

OPINION 6
CHINA SITTING PRETTY

WORLD 8
JULIAN ASSANGE SAYS HE HEARS VOICES IN PRISON: PSYCHIATRIST

AVENUES 10
EDUCATION IN THE AGE OF DISRUPTION

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MAN CITY BEAT WOLVES IN SEASON OPENER
 12 SPORT

Opp begins Session boycott

Suspended MPs end sit-in; united Opp plans long-term protest against farm Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties led by the Congress on Tuesday began the boycott of the remaining part of the Monsoon Session to demand the revocation of the suspension of eight MPs and the introduction of a Bill to bar private players from buying farm produce below the minimum support price (MSP).

The battle-line drawn between the ruling BJP and the Opposition after the passing of two controversial farm Bills in the Rajya Sabha impacted the Lok Sabha, too, where Opposition members, including from the DMK, Congress, NCP and TMC, boycotted the proceedings demanding "withdrawal" of the Bills before they are sent to the President for his consent.

While the Opposition members staged a walkout in the Rajya Sabha and announced to boycott the entire ongoing session, the Opposition MPs in the Lok Sabha joined them to express solidarity with them.

The eight suspended members who were on a sit-in dharna overnight on Parliament premises called off their protest and joined the Lok Sabha MPs to strategise a broad-based boycott.

"Senior Opposition leaders,

including Congress Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad, appealed to all of us sitting at the dharna to finish it and join them in boycotting the rest of the session. That is how we have ended this dharna," said Congress Rajya Sabha member Syed Nasir Hussain.

"We not only want our suspension to be revoked but also want the farm Bills to be taken back and discussed further. There should be proper voting on it," Hussain said.

Hussain is among the eight MPs who were suspended for the Session over "gross disorderly conduct" during the passage of the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 on Sunday.

Trinamool Congress' Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen, Congress' Rajeev Satav, Ripun Bora, Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh, CPI(M)'s Elamaram Kareem and KK Ragesh are the other suspended MPs.

Soon after the Upper House resumed, the Opposition parties led by Congress staged a walkout after their demand for revoca-

tion of suspension of the eight MPs fell on deaf ears. In order to pacify the members at dharna, the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh had offered them tea requesting them to call off their protest but in vain.

Congress Rajya Sabha member and Chief Whip Jairam Ramesh took to twitter to give seven reasons behind the decision to boycott the proceedings.

Several senior Opposition leaders, including Azad, Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav, Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and NCP Praful Patel, appealed to Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to revoke the suspension of the eight leaders.



Congress MP Ghulam Nabi Azad and other Opposition MPs stage a walkout from the Rajya Sabha, demanding suspension of 8 lawmakers be revoked, during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament, at Parliament House in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

China's rapid military build-up alarms India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

China continues to rapidly cramp up its military prowess all along the border stretching from Arunachal Pradesh in the east to Ladakh in the west as talks are on to defuse the volatile situation at the Line of Actual Control.

The Chinese have doubled up their airbases and other military installations in the last three years thereby threatening India's strategic interests.

China has already deployed more than 150 aircraft and helicopters close to the LAC in Ladakh where both the countries share a 1,700 km long border. Satellite images and a report by Stratfor, a global intelligence platform, about the massive build up has alarmed the Indian security establishment.

The rapid improvement in military infrastructure started right after the 73-day stand-off between India and China in Doklam, Sikkim in 2017. Intervention at the highest political and diplomatic levels then defused the situation.

Since then, China has more than doubled its total number of airbases, air defence positions and heliports near the Indian border. The Stratfor report gives details of China's military-infrastructure build-up through a detailed analysis of satellite images of military facilities.

"The timing of the Chinese build-up of military facilities along the border with India just prior to the ongoing Ladakh standoff suggests these border tensions are part of a much larger effort by China to assert control over its border regions,"

Beijing has doubled airbases, military installations along LAC in last 3 years

SINISTER DESIGN

- China has already deployed more than 150 aircraft and helicopters close to LAC in Ladakh, according to satellite images and a report by Stratfor, a global intelligence platform
- It has started constructing at least 13 entirely new military positions near its borders with India
- The timing of the Chinese build-up of military facilities along the border with India just prior to the ongoing Ladakh standoff suggests these border tensions are part of a much larger effort by China



says Sim Tack, a senior global analyst with Stratfor and the author of the report.

Significantly, China's upgrade of its military infrastructure is far from complete. "The expansion and construction of military infrastructure is in most cases still underway, so the Chinese military activity that we are seeing along the border with India today is only the beginning of a longer-term intent," the report says.

The consequences of this for India, which has been involved in a violent face-off with China in eastern Ladakh since early May, seem clear. "Once finished, this infrastructure will provide support for an even greater intensity of

Chinese operations."

According to the report, China has "started constructing at least 13 entirely new military positions near its borders with India". This includes three airbases, five permanent air defence positions and five heliports. "Construction on four of those new heliports started after the onset of the current Ladakh crisis in May," it says.

China's military build-up along the Indian borders, the report says, is part of a bigger strategy similar to its goals in the South China Sea where Beijing has dredged land around tiny coral atolls to develop full-fledged air bases and naval facilities.

11 Bills passed in Opp MPs' absence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Tuesday passed as many as 11 Bills, three of them related to the crucial labour sector and the fourth one with regard to essential commodities without the participation of the Opposition.

One of those Bills will allow companies to hire and fire at will if the staff strength is less than 300. The other one will virtually decriminalise hoarding of what were defined essential commodities. While the Bill will decide the fate of tens of thousands of workers and millions of farmers, they met with no scrutiny from Opposition parties.

The Centre used the Opposition's decision to boycott both Houses of Parliament to rush through these Bills. The Rajya Sabha passed seven Bills, and the

Lok Sabha passed four Bills, including three Bills on labour sector.

The three labour sector Bills passed in the Lok Sabha are: Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020; the Industrial Relations Code 2020 and the Code on Social Security 2020.

Later the Lok Sabha also passed Jammu & Kashmir Official Language (Amendment) Bill which makes five languages as official languages in the State.

Earlier only Urdu was considered as the only official language. As per the new Bill apart from Urdu, Kashmiri, Hindi, Dogri and Punjabi will be official language.

Rajya Sabha passed seven Bills, which include Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

Harivansh observes fast to express anguish over MPs' unruly behaviour

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented act in the history of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh went on a one-day fast on Tuesday to express his anguish over the Opposition MPs' "unruly" behaviour during the vote on the farm Bills on Sunday.

He also wrote letter to President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu narrating the incident which had led him to announce the token fast in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Parliament.

Harivansh announced his fast shortly after he met eight Rajya Sabha members protesting on the lawns on the Parliament complex and offered them tea, a gesture that the MPs snubbed.

"After what happened on Sunday, I have been extremely anguished, distressed and in mental agony and have been unable to sleep for the past two days... "In the name of democracy, Opposition members behaved in a violent manner and there were attempts to intimidate the Chair," Harivansh wrote in his letter.



Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh offers tea to suspended MPs on the premises of Parliament on Tuesday morning PTI

Sharad Pawar gets I-T notice on poll affidavits

Mumbai: NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday said the Income Tax department has served him a notice in connection with his poll affidavits submitted to the Election Commission.

Talking to reporters here, Pawar said the Income Tax department has sought his "clarification and explanation" on some poll affidavits furnished by him.

"I got the notice yesterday... We are happy that they (the Centre) love us from among all the members... The notice was served by Income Tax after the Election Commission asked (it) to... We



will reply to the notice," he said. He was responding to a query on reports that his daughter and Lok Sabha member Supriya Sule, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray had received similar notices from the I-T department.

LAC talks inconclusive but raises hopes

Both sides agree to stop sending more troops to frontline, to avoid misunderstandings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 14-hour military-diplomatic level talks between India and China on Monday to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) ended on a positive note.

The talks were held in a positive manner, and it is hoped that another two to three rounds of dialogues in the coming days may start the process of disengagement of troops.

India and China on Tuesday in a joint statement after the sixth round of Corps Commanders talks agreed to "stop sending more troops to

the frontline" and "refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground" while agreeing to hold more talks to resolve the standoff.

"They agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthen communication on the ground, avoid misunderstandings and misjudgements, stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any actions that may complicate the situation," the joint statement said on the senior military commander-level



on Monday. The two sides had candid and in-depth exchanges of views on stabilising the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas, it stated.

Sources said while the disengagement is yet to be agreed

upon, the recent talks will ensure there will not be any further build up along the LAC.

The two sides also agreed to hold the seventh round of military commander level talks as soon as possible, "take practical measures to properly solve problems on the ground, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquillity in the border area," the statement added.

Also, the two delegations reaffirmed their commitment to abide by the five-point plan outlined by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi for disengagement.

CAPSULE

RHEA CHAKRABORTY IN REMAND TILL OCT 6

Mumbai: A special court here on Tuesday extended till October 6 the judicial custody of actress Rhea Chakraborty, who was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) probing the drug angle in connection with actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

ACTRESS ASHALATA WABGAONKAR DIES

Satara: Veteran actress Ashalata Wabgaonkar, who had worked in a number of Marathi and Hindi films, died on early Tuesday morning at a private hospital here after battling Covid-19, hospital authorities said. She was 79. Wabgaonkar was also a noted Marathi theatre personality and had featured in several plays.

HSRP, COLOUR-CODED STICKERS CHECK IN DELHI

New Delhi: The transport dept of the Delhi Government on Tuesday asked owners of vehicles registered before April 2019 to affix them with high security registration plates and colour-coded stickers, saying a drive will be launched "soon" to check for the violation of the directive. Colour-coded stickers are meant for identifying vehicles on their fuel type.

UG, PG calendar out: Admission by Oct 31, Session from Nov 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday released the tentative calendar for the first year university students of undergraduate and postgraduate courses for the session 2020-21 which have been rescheduled due to the corona pandemic. The new academic session for freshers will now begin in November, and the delay will also impact the next academic session as well.

As per the schedule, the admission process has to be

completed by October 31, and session has to begin from November 1.

The calendar has also suggested certain preparation breaks to be followed by the universities, colleges, institutions and the next session to begin on April 30, 2021.

The UGC had, in April, released an alternative academic calendar for colleges, with the plan to reopen colleges in September, but the delay in entrance exams and Covid infections surge has pushed the session by two months.

| Admission Process (To be completed) | 31.10.2020 |
|---|--------------------------|
| Commencement of Classes of above students Fresh batch (First Semester/Year) | 01.11.2020 |
| Preparation Break | 01.03.2021 to 07.03.2021 |
| Conduct of Examinations | 08.03.2021 to 26.03.2021 |
| Semester Break | 27.03.2021 to 04.04.2021 |
| Commencement of Classes for Even Semester | 5.04.2021 |
| Preparation Break | 01.08.2021 to 08.08.2021 |
| Conduct of Examinations | 09.08.2021 to 21.08.2021 |
| Semester Break | 22.08.2021 to 29.08.2021 |
| Commencement of Next Academic Session for this batch | 30.08.2021 |

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 56,39,088
 DEATHS: 90,006
 RECOVERED: 45,78,395
 ACTIVE: 9,69,880

COVID-19 IN MADHYA PRADESH

| Dists | Total Cases | Fresh Cases |
|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Bhopal | 15394 | 272 |
| Indore | 20383 | 446 |
| Gwalior | 9517 | 164 |

| STATES | TOTAL CASES | DEATHS | RECOVERED |
|----------------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| Maharashtra | 12,42,770 | 33,407 | 9,36,554 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 6,39,302 | 5,461 | 5,62,376 |
| Tamil Nadu | 5,52,674 | 8,947 | 4,97,377 |
| Karnataka | 5,33,850 | 8,228 | 4,32,450 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 3,64,543 | 5,212 | 2,96,183 |
| Delhi | 2,53,075 | 5,051 | 2,16,401 |
| West Bengal | 2,31,484 | 4,483 | 2,02,030 |
| Odisha | 1,88,311 | 774 | 1,53,213 |
| Telangana | 1,74,774 | 1,052 | 1,44,073 |
| Bihar | 1,71,465 | 873 | 1,57,056 |
| Assam | 1,61,393 | 586 | 1,29,130 |
| Kerala | 1,42,758 | 573 | 1,01,727 |
| Gujarat | 1,26,169 | 3,353 | 1,06,512 |
| Rajasthan | 1,18,793 | 1,367 | 98,812 |
| Haryana | 1,14,870 | 1,206 | 93,776 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1,10,711 | 2,035 | 86,030 |

KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI

CM announces ₹10K per annum for farmers

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a bid to woo farmers ahead of by-polls in Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan here announced that State's farmers will now get ₹10,000 per annum under Kisan Samman Nidhi.

Till now, the farmers get ₹6000 in three instalments per annum under PM Samman Nidhi announced by Centre in the past. "Today I have decid-

ed to tag two more instalments of ₹2,000 each in PM Kisan Samman Nidhi from CM Kisan Kalyan Yojana and farmers will now get ₹10,000 per year," CM Chouhan announced in a function on Tuesday.

The Congress party had found road back to power in the State in year 2018 in assembly polls with the help of farm loan waiver and is again underlining its farm loan endeavour accusing BJP of not letting it complete the scheme.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan with Minister for Cooperatives Arvind Bhadoria giving away credit cards to farmers during loan disbursement and credit cards distribution programme at Minto hall, in Bhopal on Tuesday Pioneer Photo

To add, as other States in MP, farmers are also outraged over three agri-sector bills that seek to modernise farm sector but opposition led by Congress is crying foul saying it will end MSP and leave farmers as labourers. Chouhan's announcement is also seen as a ploy to placate farmers ahead of 27 by-polls in the state.

The Chouhan government has recently doled out crop insurance compensation among farmers in the State.

90,000 LIVES LOST TO CORONAVIRUS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's Covid-19 death toll crossed 90,000-mark on Tuesday as the country once again recorded more than 1,000 deaths with Maharashtra leading the tally followed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, UP and Delhi.

Maharashtra on Tuesday recorded 392 deaths which took it overall death count to 33,407. The State reported

18,390 new cases of coronavirus on Tuesday, and with that the tally has now climbed to 12,42,770.

The number of active cases is now pitched at 2,72,410 as per the latest information shared by the state health department.

Tamil Nadu recorded 76 deaths and 5,337 new cases on Tuesday which took its death count to 5,406 and total case-load to 5.52 lakh.

LOAN WAIVER SCHEME

Loans of 26L farmers waived off: Agri Min

Loan upto 1L waved off under KLWS by Cong Govt, says Min; Cong seeks apology from BJP for lying to people earlier

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

After having engaged in war of words with Congress party for months on farm loan waiver, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in Madhya Pradesh has admitted in State Assembly that farm loans of over 26 lakh farmers were waived off in the State.

In a written reply submitted to the House in response to a query from Congress member Jaivardhan Singh on Monday, the Agriculture minister Kamal Nath offered details of the farm loan waiver scheme.

According to the reply, farm loans of 26,95,381 farmers were waived off and a total amount of over ₹11,000 cr was sanctioned under the scheme of farm loan waiver that ran in

two phases.

The first phase of loan waiver continued ahead of Dec 17, 2019 and after this date, the second phase of the scheme was implemented, according to the written reply submitted by Patel in the Assembly.

The State Government in the reply admitted that farm loans from few hundreds rupees to little over ₹1 lakh were waived off under the Jai Kisan loan waiver scheme. To add, the scheme was announced by Kamal Nath Government after coming to power.

All the districts of the State saw farm loans being waived off (in Kamal Nath Government) and even in tehsils -Guna, Bamori, Raghogarh, Chachoda, Madhusudangarh, Kumbhraj and Aaron, farm loans upto ₹1 lakh were waived off for 17,403 farmers, the reply said. The detailed review of farm loan waiver is being considered by the State Government and a decision will be taken after due diligence, Patel replied to another question from MLA

Engg Pradip Lariya on decision to waive off farm loans of remaining farmers by the BJP Government.

Notably, the BJP had been cursing the Congress party for months that it betrayed the farmers and farm loan waiver was mere an eyewash. The Congress party suddenly turned aggressive after the reply was reported in the media on Tuesday.

"Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Congress deserter Jyotiraditya Scindia have been lying persistently on farm loan waiver," said MPCC chief Kamal Nath on Tuesday saying his government had waived off ₹11600 cr for 26.95 lakh farmers in the state in two phases and this was admitted by the Shivraj Government in Assembly on Monday.

Nath demanded an immediate apology from CM Chouhan and Scindia on this.

He also demanded that Chouhan Government should immediately start a process to waive off farm loans of remaining farmers. The BJP including CM Chouhan was yet to react.

ATMANIRBHAR MADHYA PRADESH

CM launches 'Ek Jila Ek Utpad' scheme

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that under the Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh, 'Ek Jila -Ek Utpad' (One District-One Product) scheme has been launched in the State. Under this, one product of each district will be promoted by publicizing it at a wide scale. Necessary network will be developed by spending ₹7,440 crore in the next 4 years for fruits-vegetables, produced in the districts as well as grading of crops, packing and marketing. Our aim is that the farmers get a fair price for their produce. The State Government will take all possible steps for the value addition of agricultural products. District wise 17 agricultural products and 36 necessary technical activities have been identified. The services of technical experts, agricultural scientists as well as financial and business managers will be obtained for necessary guidance at every level.

The Chief Minister was addressing the meeting of

Madhya Pradesh Atmanirbhar Krishi Mission-Agri Infrastructure Fund, held at Mantralaya on Tuesday. Minister for Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development Kamal Patel, Minister of State for Farmers Welfare Girraj Dandotia, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Agriculture Production Commissioner K.K. Singh and other officials were present at the meeting.

Consent in principle as regard to various schemes has been received from 17 districts of the state. Five Model D.P.R. have already been prepared. Interest has been expressed by IFFCO to set up a 'Swarna Ahaar' Unit in the state. Under the mission, 150 farmer corners will be opened in the state, in which farmers will be connected to e-marketing platform.

Chouhan said that these agriculture related activities will create new employment opportunities in the state. He instructed to connect more and more people with the mission. Shri Chouhan said that along with farmer producer organizations, self-help groups should also be linked to these activities. Transparency in distribution of grant and selection of eligible people should be ensured, he added.

area and export cluster, in-depth training at district level and making activities and information available on digital platform etc. MOU has been executed by the Mission with 15 banks.

Chouhan said that office of the Madhya Pradesh Atmanirbhar Krishi Mission has been set up at State level to encourage the establishment of agricultural products' units. In this, officers of Agriculture, Cooperative, Fisheries, Horticulture and other departments concerned are being posted. This mission will give a credit guarantee of maximum ₹2 crore, there will also be a provision for an exemption of up to three percent in interest. The mission will act as a state level project management unit and single window facility. Under this, work will be carried out to prepare project report, identification of investment

Manav Sangrahalaya opens after 6 months

With complete Covid-19 safety guidelines

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Manav Sangrahalaya, the Life Line of Tourism in Bhopal, opened to visitors on Tuesday. The museum was closed since March 21 due to the Covid-19 problem.

Entry of the museum was given only after checking the thermal screen and temperature, with the physical distance simultaneously. However, on the first day, 82 visitors entered the museum with complete security as per the guidelines of Covid-19.

Welcoming the visitors who entered the museum, P.K. Mishra said that all the visitors are important for us, keeping in mind the safety of their health, the complete information of the visitors coming to the museum is being registered with ID proof.

Admission will not be granted if the current pulse rate and oxygen saturation level (SpO2) is below 95% or the temperature is above 37 ° C / 98.6 F. It is compulsory for all the viewers to wear the mask. The ticket will be given only on

payment from online, QR code, Bharat Pay, Bhima, UPI.

Meanwhile, under the activities of Official Language in Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya organised 'Unicode Typing Test', where employees participated enthusiastically. The program was coordinated by Mohd. Rehan and Ravindra Gupta. On this occasion they said Unicode is a program that assigns a code or number to each letter typed from the keyboard. Unicode actively develops standards in the field of internationalization along with defining characters and encodes scripts rather than languages.

On this occasion, Director P. K. Mishra said that the main objective of this competition is to promote Hindi language, so that the spirit of developing Hindi language can be developed in everyone. Unicode enables a single software product or a single website to be targeted across multiple platforms, languages and countries without re-engineering.

It allows data to be transported through many different systems without error. In this competition 10 employees participated and they the paragraph given in Hindi typed through Unicode.

COVID-19 TESTING

Makeshift clinic established on JP hosp campus

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

MP Council of Science & Technology (MPCST) has established a makeshift clinic on JP Hospital campus, Bhopal for testing Covid-19 patients. The clinic will be handed over to Govt JP Hospital very soon.

CSIR labs of CBRI, Roorkee & AMPRI, Bhopal have jointly developed and transferred technology/ know-how for Makeshift Clinic which is demonstrated and implemented by MPCST & CSIR-AMPPRI, Bhopal. This project is sponsored by MPCST, Bhopal. The developed design for the installation of prefabricated

structures results in immediate Makeshift Clinic for Covid-19 patients and other purposes. It makes use of metallic portals framed, foldable, lightweight & durable structure.

Anil Kothari, Director General of Council said that MPCST was set up in 1981 and this year completing nearly four decades of its establishment. During this period Council identified new, significant and relevant areas in which S&T can be utilized for socio-economic development of State people. In view of these aims and objectives, Council has established Science for Socio-economic Development

(SSED) division.

Kothari informed that this clinic can be used in rural and urban areas both and set up in a very short span of time. It provides immediate solution of Covid-19 and for other medical purposes and for earthquake and flood prone areas. According to Saroj Bokil, Head, Science for Socio-Economic Development (SSED) division informed that Makeshift Clinic establish in 500 sq. ft. having provision of sampling, registration, medicine, temperature & oxymeter and cabin for Doctor.

Salient Features of Makeshift Clinic According to

information given by JP Shukla, Senior Principal Scientist, (AMPRI) - Makeshift Clinic is prefabricated metallic portal having features like foldable, easily erectable, reusable, safe, serviceable and comfort to the occupants.

He added that it is cost effective & reusable for other purposes and easy to transport from one place to other. It offers immediate solution to the current crises of Covid-19/other crises by a number of makeshift hospitals, clinics, disaster relief camps, pulse polio drives, earthquake, flood prone areas, seminar/ conference/ exhibition hall etc.



State Election Commissioner BP Singh addresses a workshop of master trainers related to urban bodies and panchayat elections in Bhopal on Tuesday

Blue dart Express, 'Grow Trees' plant 1L trees

PNS ■ JABALPUR

Blue Dart Express Ltd, India's leading express logistics service provider and part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group (DPDHL) to plant 1,11,000 trees in collaboration with Grow-Trees in Kanha-Pench Wildlife corridor.

Blue Dart will complete planting these trees in the CY 2020 and these 1,11,000 trees are likely to offset 22,22,000 kgs of carbon per year, on maturity.

The trees being planted include indigenous species like Tamarind, Shisham (North Indian Rosewood), Siras (Frywood), Teak Wood, Karanj (Indian Beech), Custard Apple, Ber (Indian Plum), Kateswari (Red Silk Cotton), Kashid (Yellow Cassia), Wood Apple, Amla (Indian Gooseberry). Preserving the ecosystem around this reserve, rebuild wildlife habitats and supporting tribal communities along with aiding in increasing the forest reserve in the country are some of the objectives behind these plantation drives.



Heavy rainfall likely in next 2-3 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Weather pattern has changed in the active systems and very heavy to heavy rainfall would be witnessed in the State in the next 2-3 days. Among the regions, which have been issued warning of very heavy rainfall, are Shahdol division and Balaghat, Vidisha, and Raisen districts.

Sagar and Hoshangabad divisions and Rewa, Satna, Sehore, Rajgarh, Alirajpur, Jabua, Dhar, Dewas, Shajapur and Ashok Nagar districts are regions which have been issued warning of heavy rainfall. The Met department has issued warning of thundery activities and thundery lightning Rewa, Shahdol, Jabalpur, Sagar, Indore, Ujjain, Hoshangabad, Bhopal, Gwalior and Chambal divisions.

Heavy spell lashed the state capital providing relief from hot and humid conditions on Tuesday; brief period rainfall



A motorcyclist on the road during heavy rain in Bhopal on Tuesday

brought the mercury down. The Met department told that the humid weather conditions would continue to be witnessed as the temperatures are at higher level. The state capital recorded day temperature around 32 degree Celsius.

In the past 24 hours regions which recorded heavy rainfall in cm were Udaigarh 11, Sondwa

and Anuppur 9, Mohkheda 8, Pushparajgarh, Dindori, Khategaon and Ranapur 7, Gandhwan and Alirajpur 6, Banakhredi, Sohagpur, Chhindwara, Gadarwada and Jaithari, 5, Amarpur, Samanapur, Kotma, Depalpur and Pipariya, 4.

Met official said that a low pressure area is located in North

Chhattisgarh and adjoining areas. A cyclonic circulation is located in northwestern Rajasthan and adjoining Punjab would induce good rainfall in the next 2-3 days. For this week and till September 29 the spell of rainfall would be witnessed in the state and the distribution of rainfall would not be even across the state.

Book review, guest lectures mark 6th day of Toornayad

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Toornayad the Hindi Festival is wooing the students and literature lovers. Marking the sixth day book review and guest lecture was held online.

It is to be noted that Toornayad is the biggest festival of Hindi organized by the Official Language Implementation Committee of Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, from September 14, 2020 to September 26, 2020.

The sixth day of the programme under Tooryanad '20 ended with the much awaited competition book review and guest lecture. On the one hand, the selected participants from the first phase in the book review participated in the 'book discussion' on the selected books, on the other hand, guest

speaker Lalit Kumar described his journey to establish Kavita Kosh.

Taking a new initiative this year, a book review competition was organized to inculcate a positive attitude towards the Hindi language of the present young generation and to develop their reading and reading ability.

Managing Director of AISECT Group, Santosh Choubey was present as the chief guest in the competition. The review on the role of the educator was done by Anand Singh former Secretary General of the Institute of Excellence, Bhopal and Ashutosh Singh Thakur, founder of the Young Thinkers Forum, former General Secretary of the Forum and Toornayad.

In the first phase, a written review of selected books was

called from the participants, in which 7 participants were selected for the final phase. In the final phase, participants conducted a live book review on Sankrant Sanu ji's 'Illusion of English Medium', Amritlal Nagar ji's 'Nachyo Bahi Gopal' and Shrilal Shukla Ji's 'Raag Darbari'.

The participants answered the judges' questions very accurately, showcasing their creativity and speech art. This program of book discussion was telecast live through YouTube so that more people could join. Finally, Santosh Choubey, while explaining the importance of reading literature properly, encouraged the participants and appreciated Turyanad for this initiative which increased the popularity of literature among the youth.

CISF staff at BHEL who was hit by truck succumbs

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 36-year-old CISF personnel assigned with BHEL died late in the night on Monday who was hit by a speeding truck on September 19 near Kasturba hospital. Govindpura police have started investigation. According to the police Amner Ravikashi died while undergoing treatment at private hospital in the night on Monday.

Police said that the Amner was suffering from illness and was returning from Kasturba hospital on September 19 when he was hit by a speeding truck. The errant truck driver escaped the spot leaving the truck which was seized by the police, the dri-



ver is still missing. After the preliminary investigation the body was sent for the post mortem and the police have registered a case under section 304 A of the IPC and have started further investigation. Meanwhile, a 30-year-old man died after he fell in Karond nullah along with his scooter late in the night on Monday; Nishatpura police have started investigation.

Police said that the deceased was found dead at around 12 in the night on Monday and he was taken to hospital where he was declared dead. The deceased was identified as Zuber Khan who was addicted to liquor and fell in the nullah in an inebriated state. After the preliminary investigation the body was sent for the post mortem. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started further investigation.

The locals informed the police and on the receipt of the information police team rushed to the spot and started investigation. The deceased used to work as porter and heavily addicted to liquor.

Youth booked for sexually exploiting 29-yr-old girl on pretext of marriage

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Jehangirabad police have booked a youth for sexually assaulting and exploiting a 29-year-old girl by luring her of marriage victim lodged a complaint after accused refused to marry her. Police said both the accused Divansh Joshi and victim were acquainted and used to study in Polytechnic College in the year 2017 and the accused proposed her and later sexually assaulted at her room near DMart Jehangirabad.

The victim in her complaint stated that Divansh used to study when she was at Polytechnic College. The two later developed relationship and luring her of marriage accused took her to room and unaware of the ill intentions the victim accompanied her where she was sexually assaulted. After committing the crime accused assured that he would marry her and later continued to sexually exploit her. Later when the victim asked to marry the accused he refused and the victim informed the incident to the family. The victim lodged a complaint with the police. Police have registered a case under sections 376 and 506 of the IPC and have started further investigation. The accused is yet to be arrested who went absconding. Meanwhile, Nishatpura police has booked two male nurses posted with BMHRC for molesting a 45-year-old woman sanitation worker for the past four months; victim lodged complaint on Monday.



Parents of the school-going children demonstrate demanding waiver of the school fees since lockdown amid the coronavirus pandemic in Bhopal on Tuesday

Govt giving full security cover to farmers: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while addressing Cabinet Members before the Cabinet meeting, said that 77 lakh farmers of the State are given total ₹6,000 per farmer in three installments of ₹2,000 each every year under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. Now, the Madhya Pradesh government, while taking a big decision in the interest of the farmers has decided to give them a total of ₹4000 every year in two installments of ₹2,000, on behalf of the State Government. The total amount of the Central and State government schemes will now become ₹10,000. 'Chief Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana' will benefit all farmers of the State. This scheme will prove to be a blessing, especially for small farmers.

Chouhan said that 70 lakh farmers of the State are receiving benefit under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. Madhya Pradesh Government will give benefit of

Mukhya Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana to each farmer in the State after conducting a survey of farmers. The estimated number of land holding farmers in the State is one crore.

Chouhan said that the distribution of the first installment of Samman Nidhi to the farmers under Mukhya Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana will take place on the birthday of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. On Friday, the September 25, the Chief Minister himself will transfer the amount in the farmers' accounts from Bhopal and Ministers as well as other public representatives will transfer the amount in programmes, to be organized in other districts.

Chouhan said that the Government is providing full security cover to the farmers of the State. Madhya Pradesh Government is taking decisions one after another in the interest of farmers.

The scheme was introduced first to provide crop loans to farmers at zero percent interest rate. Then the amount of last year's crop insurance was

deposited in their accounts. Today, Kisan credit cards were distributed to remaining 67 thousand farmers, livestock farmers and fish breeders of the state. Along with this, financial assistance amount of Rs. 800 crore was transferred to the accounts of cooperative societies. Now farmers will be benefited under the Mukhya Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. Soon, credit cards will also be distributed to the horticulture farmers of the state, he added.

Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, while informing about the process of the Mukhya Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, said that information of farmers to be benefited will be registered on Kisan Samman Nidhi portal.

Patwaris will verify the information in their respective areas. Farmers are required to give applications only once, physically to the Patwari concerned. Further processing will be done on mobile itself. Information regarding amount transferred will be received by the farmers on their mobiles.

Cong gives memorandum to dist collector

Regarding mismanagement in hosps in name of Covid-19

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Congress delegation submitted a memorandum to the Collector regarding the demand for public interest including robberies and mishaps in hospitals in the name of corona with the patients. The congress delegation met the collector and gave him a 9-point memorandum regarding the demands of public interest, including the disruption in hospitals and the bill of running into lakhs of rupees for the patients of Covid-19 by the private hospital.

Congress spokesperson Vivek Soni said that the number of active Corona patients is increasing daily in the city, there is no arrangement of ICU and ventilator for serious patients in the selected hospitals including

the government hospital, Madhav Nagar Hospitals, in the absence of which patients could die. Apart from this, lakhs of rupees are being collected from patients in the name of treatment of Covid-19 by private hospital, injections are being sold at 8 to 9 times higher which is in collusion with the doctors and drug suppliers and same is done on other medicines.

Black marketing is in practice as they do not fear administration; BJP MPs, MLAs are all silent on the issue. The staff in hospitals are not properly taking care of patients.

The Congress delegation led by City Congress President Mahesh Soni and District Congress President Kamal Patel met Collector Ashish Singh and shared trouble faced a lot of trouble for the patients fighting from Corona, former MLA Dr. Batukashankar Joshi, State Secretary Chetan Yadav, former Councillor Ravi Rai, Executive Chairman Jitendra Goyal were present.

Dhar collector rushes unconscious youth on road to hospital

PNS ■ INDORE

The human face of Dhar collector Alok Kumar Singh was seen by the Dhar people when the collector on his way to the office stopped his car seeing the youth lying unconscious on the road and come out of his car and loaded the youth in the ambulance himself.

The youth riding a bike fell unconscious on the road when a big branch of banyan tree fell on his head. Locals told that a big boring machine has just passed that way and the upper portion of the boring machine broke the branch of the banyan tree which fell on the youth who was just moving behind the boring machine. Collector Alok Kumar Singh stopped his car and immediately loaded the wounded youth in the ambulance of the veterinary department which was just passing on the road.

Dhar collector Alok Kumar Singh told *The Pioneer* that we have sent the wounded youth to the Dhar hospital where the

Locals told that a big boring machine has just passed that way and the upper portion of the boring machine broke the branch of the banyan tree which fell on the youth who was just moving behind the boring machine

emergency medical care was given to him and later the wounded youth was transferred to Indore for advance treatment.

The police have arrested the boring truck driver as the movement of heavy vehicles on this road is prohibited. The family members of the youth who was resident of Tirla area of Dhar also were informed who had reached to Indore hospital.

BALARAM POND CONSTRUCTION SCHEME EOW registers two cases of corruption in Dewas district

PNS ■ UJJAIN

The Economic Offence Wing registered two cases in corruption case in Baram pond construction scheme in Dewas district in which the officers and employees of the Agriculture Department, District Dewas colluded to obtain Rs 2.92 crore for the period 2011 to 2015.

Superintendent of Police Dilip Soni of Economic Crime Cell Unit Ujjain said that on primary physical verification, a total of 361 Baram ponds were not found to be constructed in the development block of Kokhurd, Sonkach and Vikas block in Dewas district, while the grant money of the said 361 ponds was disbursed to the beneficiaries.

Balam Talab Yojana was started in the year 2010 by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for irrigation system and rainwater harvesting in the interest of small and marginal farmers. Under the Baram Talab scheme, construction of 2037 Baram ponds was approved between 2011 and 2015 in Dewas district.

During the construction of Baram pond, the District Collector Dewas was ordered by the then Under Secretary General Administration Department to investigate the irregularities in the construction of Baram ponds, when there was a complaint at the government level.

A total of 361 ponds could not be built on the spot on physical verification of the Baram ponds constructed in the district of Dewas which was found by District Collector Dewas.

A case under section 21 (1) (a), 13 (2), 7 (c) of Section 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B of the Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act against the concerned officers and employees was registered.

MCNUJC holds webinar on NEP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The National Education Policy (NEP) will be lauded for facilitating teaching in mother tongue. The policy will strengthen Hindi language. Former Director of Central Institute for Hindi, Prof Nandkishore Pandey said this in a national webinar on 'National Education Policy and Future of Hindi', organised by Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal. University Vice Chancellor Prof KG Suresh chaired the programme. Chief Guest Prof Rajneesh Shukla and special invitee Prof Ramdev Bhardwaj also addressed the webinar.

In his keynote address,

Prof Pandey said that Hindi's present status is because of non-Hindi speaking people. Gujarati speaking, Mahatma Gandhi made efforts to make Hindi a national language. Gandhi Ji, who toured the country during the freedom struggle, tabled proposals in Hindi at the conventions of the Congress party, proceedings of which were basically in English at that time. Akbar, during his tenure, forcefully made Persian as an official language.

People were invited from Iran to publicise the language and Madrasas were opened for teaching it. Similarly, English language was made language for officials working at the time of the Independence. Prof Pandey

said English is the official language in Nagaland, Sikkim, Mizoram and other states. Public there have launched movements to save their mother tongue. Correspondence in universities in Hindi states is made in English, which is unfortunate. Higher education should be imparted in Hindi in the states.

Chief Guest and Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, Prof Rajneesh Kumar Shukla said this is the first education policy, which highlights concern for the languages. This policy recognises the strength of being multi-lingual. Hindi is the language of the highest number of people. We generally believe that English is a language of knowledge and

science and that mentality is an obstacle in development and expansion of Hindi and other Indian languages. The NEP aims at taking the country ahead. This is not possible without development of our own language. Vice Chancellor of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Prof Ramdev Bhardwaj said we should feel proud of our language and not hesitate in using our mother tongue.

Vice Chancellor Prof KG Suresh, chairing the session, said inferiority complex was developed in Hindi speaking people for not being able to speak English at institutional level. Because of this mindset, we consider only English speaking persons as intellectual.



Undergraduate students of Barkatullah University stand in a queue for submission of answer copies at Government Maharani Laxmi Bai Girls College after their final year exams, amid Covid-19 pandemic, in Bhopal on Tuesday

PM's false propaganda on farm Bill exposed: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Am Aadmi Party (AAP) National spokesperson Raghav Chadha on Tuesday said that the false "propaganda" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central Government has been exposed after an advertisement on the recently passed farmer Bills in Parliament was published in leading newspapers in English to make farmers understand terms 'Minimum Support Price' (MSP), 'Public Distribution System' (PDS) and public procurement.

Terming it a mockery of the oppressed and distressed state of the farmers, Chadha said, "Today, the Modi-led Central government has set a new record of brightening their faces with the hard-earned money of the common taxpayers. They have further deepened the wounds of the deceived farmers by giving an advertisement in some of the leading newspapers of India



and tried to explain the MSP and the MSP PDS system in the English language."

"Which farmer in India would read this newspaper and ad with his morning cup of cappuccino, and understand the MSP? I want to question the Centre, out of 62 crore farmers and workers in the agricultural sector in India, who are the people who would read this ad in English and understand MSP, PDS, and public procurement," he asked.

Chadha said that the 2015-2016 agricultural survey says that around 80 per cent of farmers in India have less than two acres of land. He said, "Those farmers cannot even carry their produce from their villages to other villages for selling. Will those farmers read and understand this ad with their morning cappuccinos? Is this not unwanted and unnecessary spending of the taxpayer's money? Is this not a way to make their own faces shine and mislead people through false propagandas,"

he said.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP ND Gupta, who was also present in the press briefing said that the country and the Parliament is run on dictatorship and not on democracy, and said that the BJP government is now a government of ordinance.

Gupta said, "The PM and his cabinet have said this several times, that they will double the income of the farmers by 2022. They have also given a formula of doubling the income, which is Cost Price+50% of the CP. The bill that has been passed in the Rajya Sabha day before yesterday, says that the farmer can sell his/her produce anywhere without having any consideration and concern for Cost Price and MSP, and they are left to fend for themselves."

"This government is a government of ordinance. They bring in the ordinance before every bill despite there being many rules and procedures in the House and 24 committee", he said.

DELHI RIOTS

Police: Umar, Sharjeel used social media for indoctrination of youths for chakka jaam

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police in its chargesheet related to larger conspiracy in Delhi riots during February alleged that Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam had decided to use social media for large scale indoctrination and mobilisation of youths for Chakka Jaam as a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The 17,000-page charge sheet filed on September 16 in a court here gave the sequence of events leading to largescale violence in which former JNU student Khalid and his junior in the university Imam were part of the alleged conspiracy along with their associates to incite communal feelings of a particular community and instigate students of a particular community against the CAA and the state.

The police in the chargesheet alleged that Khalid, Swaraj Abhiyan leader Yogender Yadav and Imam had decided to use social media for large scale indoctrination and mobilisation of youths for Chakka Jaam as a protest against CAA.

It further alleged that Imam was the mastermind of completely blocking the traffic that is 'Chakka Jaam' which is already cursor to inciting large scale violence, the police alleged.

The police in the chargesheet alleged that Khalid, Swaraj Abhiyan leader Yogender Yadav and Imam had decided to use social media for large scale indoctrination and mobilisation of youths for Chakka Jaam as a protest against CAA.

It said that at Jantar Mantar Imam was introduced to Yogender Yadav by Khalid, his senior and mentor from JNU.

"Sharjeel Imam was on an earlier occasion instructed by Umar Khalid to form a group of like minded groups of JNU, Jamia Millia, AMU and DU. Yogender Yadav and Umar Khalid also instructed him to mobilise the students of Jamia Millia, AMU and DU," as per chargesheet.

The police have stated



that as per the pre-planned conspiracy accused Sharjeel Imam along with other associates started distributing pamphlets which contained such contents meant to incite communal feelings of a particular community and instigate students of a particular community against the CAA and the state," the charge sheet alleged.

It also reflects during the course of investigation that the protests against CAA and the state were never peaceful since its inception and the ultimate object of these protests was large scale preplanned violence against the state. It also reveals their modus operandi of completely blocking the traffic that is 'Chakka Jaam' which is already cursor to inciting large scale violence, the police alleged.

It claimed that in pursuance and furtherance of the common conspiracy the first protest site that is Shaheen Bagh based on Chakka Jaam model was started on December 15. The WhatsApp chat between Imam and his brother Muzammil established that Imam was the mastermind of Shaheen Bagh blockade.

Police alleged that the creation of Jamia Coordination Committee (JCC) was the brain child of Umar Khalid and Nadeem Khan to rope in different student organisation of Jamia Millia. Asif Iqbal Tanha and Saiful Islam were the key persons behind the constitution of JCC.

The charge sheet further alleged that accused Shifa Ur Rehman (Jamia Coordination

Committee member and President of Alumni Association of Jamia Millia Islamia) and others collected funds predominantly in cash and also in bank accounts and funded the sustenance of various sit-in protest sites by providing logistics and providing daily wages to lady protestors.

Alumni Association of Jamia Millia Islamia (AAJMI) also provided mike, poster, banners, ropes etc items at gate number 7 of Jamia Millia protest site. AAJMI also paid for the buses hired for the protests. The daily expenditure of AAJMI had ranged between Rs 5000- Rs 10,000 at protest site of Jamia gate number 7 alone, it alleged.

The police have established this with the statements of witnesses and WhatsApp chats, the charge sheet stated.

Meeting of the JCC was conducted regularly in the evening in the JCC office and active and prominent members regularly attended the meeting to formulate strategy, schemes and plans in furtherance of common conspiracy for the sustenance of the protest sites.

As per the statement of witnesses, after the general meeting a secret meeting was also used to be held at JCC office by Safoora Zargar, Meeran Haider, Saif-Ul Islam, Asif Iqbal Tanha and AAJMI office bearers.

In the JCC meetings, Tanha and Saiful Islam used to execute and implement the directions conveyed to them by Umar and Nadeem, the chargesheet alleged.

Delhi reports 3,816 Covid cases

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Capital reported 3,816 coronavirus cases on Tuesday, taking the total number of people infected with life-threatening virus to 253075 till now. The COVID-19 toll in Delhi crossed the 5,000 mark on Monday with 37 more fatalities reported on Tuesday.

According to health bulletin there are 31,623 active cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and 2.16 lakh people have recovered so far.

"The number of containment zones in Delhi jumped to 1,937 on Monday from 1,889 a day ago. The positivity rate stands at 6.47 per cent, the recovery rate is over 85 per cent and the case fatality rate is 2 per cent, according to the health bulletin. The relatively low count of fresh cases came out of 59,013 tests. The tests per million is over 1.38L, while the total number of tests stood at over 25.30 lakh. Delhi Health Minister took a



review meet with medical directors and superintendents of all the hospital to review the status of testing, it said.

Since August 18, cases again have been coming in four digits. According to the bulletin, out of the 15,804 beds in COVID hospitals, 8,753 are vacant, while 1,906 beds in COVID care centres are occupied. The number of people in home isolation is 18,464. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, suspected individuals who test negative for COVID-19 in rapid-antigen tests should undergo RT-PCR to rule out the infection. Rapid-antigen testing requires a prescription and an ICMR form filled by a registered doctor, and a government identity proof, same as that for RT-PCR test.

28-yr-old car mechanic driving Mercedes crashes into auto rickshaw; three injured

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old car mechanic, who was driving a Mercedes in an inebriated state, hit an auto-rickshaw and injured three pedestrians in south Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan area. The incident occurred on Sunday.

The mechanic has been identified as 28-year-old Alam, a resident of New Seelampur.

According to R P Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, during patrolling at 8.55 pm on Sunday, police found a Mercedes car had crashed into an auto-rickshaw near a Sarai Kale Khan red light.

"Enquiry revealed that the car after hitting the auto-rickshaw at the rear side jumped the divider and injured three pedestrians on the opposite side of the road. On further enquiry, it was revealed that the car was driven by Alam and his two women friends accompanied him. He



was drunk at that time and some beer bottles were found in the vehicle," said the DCP.

"The accused said that he works as a car mechanic at Seelampur in northeast Delhi and the vehicle belonged to one of his clients who had left it at his workshop for repairing. On Sunday, Alam consumed alcohol and took his two women friends for a ride to Kalkaji," said the DCP.

"He was driving the car at a very high speed. When he reached near Sarai Kale Khan red light, the car went out of control and hit the auto-rickshaw. It jumped the divider and hit three pedestrians," said the DCP.

"The injured pedestrians - identified as Brijesh, Mahender and Suresh -- were rushed to AIIMS Trauma Center. However, the auto-rickshaw driver, Sachin, escaped unhurt. Alam was arrested on the spot," said the DCP.

Daily recoveries surpass new Covid infections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With India recording the highest number of Covid-19 recoveries in the world, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday said for the past four consecutive days the number of daily recovered cases surpassed the new infections reported per day.

India has the highest number of recovered cases in the world at 44,97,867, Union Health Ministry Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, addressing a Press briefing here.

"India's Covid-19 cases share is 17.7 per cent of global infections, while those who have recuperated are 19.5 per cent of total recoveries in world. The daily recoveries from Covid-19 more than number of new infections reported per day since past four consecutive days," he said.

While the US' Covid-19 cases share is 22.4 per cent of global infections, those who have recuperated are 18.6 per cent of total recoveries in world, the data presented by him showed. Brazil's Covid-19 cases share is 14.5 per cent of global infections, those who have recuperated are 16.8 per cent of total recoveries in world, it showed.

So far, India has recorded over 55 lakh confirmed cases, including 87,882 deaths. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh



VACCINE EFFICACY IN INDIA LIKELY TO REMAIN BETWEEN 50 TO 100%: ICMR

New Delhi: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Dr Balram Bhargava on Tuesday said the efficacy of the Covid-19 vaccine in India is likely to remain between 50 to 100 per cent, however, they are trying for 100 per cent efficiency. "We are aiming for 100 per cent efficacy but may land between 50 to 100 per cent. However, it still would be an effective vaccine against the virus," he said.

and Tamil Nadu have reported the highest number of cases while infections are rising rapidly in States like Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Yet, India's recovery rate continues to rise and now stands at 80.1 per cent.

Bhushan said the number of active Covid-19 cases were less than one-fifth of the total

55,62,663 infections in India. "We get swayed by the narrative that India has over 50 lakh cases, but we forget that nearly 45 lakh people have already recovered," the health secretary said.

"India's Covid-19 deaths per million population is also amongst the lowest in the world. India has 64 deaths per million

PM to meet with 7 most affected States' CM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday will convene a meeting with most Covid-19 affected seven States' Chief Ministers to review the situation. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Punjab Chief Ministers and Health Ministers will attend the meeting.

"The PM will chair a high-level virtual meeting with the CMs and Health Ministers of seven Covid-19 high-burden States and Union Territories (UTs) on Wednesday to review the status and preparedness of the response and management of the viral outbreak," according to a Government statement.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary and senior officials will attend the meeting of Chief Ministers with the Prime Minister.

population, whereas world's average stands at 123," he said.

Bhushan added early detection, isolation and seamless hospitalisation of Covid-19 patients has been made possible due to an exponential increase in testing infrastructure in the country.

Covid-19 task force member VK Paul (NITI Aayog member) urged people to wear masks and follow all the social distancing norms, specially as the festival season is about to begin next month.

ED attaches Iqbal Mirchi family's 15 properties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday attached 15 properties in Dubai, including a Midwest Hotel apartment and 14 other residential and commercial assets, belonging to the family members of notorious drug baron and aide of global terrorist Dawood Ibrahim, Iqbal Mirchi.

Earlier, the ED had issued two attachment orders in December, 2019 attaching properties to the tune of ₹573 crore. Now the total attachment in this

case has reached to ₹776 crore.

The ED had registered a money laundering case against Iqbal Memon, alias Mirchi, and others on September 26, 2019, under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

In this case, five accused including Kapil Wadhawan, Dheeraj Wadhawan & Humayun Merchant were arrested.

A prosecution complaint (chargesheet in police parlance) was filed on December 9 last year before the Special PMLA

Court that has taken cognisance of the chargesheet.

Open ended Non-Bailable Warrants have been issued by the designated court against Asif Memon, Junaid Memon (both sons of Iqbal Mirchi) and Hajra Memon (wife of Iqbal Memon).

Further investigation is in progress, the agency added.

Mirchi died on August 14, 2013, and was considered the right-hand man of Dawood Ibrahim. Mirchi was often called the drug baron for his thriving narcotics business

across Asia, Africa and Europe, according to reports.

Memon's family originally owned shops selling chillies and spices that gave him the nickname 'Mirchi'.

Mirchi's fortunes soared after he began smuggling in banned meth tablets, heroin and Mandrax. He also owned a club The Fisherman's Wharf at Worli seafront in Mumbai which was a hotbed for narcotics.

Mirchi left India in late 80s, first to Dubai and later to London.

Lok Sabha members complain about assault on them during adjournment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha was adjourned for an hour soon after it assembled on Tuesday following an allegation of police assault by Congress MP from Ludhiana Ravneet Singh Bittu and a DMK MP also complaining that some people "barged" in his room asking about his party's "Parliamentary agenda."

The Congress MP charged that around 100 Delhi policemen charged at them at 'Vijay Chowk' when they were "marching in solidarity" with the farmers. He said police assaulted them thinking they were farmers.

Speaking in the house, Bittu alleged that police "brutally assaulted" him and his three MP colleagues from

Punjab Santokh Singh Choudhary, Jasbir Singh Gill and Gurjeet Singh Aujla, when they were all taking out a candle light march from Parliament House to Rashtrapati Bhawan on the issue of farm bills.

"We told them we are parliamentarians and sit with the Prime Minister but to no avail. Police didn't know we were MPs. They thought we were farmers and beat us up badly. I had a bad left knee fracture, which has gone worse after the assault and other MPs have also suffered injuries. This is horrifying," Bittu said in the LS.

The Congress MP also said he and other MPs sustained severe injuries in the process.

Speaker Om Birla assured the MP a full probe into the

incident and protection both inside and outside Parliament.

Bittu and Santokh Choudhary submitted written representations to the Speaker providing the sequence of events starting 7 pm on Monday.

Prior to this a DMK member in the House also alleged that some people barged in his room in Tamil Nadu Bhawan (where he is staying), describing themselves as "IB sleuths" and asked him about his party's programme and "interrogated" him on his party's Parliamentary agenda.

The Speaker asked the MP to give details in writing and cautioned him that the information should be "authentic". DMK leader TR Balu also backed his party MP on the issue.

NIA starts B'luru violence probe



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over probe in two cases related to large-scale violence at DJ Halli and KG Halli under Bengaluru city limits on the night of August 11 in which the house of an MLA and two police stations besides vehicles were torched by miscreants.

The anti-terror probe agency took over the investigation of the two cases of arson and violence wherein Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act had been invoked by State Police.

The NIA has now re-registered these two cases.

The first case has arisen out of an FIR registered at Devarajeevanna Halli PS, Bengaluru on August 12. The second was registered on the basis of a case registered by Kadugondana Halli PS, Bengaluru on August 12.

On August 11, 2020, around 8 pm, more than 1,000 people gathered in front of the house of Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy (Pulakeshi Nagar constituency) at Kavalbyrasandra, Bengaluru City. The mob was protesting against the alleged derogatory social media (Facebook) post about Prophet Mohammed made on August 11 at around 4 PM Naveen, nephew of the MLA allegedly insulting the religious sentiments of the Muslims.

"The State Secretary of SDPI, Muzamil Pasha had earlier called a meeting and directed the members of PFI/SDPI to instigate the mob and incite violence. The mob went on rampage in DJ Halli, KG Halli and Pulakeshi Nagar area under Bengaluru City. They attacked the two police stations namely DJ Halli PS and KG Halli PS and vandalised the property of police stations including Government and private vehicles parked in the Police Stations. The mob also attacked the house of Pulakeshi Nagar constituency MLA before attacking the police stations," the NIA said in a statement.

बिहार सरकार स्थानिक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय

बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

पत्रांक:- 102/स्था0 अगि0, नई दिल्ली दिनांक:- 22/09/2020

बिहार भवन एवं बिहार निवास चाणक्यपुरी नई दिल्ली हेतु निम्नलिखित कर्मा के लिए समुचित श्रेणी में बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों भवन निर्माताओं से बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग एफ-2 एकरारनामा में होने वाले कार्यों के लिए मुहरबंद निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता- स्थानिक अभियन्ता, बिहार भवन, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली

2. परीमाण विपत्र के बिक्री की तिथि एवं समय- 06.10.2020 (कार्यालय अवधि तक)

3. निविदा प्राप्त की तिथि एवं समय- 07.10.2020 (अपराहण 3.00 बजे तक)

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 07.10.2020 (अपराहण 3.00 से 5.00 बजे तक)

5. परिमाण विपत्र निर्गत का स्थान- 1. स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय, बिहार निवास, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।

2. उपस्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय, बिहार निवास, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।

6. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान- स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय, बिहार निवास, नई दिल्ली।

क्रम सं० कार्य का नाम प्राक्कलित राशि अग्रघन राशि बी.ओ.क्यू. राशि कार्य अवधि

1. Painting and polishing work of Room No 001 to 003 of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2020-21 325000 6500 500 एक माह

2. Painting and polishing work of CS suite of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2020-21 150000 3000 500 एक माह

3. Repair and painting work of outer portion (front and back side) and boundary wall of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2020-21 500000 10000 500 एक माह

4. Repair and painting work of HE suite & CM suite with dormatry of Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21 400000 8000 500 एक माह

5. Painting and polishing work of stair case of old wing new wing and ground floor reception area of Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21 450000 9000 500 एक माह

6. Repair and painting work of staircase & corridor of Bihar Niwas For the Year 2020-21 150000 3000 500 एक माह

7. Repair and painting polishing work of boundary wall (fornt and back side) of Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-2021 350000 7000 500 एक माह

8. Repair and Painting Polishng work of out house of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2020-21 345000 7000 500 एक माह

9. Painting and polishing work of VIP hall waiting Room of Ground floor of conference hall of First floor of Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21 260000 5200 500 एक माह

10. A/R to Painting work of Ground floor and 1st floor of Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21 275000 5500 500 एक माह

11. Repair, painting and Furnishing of CAO Office/Conference hall at Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21 150000 3000 500 एक माह

शर्तें:-

7. निविदा के साथ अद्यतन निबंधन आयकर प्रमाण पत्र वाणिज्य कर प्रमाण पत्र, चरित्र प्रमाण पत्र पैन कार्ड-आदि की छाया प्रति जो राजपत्रित पदाधिकारी से अभिप्रमाणित हो संलग्न करना होगा।

8. अग्रघन की राशि डाकघर के एन.ए.सी/सावधि जाम के रूप में संलग्न की जानी है। जो स्थानिक अभियन्ता चाणक्यपुरी, बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली की नाम से निविदा प्रकाशन के तिथि के बाद के तिथि में विधिवत प्लेज्ड हो।

9. निविदाकर्ता को भारतीय मानक विनिर्देश के अनुसार कार्य हेतु अपेक्षित सामग्री की खुद व्यवस्था करनी होगी।

10. बिना कोई कारण बताए निविदा स्थगित एवं रद्द करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित होगा।

11. प्राक्कलन की राशि घट बढ़ सकती है।

उक्त कार्य के संबंध में किसी प्रकार की जानकारी हेतु अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय से कार्यालय अवधि में संपर्क कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

हस्ता/-

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता-सह-स्थानिक अभियन्ता

बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली।

Farmers' bodies to organise Bharat Bandh on Sept 25

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After holding separate protests against agriculture Bills, now farmer organisations — Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), All India Farmers Union (AIFU), All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), All India Kisan Mahasangh (AIKM) — have come on a common platform and announced a nationwide shut down on September 25.

Farmers' organisations from southern states - Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have also called for bandh on September 25. Meanwhile, Ola Cab Drivers' association and lorry drivers' association members in Karnataka have decided to support the farmers and will not operate on Friday.

Besides, ten Central trade unions, including National Trades Union Congress, All India Trade Union Congress, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, All India United Trade Union Centre and Trade Union Coordination Centre, have extended their support for Bharat Bandh on September 25.

Not only farmers' organi-

sations but also arhatiya (commission agent or a link between farmer and procurement agencies) of both Punjab and Haryana will join the protest.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), an NDA ally, on Tuesday announced to undertake "chakka jam" for three hours across Punjab on September 25 to protest against the farm bills passed by the Parliament.

Former Punjab Minister and Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu would hold protests in his constituency Amritsar (East).

Many Punjabi singers including Harbhajan Mann have extended their support to the September 25 Punjab "bandh".

According to BKU president Rakesh Tikait, over 100 farmers and arhtiya unions (small and big) will participate in the protests on September 25.

"Farmers in Uttar Pradesh will jam their respective villages, towns and highways whereas in Haryana it is planned to be completely closed. "We are also trying to involve local shopkeepers in the protests. We will come out with the final strategy by September 23-24," he said.

Disease, infighting too take toll on Kaziranga rhinos

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

It's not only poaching and habitat destruction which are the most pressing threats to the survival of the Greater one-horned rhinoceros, but disease and presence of a large population in an isolated habitat, Kaziranga National Park in Assam also do not bode well for their existence, wildlife experts say.

India is home to two-thirds of the world's remaining one-horned rhinos, a vulnerable species on the IUCN red list.

After review of records from the rhino bearing Protected Areas (PAs) of Assam, a team of wildlife veterinarians said as compared to reported 217 deaths caused due to poaching, more than 600 natural deaths have been recorded during 2008-2018 (Unpublished data), meaning about 60 deaths every year which may be due to the disease and infighting.

In their study conducted in Assam's four rhino bearing Protected Areas viz. Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Manas National Park, and Kaziranga National Park, the researchers observed that the overall preva-

lence of endoparasites were found to be in 58.57 per cent of the total samples collected while mixed infection rate was found to be 6.47 per cent amongst all the four areas.

A total of 309 Rhino dung samples were collected from the four PAs in Assam for this study which were analysed at the Department of Parasitology, College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University, in Guwahati, Assam.

Though the study was conducted just last year, results still hold important as India celebrates World Rhinoceros Day on Tuesday. Early this year itself in February, five one-horned female rhinoceroses died in Jaldapara National Park which the activists blamed on anthrax, a communicable disease that attacks herbivores.

Of the total 2,979 rhinos in the country, around 2,652 i.e. 89.35 per cent are found in Assam, with Kaziranga National Park alone with a population of 2413 individuals.

The need to initiate studies on diseases and pathogens affecting the Indian rhino is urgent as considerable number of cases on rhino deaths goes unaddressed and due to

Centre expects 144.52 mn tonnes of foodgrain production in 2020-21

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Due to the return of over 1.04 crore migrant workers to their home States, the Ministry of Agriculture has expected 144.52 million tonnes of foodgrain production in 2020-21.

The Ministry has come out with its first advance estimates of foodgrain production in the country which is higher by 9.83 million tonnes than the average foodgrain production of previous five years' (2014-15 to 2018-19).

Due to return of migrant workers, the kharif crops sowing area coverage has touched 1113.63 lakh ha area against 1,053.52 lakh ha area during the corresponding period of last year, thus, increase in area coverage by 5.71 per cent compared to corresponding period of last year in the country.

As per the Ministry's first advance estimates for the year 2020-21, total production of rice is estimated at 102.36 million tonnes. It is higher by 6.70 million tonnes than the previous five years' average production of 95.66 million tonnes.

Production of nutri / coarse cereals is estimated at 32.84 million tonnes is higher by 1.45 million tonnes than the average production of 31.39 million tonnes.

"Total kharif pulses production is estimated at 9.31 million tonnes. It is higher by 1.59 million tonnes than pulses production of 7.72 million tonnes in 2019-20 as per the fourth advance estimates.

Officials said higher foodgrain is expected as over crore of migrant workers have returned to their home states during the lockdown. "The kharif oilseeds production in the country is estimated at 25.73 million tonnes which is higher by 3.41 million tonnes than the production during 2019-20. The production of sugarcane during 2020-21 is higher by 39.40 million tones," the Ministry said.

As per the estimate, production of cotton is estimated at 37.12 million bales (of 170 kg each) is higher by 1.63 million bales than the production of 35.49 million bales during 2019-20. Production of jute & mesta is estimated at 9.66 million bales (of 180 kg each).

Fit India: PM to interact with Virat Kohli, Milind Soman and other fitness influencers

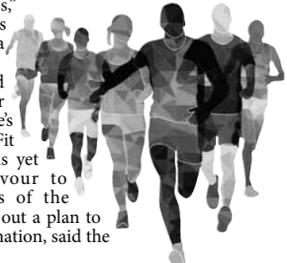
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday interact with sportspersons, fitness enthusiasts and influencers to raise the importance of fitness and commemorate the Central Government's ambitious Fit India Movement.

Fit India Movement was launched on September 24 last year. In his Fit India Dialogue, Modi will also interact with personalities from other fields also through virtual conference. Indian cricketers including Virat Kohli, currently in Dubai in connection with IPL, will also join the conversation.

Apart from cricketers, the online interaction will see celebrities like Milind Soman and fitness influencers like Rujuta Diwekar, share anecdotes and tips of their own fitness journey while drawing out guidance from the Prime Minister on his thoughts about fitness and good health. "In times of Covid-19 pandemic, fitness has become an even more important aspect of life. The dialogue will see a timely and fruitful conversation on nutrition, wellness and various other aspects of fitness," said the Sports Ministry in a statement.

"Envisioned by Prime Minister Modi as a people's movement, the Fit India Dialogue is yet another endeavour to involve citizens of the country to draw out a plan to make India a fit nation, said the Ministry.



TMC hits streets against farm Bills

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Quick to milk a farmer centric issue that once catapulted it to power post Singur and Nandigram movements the Trinamool Congress on Tuesday lapped up the alleged forced passage of farm bill in Rajya Sabha even as the party launched pan-Bengal demonstrations demanding an immediate rollback of the "black law".

Cleverly mixing the farm bill with the amendment in essential commodities laws that has declassified a plethora of eatables including potato, onion --- which are already selling for a premium in the State --- edible oil and other items raising apprehensions of burning bigger holes in consumers' pockets, the TMC leadership said the party would reach door-to-door driving home the "side effects of the BJP Government's pro-rich reforms."

This even as Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar queered the pitch with a no-holds-barred attack on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wondering why she stopped pro-

farmer Kisan Sanman Nidhi, a central scheme that benefits the tillers from entering Bengal.

He accused the TMC supremo of blocking the passage of Rs 8,400 crore under Kisan Sanman Nidhi and was "shedding crocodile tears" on farm bill.

Senior TMC leaders including minister Chandrima Bhattacharya and MPs Saugato Roy and Kalyan Banerjee attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "hitting at the very base of the Indian economy."

Bhattacharya said "first he half-murdered the economy by imposing the demonetisation which was a tricky scheme to convert black money into white money but in actuality it ruined the middle and small sector industry and sucked out crores of jobs. Then there was another foolish scheme of GST which was hurriedly implemented and massacred the market... and finally these two bills. The farm bill will break the back bone of the Indian economy --- perhaps hitting the farmers more than the British East India Company did."

Pak handlers using drones to drop weapons in Valley

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU



Senior security officers say, its a new 'challenge' for them. "We are working towards exposing the network of Over ground workers across Jammu region who are acting as couriers and ready to ferry these arms and ammunition consignment to the Kashmir valley".

Meanwhile, on Tuesday another consignment of weapons airdropped from a drone was recovered by the joint team of Jammu police and special forces of the Indian army from the border area of Akhnoor. According to the official sources, the arms consignment was meant to be airdropped inside the Indian territory from where it was expected to be ferried to a hideout of terrorists with the help of a network of over ground workers in the region.

In the recent months at least half a dozen attempts to smuggle arms and ammunition using drones have come to light in Jammu region.

Initially drones were used to airdrop weapons from across the International border but last week the Indian Army also recovered a consignment of weapons and narcotics airdropped by a drone along the line of control in the forward areas of Rajouri district.

Interestingly, three LeT cadre from the South Kashmir area had trekked all the way from Kashmir via Mughal road to receive the consignment of weapons but were arrested by the security personnel while searches were going on in the forest area of Gurdanbala, four kilometers from Rajouri.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu Shridhar Patil said, "after receiving intelligence inputs a joint search operation was launched by the Jammu police along with special forces of the Indian army in the border belt of Akhnoor on Tuesday".

He said, during the search operations in village Sohail of Akhnoor, two consignments were recovered by the security personnel.

Cross-border trade NIA conducts raids at multiple locations in Baramulla

NEW DELHI

The Central Vista redevelopment project could become fulcrum of economic revival: Puri

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Central Vista redevelopment project could become fulcrum of economic revival: Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Vista redevelopment project would generate large-scale direct and indirect employment which could become an "important fulcrum of economic revival".

In his written reply to a question by All India Trinamool Congress MP Mala Roy, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri told Lok Sabha on Tuesday said, "In the current economic scenario, the project shall generate a large number of direct and indirect employment which could be an important fulcrum for economic revival." The redevelopment project of Central Vista -- the nation's power corridor -- envisages a new triangular parliament building, a common

central secretariat and revamping of the 3-km-long Rajpath, from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.

Puri said that the estimated cost for construction of new Parliament building is Rs 971 crore. Estimated cost of other buildings and development and redevelopment of Central Vista Avenue will be worked out after finalisation of plans, Puri said.

Explaining the rationale behind the need of the project, the Union housing and urban affairs minister said that the existing Parliament House building was started in 1921 and commissioned in 1927 and hence, the building is already 93 years old, adding that its facilities and amenities are "highly inadequate".

TN sees 5,337 new cases, 76 deaths on Tue

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is on its way to bring down the Covid-19 cases in the State to a reasonable level if the figures released by the Department of Health on Tuesday are any indication.

On Tuesday, 5,337 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 while 76 deaths were reported from various parts of the State.

There are 46,350 active Covid-19 cases across the State as on Tuesday evening. This should be read against the number of Covid-19 cases in neighbouring Kerala, where the figures reached 40,382 by Tuesday evening.

Pinarayi Vijayan, Kerala chief minister had claimed early May that his State was the benchmark as far as controlling of Covid-19 pandemic was concerned. Total fatalities in Tamil Nadu reached 8,947 by Tuesday

Illegal oxygen plant raided in Aligarh

Aligarh: In view of black marketing of medical oxygen cylinder, on Monday night, the district administration team including City Magistrate Vineet Kumar Singh, ACM-II, Drug Inspector, and DSO conducted a raid campaign.

District Magistrate Chandra Bhushan Singh said strict instructions has been given to the officers to stop black marketing of medical oxygen cylinder. The team formed by City Magistrate Vineet Singh, started action. On a confidential information, the City Magistrate, ACM-II, District Supply Officer, and Drug Inspector raided a fake plant named as Radha Industries Gases operated in the village along the Jawa of Kasimpur Road.

According to City Magistrate, plant owner Arun Agarwal has been caught and 300 oxygen cylinders, 4 vehicles, and other equipment have been recovered. PNS

Never seen Bills passed in such hurry: Pawar

Mumbai: As he went on a day-long fast to express his solidarity with the eight suspended Rajya Sabha members, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday debunked the hurried manner in which the BJP-led government had agriculture reform bills passed in the upper house of Parliament without discussion and vote.

Talking to media persons here, Pawar said: "I have never seen bills being passed like this. They (the BJP-led NDA government) wanted to pass these bills soon. Members had questions regarding the bill and they wanted a discussion." Generally, the members are allowed to speak, deliberate and oppose the bills. PNS

Aligarh: Traders on indefinite strike to protest against mandi tax

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Mandi traders have started an indefinite strike to protest the tax exemption on the purchase of food grains outside the mandi premises and against the 2% mandi duty and 0.5% cess within the mandi. Dhanipur Mandi based agents have declared that their strike will continue till the government does not withdraw this rule law.

In this regard, they also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Director mandi addressed to the Chief Minister. Due to this strike, the work was stalled in the grain mandis across the district and the business of about 80 lakh rupees was affected. Suresh Chandra Lodhi, chairman of Galla Traders Welfare Committee, said that on one hand, the government has given exemption of mandi duty and cess on the sale of grain outside the mandi premises but within the mandi, 2% mandi duty and 0.5% cess tax has been imposed. This is causing a loss of revenue for the government itself. Farmers are not coming inside the market which results in the crisis of livelihood of hundreds of Mandi workers.

Vijayan blames Opp, media for spike in Covid-19 cases

Kochi: Even as the Department of Health in Kerala diagnosed 4,125 new patients with Covid-19 on Tuesday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan blamed the Opposition parties and the media in the State for the 'unprecedented hike' in the transmission of the disease.

"My Government has done the best to control and regulate the Covid-19 pandemic. But the Opposition parties in the State want to subvert and sabotage the good works of my government. The media is highlighting the unnecessary and unwanted agitations and demonstrations staged by the opposition parties," Vijayan charged while briefing the media on Tuesday evening.

He said though he was not against rightful agitations, the present demonstrations have been planned by the Opposition parties with the sole aim of spreading the pandemic. PNS

Assembly brawl case: Court junks Kerala Govt's move to withdraw criminal case against accused

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala government faced an embarrassment on Tuesday as R Jayakrishnan, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvananthapuram, rejected its request for withdrawing the criminal complaint registered against six members of the legislative Assembly by Crime Branch for the brawl and indecent behavior inside the House on March 13, 2015.

The Crime Branch case was that the MLAs who had tried to stop the then finance minister KM Mani from presenting the budget damaged public property worth more than Rs 2 lakh. This included computer terminals, mikes, chairs and other furniture.

Two ministers of the present government, E P Jayarajan and K T Jaleel figure among the six accused in the case. Government's decision to seek withdrawal of the case was to 'preserve the unity of the House', the deputy director of prosecution had told the court.

The CJM made it clear that the request to withdraw the complaint at this juncture was like insulting and humiliating the people of Kerala who were watching the live proceedings of the House.

The CPI(M) had unleashed an agitation against Mani, who allegedly took an amount of Rs 1 crore from bar owners for re-opening the bars which were shut down in the State as part of ushering in total prohibition.

Rhea's judicial custody extended till Oct 6

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A special court here on Tuesday extended the judicial custody of actress Rhea Chakraborty in the Sushant Singh Rajput-related drug case till October 6, even as the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) widened its scope of investigations and summoned Deepika Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash and talent management agency's CEO Dhruv Chitgopekar for questioning in a WhatsApp chat involving "Padmavat" actress.

In a related development, the Bombay High Court will hear the bail pleas of Rhea -- who had been arrested on September 8 in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput-related drug case -- and her brother Showik -- who had been arrested in the same case earlier, on Wednesday.

The special court -- dealing with cases registered under the the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 -- had earlier on September 11 rejected the bail pleas of Rhea, her brother

Showik and four others in connection with a much-discussed drug case relating to Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

On Tuesday when the NCB questioned Sushant's talent manager Jaya Saha for the second consecutive day, the spotlight remained riveted on the summons issued to Deepika Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash and talent management agency's CEO Dhruv Chitgopekar on the basis of the "Padmavat" actress' WhatsApp charts with her manager Karishma retrieved by the NCB.

136 test +ve, 2 die in Aligarh

Aligarh: 136 people found infected including CO civil line Anil Samaniya but at the same time 111 patients recovered as well. 2 people including a prisoner died with corona. The total number of infected corona patients reached 7566 in the district. 6098 patients recovered and 38 died so far. According to the report released by the CMO office, a total of 136 patients found infected. Businessman of Mamubhanja died in Banna Hospital, Delhi. PNS



"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. tcpharyana.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/REP/HARERA/GGM/2018/23 dated 22.11.2018. |
| 2. | Location | Sector 108, Gurugram, Haryana |
| 3. | Provisions | Project Area : 5 acres comprising a total 723 no. of apartments. Community Facilities : One Community Hall of 2000 sqft and One Anganwadi-cum-Creche of 2000 sqft. |
| 4. | Apartment Details | Category 1 : 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. Category 3 : 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) | Category 1: Rs. 21 lakhs/ apartment, Category 3: Rs. 19.93 lakhs / apartment. 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, ie. tcpharyana.gov.in). * Statutory & government taxes are as applicable. |
| 6. | Payment Terms | 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:-

- 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/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licenced colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.
- 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:-

- 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.
- After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.
- 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., tcpharyana.gov.in).

Agrante Realty Ltd 704 7th floor DLF Tower-B, Jasola, New Delhi., CIN: U70101DL2013PLC248731
Contact at - website: www.kavyamhomes.com; 011-41924100-199, 8800499674.

Public Notice

It is hereby notified to all the general public on behalf of my Client Sh. Girja Nand Pandey S/o Late Sh. Daya Nidhi Pandey, R/o H.No.-E-243, Gali No-8, Shyam Enclave, phase-2, Najafgarh, Dindar Pur, New Delhi-43, have debarred his son Vinit Pandey & Dauhgtcr- in- law smt. Anamika Pandey, from all his moveable and immoveable properties and have also severed all his relations with them, due to their misbehavior, cruelty, & out of control. My Client will not responsible for any type of their activities. Anybody dealing with them from any person in future. It is own risk and consequences. My client will not responsible for their any acts.

S.K. SHRIVASTVA (ADVOCATE)

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION WORKS
E-Tender No. : Dy.CE/C/II/BRC/CTD-Dhar/110R-1Name of Work: Laying and linking of BG for Main & Loop lines including points & crossing at various yards, spreading of ballast, supply of ballast, tamping of track with other incidental miscellaneous works and Transportation of P-way materials from various locations in Western Railway or outside with contractor's own vehicle including loading, unloading and stacking by mechanical means adjoining the formation at different location between Khanadala (Excluding Yard) to Jobat (including Yard) in connection with "CTD-DHAR new BG Line Project." **Approximate cost of work: ₹ 475.95 Lakhs**
Earest Money to be deposited: ₹ 3,88,000/- **Availability of online Tender for bidding:** From 25.09.2020 to 09.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs. Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (Non Refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender condition please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offer will not be considered.

Govt. of Bihar



SAKSHAM

State Society for Ultra Poor & Social Welfare (SSUPSW)
Deptt. of Social Welfare, Govt. of Bihar
2nd Floor, Apna Ghar, Behind Lalit Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna – 800023, Bihar
Website: www.ssups.w.in, Tel: +91-612-2546510/11, Email: ssups.w@gmail.com

SHORT RE-TENDER NOTICE

SSUPSW, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar, Patna invites sealed tenders from reputed Company/Firm/Agency to provide Services of "Comprehensive Maintenance for Physiotherapy, Exercise therapy, Audiological and Optical Equipments installed in 38 district level Buniyad Centres and 38 Mobile Therapy Vans"

The interested Company/Firm/Agency may submit their Technical and Financial bid in prescribed format in separate sealed cover. The required services, bid documents, terms & conditions and format for technical and financial bid for participating in the bid are available on www.ssups.w.in & <https://state.bihar.gov.in/socialwelfare/CitizenHome>.

The other details are as follows:

| S.N | PARTICULARS | DETAILS |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | Online availability of Tender documents on the website | Up till 29/09/2020 www.ssups.w.in & https://state.bihar.gov.in/socialwelfare/CitizenHome |
| 2. | Last Date and Time for receipt of Tender offers | 29/09/2020 till 04.00 PM |
| 3. | Date & time of opening of Technical bid | 29/09/2020at 04.30 PM |
| 4. | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | Mentioned in Bid Document |

The SSUPSW will reserve right to cancel the tender or its process at any stage without assigning any reason.

The EMD, Technical & Financial Bid should be sealed in separate envelopes by mentioning the words "EMD"/"Technical Bid"/"Financial Bid" on the respective envelopes. These envelopes should be contained in a single sealed envelope super scribed as "SHORT RE-TENDER FOR COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY, EXERCISE THERAPY, AUDIOLOGICAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENTS INSTALLED IN 38 DISTRICT LEVEL BUNIYAD CENTERS AND 38 MOBILE THERAPY VANS" and should reach by Post/Courier/Representative till 29/09/2020 at 04.00 PM to SSUPSW, Patna.

(Notice Tender published for "SHORT TENDER FOR COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY, EXERCISE THERAPY, AUDIOLOGICAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENTS INSTALLED IN 38 DISTRICT LEVEL BUNIYAD CENTERS & MOBILE THERAPY VANS" vide PR No. 0006196 (Ni Ni) 2020-21 has been cancelled by the competent authority.

(Daya Nidhan Pandey, IAS)
Chief Executive Officer

PR. No. 007388 (NI NI) 2020-21

नोबल कोरोना का संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहायोग हेतु Toll Free No.-104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।
खाद्य सामग्री- सबकी किमी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

Lack of confidence

India's rising COVID-19 numbers and a second wave in the West mean that economic revival is a long way off



China has enjoyed showing its thumb to the world and in a brazen display of insensitivity, it recently allowed a mass beach party to take place in the city of Wuhan, the epicentre of the contagion that is ravaging the lungs of people across the world as well as the global economy. Stock markets worldwide are in a tumble once again as renewed curbs across Europe, following a resurgence of the pandemic, cast a shadow on economic activity that was picking up pace. The cascading impact hit D Street, too, as foreign portfolio investors and domestic institutions dumped shares, plunging graphs southwards. And although our market has recovered by about 50 per cent from the lows of March, it is still patchy and any decelerator sends it crashing too. Large countries like the UK as well as several cities and states across the US are being forced into another round of lockdown to prevent a devastating "second wave," which means shuttering businesses that had opened. In India, while numbers have stabilised, albeit with lower testing numbers as well as evidence that district and city level officials are restricting testing deliberately, the pandemic appears to have become a fact of life with most cities whirring back. In Kerala, the State Government is allowing asymptomatic workers to return to their jobs in a secluded work zone. Yet, full steam ahead is quite a way off. While the impending festive season and the action in the Indian Premier League (IPL) will bring a spending boost, the levels will be nowhere close to those of past years. The problem is while businesses aren't completely dysfunctional, allowed as they are to operate freely in non-restricted areas, they are inter-connected to supply and distribution chains across States. Stalling of operations in one hub in a badly-hit State is bound to affect others as the cascading effect slows down the sector a particular business is into, and thereby grunts the overall economy. With attendance and production capacity affected by restrictions, some sectors cannot even take off optimally. Bengaluru is a prime example. With most IT workers having left the city through a series of lockdowns, they returned in waves, thereby, slowing down the desired momentum for recovery. All such micro-blocks are threatening to disrupt the little gains made in reviving the economy. A slew of economic relief measures, too, has failed to inspire confidence among businesses as corporate finances remain squeezed, sales have not regained momentum and demand remains low. Even the amount allocated for bailing out MSMEs remains largely undistributed.

As some have described it, 2020 is a lost year, a year spent bleeding and that can only stop next year. Anyway the process of full recovery will not start before 2022. That said, others are still quite hopeful of a rebound economy and while expecting numbers to be lower than before, they feel they would be fairly decent. Many of these people are seen in the stock exchanges betting big. The rise in the price of many major stocks despite the lost first and insipid second quarters of the year was a sign that some would hold out long-term. As long as COVID-19 is around, there will be a continuing drop in demand and supply chain inconsistencies. Besides, there are sectoral spurts while the economy as a whole needs to stabilise. Given the Government's long-range structural reforms, stimulus and relief by RBI, many investors are still using the volatility to their advantage by focussing on long-term prospects and asset allocation and choosing to build a solid portfolio. While many Indians do not have a choice but to live with the virus, some nations might prioritise differently. That said, it appears that the virus will keep on coming back. If we are to learn anything from the 1919-1920 Spanish flu epidemic, it is that it just took time to eliminate it. Vaccines did not exist then. But a price of asking for time will be that the economic bleeding might last longer and many worry that a body without any blood is not worth saving. So, will 2021 also be a frightening year? It is a question worth asking now. Global ratings agency Fitch has already estimated that the Indian economy is expected to contract by 10.5 per cent in 2020-21. And while industry federations are hopeful that growth can be expedited through continued government support and hand-holding of businesses during this crisis, they are still cautiously optimistic about full capacity utilisation. This is going to be a long road to recovery.

Women in combat

Woman pilot to fly Rafale, two others to fly choppers from Navy warships. Finally, the glass ceiling has been broken



Women in India have something to be extremely proud of as Avani Chaturvedi, a young fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force (IAF), will soon be part of the crew flying the newly-inducted Rafale fleet. She is now undergoing training to fly India's latest acquisition and is part of a three-member women team commissioned as flying officers in July 2016, less than a year after the Government decided to open the fighter stream for women. The first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo, she has been flying MiG-21s for a while now. However, India has been a bit late in entrusting the nation's safety to its daughters. Because this small and elite league of extraordinary women is led by Turkish aviator Sabiha Gökçen, who in 1937 flew fighter airplanes into war zones and dropped bombs on rebel camps. This was a time when women weren't even allowed to become air force pilots, forget flying fighters. At the young age of 24, Gökçen became the world's first-ever woman to participate in a national military operation. That a woman from a predominantly Western Asian country, with a small part straddling south Europe, was the first to do so says much about the region's leadership at that time as even in the "free world", namely the US, women were not allowed to serve as jet pilots until about 50 years later in 1976. And it took a few more years for women in the US to do what Gökçen could as Jeannie Leavitt became the first woman fighter pilot in 1993. It's a sad statement on gender parity in the Indian security forces that it took over six decades for them to send a woman into combat. It was in 1999 during the Kargil War that India allowed Gunjan Saxena to fly into a war zone on a chopper. Too late and too little, the IAF has 10 women fighter pilots and 18 women navigators and the total strength of women officers serving in the IAF is 1,875 as the force continues to induct and deploy them as per strategic needs and operational requirements. Now, the Golden Arrows squadron that was raised on October 1, 1951, will have its first woman fighter pilot. Two women will also fly Navy choppers in frontline positions on Navy warships. A rather slow start. This in a country that has had a woman Prime Minister, a woman President and many women Chief Ministers and Governors, leaving behind a so-called developed country like the US, which is yet to have its first woman President. So while the much-maligned world of politics has been more inclusive, the gallant security forces have not been as welcoming of the other half.

Thanks to the Supreme Court, women officers in the Army can now get command positions on par with male officers and break the glass ceiling in the forces. However, the sad part is that they had to fight for it legally rather than being naturalised in the just order of things, considering that they were inducted in the Army way back in 1992, a long 28 years ago. The court also underlined the need for a mindset change in the evolutionary flow of changing times, not just in the Army but everywhere. It had said, "Physiological features of women have no link to their rights. Women work shoulder to shoulder with men." Women officers in the forces, like their male counterparts, give up on all familial commitments to be part of the Army. They, too, undergo the same rigorous selection and training procedures as their male peers. If women have made it through all kinds of selection criteria, then they should at least be given a chance to prove their mettle. Not benched.

China sitting pretty

One scenario is PLA withdrawing to original positions from most friction points except Depsang with Indian forces vacating Chushul heights as quid pro quo



ASHOK K MEHTA

After a hiatus of seven weeks, the India-China disengagement and de-escalation process (DDP) resumed on Monday in a revised military-diplomatic format. To recap, in April-May, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) presented India with a fait accompli through multiple intrusions across LAC, annexing 1,000 sq km of territory following intelligence and operational lapses of Himalayan heights. China built up 40,000 troops with matching deployment by India and preliminary conversations on a DDP culminated in the Galwan clash, which led to further mobilisation of troops. The China-dictated DDP disadvantaged Indian forces, locking them in buffer zones and blocking their patrolling in Galwan, Hot Springs-Goghra, Depsang and Pangong Lake areas. An Indian riposte came south and north of Pangong Lake on Kailash ridge centred around Mukhpari through a preemptive operation by the Special Frontier Force, comprising exiled Tibetans, and local action in the Fingers area. This unnerved PLA, which created a friction point near Mukhpari prior to the anodyne five-point Moscow agreement between Chinese and Indian Foreign Ministers. Few days earlier, the two Defence Ministers had conversed at the same platform. Two thresholds — unarmed combat resulting in casualties and prophylactic firing — on the escalation ladder have been crossed for the first time in 45 years.

Speaking in both Houses of Parliament on the situation along the LAC, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh skipped specifying statistics of PLA ingress. In fact, he was less than economical with the truth by suggesting that coordinated intelligence and border troops' action thwarted aggression which he referred to as transgression when it was clearly a case of intrusion. In fact, the Ministry of Defence had put out the details of intrusions on its website but mysteriously removed them.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's epic statement on June 19 that no Chinese troops intruded or were on Indian soil was the original sin which became the Holy Grail for Beijing. Singh replied rhetorically to Indian troops in lockdown being prevented from



patrolling by PLA. What was also missing from his statement was any reference to restoration of status quo ante (RSQA) and Depsang, the deepest and strategically most unbalancing of all intrusions. It was Singh who first spilled the beans on intrusions and later admitted he could not guarantee a favourable outcome from military commanders' talks. He was spot on as DDP had virtually collapsed by August 2, the last date of talks.

India's negotiating strategy has serious lacunae. Further, in the statements issued by each side, China has never mentioned RSQA but restoring peace and tranquility in border areas. The word LAC has also never been used. Curiously, the Indian side has also not used RSQA in formal statements but called for full and complete disengagement. Mention of Depsang has become taboo. China has violated all border protocols, especially the 1993 and 1996 agreements, and changed the concept of LAC since it is neither delimited nor delineated. It has made LAC irrelevant, turning it into the line it can occupy and control. Instead, it has promulgated the November 1959 claim line shifting LAC westwards. As the stronger power, it has exploited the undefined LAC for exercising coercive diplomacy. China's *Global Times* has repeatedly said that India must

“ CHINA HAS NEVER MENTIONED RESTORATION OF STATUS QUO ANTE BUT WANTS PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN BORDER AREAS. THE WORD LAC HAS ALSO NEVER BEEN USED. CURIOUSLY, THE INDIAN SIDE HAS ALSO NOT MENTIONED IT BUT CALLED FOR FULL AND COMPLETE DISENGAGEMENT. MENTION OF DEPSANG HAS BECOME TABOO ”

accept the 1959 claim line or else face war.

Before the Foreign Ministers' Moscow meeting, the PLA attempted to unhinge India's seizure of Chushul heights, including several nodal points on the 30-km Kailash ridge line dominating PLA Moldo garrison and Spanggur Gap. These dominating heights are on the Indian side of LAC and not a trespass as alleged by China. PLA manufactured a friction point on a plateau roughly 300 m away and 200 m lower, near Mukhpari, one of the highest points on the ridge. It is surprising why the Special Frontier Force (SFF) did not occupy this plateau. During the ongoing talks, Mukhpari has already become the new bone of contention in DDP.

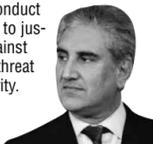
Even with the dust not settling on the plateaus of east Ladakh for over five months now, it is possible to decipher more rationally the Chinese motivation for its well-planned military occupation of Indian territory. It is now flatly refusing to disengage and abandon military gains like it did after past intrusions — Sumdorong Chu (1986), Depsang (2013), Chumar (2014) and Doklam (2017). India is still relying on China eventually withdrawing and returning to barracks.

It seems China was incensed when Indian troops trespassed border at Doklam (disputed between China and Bhutan)

SOUNDBITE

There is a tangible threat of further escalation as India might conduct another false flag operation to justify renewed aggression against Pakistan, posing a serious threat to regional peace and security.

Pakistan Foreign Minister
—Shah Mahmood Qureshi



The proposed Mekedatu reservoir under the guise of drinking water purpose would irreparably and irreversibly affect the flow of water.

DMK president
—MK Stalin



We remain committed to using our tools to do what we can to ensure that the recovery will be as strong as possible, and to limit lasting damage to the economy.

Federal Reserve Chairman
—Jerome Powell



For the past month we have been training here, Virat Bhaiya (Kohli) has talked to me and I have learnt a lot from him.

Cricketer
—Devdutt Padikkal



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ruckus in Parliament

Sir — The Government did not have a majority in the Rajya Sabha to get its farm Bills passed. Thus, to bend the House to its wishes, even as the Opposition protested and demanded further discussion on the same, the ruling dispensation intentionally had the Bills passed through a voice vote. The sheer display of arrogance by the Government will cost it dear as the farmers continue to protest against the "historic farm reforms".

R Narayanan
Mumbai

Hollow promises?

Sir — With the Bihar Assembly elections round the corner, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a special package of ₹1.25 lakh crore for the State. This is not the first time a Government has announced a special package just before elections, so, only time will tell how much of this package will actually help the people of Bihar. As of now, Bihar remains one of the most backward States in the country. And many promises

A call for people's vaccine

The decision to stop funding WHO and opt out of COVAX, the COVID-19 Global Access Facility, by the US were major setbacks in the fight against the virus. Also, orders by countries like US, UK and Australia for large supplies of potential COVID-19 vaccines will deplete the limited stock and deny or delay vaccination in the developing countries. Speaking at the United Nations' 75th anniversary commemoration, Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for global collaboration and cooperation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN should indeed facilitate an agreement for a fair and equitable distribution of vaccines when they become available.

While the race for the COVID-19 vaccines is understandable, the cut-throat competition for developing them is avoidable and unnecessary. However, this isn't the time to seek national glory or commercial benefit but to push the idea of "people's vaccine" forward. This will make the vaccines available to all at affordable prices and the pharmaceutical companies won't be able to



manipulate the prices.

The UN will have served its purpose if it sends out the message that creating vaccinated pockets won't be beneficial for any country. The leaders need to come together and work towards a sustainable future for all mankind.

David Milton
Maruthancode

made before are yet to see the light of day.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Gender equality

Sir — In a first, the Indian Air Force's Rafale squadron in Ambala is getting its first woman fighter pilot. Currently, the total strength of women officers serv-

ing in the IAF is 1,875, including 10 women fighter pilots and 18 women navigators. There is still a long way to go before we achieve gender equality in all spheres of life.

Yashi Bairagi
Ujjain

Disgraceful conduct

Sir — Rajya Sabha Deputy

Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh's refusal to conduct a division of votes on two controversial farm Bills despite the Opposition's protest was unprecedented. The rule book says that even if a single member demands division of votes, it has to be carried out. The Government brazenly undermined the parliamentary procedures and triggered an uproar.

This presents a grim picture of the state of democracy in India under the present regime. However, the Opposition's reaction didn't help the case either as they went on a rampage disrupting the proceedings of the House and the farmers' interest was lost in the din.

Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

Bank reforms

Sir — Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan suggested that the Government should privatise select public sector banks as reforms are necessary to ensure growth of banking activity without the periodic boom-bust cycles. However, before initiating such a step, the Government should complete the process of consolidating Government banks by merging the remaining five nationalised banks. Once this is done, there will be about seven or eight big public sector banks out of which a select three or four may be considered for privatisation.

MR Anand
Vrindavan

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Time to take stock of the UN

Overall the UN is a mixed bag and it is for the members to make it effective. At this juncture, it is crucial to improve the UN rather than destroy it



KALYANI SHANKAR

The United Nations (UN) will be 75 next month. It is a relatively young organisation but a significant birthday like this one means it is time for stock-taking. It came into being after its structure was finalised at an international conference in San Francisco in October 1945, in which 50 countries, including India participated. Since then it has grown and today the UN has 193 members. Moreover, the UN of today is hugely different from the UN of 75 years ago. The big question is whether the world body has played its role properly or has it become irrelevant? It was the late UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld who said famously that the UN was created "not to lead mankind to heaven but to save humanity from hell."

Interestingly, those who support the UN believe that the world body has served its purpose by and large. The very fact that it has survived, despite the ups and downs, shows success. They point out that most of all, there has been no nuclear war in the last 75 years. Others praise the peace-keeping missions of the UN. They also praise its sustainable development programmes. But the UN is also criticised for not being effective for various reasons. On the UN's watch, several authoritarian rulers have used conventional weapons against innocent citizens. The UN resolutions are non-binding. The world body was supposed to prevent conflicts and war and yet over 80 conflicts took place since its inception. In the last three decades, US Presidents, right from Bush to Trump, have all criticised the UN for its functioning. The UN is also facing a resource crunch because members, including the US, do not pay their contribution in time.

India's involvement with the UN is remarkable. As a founding member, New Delhi's contribution in implementing the goals of the UN Charter and programmes has been substantial. It has been involved in many UN bodies and India is the current chair of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) executive committee. India is right now a member of the UN's Commission on Status of Women (UNCSSW), for four years (from 2021 to 2025). India was elected as a non-permanent member of the powerful UN Security Council (UNSC) for two years in June and the country served eight two-year terms earlier. New Delhi has been lobbying for the expansion of the UNSC and also staked a claim for a place in it. For some years now, whenever any of our Prime Ministers went abroad or any heads of State visited India, one issue that was always raised was getting support for India's candidature to the expanded UNSC. However, the reforms are not taking off for various reasons. For instance, the five permanent members are not keen on losing their veto powers. The UN chief has praised India's contribution to the peace-keeping forces as it has been the driving force behind many issues like the end of colonialism and apartheid and of global disarmament and terrorism. India is an ardent advocate of UN reforms. New Delhi initially had no ambition of becoming a permanent member of the Council. However, when the General Assembly took up the UN reforms in 1992, Japan, Germany and Brazil sought membership in an expanded Security Council. India too joined them in the chorus. However, many European countries object to Germany's claim, Argentina opposes Brazil and Pakistan opposes India, and so on. Thereafter, the four countries formed the BRICS group to work together.

The one question that is being repeatedly asked in today's circumstances is what is the future of the UN? Some want the UN to play a greater role in world affairs, while others want its role to specifically focus on humanitarian work. Reforming the system and getting wide international support and funds are the most important things needed for the UN. Almost from the early nineties, the reforms are being talked about but there is no progress in this regard, which is indeed unfortunate. Second, the UN needs to be modernised. Many feel that the present structure is flawed and many programmes are often duplicated. Third, there is an increasing feeling that the UN should be strengthened. The world body should be vested with more powers to deal with errant members.

Fourth, UN funding should not be stopped for any reason as the world body must remain independent. The UN is dependent on the contribution of cash, goods and services from its member states to finance and help its activities. Fifth, there is a need to cut down the strength of the staff. As *The Guardian* newspaper pointed out some time ago, "85,000 bureaucrats, an annual spend of about \$40 billion (£26 billion) — 2,000 times that of the organisation's budget during its first year in 1946. Spending has quadrupled in the past 20 years — and still, several agencies struggle to balance their books."

However, despite all complaints and criticism, the UN is currently the only international body where heads of states can gather to discuss important issues and countries come together to try to work out some of the world's problems. Overall the UN is a mixed bag and it is for the members to make it effective. At this juncture it is crucial to improve the UN rather than destroy it.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IT IS A WITCH-HUNT. PEOPLE IN THE FILM INDUSTRY ARE BEING FLOGGED BY SOCIAL MEDIA. PEOPLE WHO MADE THEIR NAMES IN IT HAVE CALLED IT A GUTTER.

—SP MP

JAYA BACHCHAN



WHEN THE FILM INDUSTRY IS FULL OF WITCHES WE WILL HAVE TO HUNT FOR THEM.

—BJP MP

SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY

A boon or bane?

The Govt needs to fix the lacunae in the farm Bills instead of trying to push them through without consulting those it affects most, namely our farmers



CHITTARVU RAGHU

Central legislation, the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was enacted with the main objective of prohibiting hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities. The other objective was to provide them to the common man at fair prices. This is because their cost to the consumer is dependent on various uncontrolled factors like climatic conditions, region of origin, supply chain, marketing and so on. Restrictions were stipulated under the Act and control orders were issued by respective States in relation to stocking, pricing and distribution. Over the years, we have been witnessing fluctuations in prices of essential commodities as well as other agriculture produce. This has often resulted in huge losses to farmers and control orders have often been invoked by the States to minimise the financial damage to them.

Now, there is an uproar among the farmers in the country and in political circles, too, after the Parliament passed three agriculture-related Bills, namely, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill.

A reading of the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 shows that the same is being enacted to protect and empower the farmers. It is meant for them to engage with agri-business firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters, large retailers for farm services and sale of future farming produce within a mutually agreed remunerative price framework in a fair and transparent manner. A reading of the provisions shows that farming produce includes all the agriculture produce, foodstuffs, cereals, cattle fodder, cotton seeds and so on. And farm services under the Bill include even the provision for supply of seed, feed, fodder inputs for farming and so on by the wholesaler or retailer, who is termed as "sponsor" under an agreement.

This shows that the entire agriculture produce of a farmer would be under the control of the "sponsor", who could be a businessman or a corporate. The proposed Act specifically overrides the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and all the State control orders and any other laws related to stock limit and so on under Section 7 of the Bill. The "sponsor", who would provide inputs for the farmer, would have overall control over the production, stocking and so on. Since the proposed Act overrides the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, there is no limit in relation to the number of agreements that may be entered into by the "sponsor" with various farmers. There is a possibility of a single "sponsor" monopolising the entire control of farming and the produce.

The next stage would be with regard to trade and marketing by the farmer. The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 has been introduced with the main objective of giving farmers and traders the freedom of choice relating to sale and purchase of the produce. The word "farmer" has been defined as an individual engaged in the production of agricultural produce and includes farmer-producer organisations (FPOs). The FPO is defined as an association or a group of growers. However, sections on the inter-State and intra-State trade have included only the word "trader". The trader has been defined as a person who buys farm produce and does not include a farmer. Therefore, the sum and substance of the

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 THOUGH IT APPEARS FROM THE READING OF BOTH THE FARM BILLS THAT THEY ARE BEING LEGISLATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF GROWERS IN RELATION TO AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY, PRICE, MARKETING AND SO ON, IN REALITY THE BUSINESSMAN, CORPORATES, MIDDLEMEN MAY TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE CONTROL OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES. THERE CANNOT BE ANY REGULATION IN RELATION TO HOARDING AND BLACK MARKETING. THE ENTIRE AGRICULTURE PRODUCE OF A FARMER WOULD BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE 'SPONSOR', WHO COULD BE A BUSINESSMAN OR A CORPORATE. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF A SINGLE 'SPONSOR' MONOPOLISING THE ENTIRE CONTROL OF FARMING AND THE PRODUCE
 ”



proposed Act is that the inter-State trade or intra-State trade can be conducted by only the one who buys the farm produce.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 ends with the purchase of the stock by the "sponsor" who enters into a farming agreement with the farmer at the production level. The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 speaks with regard to the trade of the farm produce and spells out that the trader would be involved in the inter and intra-State trade.

Neither the word "trader" in the said Bill includes the "sponsor" under the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, nor does the definition "sponsor" include the "trader" under the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020. Both the Bills do not specify how the commodity will be dealt with after the produce is taken over by the "sponsor." Maybe the "sponsor" has to become a trader under the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 but the Bills are silent on this.

Though it appears from the reading of both the proposed legislations that they are being pushed for the benefit of growers in relation to agricultural activity, price, marketing and so on, in reality the businessman, corporates, middlemen may take over the entire control of essential commodities. There cannot be any regulation in relation to hoarding and black marketing. This lacuna has to be addressed by the Central Government and it must make suitable amendments to protect the interests of the farmers and the consumers.

Section 6 of the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and

Facilitation) Bill stipulates that no marketing fee or cess levy under any State Agriculture Marketing Committee Act or any other State law shall be levied on farmers, traders, electronic trading and transaction platforms for conducting business in a "trade area."

The "trade area" has been defined as a place where the farmers produce can be collected. Obviously, the "sponsor" under the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 would be in control of the farm produce and he may be acting as a "trader" who would utilise the trade area for the purpose of his business. In the process, the State Governments shall lose revenue, which otherwise would be available by way of market fee, levy and so on. Such a provision will adversely affect the revenue of the States.

Section 8 of the said Act of the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 stipulates dispute resolution but speaks with regard to a dispute arising out of the transaction between the farmer and a trader under Section 4. The "farmer" may not have any scope to offer his produce for sale to a trader in cases wherein he enters into an agreement with the "sponsor" under the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.

When both the Bills are independently understood, those farmers who would not enter into an agreement with any "sponsor" for the purpose of production, may benefit in the course of time. But in the light of the businessmen/sponsor entering into the domain of the agriculture production, whether the farmer would be benefitted or not is the question.

Certain amendments may be required to the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price

Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 in respect to pricing of farming produce under Section 5, mechanism for dispute resolution under Section 14 and power of the State Governments to make rules under Section 23 of the Bill, in the interest of protecting the rights of growers.

Certain safeguards can be provided to them in relation to the payment of the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the consequences if the farming produce is refused by the "sponsor" on the ground of quality and payment of money to the grower by the "sponsor."

Section 5, which contemplates pricing of the produce, does not stipulate any minimum price. It only speaks with regard to the "guaranteed" price to be paid for the produce. The provision is silent with regard to the "authority" which would determine the said guaranteed price. Section 23, which empowers the State Government to make rules, is also silent regarding this aspect. It only enables the State Government to frame rules in relation to the mode and manner of payment but gives it no right to fix the guaranteed price. A reading of the Act shows that the guaranteed price would be determined inter-se between the "farmer" and the "sponsor." When the "sponsor" is providing various inputs for the crop, obviously he would be in a position to command a particular price which may be adverse to the interest of the farmer.

The "sponsor", while determining the price, would also take into account the other factors like the cost of the inputs which in the end would reduce the farmer into a farm labourer.

The Government needs to fix the lacunae in the farm Bills instead of trying to push them through without consulting those it affects the most, 60 per cent of the country's population.

(The writer is Advocate, Andhra and Telangana High Courts)

Green buildings only hope in post-pandemic era

It is high time governments act by adopting mandatory energy-saving codes for new buildings and refurbishing existing ones



ARCHANA JYOTI

Sneha Singh shifted to an apartment in a highrise building with her husband and children in the national Capital two years ago. She has two air-conditioners, a TV, a refrigerator and other electrical appliances in her home. But she has stopped using air-conditioners now and has minimised the use of other electrical appliances because of the economic impact of the COVID-induced lockdown.

"With the mercury shooting up in April and May, it was extremely difficult for my kids to study or sleep. They were restless and unable to focus on their work," she says. But what she does not understand is that the problem lies with the design and construction of the flat, which was not built keeping the

health of its occupants in mind. With the virulent virus forcing Sneha to spend most of the time indoors, she and many other families like hers are now realising the importance of the quality of the environment inside the house.

Experts are of the opinion that green building technologies can help the world prepare for a future in which pandemics will be more common. In fact, the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) president Dr Ho Nyok Yong made it loud and clear at a webinar in May this year when he said, "Think of green buildings as giant N95 face masks, protecting you from harmful toxins the moment you step inside."

Echoing his observation, a study in Singapore said that people who stay in "green" buildings are less likely to suffer from fatigue, headache and even skin irritation, showing that their benefits stretch beyond saving energy.

In contrast, the health impacts of living in energy-inefficient buildings have been studied extensively in some countries like the UK and New Zealand. They have shown that the list

of consequences of non-energy efficient houses is long: Increased chances of respiratory infections, cardiovascular disease, gastro infections, asthma, allergy symptoms, poor mental health, arthritis, rheumatism and a higher number of falls — a major safety risk for the elderly. Closer home, in 2018, IIT Bombay and Doctors For You, an NGO, conducted a study in Mumbai's poorest ward, M-East, that established a co-relation between mortality due to tuberculosis (TB) and housing conditions. It found that eight to 10 per cent of the residents in the denser, less light-filled and more poorly ventilated complexes had TB, compared to one per cent of residents in a better ventilated project. Even within a building, the risk of TB declined on higher, well-ventilated floors.

Veteran architect Ashok B Lall explains, "Most of the time buyers are not aware that housing conditions have an influence on physical health. People must understand that houses are more than the physical structures providing shelter. For example, a warm and dry house can improve gen-

eral health outcomes and specifically reduce respiratory issues. Children living in crowded homes are more likely to be stressed, anxious and depressed, have poorer physical health, and inattentiveness at school."

Lall is a supporter of green building design focussing on reductions in energy and water usage, creation of healthy indoor environment and minimisation of environmental disturbances.

Realising the significant co-benefits of improving housing conditions, in 2018, the World Health Organisation (WHO) came out with guidelines on health and buildings. "Improved housing conditions can save lives, reduce disease, increase the quality of life, reduce poverty and help mitigate climate change," said the WHO, also noting that these can contribute towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to health (Goal 3) and sustainable cities (Goal 11). As per the guidelines, installing efficient and safe thermal insulation can improve indoor temperatures that support health, while also lowering energy costs and

reducing carbon emissions.

Thermal quality refers to whether the indoor temperature is comfortable and healthy. While most evidence relates to the impact of cold environment, overheating can also damage health through dehydration. In cold climates, better and improved energy efficiency can lower rates of excess winter mortality while in hot climates it helps reduce the risk of dehydration and negative health impacts, says Sameer Maithel, Director of research and advisory firm Greentech Knowledge Solutions and Head, Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) Project Management and Technical Unit in India. BEEP is a bilateral cooperation project between the Union Power Ministry and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) of the Swiss Confederation. Maithel says that the health quotients in energy-efficient buildings are: Thermal comforts, natural ventilation, daylight availability, which serves as a disinfectant as well as the source of Vitamin D, safe drinking water, sanitation and waste management.

Talking about the design princi-

ples of building green and sustainable homes in India, Lall says, "If we can devote 60 per cent of the terrace area of a four-storey building to install solar panels, it will meet the energy demand of all its residents." The height of the building has a direct co-relation with its carbon emissions and is inversely proportional to affordability, he adds.

Refining the ventilation system is another key to minimising disease transmissions while saving electricity. Unfortunately, in India most buildings are not equipped to establish and maintain healthy indoor air quality and need to be upgraded. The number of buildings conforming to green labels covers only about one per cent of the urban buildings in India. Isn't there a risk that raising standards will push up costs further? "But in the bargain you cut down medical bills as well as enhance productivity," argues SP Garnaik, executive director of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Power Ministry.

On its part, with an aim to make workplaces healthier and greener in the COVID-19 scenario, EESL and the

US Agency for International Development's (USAID) MAITREE programme, launched the "Healthy and Energy-Efficient Buildings" initiative to ensure efficiency along with health components at workplaces.

"We hope that this pilot will spur urban planners, architects and property managers to rethink the design, operation and maintenance of the buildings so as to safeguard the health and well-being of the occupants at offices and homes as well," he says.

It is high time governments act by adopting mandatory energy-saving codes for new buildings and for the refurbishment of existing ones, assert experts. "This is all the more urgent in the light of soaring construction rates. Most buildings lack mandatory building energy codes. By strengthening these codes every three-five years, zero-emission and net zero energy codes could rapidly become the norm," says Maithel.

(The writer is Special Correspondent with The Pioneer. The article has been published as part of CMS-BEEP Media Fellowship Programme.)

WHO: Highest weekly spike of 2mn cases

Geneva: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported a record number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus registered across the world over the past week — almost 2 million infections — which marks the highest number in a single week so far.

From 14 through 20 September, there were almost 2 million new cases of COVID-19, which represents a 6 per cent increase compared to the previous week, and the highest number of reported cases in a single week since the beginning of the epidemic. During the same period, there was a 10 per cent decrease in the number of deaths, with 36,764 deaths reported in the past seven days," the WHO said in a sit-



uation report late on Monday. In particular, an increase in the weekly case incidence rate was reported across all regions in the last seven days, except for

Africa, with the two Americas remaining the worst-hit areas and accounting for over 38 per cent of all new cases reported over the past week.

Meanwhile, Europe showed the greatest increment in the number of fatalities in the past week, with a 27-per cent increase compared to the previous week. AP

Julian Assange says he hears voices in prison: Psychiatrist

AFP ■ LONDON

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange complained of hearing imaginary voices and music while detained in a high-security British prison, a psychiatrist who has interviewed him told his extradition hearing on Tuesday.

Michael Kopelman, a psychiatrist who has interviewed Assange around 20 times, said the former hacker would be a "very high" suicide risk if he were extradited to the United States for leaking military secrets.

He cited as evidence Assange's "severe depression" and "psychotic symptoms", which included auditory hallucinations while in solitary confinement in his cell at the high-security Belmarsh Prison in southwest London.

Kopelman told the Old Bailey court in central London that Assange said he hallucinated music and voices saying "you are dust, you are dead, we are coming to get you".

Assange's suicidal impulses "arise out of clinical factors... but it is the imminence of extradition that will trigger the attempt," he added, warning "he will deteriorate substantially" if extradited.

Assange's partner Stella Morris has previously said she feared he would take his own life, leaving their two young sons without a father.

James Lewis, representing the US government, quizzed Kopelman over the veracity of some of Assange's claims, suggesting he may have made them up.

Assange faces 18 charges under the US Espionage Act relating to the 2010 release by WikiLeaks of 500,000 secret files detailing aspects of US military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq.

China responsible for unleashing plague of 'China virus' onto the world: Trump

United Nations: US President Donald Trump blasted China on Tuesday for "unleashing" the plague of the "China virus" onto the world, demanding that the United Nations must hold Beijing accountable for failing to contain the coronavirus that has killed nearly one million people across the world, including 200,000 Americans.



"The Chinese government, and the World Health Organization -- which is virtually controlled by China -- falsely declared that there was no evidence of human-to-human transmission," Trump said.

"Later, they falsely said people without symptoms would not spread the disease. The United Nations must hold China accountable for their actions," he said.

Trump also slammed China for dumping millions and millions of tonnes of plastic and trash into the oceans every year, overflowing other countries' waters, destroying vast swaths of coral reef, and emitting "more toxic mercury into the atmosphere than any country anywhere in the world."

"China's carbon emissions are nearly twice what the US has, and it's rising fast," he said, adding that he withdrew from the "one-sided" Paris Climate Accord and last year America reduced its carbon emissions by more than any country in the agreement. PTI

"75 years after the end of World War II and the founding of the United Nations, we are once again engaged in a great global struggle. We have waged a fierce battle against the invisible enemy - the China virus - which has claimed countless lives in 188 countries," Trump said in a video statement to the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

Trump demanded that China, where the coronavirus emerged, be held accountable for failure to control the virus and for allowing it to spread across the world.

"As we pursue this bright future, we must hold accountable the nation which unleashed

this plague onto the world: China," he said.

Doubling down on Beijing, Trump said that China condemned his travel ban on their country, even as they cancelled domestic flights and locked citizens in their homes.

"In the earliest days of the virus, China locked down travel domestically while allowing flights to leave China and infect the world," Trump said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has so far infected over 30 million people and more than 958,000 people have died. The US, with 6.7 million infections, crossed the grim milestone of 200,000 deaths.

Covid airborne, believe many scientists despite US body flip-flop

Washington: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday removed language from its website that said the novel coronavirus spreads through airborne transmission, the latest example of the agency backtracking from its own guidance.

The agency said the guidance, which went up Friday largely without notice until late Sunday, should not have been posted because it was an early draft.

"Unfortunately an early draft of a revision went up without any technical review," said Jay Butler, the CDC's deputy director for infectious diseases. "We are returning to the earlier version and revisiting that process. It was a failure of process at CDC."

Evidence that the virus floats in the air has mounted

for months, with an increasingly loud chorus of aerosol biologists pointing to super-spreading events in schools, buses, bars and other poorly ventilated spaces. They cheered when the CDC seemed to join them in agreeing that the coronavirus can be airborne.

Experts who reviewed the CDC's Friday post had said the language change had the power to shift policy and drive a major rethinking on the need to better ventilate indoor air.

Jose Luis Jimenez, a chemistry professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder who studies how aerosols spread the virus, told The Washington Post before the CDC reversed its guidance that "this is a good thing, if we can reduce transmission because more people understand how it is spreading and know what to do to stop it."

Bolsonaro: Brazil is victim of environmental smear

Rio de Janeiro: Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro defended his administration's record protecting the Amazon rainforest, telling the United Nations' virtual meeting of global leaders on Tuesday that his country has been wrongly portrayed as an environmental villain.

Speaking first in the General Debate of the UN's General Assembly, as is tradition for the Brazilian leader, Bolsonaro said the South American nation's agribusiness sector has succeeded in boosting agricultural exports to feed a growing global population, which has made it a target.

"We are victims of one of the most brutal disinformation campaigns about the Amazon

and the Pantanal wetlands," Bolsonaro said.

"The Brazilian Amazon is well-known to be very rich. That explains why international institutions support such campaigns based on ulterior interests, joined by self-serving and unpatriotic Brazilian associations, with the objective of harming the government and Brazil itself."

Bolsonaro came to office in 2019 promising to open more of the Amazon to development, such as farming and mining. International concern, particularly after last year's fires, has led investors to try to distance themselves from rising deforestation and pressure Bolsonaro's government to take more action against it. AP

Critic of Xi sentenced to 18 years in graft

Beijing: The former chairman of a Chinese state-owned real estate company who publicly criticized President Xi Jinping's handling of the coronavirus pandemic was sentenced to 18 years in prison on Tuesday in a corruption case, the government announced.

Ren Zhiqiang, who had become known for speaking up about censorship and other sensitive topics, disappeared from public view in March after publishing an essay online that accused Xi of mishandling the outbreak that began in December in the central city of Wuhan. Ren, was convicted of corruption, bribery, embezzlement and abuse of power, a court in Beijing announced. The former chairman and deputy party secretary of Huayuan Group was expelled from the ruling party in July. AP

Turkey accuses EU of rewarding aggressor in Libya

Ankara: Turkey on Tuesday accused the European Union of "rewarding the aggressor" after the 27-nation bloc slapped sanctions on three transport companies for violating the UN arms embargo on Libya, including the Turkish shipping firm which operates a vessel that was at the center of a naval standoff in the Mediterranean Sea between Turkey and France.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry statement dismissed the decision as "of no value." It insisted the ship was providing aid to Libya's U.N.-recognised government based in the capital, Tripoli, and accused the EU of ignoring countries and companies sending arms to the rival Libyan National Army, led by Gen. Khalifa Hifter, which

controls the east.

"With this attitude, the EU insists on maintaining a double-standard attitude ... Which rewards the aggressor, instead of taking an attitude in favour of international legitimacy," the ministry said.

The statement also said it is "extremely unfortunate" that the decision came as efforts are underway to reduce tensions between Greece and Turkey over energy exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean.

At talks in Brussels on Monday, EU foreign ministers imposed sanctions on the Avrasya Shipping company, which is headquartered in Turkey, saying it was "found to have violated the arms embargo in Libya." AP

Australian rescuers save 25 of 270 stranded whales so far

Hobart (Australia): Around one third of an estimated 270 pilot whales that became stranded on Australia's island state of Tasmania have died, with rescuers managing to return 25 to the sea in an ongoing operation, officials said Tuesday.

The whales were discovered Monday on a beach and two sand bars near the west coast town of Strahan. Sixty people have joined the rescue effort.

"We've rescued about 25 at the present time and escorted them out the channel and out to sea and crews are continuing to work, so that number will increase before we get to the end of the day," Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service Manager Nic Deka told reporters late Tuesday afternoon. AP

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN TENDER

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162 Date : 19.09.2020.

The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any. Dy. CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity.; Earnest Money Deposit (₹); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): [1]; 91200052; Accessories of 3 Phase Stator Chamber Type 6FRA-6068; 845 set; ₹1,23,860; 19.10.2020 at 11:00 am. [2]; 91200185; Resistance Ring [Machined]; 41no.; 000; 20.10.2020 at 11:00 am. [3]; 70200081; Gear 72 Teeth & Pinion 20 Teeth; 99 set; ₹14,53,220; 21.10.2020 at 11:00 am. [4]; 70200089; Set of Bull Gear 107 Teeth along with pinion 21 teeth for WAG-9 type Electric Locomotive; 125 set; ₹17,80,170; 20.10.2020 at 11:00 am. Office Address : Dy. CMM-III/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or SMM/HQ, 9163340704.

Principal Chief Materials Manager
AD76 - 114
CLW/Chittaranjan

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: 60-65 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Injury Mark: Head crushed, Brain dropout, Right hand broken off shoulder, Bruises on left leg & rub marks on whole body, Wearing: White coloured kurta pajama, Golden clock on the wrist of the left hand which belongs to Sonata company and Black coloured Slipper in feet On which the AIR is written, was found dead by train accident on 19.09.2020 at 9:00 AM from between KM Pol No.5/19, 5/21 South Rly Line, Opposite Gali No.2, Bihari Colony, Shahdra, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved 72 hours in GTB Hospital Mortuary. In this regard a DD No.11A dated 19.09.2020 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO
P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23961522
Mob.: 9311350017

DP/4466/RLY/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found on 13.09.2020 from the area of P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 45A, dated 13.09.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Mahendra Park, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: about 35 Years, Height: 5'7"
Face: Round, Built: Normal, Complexion: Wheatish, ID Mark: Tattoo on right arm namely Bittoo in English & Anita in hindi, Wearing: Blue Orange striped T-shirt and brown colour under wear.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station, Mahendra Park, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27632501, 8750870227

DP/400/NW/2020

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED BOY

General public is here by informed that this boy namely Dhuruv Aggarwal S/o Surender Aggarwal R/o H.No. E-53, Gali No. 3, Shastrri Park, Delhi Age : About 11 years, Complexion : Wheatish, Height : 4', Face : Round, Build : Thin, wearing green colour T-shirt, green colour nikkar and chappal in feet, has been kidnapped since 00.00.0000 from his house. In this regard FIR No. 682/18 dated 27.08.2018 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following:-

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 24368639,
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO - P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi; Tel. No. : 011-22175468, 22172410

DP/270/NW/20

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/21/2020-21/W-3 Dated : 21.09.2020

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Name of work | Removal of garbage which includes waste material, animal carcase, cow dung, leaves, malba from railway land to near by MCD dustbins in the section of SSEW/DL/Line under ADE/N/DLI. |
| 2 | Approx cost of work | Rs. 98,81,714.86 (Rupees Ninety Eight Lakh Eighty One Thousand Seven Hundred Fourteen and Eighty Six Paise only) |
| 3 | Earnest Money to be deposited | Rs. 1,97,600/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Six Hundred Only) |
| 4 | Cost of tender document | Rs. 5900/- |
| 5 | Date & Time of submission of tender bid & opening of tender: | 13.10.2020 @ 15:00 Hrs. |
| 6 | Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen. | www.ireps.gov.in |

* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. * For all terms and conditions please refer tender document * No manual offers are acceptable. * Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

2056/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Poll indicates Arden poised to win reelection

Wellington: A new opinion poll indicates that New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden is poised to win a second term in office when the nation goes to the polls next month.

But Arden said Tuesday that she's taking nothing for granted.

The 1 News Colmar Brunton Poll put support for Arden's liberal Labour Party at 48 per cent while support for the conservative National Party, led by opposition leader Judith Collins, was at 31 per cent.

Support for Arden as preferred prime minister was at 54 per cent compared to 18 per cent for Collins.

Under New Zealand's proportional voting system, larger parties typically form coalitions with smaller parties to govern.

Arden's popularity has surged since the coronavirus became the defining issue for her government six months ago. Her approach of trying to eliminate the virus has been widely viewed as successful. AP

GOVT. OF BIHAR

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT ENGINEER,

BIHAR BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

NO. 97/Dated: 22/09/2020

Short notice inviting quotation The reputed firms are requested to submit sealed quotation for following work in Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas Chanakyapuri, New Delhi for the year 2019-20. Quotation will be submitted up to 13-10-2020 till 3:00 pm and opened on 14-10-2020 at 3:30 pm at the office of the Resident Engineer, Bihar Niwas Chanakyapuri, New Delhi undersigned office has right to cancel quotation without any further information. Registration, Tin No., Pan No. and authorization of firm paper here enclosed. Details of items list can be obtained from the office of the Resident Engineer Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi. The Earnest Money (NSC/term Deposit) should be deposited 5% of total contract value before issue of work order.

| S.No | Particulars |
|------|--|
| 1 | Supply fitting and fixing Split A.C 1.5 ton 8 Nos for the year 2020-2021 |
| 2 | Supply of 29 Nos sony make large size 43" T.V A3W 672 g at Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21 |
| 3 | Repair and polishing of all furniture and wooden panel in HVE suite of Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21 |
| 4 | Supply fitting and fixing Display Monitors for CCTV Video conferencing (55 Inch) at Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21 |
| 5 | Fitting new glasses in basement ventilation windows and repair leakage and Replacement of drain pipes at Bihar Niwas basement for the year 2020-21 |
| 6 | Repair Replacement upholstery of reception sofa's and room's charirs at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2020-21 |
| 7 | Crack repair and polishing of Italian marbal at Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21 |

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-cum-Resident Engineer
Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Lalita Devi is owner of Property / Plot area measuring 50 Sq.Yds., out of khasra No. 148mm, situated in the area of Village Sadpurpur, Pargana and Tehsil Dadr, Distt. Gaurambudh Nagar, U.P. "Said Property" by virtue of Sale Deed dated 31.07.2020, having registration no. 4761. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to take a loan from our client, i.e. Trust lenders Capital Pvt. Ltd. If anybody has any objections over the property and its ownership, and title of Mrs. Lalita Devi, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, Indir Nagar, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moli Nagar, N.Delhi-15 Ph. 011-4112527-28 kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Abhishek Asthana & Mrs. Ruby Tyagi are joint owners of Flat No. ASH- 21/06, First Floor, measuring 84.3 Sq.Mts., Situated at Shriya Suroch - II, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, "the Said Property", by virtue of Sale Deed dated 22.09.2011, registration no. 22863, executed by Mrs. Kusum Tyagi. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to sell the said property and someone want to purchase the same by taking Home Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. If anybody has any objections upon the said property and its ownership / Title / Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, Indir Nagar, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moli Nagar, N.Delhi-15 Ph. 011-4112527-28 kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public on behalf of my client Shri Terath Jeet Singh S/o Late Shri Gur Baksh Singh that the property bearing House No. 1850, Pana Mamoorpur, Punjabi Mohalla, Narela, Delhi is a custodian property & is registered in the joint name of Five Brothers Late Shri Chatter Singh, Late Shri Gurbaksh Singh, Late Shri Lal Singh, Bhagat Singh and Prem Singh. It has come to the notice of my above client, who is a stake holder in the above property that Shri Sunder Singh S/o Late Shri Chatter Singh is trying to sell the above property fraudulently on fictitious Documents / General Power of Attorney by concealment of above facts. Any one purchasing the above disputed property would be doing so on his/her own risk and cost.

(MS SAHIBA)
Advocates and Solicitors,
GH-1/104, Sector-28
Rohini, Delhi-110042

Sensex down 300 points on lockdown fears across Europe

PIANS ■ MUMBAI

The Indian stock market continued its dip on Tuesday, in line with the global markets as resurgence in coronavirus cases have increased possibilities of fresh lockdown restrictions across Europe, including the UK.

The across-the-board sell off in the Indian market was led by oil and gas, energy, auto, banking and finance stocks.

"Sensex and Nifty continued to be in correction mode by closing down by 300 points and 97 points, respectively, due to a spike in covid cases in Europe," Keshav Lahoti, Associate Equity Analyst, Angel Broking Ltd, said.

BSE Sensex closed at 37,734.08, lower by 300.06 points, or 0.79 per cent, from the previous close of 38,034.14. It had opened at 38,200.71 and touched an intra-day high

of 38,209.97 and a low of 37,531.14 points.

The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange was trading at 11,153.65, lower by 96.90 points, or 0.86 per cent, from its previous close.

Manish Hathiramani, technical analyst with Deen Dyal Investments, said: "The markets are weak and we should see more downside in the coming days. Nifty could go down to 10,950-11,000 and if we don't halt there, we could fall further to test 10,800.

The resistance on the upside is 10,600-10,650 and till we do not cross that, a sell on every rise would be the appropriate strategy to adopt."

The small and midcap indices also witnessed a selloff on Tuesday.

The BSE MidCap index closed 1.70 per cent lower and the BSE SmallCap was down 1.61 per cent.

₹ drops 20 paise amid renewed growth concerns

Mumbai: The rupee depreciated by 20 paise to settle at 73.58 against the US dollar on Tuesday due to forex outflows and a stronger greenback in the global markets.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened on a weak note at 73.50 and fell further to a low of 73.64 as stock markets continued to fall for the fourth straight day.

Renewed growth concerns following resurgence of coronavirus cases in Europe and subsequent restrictions weighed on investor sentiment, dealers said.

'Labour reforms intend to put India among top 10 nations in ease of doing business'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government aims to catapult India to among the top 10 countries in World Bank's ease of doing business rankings with the comprehensive labour reforms which are likely to be completed after Parliament approves three draft codes in the ongoing session, a senior official said on Tuesday.

Under the labour reforms, the Centre plans to subsume 44 central laws into four broad codes on wages; industrial relations; occupational safety, health and working conditions (OSH) and social security.

The Wage Code Bill 2019 was passed by Parliament last year, while the other three codes were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Saturday. These bills are listed for consideration and passage in the Lower House on Tuesday.

"The ultimate goal of the government is to see India fig-



ure in top 10 nations in ease of doing business index of World Bank with completion of long-pending labour reforms," a senior labour ministry official told PTI.

As per the 'Doing Business' 2020 report, India had jumped 14 places to the 63rd position in the ease of doing business rankings. India has improved its rank by 79 positions in five years (2014-19).

"Labour laws would act as catalyst after the reform process is completed with passage of remaining three codes in Parliament during the ongoing session.

"They would help in attracting investments and generate employment in the country," the official added.

"At present, it is cumbersome to be an entrepreneur due to this vicious web of labour laws which make compliance practically difficult. It is easy to seek employment rather doing own business and becoming a job creator," the official noted.

Govt is also contemplating to digitise the entire process of labour law compliance

The codes provide for 'one labour return, one licence and one registration' to smoothen compliance.

At present, an entrepreneur has to maintain eight registrations and four licences to run a business under the existing labour laws.

Besides, they have to file eight labour returns, including to the EPFO, ESIC and Chief Labour Commissioner.

The government is also contemplating to digitise the entire process of labour law compliance, which will ease the process for entrepreneurs.

Under these codes, the maximum punishment for offences has been reduced to three years from seven years earlier. Besides, the workers would benefit by getting 50 per cent of penalty imposed by courts on employers. That would be in addition to the compensation awarded by the court to them.

Liquor makers urge Bengal CM not to alter tax structure

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Manufacturers of alcoholic Beverages have urged West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee not to alter the existing structure of tax on liquor before the festive seasons as it will hit the market.

In a joint representation to the chief minister, two major liquor makers' associations -- Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) and International Spirits and Wines Association of India (ISWAI) -- have said if the current tax structure is changed before pujas, it would prove "counterproductive" for both the government and the industry. The state Government had imposed a 30 per cent sales tax on liquor causing "a deep slide in sales and thus hurting the government exchequer", they said.

Covid bonanza for health insurers, 25% growth recorded

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the propensity of consumers to opt for a comprehensive health insurance product that gives proper financial protection for meeting any medical emergencies.

Accordingly, overall growth in the health business of general insurers was strong at 25 per cent yoy in August (13 per cent yoy in 5MFY21) with strong performance reported in retail health and government business at 40 per cent yoy each, according to analysis report by Kotak Institutional Equities.

Group health insurance, however, was muted at 12 per cent.

"Increasing risk aversion among consumers, strong uptick in demand for new Covid-related policies ('Corona Kavacha' and 'Corona Rakshak') and penetration among mass segments through the newly launched 'Arogya Sanjeevani' plans were likely drivers," the report said.

In the health insurance category, people preferred taking policies from entities having expertise in this line of operation.

Accordingly, standalone health insurers reported 39 per cent yoy increase in health premiums led by 51 per cent yoy increase in the retail health business. Private players were up 16 per cent yoy in the health business (up 40 per cent in retail health) while PSUs were up 21 per cent yoy.



Investment by health insurers in digital renewal of policies has likely paid off.

Private players witnessed 40 per cent yoy increase in retail health insurance premiums on the back of 1.1X yoy growth for Reliance General, 66 per cent yoy growth for Tata AIG and 65 per cent yoy growth for Ifico Tokio. Chola MS, ICICI Lombard and Bajaj General reported 62 per cent yoy, 28 per cent yoy and 35 per cent yoy growth, respectively, the brokerage report said.

On an overall basis, General insurers reported 10 per cent yoy growth in premiums (excluding crop) in August 2020 (7-8 per cent in past two months) led by 29 per cent yoy growth in fire and robust 40 per cent yoy growth in retail health. Motor continues to drag growth (down 2 per cent yoy).

Among key players, SBI reported stellar growth across most segments (up 25 per cent ex-crop) while ICICI and Tata AIG were up 12 per cent and 11 per cent yoy (ex-crop). Bajaj's ex-crop business remained weak, down 8 per cent yoy. Chola MS was muted at 1 per cent yoy (ex-crop).

60% Indian retailers expect 25% festive season sales cut: Survey

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a surge in online shopping due to Covid-19, about 60 per cent retail organisations in India have seen their forecasts for the festive season go down 25 per cent or more compared to last year, says a new survey on Tuesday.

Given that festival season sales account for a significant portion of sales book each year, a downturn in the festive season sales would mean a longer road to recovery, said the report by BluePi Consulting.

While negative festive forecasts are pronounced in the apparel retail forecasts, 57 per cent of non-apparel retailers are interestingly optimistic about no or little change in the festive season sales.

Due to the reduction in the festive season forecasts, around 71 per cent of the respondents are considering cancelling or deferring orders, showed the findings, adding that this reduction in forecast puts back the pressure on the entire supply chain, including the suppliers, vendors, manufacturers and other ancillaries.

"There is no shortage of challenges as underlined in the report, and a collaborative public-private model is the need of the hour," Pronam Chatterjee, CEO at BluePi, said in a statement. Nearly 60 per cent of the retail sector companies are actively looking for capital infusion, according to the "Retail Thought Leadership Survey Report 2020."

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body CII on Tuesday urged the Govt to extend the export incentive scheme MEIS till December 31 in its present form to help exporters. CII also suggested that the ambit of coverage under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) should be extended to the extent of any unutilised amount for revival of stressed sectors, including civil aviation, hospitality and tourism. These suggestions, among others, were made by the chamber during a meeting with Niti Aayog. "The Govt should extend the MEIS benefits up to 31st Dec, in its present form with a rider that the balanced funds (60 percent shortfall) would be disbursed later (with

Govt should extend MEIS till Dec 31 in its present form: CII

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

in a fixed agreeable time-period) as and when government's finances improve," CII said in a statement.

It said the extension will help address the accounting problem of exporters as they can book the receivables under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme in the current financial year. The Govt has capped export incentives under MEIS at ₹2 crore per exporter on outbound shipments made during the period from September 1 to December 31, 2020. The move comes after the Department of Revenue asked the commerce ministry to review the coverage of MEIS so that the fiscal benefits under the programme can be brought down to ₹9,000 crore in the current financial year.

PIANS ■ BENGALURU

In a major move to break the language barrier for online shopping ahead of the festive season, Amazon India on Tuesday said it is launching its shopping experience in four new languages, including Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu.

With this launch, Amazon.in customers can now discover deals and discounts, read detailed product information, manage their account information, place and pay for their orders including bill payments, recharges, money transfers, track their orders and view order history in the language of their preference.

Amazon customers can select their preferred language in a few simple steps across Android and iOS apps, mobile and desktop sites.

The launch of Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu, Tamil shopping experience on Amazon.in follows the widely adopted Hindi shopping experience that was launched in 2018.

Hundreds of thousands of Amazon customers from tier-1, tier-2 and tier-3 cities across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh have since switched to the Hindi shopping experience.

In the past five months, the adoption of Hindi shopping experience has grown by three times, Amazon India said.

Customers will find the most common words that are actually used in their daily lives being used on Amazon.in in all six languages that include Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu in addition to English.

"We have been working on introducing multiple ways of making shopping accessible to all customers -- wherever they may be and whatever the preferences may be," Kishore Thota, Director, Customer Experience and Marketing, Amazon India, said in a statement.

"This is in addition to various solutions that we introduced to reach a larger base of customers through video and voice based experiences that make consumption of information easier and interaction a lot more natural," Thota added.

In March this year, Alexa was introduced on the Amazon shopping app for Android devices to help users shop using voice commands.

Amazon.in now available in Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Google on Tuesday announced the fourth batch of its Google for Startups (GFS) Accelerator programme with 20 startups who will receive three months of support from the network of internal and external mentors in India.

The fourth GFS Accelerator programme has not only doubled its batch size from 10 to 20 startups but also expanded the scope of the programme, to include startups that are using cutting-edge tech to meaningfully help India and the world adapt and move forward from the pandemic.

It comprises startups from key categories that require urgent innovation, such as workplace collaboration and connection tools, mental health and wellness, health-tech, fintech and agritech, the company said in a statement.

"GFS Accelerator's mission is more important in the present times when this ecosystem faces unprecedented odds. Hence, we aim to focus single-mindedly on helping startups

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Google to nurture 20 Indian startups

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

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PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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Ola, Oyo watching geopolitics closely as they grow globally

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Two of India's global startups, Ola and Oyo, are cautious about the geopolitical trends while they battle to overcome the challenges created by Covid-19.

Speaking at the 47th National Management Convention of the All India Management Association (AIMA) on Tuesday, the founders of the two companies explained the global and economic situation of their businesses.

GAIL wins Leaders Award at the Frost & Sullivan and TERI's Sustainability 4.0 Awards 2020

New Delhi: GAIL (India) Limited has won the Leaders Award in the Mega Large Business, Process Sector category in the 11th edition of Frost & Sullivan - MEASA and TERI - The Energy and Resources Institute's Sustainability 4.0 Awards 2020. The award recognises corporates in sustainable development practices that provide a measurable and verifiable framework for sustainability.

Shri Manoj Jain, Chairman & Managing Director, GAIL

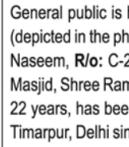
said, "We are extremely happy and honoured to have been recognised as Leader in Mega Business Process Sector Category this year by Frost & Sullivan & TERI Award Jury. The award is essentially a result of eco-conscious development GAIL has been pursuing for the past 36 years." Frost & Sullivan and TERI Award Assessment is an in-depth and comprehensive assessment based on a well-defined framework covering all critical areas of sustainability.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General Public is hereby informed that one woman **Namely: Unknown, W/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown**, has been found in an abandoned condition near Coca Cola Bus Stand, Moti Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 03A dated 14.09.2020**, has been registered at P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi. The description of the woman is as under:- **Age:** 30 years, **Sex:** Female, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Pink colour suit-salwar. She was admitted in Nari Niketan Nirmal Chhaya, Hari Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the women's family but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this woman's family kindly inform to the following. **Website:** <http://cbi.nic.in> **E-mail Id -** cic@cbi.gov.in **Ph.:** 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi** **Fax No.:** 011-24368639 **DP/207/WD/2020** **Tel.No.:** 011-25101150, 8750871125

SEARCH OF MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one lady (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Gulaksha, W/o: Naseem, R/o: C-234, 25 Futa Road, Near Janti Masjid, Shree Ram Colony, Khajuri, Delhi**, **Aged:** 22 years, has been missing from the area of PS Timarpur, Delhi since 10.09.2020 at 02.00 PM. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 52A, Dated 12.09.2020**, has been lodged at P.S. Timarpur, Delhi. Her physical description is as under: **Height:** 5'5" Feet, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Clothing:** Black Colour Burka. Any person is having any information/clue about this kidnapped lady, may inform SHO, Timarpur, Delhi at **E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in** or **website: <http://cbi.nic.in>** **Tele No.:** 011-24368638 or 24368641 **S.H.O P.S. Timarpur, Delhi** **Ph.:** 011-23812734, 23814421 **DP/568/N/2020**

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare
Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
ADVERTISEMENT FOR ECHS EMPANELMENT OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS DESIGNATED BY STATE GOVERNMENT FOR COVID-19 TREATMENT BY LOCAL FORMATION COMMANDRES

- Director Regional Centre ECHS Dehradun, on behalf of the GOC Sub Area / Area and equivalent, the Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) invites applications for the purchase of ECHS Empanelment from private hospitals / Nursing homes designated by the state Government for COVID-19 treatment and co-morbidities.
- The empanelment of such hospitals with ECHS will be for treatment of COVID-19 cases at rates as notified by MoD. The hospitals which are notified by State Government for treatment of COVID-19 patients and who are willing to get Empanelled with ECHS on temporary basis initially for a period of six months subject to review of the COVID situation by the Competent Authority would be eligible for temporary empanelment irrespective of their QCI/NABH status.
- The empanelment will be only for testing and treatment of COVID-19 and co-morbidities and will be for a maximum period of six months and will be renewed / extended based on COVID-19 situations.
- Interested Hospitals, Nursing Home etc. may submit the completed application forms at the Regional Centre, ECHS Dehradun. The terms / conditions and requirements of empanelment for ECHS requirements are detailed in attached application form.

Contact Number : 0135-2755906
E-mail: dircdehradun@echs.gov.in, rcchsdn@gmail.com

| DELHI JAL BOARD OFFICE OF THE EX-ENGINEER (NE) II R-POCKET DILSHAD GARDEN DELHI-95 | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|---|--|
| PRESS NIT No. 19 (2020-21) | | | | | | |
| S. No. | Name of Work | Amount put to tender to Tender | EMD Amount | Tender Fees | Date of release of tender in procurement solution | Last date/time of receipt of tender through procurement solution |
| 1. | Replacement of 250 mm dia old/deep and damaged water line from Khajoori Pusta Road to Tukmirpur Ext., Gali no-11 under Karawal Nagar, AC-70 Tender ID No. 2020_DJB_194737_1 | 37,18,794.00 | 75,000.00 | 500.00 | 19.09.2020 | 05.10.2020 upto 02:30 P.M. |

All the terms and conditions including technical specification and special conditions is available on Delhi Govt. Website <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 159 (2020-21)

Sd/
(Sukhpal Singh)
EX-ENGINEER (NE)-II

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, 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 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

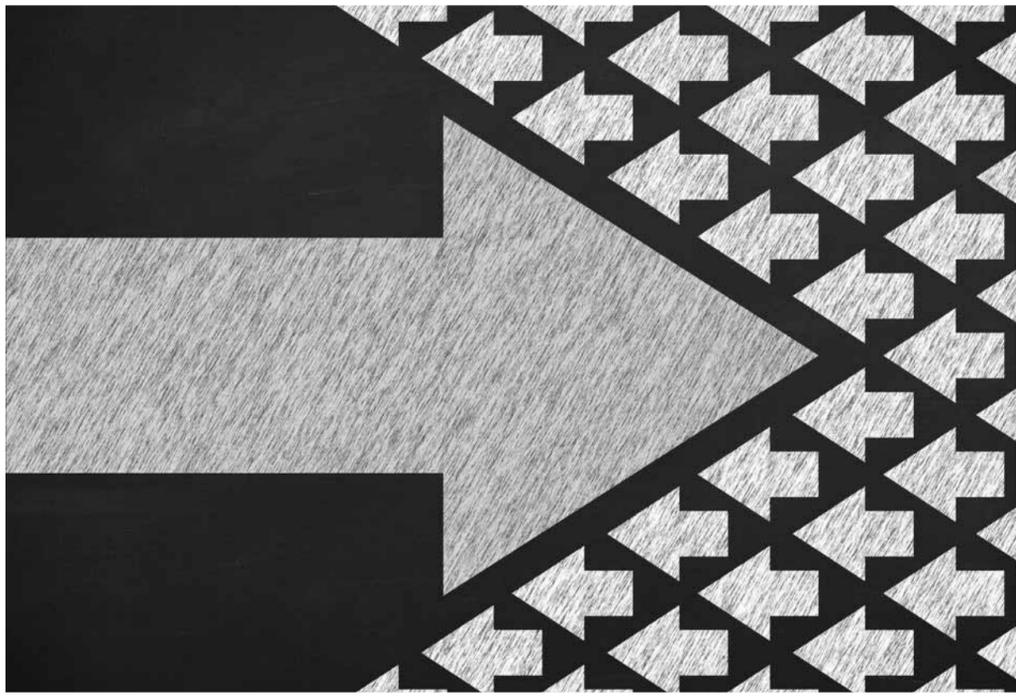
| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number | Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) | Name of Branch |
|---------|---|--|--|----------------|
| 1. | Vishal Khattar/ Bhawna LBNOD00002261419 | A2 1804, 18 Floor, JKG Plam Court, at Plot No. Gh/1- D Sector 16 C, Greater Noida West, Noida/ September 18, 2020 | July 07, 2018 Rs. 38,25,255/- | Delhi |
| 2. | Nisha Anand/ Asheesh Anand LBGUR00002263446 | Flat No- A2- 1605, Jkg Palm Court, Tower A1, Wing 2, Sector 16 C, Greater Noida UP/ September 18, 2020 | February 21, 2018 Rs. 35,49,232/- | Delhi |
| 3. | Himanshu Sikka/ Gulsan Kumar Sikka LBNOD00002278735 | Flat No 1802 18th Floor Tower A1 Palm Court Sec 16C Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh/ September 18, 2020 | March 31, 2018 Rs. 34,52,984/- | Delhi |
| 4. | Gunjani/ Rahul Chandna LBGUR0000286940 | Appartment No. A2- 1503, 15th Floor, Jkg Palm Court, Plot No. Gh/ 1- D, Sector 16 C, Greater Noida West, UP And/ Or 1503, 15th Floor, Palm Court Tower A1 And A2, Plot No. Gh- 01D, Sector 16 C, Greater Noida/ September 18, 2020 | September 29, 2018 Rs. 33,63,188/- | Delhi |
| 5. | Ashish Vashishtha/ Shobha Sharma LBGUR00002872796 | A 1- 1801, 18th Floor, Jkg Palm Court, Plot No. Gh- 1D, Sector 16 C, Greater Noida West, UP/ September 18, 2020 | April 27, 2018 Rs. 33,05,818/- | Delhi |
| 6. | Chintu Ghai/ Shilpi Ghai LBDLE00002342824 | Flat No- 1805, Tower A1, Plot No- Gh 01D, Palm Court Sector- 16 C, Noida Uttar Pradesh/ September 18, 2020 | February 27, 2018 Rs. 33,43,753/- | Delhi |

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 23-09-2020
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

The conventional model and approach in the Education Sector seem to be taking a backseat and the unprecedented times are calling for a newer approach to disseminate education without impacting its quality, says DR DNS KUMAR



For a better tomorrow

India has always held a significant place in the world of education. It has not only been known for its quality education but also the devotion of institutes that focus specifically on making the students learn and prosper in their respective fields. Even though our country has one of the largest networks of higher education institutions across the globe, there still are a lot of areas of improvement that can work on. The country still hasn't explored its highest potential in the field of education.

As per a report by Indian Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), India was aiming to raise its current gross enrolment ratio to 30% by the end of 2020, which would also have boosted the growth of distance education in India. However, the plans had to take a backseat due to the outbreak of COVID-19, disrupting the entire education sector. There is no doubt about the industry witnessing a crisis due to the ongoing pandemic and the education of the students being impacted severely by the same. The

disruptive period has steered the institutions and universities to focus on their higher education model and re-contemplate its working to resonate with the current scenario.

The conventional model and approach in the sector seem to be taking a back seat ever since the pandemic hit the country and the unprecedented time is calling for a newer approach to disseminate education without impacting the quality of it. The need of the hour requires the institutions to adapt to new innovative technologies and different techniques, which will further help them sync with the present generation.

Holding lectures and regular classes for the students is turning out to be a task because of the physical disruption caused by coronavirus. However, the universities from all over the world are putting their best foot forward to combat the issue by adopting a tech-enabled approach and conducting classes on virtual platforms. A lot of universities are going an extra mile to stand in unison with

the global institutes and form international alliances to offer the best to their students. They are offering a diversity of experiences as they provide international exposure to their students via online platforms and classrooms.

A number of massive online open courses (MOOCs) are being available to the students these days, preventing any lag on their educational front along with the professors and lecturers upgrading their skill sets to match the new way of teaching.

The way to rise above this disruption is to embrace innovative ways and break outdated boundaries. Technological advancement comes with its own set of pros and cons, with some of the flaws adverse effects including the increase in cybercrimes or offences, but these times require us to focus on the silver lining in the cloud and create opportunities out of this crisis instead. Eliminating conventional ways and outdated approaches will create a wave which will pave a new path to success and will further make edu-

cation accessible to the masses with the help of technology.

Education in the age of disruption has eventually led us to a path where the institutions are not only making online learning cost-effective and affordable for more people to enrol, but also encouraging students to focus on acquisition of skills rather than theoretical teaching. This will further bolster their confidence and make them competent to deal with any uncalled crisis in the near future. The collaborative learning coupled with a new way of teaching is revolutionising the educational sector along with offering additional perks to the students, such as online open houses, webinars, internships, smart-learning and others.

Fuelling the spirit of education and promoting remote learning, the universities are trying to fleet out of their comfort zones to create a new today and a better tomorrow. Endeavouring to make education soar high in an age of disruption, they are hosting online workshops, digi-

talised lectures, interactive sessions and discussions and on-screen examinations for the students. Remote learning, along with other tech-savvy approaches, is catching up with the country and is anticipated to contribute to the individual success of students, eventually leading India towards collective growth.

The education sector's receptivity towards innovative approaches is also providing the country with a window to improvise the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and build technology-oriented skills and competency amongst students. Building technology-oriented skills and making students competent to take the world head-on, edu-tech and virtual learning are seen serving as the tools for collective success.

The education in the age of disruption is creating ripples of change and empowering the youth to pursue their passion and eventually become skilled professionals contributing to the economic growth of the country. The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Ansal University

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Give a girl an education and introduce her properly into the world, and ten to one but she has the means of settling well, without further expense to anybody.

— James Madison

Online GK Olympiad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The term GK is firmly associated with general intelligence, therefore understanding the significance of things that happen in our life. Participation in a test like Olympiad makes students learn it through quizzes and puzzles in turn enabling them to be more decisive and confident in career.

Hence, in support of every parents and child's wish to achieve a new milestone and succeed in what he or she does; Mind Wars, a multiplatform knowledge programme promoted by Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd has announced India's largest online general knowledge

Olympiad 2020, intending to identify, encourage, and promote students towards achieving a better tomorrow.

A national-level championship will begin in November 2020, and it is open to students of classes IV to XII from all education boards across India. The 20-minute exam comprises relevant and interesting general awareness question across five topics per class, that aims at improving students' ability and growth in the coming years.

To participate in Olympiad visit: <https://www.mindwars.co.in/olympiad/>.

Exam dates: November 22, 28 and 29, 2020. December 5, 6 and 12, 2020.

UG programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is inviting applications for BEng Hons Manufacturing Engineering with Management course (four years) starting in September 2021.

Students will learn to combine virtual and physical design and prototyping in the university's digital design suite. Every physical product you come into contact with has been manufactured and the industry's demand for those skilled in this area continues to increase.

Students will benefit from guaranteed industrial experience to develop and apply their skills as a product design engineer within the real world and

add to their CV, through the Industrial Group Project modules.

Manufacturing Engineering with Management blends a more technical engineering focus (such as mechanics, manufacturing, electronics, maths, programming, engineering calculations of a product's design) with production and management principles, and technology such as operational improvement and quality management.

Eligibility: 70-75 per cent in all subjects taken at level XII and the same at level X. Marks should be particularly strong in the proposed area of study. IELTS requirement is 6.5 (no individual element below 5.5).

How to apply: Contact eng-admissions@strath.ac.uk.

While education remains a vital part of any individual's life span, that not only assists in providing a threshold to a flourishing career but also broadens the horizon to give a positive outlook to their personality. Analysing the estimated students for undergraduate programmes, around 9 crore in senior secondary level and nearly 3.5 crore in higher education. But devoid of availability of quality higher education institutions in India, the number of students opting for the best higher education remains incongruity, leading to a steady outflow of the Indian Students for International Education.

Attributing to a plethora of quite obvious reasons like emotional control, financial budget, dependent nature of the child, culture, and lifestyle of various countries, and most importantly unawareness, parents were earlier hesitant to send their kids abroad, as seen historically. The demand for high-quality education fuelled by a rising and stable economic condition in the country has managed to make this idea turn into a reality for many.

Students these days are opting for higher education in a foreign destination. However, abundant options and too many choices make this dream a challenge for many to achieve.

Why Indian students' International Mobility on rise?

When you look at the kind of course combinations that are provided by international universities today, they will definitely attract any student who is willing to explore possibilities through various courses or inculcate experience by mixing with international peer groups.

But a student aiming to go abroad for education should con-

Proper guidance is must

A student aiming to go abroad for education should consider several factors, including the budget. Many students due to incomplete research end up getting an admission in a university of less credibility, says ANKIT KAPOOR



sider factors that include languages known, budget, aptitude, suitable country, and future plans. Many students due to incomplete research end up getting an admission in a university of less credibility.

As far as financing the education is concerned, today most students look at affordable universities with part-time work opportunities in order to be able to fund their living cost. The bigger question however remains what exactly are the top universities looking for in their students which requires expert guidance and assistance.

Specialised team is required to provide holistic guidance on the

choice of universities, profile building, deadlines, university application, visa processing, and even financial planning to study and get into the world's best universities.

It is important for a student to understand the importance of building a profile. If one studies the student profiles accepted in top universities across the world there are a few common traits within the students:

Concern for community: if you do not bother for people or conditions around you and do not have an urge to improve situations, probably an expensive education in a top university is of no good to you.

Interest towards the course: Prove it to the university that you are keenly interested in the subject that you are applying to. Only exceptional academic scores in the subject might not be enough in this regard, rather your participation in subject based Olympiads, quizzes or taking higher level courses may be worthwhile.

Leadership and Risk-Taking capacities: Very common skill in sophomores of top-notch universities across the world. If you have the capacity of taking the initiative and leading others towards a positive movement, it means a lot to the universities as they can see a change maker in you.

Proper guidance helps in aspiring to bring out the best in its students by ethically guiding them and helping them build up their profiles to crack the world's top universities with scholarships. Motivating the students to choose the best courses as per their potential and evaluate their profile to provide the information based on a wide range of courses and options available across the world, is one of the important traits. Overall, one must understand those top universities today are looking for nothing less than a unique individual.

The writer is Managing Director, Pratham International Education Desk

Be a true leader

Creating leadership talent is not easy, given just how vast a capable leader's toolkit is. A leader is the cusp of people skills, strategy, technical competence, vision, commercial sense and selling ability, says DR JITENDRA K DAS

A key concern across industries and geographies is the lack of leadership talent. While the ranks of executives and managers are adequately staffed with superior talent, the top of the corporate pyramid lacks enough visionaries. Where is the next Jack Welch? The next Bill Gates? The next Steve Jobs? The next Lee Iacocca? Or closer home, the next JRD Tata? The next Aditya Birla?

Creating leadership talent is not easy, given just how vast a capable leader's toolkit is. A leader is a cusp of people skills, strategy, technical competence, vision, commercial sense, and selling ability. Little wonder that the business world is suffering from a dearth of leaders just when they are needed the most in volatile times.

The majority of millennials (the leaders of tomorrow) agree that their leadership skills are underdeveloped. Organisations thus have to invest heavily in leadership development of their workforce which has huge cost implications. To develop tomorrow's leaders, enter B-schools as a training ground. Think of it this way — from the industry's perspective, if they could hire competent business managers from B-schools who have the right seeds of leadership already planted then it would reduce time, cost, and effort down the road when it is time to select CXOs.

This clarion call from industry has led to B-schools sharpening their curriculum and pedagogy to include specific and proven techniques for identifying and nurturing leadership talent on the one hand and helping others who are lacking in leadership potential to devel-



op it. The emphasis is based on the belief that leadership is better learned when experienced than when explained. Here are some of the initiatives seen in select B-schools:

Structured courses on leadership: Many B-schools offer personalised and intensive structured programmes on leadership for students. These courses help students assess their strengths and weaknesses as a leader, learn different leadership styles, provide them with opportunities and challenges to develop their leadership capabilities. This is aided by lessons from history and real-life case studies.

Emphasis on experiential learning: B-schools are making continuous efforts to re-design their curriculum in a way that enables students to apply academic knowledge into practice through internships, case studies, industry projects, teams, and mock situations to give them a reflection of real-life situations. Practical exposure involves challenging situations, which helps students to

think critically and find creative solutions thus strengthening their decision-making skills. The objective is to push students out of their comfort zones — after all, leaders have vast comfort zones.

Integrating Entrepreneurship skills into the curriculum: Not every management student wants to pursue a corporate career. Many of them choose a management programme to polish their entrepreneurial capabilities, which also emphasises the significance of leadership qualities. Of course, the first gateway to successful entrepreneurship is effective leadership and team building. Realising this, many business schools have come forward with incubators, innovation labs, accelerators, and also organise 'start-up pitch' competitions which help students explore and refine their entrepreneurial skills.

Emphasis on technology and digital skills: Digital technology is reshaping the industry and hence, the leadership style. Business leaders are now required to possess digital and technical competence to grow the business and take decisions that are aligned with the evolving trends. Business schools are taking measures to bridge the technological leadership gap to make students ready for an ever-evolving business landscape disrupted by technological trends.

The gap in leadership talent is not something that can be plugged in the short term. However, a beginning has been made in nurturing talent at an early stage in the cradle of business education.

The writer is Director, FORE School of Management, New Delhi

NCPA's live workshop

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's premier cultural institution, the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in collaboration with renowned dancer, and cultural entrepreneur Dr Anita Ratnam will be hosting a live workshop on 'Innovation, ideas and experimentation in artistic pursuit' on September 24 live on: <https://www.facebook.com/NCPAMumbai>. The session is a part of the ongoing Utkarsh Series by NCPA.

Considering the new normal with no on-stage performances, the live session will have Dr Anita Ratnam address how innovation, when adapted digitally, can beautifully

transcend all boundaries and barriers associated with dance as a genre.

As a founder of Nathark.com, Ratnam noticed that many dancers were taking to Instagram while performing from their living rooms. Taking this opportunity ahead, this session is curated to address out of the box ideas for performers to think beyond a structured framework and push boundaries of dance & choreography.

The live workshop will give the audience an understanding of the production value that can be imperative when a dancer is planning to create content for a digital audience.

New batch with virtual induction programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies, Pune is all set to welcome its incoming batch of 2020-23. The virtual induction ceremony will be graced by distinguished and eminent leaders from the industry who will be addressing the students. In a first, SCMS is hosting its induction session virtually due to the current coronavirus crisis. With much grandeur, the institute is going to welcome the students following the virtual protocol in the new normal. The induction is designed in a way

that the students can embark on their educational journey with motivation and learnings from industry leaders.

The five-day induction session will be addressed by Kaushik Deka — Deputy Editor of India Today Magazine, Anurag Gour, Director — Partner Development at Microsoft.

The session will also include a panel discussion on the third day wherein notable SCMS alumni Hanisha Lalwani, Senior Marketing Manager for the Middle East & Africa region at PageGroup, Dubai, Mr. Kunal Shah, AVP — Non Financial

Risk Management at Deutsche bank, London, Twishi Chaturvedi, Channel Marketing Manager at Siemens Financial Services, London, Priya Venkatraman, Customer Care Executive at CMA CGM Agencies Pvt Ltd, India shall be discussing 'My memories of SCMS'.

Speaking about the event, Dr Aadya Sharma, Director, SCMS Pune said: "The core agenda of the induction programme is to empower students to make the most of what the institute offers. With much mirth and glory, every year the induction session

takes place in the campus and is looked forward to by students. This year, we are welcoming the students virtually, with the same zeal and enthusiasm. We hope students will be motivated to start their career journey with valuable learnings from industry leaders and faculty members."

The induction programme will also include a session on a pressing topic of Gender sensitisation. Fun filled student activities through virtual gym which will be conducted by Department of Sports Recreation and Wellness (DSRW), SIU through Microsoft Teams platform.

22nd convocation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati celebrated its 22nd Convocation on September 22, 2020, with a graduating class of 1,803 students (1532 male & 271 female). Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi graced the occasion as the Chief Guest in the esteemed presence of Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank',

Education Minister, Government of India, among others.

Virtually addressing the students, Narendra Modi said, "Convocation is a special day for every student. But this year, it is a different experience for them. The pandemic has changed the way convocation is conducted. But still it is as special as it was before. I congratulate students for their bright future."



Move online

If one has in-depth understanding of sales process and good communication, interpersonal and analytical skills, then working as a digital banker offers plenty of opportunities, says PROF AMIT GOYAL

Since demonetisation, the spread of digital banking has increased. More so, due to Coronavirus. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also issued a notification urging people to use digital banking and online payment facilities as much as possible. Due to which the value of transactions reached its highest level last month on Unified Payments Interface (UPI), a platform designed by India's largest banks in 2016.

Digital bank offers the same type of banking services such as a traditional bank except it operates entirely online without any single physical infrastructure, such as a bank branch. So customers of a digital bank can control their finances entirely from their smart phones and computers.

Digital banks are seen as the next frontier in terms of innovation in the financial services sector, which is traditionally dominated by large, well-established banks. This includes Internet banking, mobile banking, UPI, ATM etc. In digital banking, your bank is always with

you and you can avail its services anytime.

RESPONSIBILITIES

A digital banker contributes to new customer acquisition through mobile banking registration. They are responsible for deliver set sales targets in mobile banking activation and usage. They participate in product campaigns to ensure product information is readily available to customers and provide excellent sales customer service. Seek customer feedback on bank products and services. Help in the selling of mobile banking products and services. They do proper documentation and KYC as per the stipulated standards.

According to a survey, since the COVID-19, three-fourth of Indian consumers have started using more digital payments. 78 per cent of people expected to continue digital payments over the next five months.

The RBI said last year that it aims to increase digital transactions from about 10 per cent to about 15 per cent by 2021. The Government

A digital banker contributes to new customer acquisition through mobile banking registration. They are responsible for delivering set sales targets in mobile banking activation and usage

also aims for one billion digital transactions every day as consumers in the world's fastest growing smart phone market i.e. India can transact at the click of a button.

COURSE AND QUALIFICATION

To become a digital banker, Class XII candidates from Commerce field can make their future in this field by taking a three-year advanced Diploma in Banking and Finance Course or graduate students from any field, by taking one year Global PG Diploma in Banking and Finance course.

During these courses, subjects like Score Based Lending, e-KYC, Digital Payments, Crypto Currency, Cyber Frauds and AI in finance are taught to prepare students as a digital banker. Since all the work of digital banking is related to technology, it is very important to have technical knowledge in skills. Apart from this, communication skills, interpersonal skills, in-depth understanding of sales process, numeric and analytical skills and skills to influence cus-

tomers are also very important.

OPPORTUNITIES

As a rapidly evolving area, digital banking offers a really broad variety of roles and jobs in banking and finance.

Millions of transactions take place online each day, and banks need top notch digital teams to help them in all matters of their digital product development and management.

Due to which many commercial banks as well as many Fintech companies are working in the market which provides services like online banking, digital payment, mobile banking, UPI and digital wallet. By completing these courses, the candidate can find a job in any such company or Banks.

REMUNERATION

The digital banker can earn ₹25,000-₹30,000 a month to begin with. After gaining experience, new opportunities open up with increased salary.

The writer is director, TKWS Institute of Banking and Finance

'Create interactive & immersive teaching'

With the integration of technological tools, students can now engage in self-learning and assessments can be conducted via open-book and take-home exams, says DR PAWAN KUMAR SINGH

Due to the coronavirus induced lockdown across India, all educational institutions were closed. As a learning institution, we believed no crisis should change the trajectory of teaching and learning. We have responded to the ongoing pandemic and made technological advancements to make sure learning continues. The institute seamlessly shifted from offline to online pedagogy using technological devices to train faculty as well as non-faculty members and conduct online classes for students.

Changes B-schools will witness

In the future, B-schools must focus on creating interactive and immersive teaching-learning ecosystems, which are flexible as well as accessible. These approaches can be made robust with greater implementation of technology. With the integration of technological tools, students will engage in self-learning.

Assessments can be conducted via open-book, take-home exams designed to assess higher-order thinking skills that will help inculcate entrepreneurial skills. Cloud-based admissions and enrollment of students may take place in the future. With the entire pedagogy moving online, it will open avenues for business schools to collaborate deeply and conduct joint programs with other educational institutes via online methods.

Inculcating entrepreneurial skills

Management education acts as a fertile ground to develop entrepreneurial skills in budding managers. In addition to that, independent thinking, ability to spot the opportunities, and risk-taking ability, etc. are all important skill development practice that takes place in a B-school. For students driven to be entrepreneurs, a good blend of theoretical grounding and practical exposure and interaction with entrepreneurs is a boon.

At MDI, the entrepreneurial cell is also quite active and indulges in a lot of activities to ignite the fertile brains to follow their latent entrepreneurial skills by exposing them to not only skill and tactics but also making them listen to great entrepreneurs from differ-



Dr Pawan Kumar Singh
Director, MDI, Gurgaon

ent sectors, instilling confidence in their ideas. At MDI, classroom education and attitudinal training in entrepreneurship goes hand-in-hand.

The future

We have envisioned scalability by its research-driven activities of a consistently higher international standard. Our goal is to provide a world-class education to students who emerge as future leaders of the country. We are integrating our curriculum with new-age skills such as Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Capital to train our students on the same. We are also looking ahead to bring infrastructural developments to establish state-of-the-art labs in collaboration with industries. As per NIRF India Rankings 2020 announced by MHRD (GoI), MDI Gurgaon is currently on 10th position amongst the top private B-schools in India. In years to come, we hope to achieve newer heights by adapting to the technological shift and excelling in new age learning.

Research is an important constituent and we encourage research activities and expects its academic community to be research-active to carry out research work of a consistently higher international standard.

The National Education Policy move to introduce teaching and learning in the mother tongue is a particularly strong bold move. The prelude of the mother tongue will encourage a child to go to school with enthusiasm. The mother tongue is not just a language but a sense of belonging and valuing it can aid in fostering respect for one's heritage. The NEP's move will definitely help to bring back the emphasis and importance of our Indian languages and perhaps, also help to de-emphasize the importance of English. Being bilingual will also open up social and cultural opportunities for students and help one develop new perspectives.

The NEP 2020 is exactly on the lines of

Basic Education by Mahatma Gandhi. Language holds the key to understanding and without it any concept taught is meaningless. One can master a concept only if one has a strong hold on the language it is presented in and there is no language more conducive than one's mother tongue for learning. It has been proven time and again through research that students who study in their mother tongue find it easier to learn the information presented, retain it for longer periods and find it easier to understand the concepts and relate them to real life.

Quantitatively, studies also show that children who receive schooling in their mother-tongue language in early grades have better learning outcomes overall and

MINDIT

have significantly better literacy levels. Apart from academic benefits, learning in mother tongue has proven to improve speaking skills and social skills which are key factors in creating well rounded citizens.

The proposed system provides a very promising prospect for our future education system and can revolutionise the teaching-learning process. However, there are few creases in the proposed plan which can be ironed out by making certain changes in the system. If with careful planning this system is implemented successfully, I am certain it

can make a positive impact in our current education system.

Home is the first school for any kid and children should be taught in their mother tongue. Beginning with mother tongue at home and learning in foreign language in school slows down the learning process. Any foreign language can be easily learnt by a child even after grade 5 because of brain plasticity. When the language of instruction is in the mother tongue, children can understand concepts faster and retain them for longer.

The use of mother tongue as a medium of instruction in the classroom helps students to understand easily and connect with the classroom conversation. Learning in foreign language may lead to distraction among students. Due to the use of English language, many parents are not able to participate in their child's schooling. This will increase the rate of parental participation in child's schooling and will lead to strong home-school partnerships.

Being bilingual enhances analytical skills, they have higher synaptic activity in the brain due to multiple languages which shows higher mental flexibility and processing power. Learning in local language will boost self-confidence and will be able to

express themselves in better ways.

India has different and beautiful languages which are unique. The loss of our languages and dialects will be cultural loss not just to India but also to the world. Learning through mother language or local language helps children to connect with their ancestors in a way which others can't. Developed countries offer education in their native language which helps in preserving and maintaining cultural heritage.

There are a few shortcomings to this approach. First, it is hard to implement in metro. Second, it does not take children who transfer from one city to another in mind.

The writer is Neelima Kamrah, Principal, KIIT World School



The University of Sydney invites application for the Dr Abdul Kalam International undergraduate financial aid in any of the course of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies.

The purpose of this program is to provide 50% of the tuition fees for a maximum of one year of the undergraduate program subject to satisfactory academic performance deemed to be a minimum of a credit average (65%) each semester.

Eligibility: Have completed an Australian Year 12 qualification or an international senior secondary qualification accepted by the University with an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) of at least 98 or equivalent.

How to apply: The students are required to complete the online form for the funding opportunity. Log on to: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/scholarships/b/dr-abdul-kalam-international-undergraduate-scholarship.html>.

Application deadline: It is January 11, 2021.

Applicants are invited to apply for the **ISSS need-based awards funded by the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)** at the

University of Minnesota.

Who can apply: Indian students can apply.

Eligibility: The grant is for undertaking an undergraduate degree programme in any field offered by the university.

To be eligible for this funding, an international student must be in F-1 or J-1 student status and enrolled at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Supporting documents: Applicants must submit all the following documents: Official documents are those that are original or attested copies of original academic documents that are mailed in a sealed, stamped envelope directly from the secondary school or examination board.

A scanned or electronic copy of an official document is considered unofficial.

Admission requirements: An applicant must be a high school candidate while applying to a bachelor degree program at the university.

Language requirement: Foreign candidates are required to satisfy the English language requirements of the university for studying in the US.

How to apply: Interested candidates are invited to apply for the that they need to take admission in an undergraduate degree program at the university. After being enrolled, candidates can apply for the opportunity.

Application deadline: It is February 1, 2021

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT ACTOFIT WEARABLES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349528
Deadline: September 30, 2020

BUSINESS ESCALATION AT EXPERTRONS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349531
Deadline: September 29, 2020

INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT) AT SKILLBIT

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349533
Deadline: September 29, 2020

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT FACTECH AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS

Location: Delhi, Noida
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349535
Application deadline: September 30, 2020

DIGITAL MARKETING AT WHAT AFTER COLLEGE

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349534
Application deadline: September 30, 2020

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT ARBOREAL

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349536
Application deadline: September 30, 2020

DIGITAL MARKETING AT OPTIMIZE FOR SEO

Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349538
Application deadline: September 27, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

'Go for a life-changing experience'

Studying in a foreign university can provide an array of opportunities and broaden horizon, says SADIQ BASHA

Some experiences in life provide an array of learning opportunities. Studying abroad that best matches your criteria and supports your strengths is one such life-changing experience. It will help you broaden your perspective and give you an edge when you step into the job market. Studying abroad is a great way to savour first-hand foreign culture. It also enhances your interpersonal as well as intrapersonal skills that goes a long way in your holistic development.

If you aspire to go overseas for your higher education, here are a few tips to get you going with your study abroad plans.

How to apply? Even if you are keen about your choice of university, it is advisable that you apply to at least three universities as an option. There have been incidents when students have decided to go ahead with their second choice, and found that it was a wonderful stroke of luck.

When it comes to applying to a university abroad, students

primarily do it through the university website. However, it is time consuming. With the advent of AI driven study abroad platforms like Edvoy, the application process has been simplified. Such platforms allow students to apply for five universities with one click. They just need to upload their documents, and they can track their application status. All this is done with complete transparency.

Leaving paperwork to the last minute equals major headaches. There is a list of important documents that are required while applying for a university. This list may vary, depending from university to university and country to country. However, in general, universities will require documents such as mark sheets of 10th to graduation, an updated resume, at least three letters of recommendation, Statement of Purpose, and experience letters if interned or worked. You must also have completed English proficiency tests like IELTS, TOEFL etc. and aptitude tests like GMAT, GRE, depending on university's preference.

The writer is CEO-founder of Edvoy

IN BRIEF

VIRTUAL HIRING PROCESS SURVEY

The JobsForHer conducted a survey around women professionals and job seekers. The survey that gathered the opinions of 1,000 women professionals, revealed that over 40% respondents consider 'flexible options that allow a certain amount of work from home' in the post-COVID world as the deciding factor. The option of working from home and/or visiting the office only when required is the best one according to them as they adapt to the changing corporate world and family needs.

Neha Bagaria, founder-CEO, JobsForHer, said: "This in tandem with the 62% increase in job applications that JobsForHer saw on its platform between April and July and a 55% average increase in the number of work-from-home jobs posted by companies. We hope to see more companies hire capable

women professionals to fill their roles in the coming months."

Another survey conducted on the platform showed that out of 1000+ respondents, 90% women were comfortable with the virtual hiring process as it saves time and is convenient because it opens up plenty other opportunities to attend interviews at otherwise far-away locations thereby cutting down on the commute.

Realising the need for online recruitment, the platform organised its biggest virtual career event — HerRising 2020 for women professionals across the country on September 19, 2020 aimed at bridging the gender gap at work, the overarching goal of the event is to provide jobs to women professionals who are ready to start, restart and rise in their careers.

AI MODELS TO PROCESS TEXT IN 11 INDIAN LANGUAGES

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras faculty have developed AI models and datasets to process texts in 11 Indian regional languages. This was taken up jointly with AI4Bharat.

The faculty have made the resources free and accessed by anyone at (<https://indianlp.ai4bharat.org/>). Dr Mitesh M Khapra, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering,

IIT Madras, said: "As we move towards a digital economy, it is important that our languages find a space online. This requires innovation in creating input tools, and AI models for Indian languages."

RICS SCHOOL OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT SESSION STARTS

The RICS School of Built Environment, Amity University has started successfully for students in their Noida and Mumbai campus in online mode. The classes have started and the school prepared themselves to comply with current regulatory directives to conduct sessions online until it would be permissible for students to attend classes physically at the respective campuses.

Ashwani Awasthi, MD, RICS School

of Built Environment, said: "It's good to know that students of our ongoing batches are very happy with the quality of our online class mode and the willingness and availability of the teachers to help them when they need it; but we are eager to shift back to the traditional face to face system and as soon as the government considers it safe, which may be soon, we will move to the face to face on campus classes."

TODAY

VS

Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1 & 3



IPL 2020

Mayank Agarwal | 89 runs

Sam Curran | 4 wickets

As a 36-year-old to come here, having not played a lot of cricket, in the middle of some talented youngsters - was a pleasing start. Very happy with the basics

Padikkal is a brilliant young player, he has shown it over the last couple of years, how talented he is and how destructive he could be at the top of the order

Shubman is a quality player. There is a lot of expectation from him around the world, I'm sure he will exceed all expectations and I'm really confident about that

Bumrah is a world class bowler, he is trying very hard over the last couple of days to find rhythm. I am 100 per cent sure he will be on the mark in the coming games

KKR face MI in battle of equals

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Race and strength will be on one side while poise and killer instinct on the other when a revamped Kolkata Knight Riders take on Mumbai Indians, who have once again faltered in the beginning of the IPL, on Wednesday.

Since 2013, MI have never won an opening game and the script didn't change against Chennai Super Kings also.

They will be keen to bounce back while KKR would look for a perfect beginning as it will be a battle between big hitters on both sides on a sluggish Abu Dhabi track.

It will be Shubman Gill's third IPL, the one where he would like to own the stage with his languid grace and effortless hitting, which he is so capable of. He can hit sixes over extra cover with grace and caress the ball through covers too.

These are exactly the traits that made Rohit Sharma, the great white ball exponent that he is. Seasoned Rohit versus young Shubman is one for the keeps and makes this battle enticing.

But it's not just grace which makes T20 so appealing. The brute masculinity of power that sends the ball soaring into the orbit is what makes it so special.

Hardik Pandya, who is back with a chiselled body. There is no doubt that he can unleash his firepower against Sunil Narine and Kuldeep Yadav as well as KKR's

highest paid multi million dollar recruit Pat Cummins. But Hardik will find his match in Andre Russell, easily the most destructive hitter in current T20 cricket.

Russell had openly criticised the team management last year for sending him down the order.

But this time, he has been promised a promotion to number three slot and this could spell doom for any opposition.

KKR has Eoin Morgan, easily the best white ball captain in international cricket at the moment, who could advise Dinesh Karthik on how to tackle tense moments.

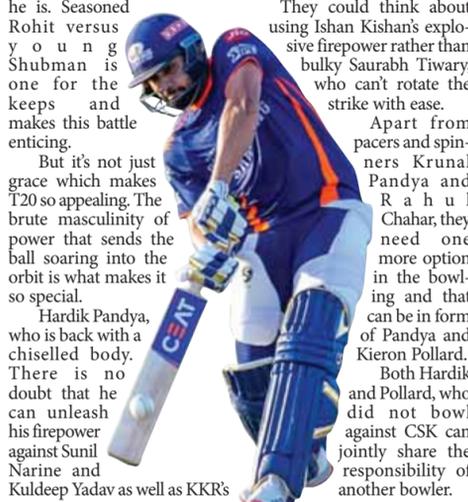
Whether he would fit in among the four overseas players is the question as Knights have Narine, Tom Banton, Russell and Cummins, who walk into any T20 playing XI.

For Mumbai, it is important that Nathan Coulter-Nile, with more all-round T20 utility compared to Trent Boult, gets fit to add more balance.

They could think about using Ishan Kishan's explosive firepower rather than bulky Saurabh Tiwary, who can't rotate the strike with ease.

Apart from pacers and spinners Krunal Pandya and Rahul Chahar, they need one more option in the bowling and that can be in form of Pandya and Kieron Pollard.

Both Hardik and Pollard, who did not bowl against CSK can jointly share the responsibility of another bowler.



Sanju, Smith & Sixes

Samson, Steve 123-run stand guide Royals to 216/7



Deepak Chahar takes catch of his own bowling to dismiss Yashasvi Jaiswal | IPL20.com



Steve Smith congratulates Sanju Samson after he completes his fifty | IPL20.com

PTI ■ SHARAJAH

Sanju Samson and skipper Steve Smith smashed quickfire half-centuries to guide Rajasthan Royals to a formidable 216 for seven against Chennai Super Kings in an IPL match here on Tuesday.

Sent into bat, Rajasthan lost young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (6) in the third over but then Samson joined hands with Smith as the duo played sensibly initially before the Kerala wicket-keeper batsman went hammer and tongs at opposition spinners.

Samson (74 off 32) looked in great nick, while Smith, returning to competitive cricket after recovering from concussion suffered

bered for consecutive sixes by Samson before Chawla went for four sixes in his first over — three by Samson and one by Smith.

Samson, thus, brought up his quickest IPL fifty in just 19 balls with the help of one boundary and six hits over the fence.

If that was not enough for Chawla, the leg-spinner again leaked in his next over as both Samson and Smith took him to cleaners.

CSK made a much-needed comeback in the match in the 12th over with twin blows in the form of in-form Samson and unlucky David Miller.

While after some great hitting display, Samson fell in search one too many, caught by Deepak Chahar off Lungi Ngidi, Miller departed two balls later in search on a non-existent double.

CSK made another comeback into the match in the 17th over when Sam Curran dismissed Rahul Tewatia and Riyan Parag before Smith departed in the 119th over in search of big hits.

In the last over, Jofra Archer used his long handle to great effect and smashed Ngidi to all parts of the ground and above it to pick up 30 runs.



Jofra Archer @JofraArcher · 09 Jan 15 | 6666 | 9:35 pm · 22 Sep 20

Good to play strong Mumbai early: DK

Abu Dhabi: Mumbai Indians consist of world-class players and that is why it is good for us to play the four-time champions early in the IPL, Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Dinesh Karthik said on Tuesday.

The two teams have faced each other 25 times and the Kolkata-based franchise has won only six matches.

"They (Mumbai Indians) have a team of world-class players; they are a strong lineup and the number of IPL titles they have won shows that. It's good that we are playing Mumbai early in the tournament. Every year is a different year. I am sure it will be a great game tomorrow," said Karthik during a virtual press conference on Tuesday.

Karthik also hinted that Shubman Gill and Sunil Narine will be opening the batting for KKR. "Shubman is a quality player. I am sure he will exceed all expectations and it's good to have him. Gill and Narine make a good opening combination," he said.

Karthik admitted that he has the 'problem of plenty' to pick the XI from a revamped Kolkata Knight Riders squad.

"One of the tough points for KKR at this point of time is picking the right XI. A lot of guys have put their hands up and are ready for



Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma chats with Kolkata Knight Riders captain Dinesh Karthik during training session | MI/Twitter

selection. It's going to be an interesting one and a tough one but that's a good sign."

"We are in a good space. One of our strengths is the variety we have in our pace department. All four Indian pacers are shaping up really well. It's going to be a hard decision to make who's going to start the tournament," Karthik said.

Morgan aims to complement Russell

BIG HIT

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Eoin Morgan could well be the 'ice' to Andre Russell's 'fire' as England's World Cup winning captain gets ready to complement the pyrotechnics of the big-hitting Jamaican when Kolkata Knight Riders take the field in this edition of Indian Premier League.

One of the more dependable middle-order batsman in the limited overs cricket, Morgan was bought by KKR at the auc-



after they looked heavily reliant on Andre Russell to finish close games as they missed

the qualifiers by a whisker in 2019. "I know (Andre) Russell has done that role significantly well for a number of years for Kolkata. He's done exceptionally well. If I get a go, hopefully I will be able to aid that," Morgan said during a virtual media interaction.

The KKR vice-captain further said he's more experienced now and his batting is coming off really well.

"I think it's been quite a few years since I played (at KKR). Just looking at batting, my game has really come on quite a lot in the last three to four years. I would like to think I've come on quite well," Morgan, who will be back at the franchise after his stint from 2011-2013, said.

Besides Morgan, KKR have also bolstered their batting with his compatriot Tom Banton who became a sensation in the Big Bash League, while the bowling tool looks fiery with the addition of Aussie world number one Pat Cummins.

"I think with the squad that we have, it gives us better options, particularly in batting and bowling. I think within the squad we have a number of very versatile cricketers who can specifically control the batting department," Morgan said.

Warner backs young Indian batsmen

DUBAI: Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper David Warner has backed young Indian batsmen Priyam Garg and Abhishek Sharma to "keep playing their natural game" after their disappointing outing against the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The 19-year-old Garg (12) and 20-year-old Sharma (7) couldn't grab the opportunity as the former was bowled while trying to scoop the ball past the keeper and the latter fell prey to a terrible mix-up with Rashid Khan.

Vijay Shankar could not even open his account.

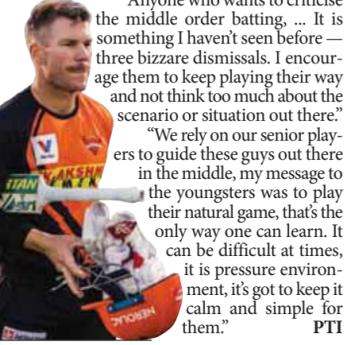
Warner though said he has faith in young Indian batsmen.

"We wouldn't have put them (young Indian pair) in the middle over if we didn't think they are not good enough," Warner said in the post-match press conference.

"Anyone who wants to criticise the middle order batting, ... It is something I haven't seen before — three bizzare dismissals. I encourage them to keep playing their way and not think too much about the scenario or situation out there."

"We rely on our senior players to guide these guys out there in the middle, my message to the youngsters was to play their natural game, that's the only way one can learn. It can be difficult at times, it is pressure environment, it's got to keep it calm and simple for them."

PTI



Evergreen Ibra

Zlatan nets brace in Milan's opener

AFP ■ MILAN

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice as AC Milan got their Serie A campaign up and running with a 2-0 win over Bologna on Monday.

Ibrahimovic, who turns 39 next month, showed he has lost none of his goalscoring skills having also netted last week against Irish side Shamrock Rovers in the Europa League.

"If I had been 20 years old I would have scored two more goals," said the Swede of his display.

"I'm like Benjamin Button, born old, but I'll die young. Seriously, the team has worked well: you can see we're not at 100 per cent yet, but it was important to start well."

Ibrahimovic grabbed the opener in the 35th minute, rising higher than Danilo to get his head to a Theo Hernandez cross, and celebrated in front of the 1,000 spectators allowed into the San Siro for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic — mostly invited frontline health workers who had toiled during the worst of the crisis.

The Swede missed a chance for a second shortly after when he was denied by a sliding tackle from Brazilian defender Danilo.

But six minutes after the break he added a second from the penalty spot after a Riccardo Orsolini foul on Ismael Bennacer.

He missed



Vidal joins Inter

Milan: Inter Milan have completed a deal to sign Arturo Vidal from Barcelona for 1 million euros, the clubs announced on Tuesday.

"Barcelona and Inter Milan have reached an agreement for the transfer of the player Arturo Vidal," Barca said in a statement.

"The Italian team will pay FC Barcelona 1 million euros in variables."

After joining in 2018, Vidal played 96 games for the Catalans and scored 11 goals, helping them win La Liga in his first year in Spain.

Inter described the Chilean

midfielder as a "warrior". "From today, Vidal will be on the front line for the Nerazzurri, with the same objectives as ever: fighting, giving it his all, and winning," the Italian club added. **AFP**

Bologna finished a man down with Mitchell Dijks send off with two minutes to go but it made no difference to the match.

"They had Ibrahimovic, we didn't," said Bologna coach Sinisa Mihajlovic.

"Ibra made the difference, everything Milan created came through him. But it was a balanced game.

"Maybe we didn't believe in ourselves enough, but the lads were in it to the end, we created two big scoring opportunities."



Inter described the Chilean

City start season with nervy win

AFP ■ WOLVERHAMPTON

Pep Guardiola labelled Phil Foden as "incredible" after Manchester City survived a scare to start their Premier League title challenge with a 3-1 win against Wolves on Monday.

City's delayed start to the campaign — due to their involvement in last season's Champions League — had allowed Liverpool to build a six-point lead over them before they had even kicked a ball.

Guardiola's side could not afford to slip up at Molineux if they wanted to keep pace with the champions and they raced into a two-goal lead before half-time thanks to Kevin De Bruyne's penalty and Foden's cool finish.

City's swaggering first half gave way to an anxious spell as Wolves dominated after the interval and they had to cling on after Raul Jimenez got one back before Gabriel Jesus sealed the points in stoppage time.

Foden's goal was a welcome morale boost in his first match since the midfielder was sent home in disgrace, along with Manchester United's Mason Greenwood, after the pair invited local women into the England team's hotel.

"For the goal and in the second half Foden played incredibly well, he helped us keep the ball," Guardiola said.

While City equalled Aston Villa's record of winning 10 consecutive opening fixtures to a top-flight season, there

is little doubt Liverpool remain the Premier League's preeminent force for now.

But Guardiola was delighted to open with a victory given the shorter than usual pre-season.

"We could not run much because we are tired in our legs but in general we did a good game," he said.

"The period that we are in, the situation that we had this last two weeks, I expected some moments where we suffer but in general we controlled it well.

"It was a good performance. We know how difficult it is in this stadium. Sometimes we need more time to get to our best condition but it was a good start to come here and win."



Kevin de Bruyne scores Man City opening goal | AP