employees. But, smart employers like Nokia, Adobe, Salesforce, and HubSpot realised this early that lay-offs are not a solution to protect the business from current challenges. That's why instead of offering pink slips to employees, they preferred to empower them through upskilling and better learning opportunities. Indeed, the business goes up when people get upskilled.

One in four employees in India lost their jobs between March-May alone and there is still a downward trend in the job market. Today, the one and only way to sustain the crisis is upskilling, which is as essential to companies as it is for employees. For the former group, upskilling is mandatory to stay ahead of competition and for the latter group, it helps to get noticed in the workplace.

Upskilling is no longer an expensive and strenuous affair — thanks to the digitisation of communication that has made learning and upskilling immensely affordable for both companies and individuals. Availability of e-learning content in various formats and in different languages is greatly benefiting them while serving well-informed and sophisticated customers.

It is always difficult for an organisation to lose its valuable and essential people because their presence is imperative to achieve long-term goals and objectives. But to keep them engaged and motivated, the employer must



ensure their personal and professional growth.

For millennial entrepreneurs, digitalisation is a holistic and inclusive strategy for optimum utilisation of an organisation's resources, including human resources. Therefore, the pandemic has led many futuristic organisations to receptively embrace digital learning solutions for the training and upskilling of their employees. Now, accessing industry leaders is no more a luxury for small businesses. Like corporations, they too can empower their employees with the experience and insights of eminent personalities and consultants.

With better digital infrastructure and high penetration of communication devices, businesses across the world are benefitting their employees with bespoke learning programmes and training modules. And, unlike exorbitant consultation fees of industry

experts, venue expenses, and a large amount of logistics expenses, e-learning is quite frugal and doesn't require breaking the bank expenses.

Localisation or language preference is another useful feature of these business-oriented learning programmes. The availability of curated content in multiple languages is a great support to learners who are not well-versed in the English language. Besides, e-learning training programmes are useful in developing both hard and soft skills among employees. Now, using e-learning training modules, employees in any region or time zone can access the tailored training programmes of the industry experts. And, unlike exorbitant conventions and seminars involving hefty consultation fees of industry experts, venue expenses, and a large amount of logistics, e-learning is quite frugal and doesn't require breaking the bank.

The writer is the Founder & CEO of Speakin

## SRM MCHRS signs MoU with NIS

### PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCHRC), Kattankulathur and National Institute of Siddha (NIS), Tambaram have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by which the two will now be able to achieve excellence in patient care, research and medical education.

Present for the MoU signing were SRM MCHRC's Pro Vice Chancellor (Medical and Health Sciences) Dr. Li Col A Ravikumar, Dean (Medical) Dr. A Sundaram, Medical Superintendent Dr. K Thangaraj, Associate Dean (Research) Medical and Health

Sciences Dr. M Balasubramanyam, Director of National Institute of Siddha — Tambaram Dr. R Meenakumari, Professor and Hospital Superintendent at NIS, Dr. Christian.

SRM MCHRC and NIS will henceforth jointly offer certified short and long-term courses, conduct jointly sponsored research, academic and clinical activities, publish books and journals, develop reference materials, training methods and services, offer advisory/consultancy services.

It may be recalled that SRM MCHRC and NIS had joined together to battle COVID-19 through Allopathy and Siddha.

### PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CS Ashish Garg, President, The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, has been unanimously elected as the President of the Council of Corporate Secretaries International Association, for the year 2021.

Corporate Secretaries International Association was established as an association in the year 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland and then again reconstituted as a company limited by guarantee in Hongkong in the year 2017, to facilitate, develop

and promote the profession of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals and to assist in creation of such organisations in countries where it doesn't exist.

Governed by a Council of members and representatives from each national member organisation, CSIA has more than fourteen member countries today and is catering to 100000 governance professionals across the globe.

With the strengthening of the Governance Structure in the country and with its growth as an inclusive nation in the Global



Corporate Governance map, India Inc. has already made headway in achieving its goal of becoming one of Global Corporate Leaders. Appointment

of CS Ashish Garg, as the President of CSIA, would bolster the ambit of this growth.

A fellow member of the ICISI, a Post Graduate in Economics (M.A.) and Commerce (M.Com.) and a Law Graduate (LL.B.) from Vikram University, Ujjain, CS Ashish Garg holds almost over 19 years of experience with specialisation in Corporate Laws, Organisational Restructuring and Corporate Legal Counselling to Companies. Under his empirical and dynamic leadership and his pragmatic approach, CSIA is sure to accomplish its mission statement.

## Placement opportunities

### PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Covid-19 pandemic cutting down job opportunities, India's leading training, and skill development institute ICA Edu Skills has switched over to the virtual placement drives to help students get employment.

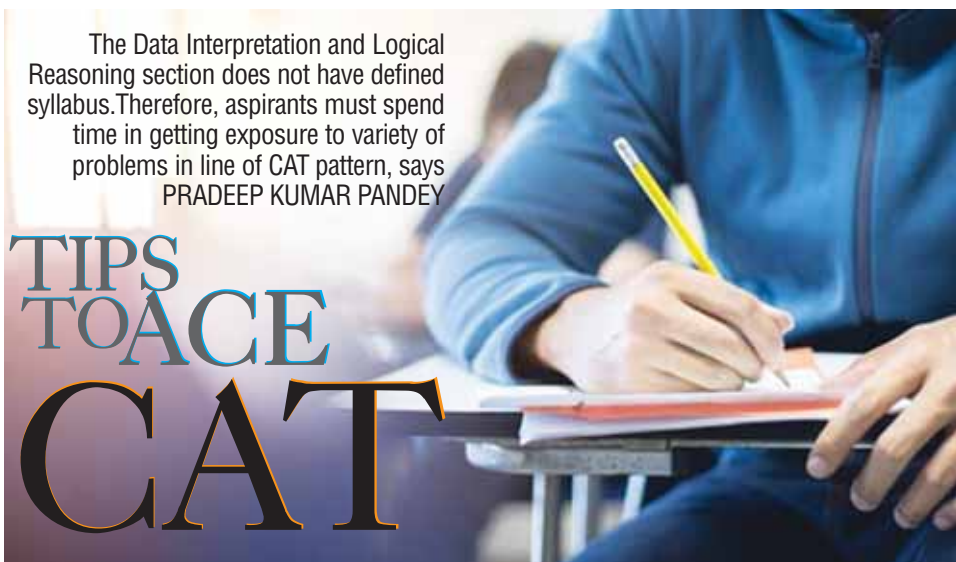
The institute has created a milestone by placing their more than 200 students in Accounts & Finance stream in the key IT

companies across the globe.

As the institute specialises in accounts, finance, taxation, and other job-oriented courses, they have got 206+ students placed in the last four months (April-July 2020). But for all sectors combined, the placement record is over 5,000 in these four months.

The students bagged an average package of over ₹23 lakh per annum.





The Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning section does not have defined syllabus. Therefore, aspirants must spend time in getting exposure to variety of problems in line of CAT pattern, says PRADEEP KUMAR PANDEY

# TIPS TO ACE CAT

In the last three CATs, there was no sub-section in the name of DI and LR and majority of sets were amalgamation of DI and LR. So, practicing something off-beat and unconventional from quality material will provide a big boost to your preparation. The DI/LR section of last three CATs were medium to difficult level with quite a few easy and doable sets which one should have hand-picked and scored decent marks.

One has to be flexible in his strategy while attempting this section. Scanning the section intently and prioritising the doable sets is the key to fetch a decent percentile score. Problem sets of DI/LR can be primarily divided into following types.

**Type-I: Solo DI Sets:** Questions are designed on a data set based on Tables, Bar graphs, Line charts, Pie charts, Routes and network diagram, Triangular diagram, Scattered Graphs, Bubble graphs, Cob-web graphs etc or the combination of two or more ways. Questions are more of calculation intensive nature once you are done with the

interpretation. Some elements of arithmetic like variations, ratios, percentages, averages, weighted mean, reverse weighted mean are also required in formulations and calculations. Students equipped with the requisite arithmetic skills and know the art of minimising the unnecessary calculations have an edge.

**Type-II: Solo LR Sets:** LR problem sets are based on Linear and circular arrangements, distributions, orders and sequencing, floor arrangements, binary logic and selections. Ability to comprehend questions followed by the correct and complete interpretation are the key attributes to succeed in concluding the sets.

Sometimes the questions are framed in such a way that you mark an obvious looking answer which is often wrong. Beware of the language trap, if required revisit the restrictions to narrow down the possibilities, and again reinterpret and fine tune the skeleton in progress made to reach the conclusions. Never select the sets just on the basis of familiarity. Decision-making of doable sets are

**One should scan DI/LR section and identify the sets which seem to be the first choice. Student should attempt this section in two rounds of approximately 30 minutes each**

based upon complexity or number of variables in problem sets.

**Type-III: Topic Based DI/LR Sets:** Test takers are familiar with DI/LR sets based on the topics like Cubes, Venn-Diagrams, Round-Robin & Single elimination Tournaments, Maximisation and Minimisations based on Venn-diagrams etc only because of some sort of familiarity. Problem sets from these topics could be a kind of trap to woo the test takers. Although questions are from familiar area, there is need to read the complete set with mindfulness to gauge the exact difficulty level.

**Type-IV: Mixture of DI and LR Sets:** A few sets were based on mix of DI and LR sets like Reasoning based DI, Maximisation-minimisation questions based on DI, Quant based reasoning based upon Linear and circular arrangements, distributions and selections. Test takers need to practice the quality materials in order to get accustomed with new types of DI/LR sets.

**Type-V: New Puzzle types:**

Test takers have witnessed several new puzzle types like Sudoku, matrix and grid, cryptography, coding-decoding, new type of quant-based reasoning in the recent past. Test makers used these problem sets as a kind of surprise elements to test on the spot thinking and ability to deal with various parameters and constraints. One needs to solve these sets with full concentration and absorb all the information given. Detailed reading and understanding of the set might take about 3-4 mins but once you find the set on the doable lines and are able to crack the set successfully, the investment would be a big differentiator.

One should scan DI/LR section and identify the sets which seem to be the first choice. Student should attempt this section in two rounds of approximately 30 minutes each. In the first round all the easily doable sets should be targeted. In the second, moderately difficult sets should be targeted. The time limit for each round could vary.

The writer is Academic Head, TIME, Delhi

## ‘Fashion needs to reinvent now’

The present pandemic is changing the world rapidly especially the fashion industry. Hence, it is important to add creative concepts of practical use to curriculum, says MITHUN BHARDWAJ

Online classrooms present particular challenges for students seeking hands-on skills but creative solutions are on the horizon. While some of these changes may or may not be permanent, certain tectonic shifts in industries like fashion are inevitable. If ever there was a time for fashion to reinvent itself, it is now.

**Myths versus reality:** Expectations of impractical, uncomfortable work attire are floating away. People will consume fashion in a different way now; this means more personalisation for brands, relaxed fundamental clothing and the need for students to get closer to understand the pulse of the modern age customer.

While fast fashion is flying out of the shelf, durable and sustainable clothing is making its presence felt like never before; style will sure take a 360-degree turn in post COVID-19 world.

So while the virus continues to flex its muscle, new curriculum should be added where they should be taught to create creative, affordable, practical, cost-effective, affordable fashion to influence customer's journey.

**Improvisation will be key:** Trends in the fashion industry changes very fast with new designs or patterns come every day in the market. Designers need to keep pace with new styles and AI algorithms can analyse designs through images to copy popular styles. The 3D virtual prototyping is an ideal technology for fashion universities to work with considering distance learning.

But the students are not well equipped with handling these software because these software were not taught before. Making them learn these software will play an important part in the fashion education now more than ever.

More tech apps are coming in which are using augmented reality and virtual reality to give a new consumer experience while shopping and these technologies should be inculcated in the syllabus.

They should learn how to fill skill gaps in the fashion industry, many fashion degrees offered by universities focus too much on the design and mar-



**Mithun Bhardwaj**  
Director, Zashed Fashiontech

keting aspects of fashion, failing to teach students the revenue aspect of it and how the brand will be scalable in terms of number.

They should also be taught how to build brand which will be scalable in terms of revenue.

**Technology is crucial but will not replace craft:** However, as important as digital technologies become, at the same time there will be a growing interest in traditional craftsmanship. As many consumers are going for local, crafted products instead of generic, mass-produced options.

The kinds of skills that fashion students should be acquiring now and into the future have more to do with how they are thinking and using design, rather than skills specific to a certain technique or process. While there are platforms that allow students to construct patterns, drape and fit virtually, these will not entirely replace the need for hands-on training with the craftsman as we know it today. If anything, we may see the more traditional craftsman techniques being used in tandem with newer digital technologies and more hybrid learning models where students study through a combination of on-site and online education.

Businesses across the world have been ravaged by the disruptive disturbances caused by the novel Coronavirus pandemic. As physical meetings and gatherings are largely prohibited due to the virulent dissemination, going virtual via digital pathways will prove to be the new all-embracing norm for the year 2020. This will bode a tremendous and perhaps an irreversible impact on businesses worldwide, as the optimisation of technology is set to change the way companies think and act.

Businesses that have crossed over to the digital side are constantly jeopardized by a plethora of cybersecurity attacks from threats such as malicious software, viruses, malwares, etc. developed by sinister hackers

and other cyber-criminals. These attackers can quickly invade a company's private space and steal or destroy data and assets worth millions of dollars. Therefore, building strong, robust and meticulous cybersecurity strategy and overarching cybersecurity architecture for the company is of the utmost essence under the present circumstances.

According to a report by Mordor Intelligence, the cybersecurity market stood at an impressive \$161.07 billion in 2019 and is projected to reach a whopping \$363.05 billion by 2025, growing at a CAGR of 14.5% between the period 2020-25. In the light of cybersecurity events and breaches occurring at an increasingly torrential pace, the market

## MIND IT

for cybersecurity solutions is expected to rise further. According to a PWC- DSCI report, the cybersecurity segment in India too is slated to reach a value of over \$3 billion by the year 2022, while surging at a CAGR of 16%.

Even in India, the demand for cybersecurity personnel is expanding at an exponential rate as businesses brace to cope with the consistently rising number of cyberattacks. With businesses facing risk of losing valuable data assets from over 4,000 cyberattacks that occur daily, the Internet is

fast turning into an ominous haunt. Unless companies allocate resources towards building state of the art cybersecurity solution architecture to thwart these imminent cyber breaches on a daily basis, businesses stand to incur phenomenally and sometimes irreversible damage.

The problem witnessed by Indian tech companies is the deficiency of optimally skilled expertise to tackle the vast surfeit of cyber threats that constantly loom in the periphery salvaging an opportunity to breach the internal systems of under-protected

businesses. NASSCOM reported that India alone would need 1 million cybersecurity professionals. As per job portal Indeed, India exhibits the largest demand versus supply gap for skilled cybersecurity professionals with a 150% surge in professional postings with respect to cybersecurity job designations in the last couple of years. This is nothing short of a perilous ordeal for companies as such a want of cybersecurity skilled resources and appositely empowered cybersecurity system can be mercilessly exploited by hackers and cyber-finders very easily.

The need for trained personnel in cyber security software solutions is extreme alongside the necessity for comprehensive

cybersecurity fortifications and innovation architecture that amount assets like firewalls, anti-virus programmes, cloud data backups, restricted access to company data and scrupulously practicing a policy for in-depth monitoring and scrutiny of potential malware.

Companies also need to tap into the extensive possibilities offered by the remarkably novel tech tools like Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and Machine learning to strengthen counter-threat configurations as revolutionary software innovations help provide suitable means and data required to determine the optimum solutions to the problem.

The writer is Rakesh Kharwal, MD-India, Cyberbit



**The UC Laura J Clad Memorial invites applications for International Scholarship in New Zealand, 2020** to undertake a thesis for the degree of master and PhD.

**Benefits:** The sponsorship will be awarded worth up to \$2,400.

**Eligibility:** The applicant must have to apply for a thesis for the degree of MSc or PhD in the field of Ecology and Environmental Science at the University of Canterbury during the academic year 2020-2021. You are required to upload a CV, statement of interest, copy of passport and statement of purpose. **Admission requirements:** If you are going to enroll for a degree at UC then you must have at least an upper second-class, undergraduate honors degree or equivalent international qualification degree. **Language requirements:** Applicants must achieve the minimum standard in a recognized English language.

**How to apply:** If you want to join this program, then you have to be a university student through applying for a PhD and masters degree course at the University of Canterbury. After taking full-time enrollment, candidates can apply for the award.

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## STUDY ABROAD

### New points-based immigration system opens

The UK Government has announced student and child student route to make immigration system user-friendly

The UK Immigration Minister Kevin Foster MP has announced that a Student route and Child Student route will open on October 5, 2020 to the best and brightest Indian students as part of the Government's commitment to introduce a new points-based immigration system.

He made the announcement on a visit to The University of Cardiff where he met with Indian students along with the CEO of Study Group Emma Lancaster. The group provides international student pathway programmes leading to undergraduate and post-graduate degree level study at the university and at leading universities across the UK.

"There will be no limit on the number of international students who can come to the UK. This will help to increase the total number of international students choosing to study in the UK higher education system each year to 600,000 by 2030, as set out in the International Education Strategy published in March 2019.

"Following the welcome announcements which mean Indian students will be able to progress onto their studies without returning home to apply for a new visa, the Minister and his civil service team held a round-table discussion with the Study Group on issues relating to international students.

The Minister reassured his

## IN BRIEF

### SURVEY: POSITIVE CHANGE WITH NEP 2020

The Indian education system is ready to embrace a change if we go by the latest Brainly survey. The world's largest online learning platform for students, parents, and teachers, Brainly, surveyed its Indian user base on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The findings, based on responses from 4,036 Brainly users belonging to various academic levels — indicate the students look forward to the policy. The intent is to prepare students by promoting value-based education for real-world challenges.

The concept is already popular amongst the students as 66.8% are aware of the announcement. In fact, a majority of respondents believe the technology can play a role in learning at the school level. 65.6% of students think apps, satellite TV channels and online courses can help understand the subject better while only less than one-fifth could not say for sure.

In the survey, 60.3% of students preferred the idea of choosing subjects over hard streams like Arts, Science, etc. as it gives them more flexibility to pursue their favourite subjects. Only one-fifth of the Brainly users (20.4%) would like to stick to the prevalent stream-based curriculum. However, a majority (58.7%)

of students prefer to be taught in a commonly accepted language as opposed to 24.8% who would like being taught in their mother tongue.

72.7% of students showed interest in learning contemporary subjects like Artificial Intelligence, Design Thinking, Organic Living, etc. at school level (middle and secondary stage). It is worth noting that the introduction to new-age subjects has been planned to make the students future-ready.

A whopping 87.7% of students expect it to bring a positive change and reduce the pressure for academic excellence. This shows learners are willing to adopt a culture that is progressive and beyond bookish knowledge.

Rajesh Bysani, CPO of Brainly said: "The learner wants to break-free from the learning model that has been rigid, rote, and focuses on grades. Instead, a more impactful education system is needed today that focuses on the overall development of students, ultimately, preparing them for a lifetime. It wouldn't be wrong to say that today Brainly has built a global community that reflects this basic approach in all walks of its life. Now, with NEP in place, it will be interesting to see how the new policy takes such learning methods forward."

### TERM SYSTEM IN MBA PROGRAMME AT IIT ROORKEE

An endeavour to revamp the curriculum in tune with requirements over time and achieve excellence, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, has introduced term system in the (Quarter) system in the two-year MBA programme wherein each year of the programme has been divided into four terms.

The objective is to drive excellence through the expansion of the knowledge base and encourage the promotion of research and innovation. This initiative will put the institution in the league of premier B-schools in India such as IITs and IIMs wherein this programme structure is running successfully.

"The term system will allow students to explore a wider knowledge terrain through the introduction of diversified courses. It will be supplemented by practical components that will equip students with problem-solving, critical-thinking and decision-making skills," Professor . Parida, Deputy Director, IIT Roorkee, said.



New German recruits make Blues debut in 3-1 away win against Brighton

# POWER OF 3

AP ■ BRIGHTON

Chelsea team featuring just two of its slew of high-profile and expensive signings got off to a winning start in the English Premier League by beating Brighton 3-1.

Timo Werner and Kai Havertz - signed for a combined \$160 million - didn't manage to score at Amex Stadium, either, with Chelsea's goals coming from Jorginho, Reece James and Kurt Zouma.

James was the most spectacular



**TIMO WERNER AND KAI HAVERTZ - SIGNED FOR A COMBINED \$160 MILLION - DIDN'T MANAGE TO SCORE AT AMEX STADIUM, EITHER, WITH CHELSEA'S GOALS COMING FROM JORGINHO, REECE JAMES AND KURT ZOUMA.**

and the most crucial, the right back's swerving pilfered from 30 meters gaining the lead for Chelsea at 2-1 in the 36th minute, just two minutes after Brighton equalized through Leandro Trossard.

Zouma's deflected volley from a corner in the 66th then gave Chelsea some breathing

space. "I thought we were OK," Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said. "I liked the work ethic and discipline of the team."

"We have been together for four days. ... To expect everything to click on day one would have been difficult."

While Havertz was fairly ineffective in his position on the right of midfield, fellow German international Werner - the lone striker - was more impressive and earned the penalty that was converted by Jorginho to break the deadlock in the 21st minute.

Brighton midfielder Steven Alzate lost possession in central midfield as the hosts tried to play the ball out from the back. Werner was played through and was brought down by goalkeeper Mat Ryan. Jorginho sent Ryan the wrong way.

Much-criticized goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga was handed a start by Chelsea manager Frank Lampard but his failure to keep out Trossard's 54th-minute shot from outside the area will likely keep the scrutiny on him. Kepa seemed slow to get down as the ball squirmed beyond his outstretched right hand.

James quickly put Chelsea back in front with a stunning strike that flew into the roof of the net, and the right back sent in the corner that Zouma met with a volley that ricocheted in off Brighton defender Adam Webster's right foot.

Of Chelsea's other offseason signings that combined to cost \$250 million, left back Ben Chilwell and playmaker Hakim Ziyech were injured and center back Thiago Silva wasn't ready after only recently joining up with the squad.

"The players are still working each other out a little bit," Lampard said. "Today we weren't as fluid as we could be. ... I want us to have a lot more movement up front than we did today."

## Murray gets French Open wildcard

AP ■ PARIS

Andy Murray received a wild card into the French Open.

The former No. 1 was the only non-Frenchman of eight players to be given a free pass into the main draw of the clay grand slam which starts in 13 days.

Murray was also awarded a wild card into the U.S. Open, after his struggles with pelvic and shin injuries dropped his ranking to 129th. He went two rounds in New York, and improved to 110th, but still too low for the French Open when it published its main draw entry list.

Murray's best French Open result was the final in 2016.

Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria and Eugenie Bouchard of Canada were the only non-Frenchwomen to receive wild cards.

Pironkova, who made the U.S. Open her first comeback tournament since 2017 after having a son, achieved an impressive first-time run to the quarterfinals, where she was stopped by Serena Williams.

Pironkova's best result at Roland Garros was the quarterfinals in 2016. Bouchard reached her first final in more than four years in Istanbul on Sunday and lost in a third-set tiebreaker.

She lost to eventual champion Maria Sharapova in the French Open quarterfinals in 2014, the same year she reached the Wimbledon final.

## DC has firepower to go all the way: Axar

PTI ■ DUBAI

Delhi Capitals all-rounder Axar Patel on Tuesday said he has "ticked all the boxes" in every department and reckoned the franchise has the firepower this time to win the IPL title, which has so far eluded them.

Moved out of India due to a surge in COVID-19 cases, the 13th edition of the world's biggest T20 league will be held in the three venues of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the UAE from September 19 to November 10.

Delhi Capitals will enter the tournament as one of the top contenders.

Commenting on the team that comprises some fine players, Axar said, "With the new changes, I think



the squad looks good. With fast bowlers, spinners and all-rounders, we have covered all the bases and I

think we can become champions this time.

"Everyone looks positive in the nets and we all are in good shape."

The 26-year-old left-arm spinner, who is slowly adapting to the new normal amid the pandemic, spoke about the challenges that lay ahead and the experience of training while staying in a bio-bubble.

"Obviously, with no crowd, we'll feel empty. Then, the saliva ban is going to make a big difference for the bowlers."

"During initial practice sessions, I was being conscious of not using saliva or sweat on the ball. So, these are the challenges which we will have to be wary of."

"Nevertheless, the positive thing

is that at least we will have action-packed cricket after a long time, which is a good thing for not only us, but also for India. Everyone will enjoy the game with a different frame of mind which will be really exciting," he said.

As part of the guidelines framed by the BCCI, the players and support staff will be tested every five days throughout the league.

"We are feeling a little bad that we can't enjoy the matches with our friends. After every two days, tests are being conducted."

"We can't go out anywhere and we can't sit for more than 15 minutes in anyone's room, so these things are challenging, but slowly we are getting used to it."

## COVID-19 episode made me mentally stronger: Manpreet

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India hockey skipper Manpreet Singh says going through a stressful isolation period while recovery from coronavirus has made him a mentally strong player who is now equipped to tackle any situation on the field.

Manpreet was one of the six hockey players to test positive for COVID-19 at the team's training base in Bengaluru last month after they arrived for the national camp.

Having started their individual sessions after recovering, Manpreet said they still miss being part of the rest of the squad, even though Hockey India, Sports Authority of India and support staffs are doing their best to keep them upbeat.

"Tricky India officials would check on us almost every day if the food being provided is good, if our tele-treatment was done regularly, if we are monitoring our oxygen levels regularly and so on."

"Coaching Staff and teammates too would check on us through video calls. These things really helped us remain upbeat. Though it did sting a little to know all our teammates were back on the pitch while we were still in isolation, I feel this experience has made me mentally tougher to face any situation," the



skipper said. Recollecting the time spent at the hospital, the star midfielder said it was mentally tough for him and rest of the infected players to remain in isolation.

"It was not easy, especially mentally. I have not done anything for a month and that's a long time in a sportsman's career especially when every day is about improving and being the best," Manpreet said. "To be honest, initially when the results came out, we were slightly stressed. (But) we received best facilities in the hospital with SA1 constantly checking with the medical team there of our well-being."

## Feels great as we are slowly getting back into it: Padikkal

PTI ■ DUBAI

Royal Challengers Bangalore's young batsman Padikkal says he is feeling as good about his game as it was before the COVID-19 lockdown after a good two and half weeks of skills training ahead of the IPL.

His team will take on Sunrisers Hyderabad on September 21 in its opening match of the league, which begins on September 19 in the UAE.

"Feels great as we are slowly getting back into it. There have been a good number of (net) sessions and we are feeling good like we were before lockdown," Padikkal told RCB's YouTube channel.

The Karnataka left-hander is being talked about highly in the Indian cricket circles after top-scoring in both the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy. The 20-year-old enjoyed an astonishing strike rate of 175 plus and an average of 64 in 12 games. He has a hundred and five fifties.

"It's more about movement, getting the legs moving quicker, getting the reactions faster again, the sessions were targeted on what we are doing and what we are aiming to achieve," Padikkal said.



## Fuming Paire shows little effort in 1st-round loss

AP ■ ROME

Benoit Paire's anger at being strictly confined to the U.S. Open after contracting the coronavirus boiled over at the Italian Open during a farcical first-round match.

The 24th-ranked Paire threw his racket high into the air twice during one game and showed little effort against Italian teenager Jannik Sinner in a 6-2, 6-1 loss.

Paire was forced to stay in isolation in New York until he tested negative — preventing him from training. The Frenchman criticized Rome organizers for making him play on the opening day of the tournament.

"I made only one request, which is to play Tuesday to have an extra day of training after what happened to me in New York, and because I'm playing an Italian you put me on Monday," Paire tweeted on Sunday.

Twice during the second set, Paire launched his racket high into the air in frustration — the second time coming dangerously close to hitting the chair umpire, Paire, who put on a face mask during some of the exchanges, had numerous verbal exchanges with the chair umpire but received only one warning for his behavior.

During the final game of the match, Paire slammed returns of serve into the net in anger — with Paire's racket nearly hitting the ball into play. When he finally managed

to get a return into play on Sinner's first match point, Paire seemed surprised and didn't bother running down Sinner's reply.

"I had not played in 10 days, staying in my room," Paire said.

"It was a good training, I'm happy I played one hour. I even played one hour and four minutes. I'm happy I hung on for 1:04. I gave what I could. Jannik played very well."

"The result does not really matter," Paire added.

"I still have the doubles. I will try to entertain myself with Nico (Nicola Pietrangeli) and try to win a match."

The tournament at the Foro Italico, where spectators are barred, was rescheduled from its usual May slot due to the pandemic.

Sinner said, "One hand I can understand, after spending so many days under quarantine in New York. ... In the end, I did what I needed to." He moved on to meet third-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Kei Nishikori — who is returning from right elbow surgery and missed the U.S. Open after testing positive for COVID-19 — won for the first time in more than a year, beating Alexander Zverev 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; Borna Coric beat Cristian Garin 6-4, 6-4; Grigor Dimitrov eliminated wild card Gianluca Maggioni 7-5, 6-1; and Filip Krajinovic beat Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 7-5.

## Bumrah probably the best T20 bowler: Pattinson



IANS ■ ABU DHABI

While terming Jasprit Bumrah as the best T20 bowler in the world, Australia pacer James Pattinson has said he is looking forward to working with the Indian pacer and the New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult, among others, in the Mumbai Indians' bowling unit during the Indian Premier League (IPL) starting on

September 19. "Personally, it's just fantastic to work with some of the best bowlers in the world. Obviously, Bumrah is probably the best T20 bowler in the world. And Boult (Trent Boult) is up there as well. So, for me it will be a great experience to work with those guys," Pattinson said in a video shared on Mumbai Indians' official handle. "I have played a few One-day Internationals here in the UAE before, so I have got a bit of experience. I've never here in UAE."

Reigning champions MI named Pattinson as a replacement for veteran fast bowler Lasith Malinga for this year's IPL.

Pattinson also spoke about the conditions in the UAE, saying the slower ball might be used a lot on surfaces which could be slower and lower as the tournament progresses. "The wickets are drier and there will be three wickets which will be used throughout the tournament, so it will be slower and lower as the tournament goes on. May be the slower ball and stuff like that might come into play a lot more."

## Finally, Thomas & Uber Cup postponed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Thomas and Uber Cup in Denmark was on Tuesday postponed to next year by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) following a wave of withdrawals by top teams due to the raging COVID-19 pandemic.

India had announced both the men's and women's squads for the prestigious event which was scheduled to be held in Aarhus, Denmark from October 3 to 11.

However, after Indonesia and South Korea on Friday joined Thailand, Australia, Chinese Taipei and Algeria in pulling out due to the dreaded disease, the sports governing body held a virtual emergency council meeting on Sunday.

"The Badminton World Federation (BWF), in full consultation and agreement with local host Badminton Denmark, has made the tough decision to postpone the TOTAL BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2020 in Aarhus, Denmark," BWF said in a statement.

"The decision comes following the withdrawal of a number of participating teams from the TOTAL BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals and the European leg of the adjusted HSBC BWF World Tour."

"BWF is looking into possible



alternative dates to reschedule the World Men's and Women's Team Championships, but on dates not before into 2021," it added.

Singapore and Hong Kong as replacements but they declined the invitation.

There were also reports that Japan was contemplating withdrawing from the event, while China too was awaiting government's approval.

September 18 was the last date for confirmation. Among top players, India's Saina Nehwal had on Sunday raised con-

cerns about the timing of the event, asking whether it would be safe to go ahead with it in the middle of the pandemic.

Saina, along with Olympic Silver medalist P V Sindhu, were supposed to lead the 10-member women's team in Uber Cup, while former world no.1 Kidambi Srikanth would have spearheaded the Indian men's campaign in Thomas Cup.

However, the team's preparations were not progressing smoothly with a proposed camp cancelled a few days ago due to the players' refusal to accept the quarantine norms set

by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

In another decision, the BWF has decided to proceed with the Denmark Open in Odense, a World Tour Event, as originally planned from October 13 to 18.

"The second tournament scheduled for Odense - the VICTOR Denmark Masters 2020 - slated for 20-25 October has been cancelled as it is no longer feasible to conduct this additional event."

In its rescheduled calendar, BWF had also decided to conduct two Super 1000 events in Asia besides the HSBC World Tour Finals in November.

According to reports, the apex body had considered Indonesia as the host for the three events but the country has decided to cancel its application due to the global health crisis.

"BWF will make further announcements as soon as details are clarified," the world body said.

The Thomas and Uber Cup Final was supposed to mark the resumption of international badminton after it came to a halt in March because of the dreaded virus.

BWF said it had planned to put in place a bio-bubble for the safe return of the sport but it respects the concerns of players and member

## Vimal blames Asian nations withdrawal for postponement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India badminton coach Vimal Kumar on Tuesday blamed the withdrawals by Asian nations for the postponement of the Thomas and Uber Cup Final, calling it a "big setback" for the sport.

The prestigious men's and women's team event was postponed to next year by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) following a wave of pull-outs by top teams, mainly from Asia, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"What Asian nations have done, it is really disappointing. There are no major issues in these countries, they are having local events there, so to pull out in this way, is a big setback for the sport," Vimal told PTI.

The event, which was to mark the resumption of international badminton after the coronavirus-fueled break, was scheduled to be held in Aarhus, Denmark from October 3 to 11.

Both the men's and women's squads for the event. However, after Indonesia and South Korea on Friday joined Thailand, Australia, Chinese Taipei and Algeria in pulling out due to the dreaded disease, the BWF decided to push the event to next year.

Vimal said: "It was an ideal way to revive the circuit. The platform was there."

"We are not as big as China but India stood positive, we wanted to participate but if big countries don't play, what can BWF do? How will they conduct events? I'll blame the Asian nation for this mess."

The international body, though, decided to postpone the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2020 in Odense, a HSBC BWF World Tour Event, as originally planned from October 13-18, while cancelling the Denmark Masters that was slated for October 20-25.

The decision to go ahead with the Denmark Open has left a few Indian players, including P V Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap, confused.

"We are still confused what to do under the circumstances. Saina has got a visa for Denmark and I have applied for it but we are still undecided about participation," Kashyap said.

"There are many questions like what happens if I test positive? Will I be sent back home or I will have to stay there for 14 days? Who takes care of the expenses and responsibility?"

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Tuesday wrote to the players who have sent their entries for the Denmark Open, stating that they would be "travelling or participating at their own responsibility due to the current pandemic" and "have to bear their consent within September 17".

It would not be possible to deliver a high quality tournament in the current circumstances and hence it decided to defer the event.

"...We are not in a position to deliver the level of competition reasonably expected by fans and all stakeholders..." it said.