

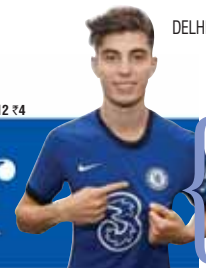
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Ready for any eventuality: India

In LS, Rajnath raps China for violating established rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Cong questions absence of PM from LS, demands LAC reality

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday questioned the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a statement on the India-China border standoff.

The Congress also wanted to know if the Chinese have encroached on Depsang Plains, Gogra, Pangong-Tso Lake till Finger 8, Y-junction in Bhutan, Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and in Arunachal Pradesh.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who is abroad currently accompanying his mother and interim

party chief Sonia Gandhi for a health check-up, attacked the Prime Minister for "misleading" the country over Chinese transgressions. "The country has always stood by its armed forces and will continue to do

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

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



C-17 Globemaster of the Indian Air Force flies over Ladakh region amid the prolonged India-China face off, in Leh district, on Tuesday PTI

NCB has no inputs on drug nexus in Bollywood: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The Government on Tuesday said no actionable inputs were received by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) revealing the alleged nexus between people in the film industry and drug traffickers.

This after veteran actress and Parliamentarian Jaya Bachchan alleged that a vicious attempt was underway to defame the film industry by linking it to drug abuse.

Jaya's charge invited a sharp reaction from actress Kangana Ranaut and strong backing from several Bollywood celebrities.

Replying to a written question in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said the NCB carries out searches, seizures, arrests and investigations continuously throughout the year on the actionable inputs developed on its own or received from other sources.

"During the period of Covid-19 lockdown, no such actionable inputs were received by the NCB revealing the nexus between people in the film industry and drug traffickers," he said.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Jaya rebutted BJP MP and film actor Ravi Kishan's comments in the Lok Sabha about drug addiction in Bollywood. Jaya said the film industry was being "flogged by social media" and "the Government's non-support".

"Just because of a few people, you cannot tarnish the

Jaya Bachchan raps Ravi Kisan: 'Jis thaali me khaate hain, usi me chhed karte hain'



Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament on Tuesday PTI

whole industry... I was really embarrassed and ashamed that yesterday one of our members in the Lok Sabha, who is from the industry, spoke against the film industry. Jis thaali me khaate hain, usi me chhed karte hain," Jaya said.

Ravi Kishan, a popular actor of Bhojpuri and Hindi films, raised in Parliament the drug-related allegations that have emerged against the film industry in the Sushant Singh Rajput investigations. He alleged a "conspiracy" by Pakistan and China to destroy the country's younger citizens.

Jaya further said such statements were meant to divert attention from the state of the

economy and unemployment in the country.

"The entertainment industry in our country provides direct employment every day to five lakh people and indirect employment to five million people. At a time when the financial situation is in a depressing state and employment is at the worst level, in order to divert the attention of the people, we are being used to be flogged by social media and the Government's non-support."

But people who have made their name in this film industry have called it a gutter. I completely disagree," the SP MP said.

CITY'S TOTAL REACHES 16,933

BBSR reports 342 new infections

244 local contacts; 98 uarantine cases

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A total of 342 new Covid-19 positive cases were detected under the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area on Tuesday, taking the city's total tally to 16,933.

Of the new cases, 98 were from quarantine centres, all linked with earlier positive cases. Besides, 244 were local contact cases. However, 387 persons also recovered from the infection on the day, halving the city's total recoveries to 12,228.

So far, out of the total 16,933 positive cases, 4,568 are active ones. Till now, the city has registered 64 fatalities. Further contact tracing are still continuing.

Primary contacts and nearby houses are being quarantined, sanitised and would be under active surveillance. All the new positive cases have been shifted to Covid Hospitals," the BMC said.

Pradhan decries State Universities Act amendment

Wants Union Education Minister's intervention

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Opposing the Ordinance recently passed by the Odisha Government to amend the Odisha Universities Act, 1989, Union Minister Dhamendra Pradhan on Tuesday sought in a letter to the Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' saying that the changes promulgated by the State are not in harmony with the Central Government policies.

In a letter to the Union Education Minister, Pradhan also stated that the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 is in contrary to the vision of the Prime Minister enshrined in the National Education Policy, 2020 to promote

autonomy of academic institutions to pursue excellence in teaching and research.

The amendments made to the Act are in contradiction with the practices in other States, he also observed. Pradhan further said the amendments would strip away the autonomy of universities.

"Replacing the important role and functions of the apex Senate body with the bureaucratic Syndicate body, which will effectively be run by State Government appointed nominees, including Secretary to the Syndicate who will also be appointed as the Registrar," his letter stated.

Restricting the search and appointment of the Vice-Chancellor by the forced entry of a nominee in the Search Committee and further constraining it to a limited number of non-academic candidates, he said.

Opposing the recruitment of faculty members through the Odisha Public Service Commission and non-teaching staffs through the State Selection Board, he said the move would destroy



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

the academic sanctity of the staff appointments. "Removal of the tabling of University Audit report in the State Legislative Assembly, unscrupulously crippling the Constitutional process of discussion and scrutiny of utilisation of public funds," he said.

Citing the Supreme Court judgement in the Osmania University Teachers' Union Vs State of Andhra Pradesh, Pradhan asserted that the Odisha Ordinance would be struck down in court.

India's Covid-19 cases cross 5 million mark

82,375 found +ve; 1,237 die on Tue; pandemic shows no sign of let-up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

new cases twice in a single day. Each of the four worst-affected States — Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka — recorded fewer cases than their highest single-day spike.

But Uttar Pradesh (6,841 cases), Delhi (4,261 cases) and West Bengal (3,237 cases) showed no sign of any weakening in the spread of the pandemic.

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

ARUNACHAL CM PEMA KHANDU COVID +VE
Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said that he tested positive for Covid-19 on Tuesday and is presently in home isolation in New Delhi. "I have undergone Covid test RT-PCR and have tested positive for Covid-19. I am asymptomatic and feeling healthy," Khandu tweeted.



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

Cabinet approves amendment of OGST Act

Both taxpayers, authorities to get various facilities

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal to amend the Odisha Goods and Services Tax (OGST) Bill, 2017, to amend the Odisha Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 and Odisha Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

As per the approval, 12 sections and paragraph 4 of Schedule II of the OGST Act, will be amended and Odisha Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (Odisha Ordinance 5 of 2020) and Odisha Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2020

(Odisha Ordinance 6 of 2020) will be replaced. The OGST Act was amended to provide various facilities to the taxpayers and tax authorities.

They include extension of scope of ineligibility to opt for composition scheme, delinking the date of issuance of debit note from the date of issuance of the underlying invoice for the purpose of availing input tax credit and empowering proper officer to allow cancellation of registration of the registered taxpayers who have voluntarily obtained registration under Section 25 (3) of the said Act.

It would also grant power to Additional or Joint Commissioner to extend the time limit by further 30 days to file an application for revocation of cancellation of regis-

tration subject to sufficient cause being shown and to empower government to specify categories of services or supplies in respect of which a tax invoice would be issued along with time and manner for issuance of such invoice. Besides, it would provide a certificate of TDS issued by deductor of tax.

It extends punishment to a person who causes to commit offence of availing fraudulent Input Tax Credit and also to a person who retains benefit therefrom making such offences cognizable and non-bailable offence. It also empowers Government to make provision for issuance of removal of difficulties order for another two years, i.e. till five years from the date of commencement of the OGST Act, 2017.

No J&K leader under house arrest, says Govt

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that no leader in Jammu & Kashmir is currently under house arrest. It, however, admitted that 223 people in J&K are under detention.

Interestingly, another interesting detail was found missing in the statement. It was on July 31, 2020 the detention of former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti under the stringent Public Safety Act was extended by three months.

Minister of State (Home) G Kishan Reddy in a written reply to a question raised by Trinamool Congress MP

Saugata Ray said, "The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has reported that after the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year various measures were taken to maintain public order, which included preventive detention of certain persons."

"As on September 11, 223 persons are under detention. No person is under house arrest in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

Meanwhile, a close aide of Mehbooba and a former Cabinet Minister reacted sharply labeling it a "blatant lie". Naem Akhtar, a former Minister in the Mehbooba Government tweeted, there are many categories of lies.

3,645 new +ves; State total now 1,58,650

Eight more die; toll rises to 645; 3,714 recover; total recoveries 1,25,738

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Covid-19 cases continued to surge in the State as 3,645 new positive cases were reported on Tuesday from across all 30 districts. With this, the total positive tally rose to 1,58,650. Of the new cases, 2,151 were detected from quarantine centres while 1,494 were local contacts.

Khordha district yet again reported the highest 517 cases followed by Cuttack 357, Puri 246, Bargarh 157 and Baleswar 156. Bhadrak 143, Mayurbhanj 137, Sambalpur 127, Jajpur

Day's highest 517 cases in Khordha again

116, Subarnapur 99, Jagatsinghpur, Kandamal and Koraput 95 each, Jharsuguda 91, Nabarangpur and Nuapada 90 each, Sundargarh 84, Kalandahat and Rayagada 79 each, Kendrapada 75, Dhenkanal 68, Keonjhar 56, Ganjam 46, Angul and Balangir 39 each, Nayagarh 38, Malkangiri 33, Boudh 30, Deogarh 15 and Gajapati nine.

Besides, 355 positives were recorded from the State pool, the highest so far. Meanwhile, with eight more deaths on the day, the total toll in the State rose to 645. Significantly, there was no death registered in Khordha district that includes Bhubaneswar, Cuttack district reported three deaths and Boudh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Subarnapur one each. The deceased in Koraput included a 50-year-old man, a 52-year-old man and a 45-year-old man. The other deceased were a 65-year-old woman at Bargarh, a 75-year-old man of Kandhamal, a 50-year-old man of Rayagada, a 51-year-old man Sambalpur and a 70-year-old man of Subarnapur.

However, another 3,714 patients recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 1,25,738. The highest 744 recovered in Khordha district followed by Bargarh 397, Cuttack 375, Jajpur 242, Puri 201, Mayurbhanj 152, Jharsuguda 117, Baleswar and Koraput 115 each, Kandhamal 100, Jagatsinghpur 93.

Local Fund Audit Act to be amended

For issuance of surcharge notices on staff

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A State Cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik on Tuesday approved a proposal for amendment of the Odisha Local Fund Audit Act, 1948 for facilitating issuance of surcharge notices and orders on officers and officials.

Under the provisions of the Act, difficulties were faced by physically serve surcharge notices and orders on delinquent officers in time since it was always not possible to readily track the present address of officers and officials as they get transferred often. The Act is now amended to include electronic mode of service of surcharge notices and orders on the delinquent officers and officials by making the notices and orders available in the HRMS portal of the State Government in addition to the existing manual modes of service, informed an official release.



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'Allot land in Delhi for Odisha Cultural Centre'

Sasmit Patra demands in RS

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

BID member Sasmit Patra on Tuesday reiterated in Rajya Sabha Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik's demand for allotment of a suitable land in Delhi for setting up of an Odisha Cultural Centre and Library.

Dr Patra said the project would add to the richness and diversity of the national capital as well as showcase to the world the rich culture, heritage, legacy and traditions of Odisha. "While the dance form of Odisha has achieved worldwide acclaim, Odia language is recognised as one of the six Indian classical languages. Odia cuisine, textiles, handloom and handicrafts are known for their richness in culture. However, people of Odisha do not have a suitable permanent space in Delhi,



where they can showcase such cultural richness of the State," he said. Dr Patra pointed out that many States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have provided space in the national capital to host cultural and social events for promotion of their cultures. The Odisha Government's move would attract both foreign and domestic tourists, popularising the cultural forms of Odisha, he said.

Notably, Naveen Pattnaik on December 7 last year had written to the Union Housing and Urban Development Minister in this regard. The Odisha Government's move would attract both foreign and domestic tourists, popularising the cultural forms of Odisha, he said.

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Pvt hosps to keep 50% beds, 80% ICUs for Covid patients

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR:

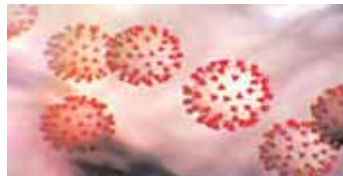
The State Government has directed the private hospitals in five major urban zones to mandatorily designate minimum 50 per cent of their general beds and 80 per cent of their ICUs for treatment of Covid-19 patients.

ACS Health and Family Welfare Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra has issued an advisory for the private hospitals having bed strength of 30 and above in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Brahmapur and Rourkela.

With more and more patients requiring beds and ICU facilities, the State Government has taken the decision and issued the advisory in this regard on September 14. Hospitals shall charge the patients at the rate as communicated by the State Government earlier.

In the meantime, the State Government has decided to close down Temporary Medical Centers (TMC) and Covid Care Home (CCH) with immediate effect as occupancy in these facilities are virtually nil.

ACS Health and Family Welfare Mohapatra has directed the district Collectors and Municipal Commissioners to immediately close down the TMCs and CCHs. The notification also pointed out that as the occupancy in CCHs has dramatically fallen and in many of them there are no patients, so these institutions will be closed down, where there are no patients. And in other places where the occupancy is less it should be scaled down and the requisite manpower be re-mobilised to their original positions.



In case of CCHs, the health personnel can be redeployed in the districts, where their services can be better utilized. Mohapatra directed the district Collectors to personally monitor this and give compliance on daily basis to Special Relief Commissioner (SRC). In case of any emergency requirement of these facilities, it can be created at a short notice as buffer, said Mohapatra.

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State Govt Okays ₹139-cr tender for S'rekha bridge

Setu to help Baleswar development

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Cabinet on Tuesday approved a tender of Rs 138,74,48,210 for construction of a high-level bridge over the Subarnarekha river in Baleswar district.

The tender is the lowest one awarded to L&T Construction on daily basis to Special Relief Commissioner (SRC). The bridge would be 993.12 meter long and 62.07 meter wide connecting Jamkunda under Balipali block to Adangapantei under

Bhograi block and the construction work would be completed within 30 months, informed a Government release.

The proposed bridge would provide direct link between Balipali block and Bhograi block and also connect the economically and culturally important places like Subarnarekha mouth port, Chandaneswar and Bhusundwar etc.

It will improve better communication facilities and reduce distance between the two blocks resulting in industrial and economic development of the people of those areas, informed the release.

Sex racket busted in Puri; 3 held

Scorpio car, cash, objectionable items seized

PNS ■ PURI

Police on Tuesday busted a sex racket operating at Baliaipanda in Puri and rescued two girls. Three persons were also arrested for allegedly running the racket.

Based on a complaint filed by a girl, the police raided a room in Krishna Sea Side apartment in Baliaipanda area and unearthed the sex racket. Three persons were held from the room whereas another managed to escape from the spot.

During the preliminary investigation, the police ascertained that the young girls were brought from Khordha district to Puri with the help of middlemen and engaged in flesh trade.

A Scorpio, Rs 4,200 cash, mobile and other objectionable items were seized from the room during the search.

The accused were identified as Chinmaya Swarup Panda from Jajpur Road.

Pipli MLA Maharathy tests Covid positive

Actor Sritam Das also infected

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR



Pipli MLA Pradeep Maharathy has tested positive for Covid-19, he has informed. Maharathy urged those who came in contact with him during the last few days to undergo Covid-19 tests if required.

Notably, all MLAs would undergo Covid-19 tests before commencement of the State Assembly session beginning from September 29. Besides, noted Odia film actor Sritam Das on Tuesday informed that he has tested positive for Covid-19 and is currently under home quarantine.



"I shall not be attending any shoot or social gathering," he said. His fans and friends flooded his timeline wishing his speedy recovery.

Under-trial prisoner at Jharpada Special Jail dies while undergoing treatment

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An under-trial prisoner (UTP) at the Jharpada Special Jail here died while undergoing treatment at hospital on Tuesday.

Later, his swab sample later tested positive for Covid-19.

The deceased Jugal Khandual was an accused in the chit fund scam and had been lodged in the jail since 2019.

Khandual complained of fever, following which he was admitted to a capital hospital here on September 13 and then shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack, where he died.

His swab sample was collected for coronavirus test and it tested positive. He had come in contact with several inmates in the jail.

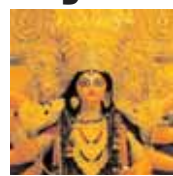
HC verdict on Durga idol size today

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Orissa High Court on Tuesday decided to deliver on Wednesday the final verdict on a batch of at least 25 writ petitions filed by different Puja Committees of Cuttack city seeking judicial intervention to relax the administrative restrictions imposed on the Durga Puja celebrations.

A Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq adjourned the hearing when consensus emerged among the petitioners, counsels and the Government counsels that a meeting would be convened by the police administration later in the evening to address the issue amicably.

The meeting convened by the DCP to decide the matter was underway when this report was prepared. A limited number of officers bearers of Puja Committees, local leaders, counsels of the



petitioners and some intellectuals and senior citizens were invited to the meeting.

The petitions have challenged the Government's dictat for limiting the height of the clay idols of the deities to four feet and cover the puja pandals from three sides. The Puja Committees are upset over these two restrictions.

Since idol making is a long exercise, some pandals had already begun making them since last month. And the idol makers particular formats for different idols.

Tehsildars can now evict Govt and encroachers

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has declared all Tehsildars and Additional Tehsildars as Estate Officers for the purpose of eviction of unauthorised encroachments from public premises.

In this regard, the Revenue and Disaster Management Department has issued specific notification to empower the Tehsildars to safeguard the public property appropriately. Principal Secretary Revenue and Disaster Management Bishnupada Sethi has directed all the district Collectors to take necessary action keeping in view the notification issued in this regard. Because of wrong interpretation of legal provisions, field revenue officials like Tehsildars were not taking

steps to evict encroachers and other illegal occupants from Government land in urban areas.

Earlier, on wrong interpretation of legal provisions an instruction was issued in which it was categorically stated that the Estate Officers are only authorized to evict encroachers from public premises under OPP (EOU) Act and Tehsildars have no jurisdiction in urban areas in this regard.

Accordingly the Tehsildars were not taking up eviction of encroachments in urban areas with the plea of having no jurisdiction. Principal Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management Bishnupada Sethi has directed all the district Collectors to take necessary action keeping in view the notification issued in this regard. Because of wrong interpretation of legal provisions, field revenue officials like Tehsildars were not taking

Made Estate Officers

up eviction work to save public properties. In order to remove ambiguity, the Revenue Department has declared Tehsildars as Estate Officers under the provisions of the Act.

Notably, taking advantage of poor coordination between urban bodies, police, magistrates and other officials, thousands acres of the Government land are under the possession of illegal encroachers.

However, after Tehsildars are declared as Estate Officers under the Act and appropriate clarification has been issued to them, their jurisdiction and power now will be easier to protect public properties in the urban zones.

Several MPs wear Sambalpuri mask

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR



It was a proud moment for Odisha as several MPs were seen wearing Sambalpuri design masks in the Parliament on Monday. Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari gifted the Sambalpuri textile masks to the parliamentarians and described

it as an act to popularise the traditional hand-woven material of western Odisha. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also posted a photo on Twitter thanking Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for wearing a Sambalpuri mask in the Parliament.

HC defers school fee waiver hearing to Sep 22

CUTTACK ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Orissa High Court has deferred the hearing on the three PILs seeking exemption of school fees for students in private schools owing to Covid-19 crisis to September 22.

A Bench of Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq and Justice BR Sarangi adjourned the hearing as the School and Mass Education Department sought more time for submission of report on the outcome of the mediation over the dispute.

On September 1, the court had issued the order for mediation over the disputed matter. The Government, through its advocate general, said it was prepared to convene a meeting

of the representatives of private un-aided and aided educational institutions and representatives of parents and teachers' association.

Notably, three petitioners, lawyer Mohammad Mustaq Ansari, Prabhakar Rout of Bhubaneswar and Odisha Private School Parents' Association, had sought that private school be asked to waive fees for students from March to June in view of Covid-19.

In its order, the HC asked the department secretary to submit a report after making an attempt to make a consensus for waiver of portion of fees payable by the students or deferment of part of fees.

The court had asked to examine whether any unrea-

MoU agreed upon for fee waiver, says OAM

sonable fees is being demanded by any private educational institution. Odisha Abhibhabak Mahasanga (OAM) chairman Basudev Bhatt informed that 14 members out of 15 member committee authorised by the court have agreed upon an MoU for a fee waiver.

"We have requested with folded hand before them (14 members) to help parents in this pandemic situation. It was historical, all the members agreed with the very high waiver of fees," said Bhatt.

'Work from Home' now becomes new normal



ACHYUTA SAMANTA

The Covid-19 crisis and our efforts at flattening the curve has introduced various changes in life, both personal and professional. 'Work from Home' is the new reality for many, and also the Government and medical personnel recommended one for proper functioning of economy

while maintaining employee safety and health. All of a sudden Zoom.us meetings are as important as our morning coffee. Are the days of early morning conference room briefings gone? They might not have completely disappeared forever, but we will see adaptation to this fairly new culture of working from home.

Home is the new office. People are facing challenges, change, technology, dividing living space and work space, keeping up the spirit in this new work from home style. But slowly they are getting used to it, and treating it as another new normal. Covid-19 has led both Governments and businesses to find a way to function while minimising the spread of the virus.

While restricting regular commute and travel for business, companies worldwide are focusing on how to derive most from their employees while asking them to stay away from physical offices and work-

stations. Of course some areas, such as those involved in healthcare or manufacturing and other critical industry, cannot escape work from home, most employees in other industries can be mandated to work remotely.

However, working from home does come with its unique set of challenges. People are facing distractions that they are not used to. Home is traditionally supposed to be a place of peace, love and family.

Introducing a possible high-stress environment within the confines of what is our safe space is something we need to adapt to. It is a fusion of our work and private life. This is something both the employer and the employee have to understand, in order to successfully implement a remote work culture while maintaining safety inside the residence. This Covid-19 crisis has shown us that employ-

ees have the capacity to work from home, which might reduce the real estate need of commercial or office spaces. Depending to communicate from distance, managing employee tasks and client needs, and meeting deadlines will be one of the many hurdles that one has to overcome while working remotely.

Apart from this personal distraction or responsibility have to be balanced, for instance, caring for a dog or a child, technical issues because of lack of IT support, laptop fatigue, long time on commute while being safe from the spread of the virus. Companies and leaders can pitch in too by promoting better work-life balance, encouraging employees to set up an organised workstation within the confines of their homes, encourage technology embracement and provide fast online support to network or technical issues that might be causing halts in work. Further using frequent breaks, exercise and walks can also bring down any fatigue developing amongst those working from home.

Encouraging social calls within the office setup can also bring out better performance in a similar way competing peers bring out the best in each other. Leaders and managers also need to adapt to this change.

And more often than that, it is how they adapt to this new normal is what will define the success of remote work. Managers have to be approachable and deal with crises in a proper manner, through establishing trust and proper communication.

They need to be positive and understand both the advantages and disadvantages of a particular situation, only then can they pass it on to those working in their team. For proper management, the correct time along with clear communication of instruction and collection of feedback can help improve productivity of the team as a whole.

Emphasising on good company values and ethics while the benefits which come in the confines of the home can only build a stronger workforce which can remain efficient while maintaining social distancing norms.

Of course one cannot replicate the benefits which come with people being in close proximity with each other, bouncing ideas off each other, as well as the collaborative effort which might be slightly compromised in remote work. However, we as humans have adapted so much over these last centuries, and necessity has made us build so many beautiful inventions, and I can sure

we can make remote work a new normal and reinvent and purpose our work lives around it. This is a time of deep uncertainty and disruption, but it is an opportunity to adapt to a new normal. Even in the aftermath of Covid-19, I believe we will see an increase in remote work, web conferencing and online meetings and slowly become comfortable with that type of technology.

Flexible system that would allow people to work from home if needed will be normal too. Remote work requires a lot of discipline from the employees and management. As the world focuses right now on the safety and health of employees, serving clients and helping communities, we will have to adapt. Some of the methods we can use to make things more comfortable and ease into this transition period are through balancing individual needs and collective goals. Try to develop a routine, schedule frequent breaks, commu-

nicate and express if you are finding things difficult, be available during working hours and switch off during post work so that your two lives remain distinctly separate from each other.

Remote work is here to stay, so the sooner we start to understand it and create a corporate culture which nurtures this way of working, tackles the challenges thrown and moves past the trial phase, the sooner we will be ready for the next chapter of what the job market and the economy will require of all of us.

Balancing the interest of the company, the management and the individual while being connected only through a video link is something we have to look to quickly embrace, understand, be comfortable with and prosper. This is the new normal.

(Dr Samanta is MP, Kandhamal, and founder, KIIT & KISS)

PNB Manager held for loan fraud

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Odisha Crime Branch has arrested two persons, including a senior manager of the Punjab National Bank (PNB), in a loan fraud case.

The accused are Srikanta Prasad Prusty, Senior Manager-cum Assistant Officer, PNB, and Kali Prasad Mishra, proprietor of KP Solutions, Nageswar Tangi, Bhubaneswar.

They have been apprehended under Sections 406, 420, 467, 468, 471, and 120(B) IPC on the basis of a complaint lodged by PNB Circle Head, Bhubaneswar, Pares Kumar Das.

It is alleged that in conspiracy with the bank officers, the accused have used fake KYC documents including electricity bills and Voter Identity cards in names of three guarantors, who purportedly stood guarantors and mortgaged their immov-



denied to have signed the documents and kept the properties as mortgage for the loan.

During investigation, it was ascertained that the accused loanee used fake KYC documents including electricity bills and Voter Identity cards in names of three guarantors, who purportedly stood guarantors and mortgaged their immov-

able property located at Madhupatna, Cuttack, in the year 2017 whereas the facts remained that one of the guarantors had expired in the year 2014, more than three years prior to the loan sanctioned.

Accused Prusty, the then PNB Senior Manager, Bapuji Nagar Branch, in criminal conspiracy with the loanee had recommended for sanc-

tion of the loan of Rs 250 lakh by accepting the forged documents mentioning to have verified the identities of guarantors and also entertaining the impersonators for guarantors to sign mortgage deeds knowing very well that they were not the owners of properties.

The loan is now outstanding to tune of Rs 267.33 lakh.

Modi birthday: Ganjam BJP holds health camp



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

BJP's Ganjam unit is celebrating the 70th birthday of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi with great enthusiasm and organising an array of social service programmes across the district, said former district president and senior leader Kanhu Charan Pati here.

The birthday is also being celebrated at the district BJP Office at Gandhinagar square with social welfare programmes, he added. The party

organised a "health camp" here on Sunday to provide free healthcare services to the public through an application Corona "SahayaApp" developed and dedicated to the public recently. The health camp was organised at Gollagaoon Raghunathpur in ward No.1 where hundreds of people were provided healthcare consultations and distributed medicines. Notably, the party observes Modi's birthday from September 14 to 20 as Seva Saptah.

INBRIEF

VEGETABLE VENDING ZONE OPENED AT JSPUR



Jagatsinghpur: A vegetable vending zone was inaugurated at the district headquarters town here by Regulated Market Committee (RMC) and Sub-Collector Dharmendra Mallick on Monday. The Chakadola producer group of Biridi along with the RMC launched this zone. "The project aims at giving good price to vegetable growers and supplying quality vegetables to local people," said the Sub-Collector. He too informed that plans are afoot for launching of a few more vegetable vending zones here and block headquarters town in the district through producer groups. Among others, ORMAS Deputy CEO Satyasundar S Patil was present.

PALLAHARA SARPANCH AXED FOR IRREGULARITIES

Pallahara: The Government on Monday suspended Pallahara block's Nizargh GP Sarpanch Nirupama Bose for alleged involvement in various irregularities alleged before the district administration. However, the Sarpanch refuted the charges. "Not a single irregularity has been committed during my stint. The action has been taken at the behest of my opponents. I will move court to seek justice," said Bose.

NTPC KANIHA CELEBRATES HINDI PAKHWADA

Talcher: Hindi Pakhwada, which was being celebrated at the NTPC Talcher Kaniha from September 1, 2020, culminated on the Hindi Diwas on September 14. On the occasion, GGM Sudip Nag appeared to all employees and associates to enhance the use of Hindi language in official administrative work. The Station organised various events for senior officials, employees and their spouses during the fortnight-long celebration. Competitions like Hindi quiz, essay, slogan, poetry, and creative writing were organised via virtual platforms in view of Covid pandemic. Participants sent their entries via emails.

Cong's Surekha joins BJD in S'pur

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR:

The Congress got a jolt here when general secretary Surekha Sahu left the party with her supporters and joined the BJD in the office of former MLA of Sambalpur Dr Raseswari Panigrahi. BJD district observer Minati Behera and district president Laxmi Pradhan were present.

In her reply to media for leaving Congress after almost three decades, Sahu said, "I am greatly influenced by the dynamic and clean leadership of Naveen Patnaik and former MLA Raseswari Panigrahi who have changed the fate of the State and Sambalpur, respectively."

They can take Odisha in the further path of development." Moreover, Congress is not going in the right track, she added. Ten other senior leaders of the party also joined along with her. Dr Panigrahi said, "Surekha's presence in BJD will further strengthen the party."

IN NAYAGARH

Man burnt to death as bike hits truck



PNS ■ NAYAGARH

A man was burnt to death when the motorcycle he was travelling caught fire after a road accident on National Highway-57 near Ranganamatta in the Daspalla area of Nayagarh district on Tuesday.

The motorcycle and an ambulance collided head-on, following which the two-

wheeler caught fire. The flames engulfed the deceased and he was charred to death. On being informed, Fire Service personnel from Daspalla rushed to the spot and doused the flames. Police recovered the body and sent it to Daspalla Community Health Centre (CHC) for post-mortem. Till last reports came in, the identity of the deceased was yet to be ascertained.

NYDHEE gives rations to poor in Balangir

PNS ■ BALANGIR

The Network for Youth Development and Healthy Environment (NYDHEE), a NGO based in Bhubaneswar and the Jiv Daya Foundation (JDF) of the USA on Friday distributed dry ration items to over 125 most vulnerable households in Themra GP of Bongamunda block in Balangir district Friday.

Barkani Sarpanch Lilabati Bag handed over the dry ration packs to poor families, migrant workers, people with disabilities, single women. Each dry ration pack included 5 kg wheat flour, 15 kg rice, 1 kg cooking oil, 2 kg jaggery, 1 kg salt and 2 kg lentils (dal), 3 kg potato, 2 kg onion, spices and soya chunks.

NYDHEE director Prasant Muduli said his organisation along with the have already distributed more than 450 dry ration kits to most margin-

Woman killed in road mishap; hubby, daughter critical In Baleswar

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A woman was killed and her two-year-old daughter were critically injured when the motorcycle by which they were travelling was hit by a pickup van on NH-60 in the Jaleswar area of Baleswar district on Tuesday morning.

Ashwini Kumar Samal (36) of Aruha village was travelling to Nangada Sahi with his wife Mamata (32) and daughter after coming to know the death of one of his relatives.

The pickup van hit the two-wheeler from rear, killing the woman on the spot and injuring the father-daughter duo. The driver of the van fled the spot after the mishap.

Locals rescued Smal and his daughter and admitted them to the Jaleswar Hospital.



The two were later shifted to the Baleswar District Headquarters Hospital. Police recovered the woman's body for postmortem and started an investigation.

21,000 litre PDS kerosene recovered

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch on Tuesday seized a huge quantity of PDS kerosene intended for the purpose of black-marketing in the Gurudihatia area of Cuttack district.

Acting on a tipoff, a team of the STF conducted a raid on the premises of one Khirad Chandra Patra near Church Baula under the Gurudihatia PS and seized 21,000 litres of PDS kerosene.

The three arrestees are Gokulananda Pal of Kolar in Cuttack and Radhashyam Barik and Ititendra Row of Ganjam district. However, during raid the owner of the premises Patra managed to

Three persons arrested; two tankers seized

escape. The police also seized two tankers, an electric motor, five empty drums, plastic pipes, chemicals used for conversion of blue kerosene into white. Rs 18,600 cash and equipment used for draining out PDS kerosene from the tankers.

"A case has been registered at Gurudihatia police station in this regard and necessary action will be taken. Further investigation is underway," police said.

IN RAYAGADA

Two die, 4 injured in car-truck clash

PNS ■ RAYAGADA

Two persons were killed and four others injured in a road accident near Hansa under the Seshakhala police limits on Tuesday afternoon.

While six persons from Andhra Pradesh were returning home by a Toyota car after paying obeisance to Maajhi Ghariani, their vehicle collided head on with a truck near Hansa.

Two persons travelling in the car died on the spot while four others in the vehicle sustained grievous injuries.

Locals rescued the injured from the mangled remains of the car and shifted them to hospital.

Being informed, the Seshakhala police reached the spot and launched an investigation into the incident.

Vedanta J'suguda leverages world-class engineering

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

On the Engineer's Day on Tuesday, the Vedanta J'suguda, reiterated its commitment to leverage best-in-class engineering, technology and innovation to boost the country's self-reliance in aluminium and fulfil raw material needs of critical sectors.

Speaking about the company's vision and manufacturing prowess, Vedanta Ltd., J'suguda CN Singh said, "On Engineer's Day, we reiterate our vision to develop India's indigenous capacity."

propelled by our engineering capabilities and technical prowess for meeting raw material needs of key sectors like aerospace, infrastructure, space exploration, electronics, automotive, defence etc." Among Vedanta J'suguda's many claims to

fame is fact that it is probably only aluminium operation in world where young professionals with an average age of 27 run such mammoth smelters and power plants.

Hailing from some of country's finest institutions, engineers make up 29 per cent of the company's workforce, of whom 12 per cent are women.

Vedanta, J'suguda, is India's first, and world's third, smelter to deploy Digital Smelter Solution, which allows for remote monitoring and control of potline operations, enhances energy efficiency, reduces raw material consumption and arrests wastage of material.

Implementation of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), ensure visibility of all critical plant operations and allow for informed decision making,

ensuring seamless operations. The company has developed an end-to-end digitally enabled central control mode for inbound and outbound logistics, which looks into all aspects of supply chain planning and monitoring from mines to plants and then to ports.

This logistics automation has resulted in an entirely paperless process with increased efficiency and reduced leakages.

Critical sections of smelter operations, from potlines to cast houses, have deployed state-of-the-art engineering technologies to ensure highest quality metal and superior products at par with global standards.

Hawk-eyed quality assessment of raw material and finished products make Vedanta one of the most preferred suppliers of aluminium



to developed markets like US and Europe.

The company is India's highest producer and exporter of billets and wire-rods. Automations and robot-

ic technologies were used across plant operations to unlock greater speed and efficiency while safeguarding employees and business partners.

Ganjam social worker makes 'online class' documentary

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA ■ BRAHMAPUR

Social worker Nila Mahapatra has produced the much awaited short documentary film "Online Class" starred by senior artists like Krishna Sahu, Gangadhar Das, Sachi Saregama, Sanak Kumar Tripathy, Sarat Satapathy, M Pravat, G Srinivas Rao, G Krishna Roul, G Mamata and Nageswar Maharana, said Dr Sweta Kumar Das who directed the film.

The editing and musical requirements have been met by Kunal Ambikesh Hota. Significantly, the short film has been produced in social image banner of Nila Mahapatra directed by Dr Sweta Kumar Das. Notably, Dr Das, a former JNU student and senior OAS officer, and



Nila Mahapatra, a known social worker, have already acclaimed recognition at national and international levels for their immaculate artistic and innovative works earlier. Dr Das is currently working as SDMO in Brahmapur for Covid-19.

Speaking on the significance and core theme of the documentary film, Dr Das said that, the film has suc-

cessfully unplugged the emotional pain of the school-going students who are missing the attraction of their school.

The film also represents the pain of the students who are the worst affected in the Covid-19 pandemic, he added. The film tried its best to prove that how the online class is an alternative, but not a replacement, Dr Das pointed out.

Jajpur scrap dealer arrested for fraud

Earlier Kolkata court convicted accused

PNS ■ JAJPUR

The Jajpur police on Monday arrested a scrap dealer, who was earlier convicted by the Metropolitan Magistrates Court, Kolkata in a fraud case, and produced him before the district Chief Judicial Magistrate court here.

The Kolkata court had convicted him in December, 2017 hearing a petition filed by one Champa Nandy.

As per information, accused Partha Sarathi Biswal (46) of Kamalpur village in the district ran a private firm Aditya Scrap Private Limited in Kolkata with investment from different people. Nandy had reportedly invested over Rs 3.5 crore in the company with



promise of lucrative return. When the woman did not get any return, she demanded the accused for refund.

However, Biswal failed to fulfill his commitment. Following this, Nandy moved the Metropolitan Magistrates Court in 2011.

On December 21, 2017, the court declared Biswal guilty and sentenced him to one year of imprisonment. The court also directed him to return the money to the woman.

ICSI TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

Quality of edu, job attract global talents: Mahadeo

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

While delivering the key note address during the inaugural session of the ICSI Teachers Conference, Director IIM, Sambalpur, Prof Mahadeo Jaiswal shared two key factors that attract global talent in a country - quality of higher education and quality of employment which should be more innovation-based and less labour-based.

Mahadeo believes India has the potential to get into top rankings of the world for which the National Education Policy (NEP) is a great way to take the lead. He enlightened the participants with 3 Ms that are key to empowering education and teachers - Method, Model, and Mode. During the technical ses-



sions of the conference, Dr (Prof) Samson Moharana, Head and Dean, School of Commerce, Birla Global University, Dr (Prof) Ranjan Kumar Bal, former PG Council Chairman, Utkal University, CS Deepak Kumar Khaitan, CS Siddhartha Murarka, Central Council Member, the ICSI addressed on "New Companies Act, 2013, New Education Policy," CS

Prabhat Kumar Nayak, Chairman, ICSI, Bhubaneswar Chapter, CA and CS Vijaya Bath, Assistant Professor, Xavier Schools of Commerce, Xavier University, CS Mayak Tiwari, Assistant Professor, National Law University, Odisha also spoke on the occasion. A large number of teachers from different colleges and universities institutions attended.

No dignity of labour

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



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

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

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

Equality in marriage

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



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

will not allow us to recognise same-sex marriage.

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



BHOPINDER SINGH

None less than the Chinese leader Xi Jinping himself has conceded that the PLA is the world's largest standing military, the People's Liberation Army (PLA), with more than 2.1 million active-duty strength, is afflicted by the "Peace Disease." Since taking over the reins of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) as the General Secretary and chairmanship of the Central Military Commission (CMC) in 2012, Xi has unleashed transformational investments and restructuring in the PLA in terms of doctrinal, strategic, technological, cultural and on-boarding of weapon platforms. Yet, he remains acutely conscious of the combat inexperience that besets a military force that has not been tested since 1979, where it came a cropper against a decidedly inferior Vietnamese force. Importantly, the Vietnamese forces that had fought the Chinese in 1979 were still blood-soaked from fighting the American forces for nearly two decades, and had even won out the supposedly better organised, trained and equipped military then. The essential mass of the Chinese PLA in 1979 had last seen a full theatre-level combat only in the early 1950s (Korean War) and soldiers, therefore, were raw and untested when they had taken on the Vietnamese. They were soon made to pay a price for lazily assuming that a larger force, better equipment and aggressive posturing could compensate for combat inexperience. It is this forbidding pertaining to the obvious inexperience of today's PLA that Xi has been alluding to in the context of "Peace Disease," even as it continues its optics of aggressive posturing, intimidation and global expansionism.

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

PLA's 'Peace Disease'

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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

Afghanistan Ambassador
—Adela Raz



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

Cricketer
—Kuldeep Yadav



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

Pakistan's Foreign Minister
—Shah Mahmood Qureshi



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

Footballer
—Neymar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where is the logic?

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

Naveen Seth
Punjab
Fair play

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

Crime graph shoots up in Goa

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

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



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

Pachu Menon
Goa

Abe's legacy

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

him to continue Abe's policies.

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

Minister Narendra Modi.

Sanjana Soni
Ujjain

A clarification

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

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

US showing ominous signs

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



GWYNNE DYER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—BJP MP AND ACTOR
RAVI KISHAN

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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

—SP MP AND ACTOR
JAYA BACHCHAN

Move the needle on cooling

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



SHANMUGANATHAN K



ASHISH SARASWAT

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

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

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

The convention provided the framework for the Montreal Protocol (MP), the most successful environmental agreement till date to achieve universal ratification. On September 16, 1987, the United Nations (UN) and 45 other countries signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. It aimed to preserve the protective shield through worldwide control, reduction and phasing out of production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Three decades ago, the speech of a 12-year-old girl, Severn Cullis-Suzuki from Vancouver, Canada at the 1992 Earth Summit, caught the attention of leaders of parties and the UN in strategising expeditious measures for phasing out of ODS. "I am afraid to go out in the sun now because of the hole in our ozone. I am afraid to breathe the air because I don't know what chemicals are in it. If you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it," said Cullis-Suzuki in her landmark speech.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the long-term on the demand side, the emphasis should be placed on factors like creating a user demand pool in favour of cooling aided by public-private partnership and facilitating credit-linked incentives to the manufacturers and users adopting newly-developed cooling technologies and so on. (Shanmuganathan is Associate Fellow and Saraswat is Project Manager, Cooling, Centre for Global Environment Research, TERI)

The death of a credible media with a backbone

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



SIDHARTH MISHRA

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

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

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

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

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

Then there is another issue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FOREIGN EYE



DO NOT ISOLATE THE ELDERLY

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

IRAN PLANNING TO AVENGE SOLEIMANI KILLING

Trump: Retaliation will be 1,000 times greater

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

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

Iran had vowed to seek revenge for Gen Soleimani's killing.

"Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude," Trump said in a tweet after news reports emerged that Iran is planning some kind of attack against the US.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iran has denied the allegations.

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

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

Iran warns US against strategic mistake after Trump threat

AFP ■ TEHRAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Navalny posts hospital photo of himself, plans Russia return

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

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

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

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



Picture from Navalny's Instagram account

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

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

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

Despite his recovery, doctors have said they cannot rule out long-term health issues associated with the poisoning.

Navalny's spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh, tweeted that once he had recovered, Navalny plans to return to Russia. "No other option has ever been considered," she wrote. Leonid Volkov, a top associate of Navalny, refused to give any details on his condition or his possible return when reached by The Associated Press on Tuesday. AP

No info on reported detentions in Taiwan, says Hong Kong

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

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

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

US issues sweeping new travel warning for China, Hong Kong

AFP ■ BEIJING

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

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

The new advisory warned US citizens that China impos-

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

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

China successfully launches 9 satellites into orbit from ship

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

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

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

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

AFP ■ BERLIN

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

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

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

ing a deal by Wednesday.

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

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

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

Boat capsizes near Libya, 24 migrants presumed dead: UN

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

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

Around the Globe

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

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

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Particulars	Quarter ended 30th June, 2020			(Rs. In Lacs)	
	30-06-20	31-03-20	30-06-19	31-03-20	Year ended
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1 Total Revenue From operations	4,290.72	10,636.73	11,400.50	38,333.59	
2 Net Profit/Loss for the period (Before Tax)	13.69	76.24	59.22	287.37	
3 Net Profit/Loss for the period (After Tax)				272.09	
4 Total Comprehensive Income	13.69	76.24	59.22	272.09	
5 Equity Share Capital	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04	
6 Reserves/Excluding Revaluation Reserves)				6,603.53	
7 Earning Per Share/Of (Rs. 10 Each)					
Basic:	0.08	0.47	0.36	1.67	
Diluted:	0.08	0.47	0.36	1.67	
* Not Audited					
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites i.e. www.bseindia.com and also at the website of the Company at www.rathibars.com.					
2 The Company does not have any Exceptional and Extraordinary item to report during the above periods.					
3 The Company has not discontinued any of its operations during the above periods.					
4 Tax expenses / Provision for Taxation has been made on annual basis only.					
5 The figures of previous year / Quarters have been re-arranged/re-grouped wherever felt necessary.					
By order of the Board for Rathi Bars Limited s/- Anurag Rathi Whole Time Director DIN : 00963345					

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED					
CIN : L25199DL1980PLC010173 Regd. Office : 2/8, Roor Nagar, Delhi-110 007 Website : www.cosco.in Email : mail@cosco.in Tel : 91-11-23843000 Fax : 91-11-23846000					

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

ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED
CIN:- L74899DL1976PLC008036
Regd. Office: Unit No. 8, Ground Floor, Pocket M, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi 110076
Telephone:- 011-47366690 E-mail:- info@rotoindia.co.in Website:- www.rotoindia.co.in

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

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

Notes:-


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

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

For Rotographics (India) Limited
Naresh Kumar Bansal
Director

Place: New Delhi
Date: 15.09.2020

BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED					
CIN: L01403AS1999PLC005741 Regd. Office: Debendra Nagar, Jhoom Basti, P.O. Badarpurhat, Dist. Karimganj, Assam-788803 Corp. Office: 28/1, Despathi Piplimura, New Delhi-110034 Tel No.: 0343-269258/81, Fax: +91-3643-268665 Website: www.barakcement.com; E-Mail Id: cs@barakcement.com					
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 TH JUNE, 2020.					
(Rs. in Lakhs)					
PARTICULARS	STANDALONE			CONSOLIDATED	
	Quarter ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30.06.2019 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Quarter ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	2,231.22	4,146.64	3,852.38	15,033.13	2,357.11
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	106.98	151.32	437.79	(70.69)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	106.98	151.32	437.79	(70.69)
Net Profit for the period after Tax (After exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	182.87	104.67	422.31	(70.69)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period	(79.86)	169.60	104.67	409.04	(70.69)
Paid Up Equity Share Capital (face value of Rs. 10/- per share)	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)	(0.36)	0.83	0.47	1.91	(0.32)
Diluted:	(0.36)	0.83	0.47	1.91	(0.32)
NOTES:-					
1. The above Unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and have been approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 14 th September, 2020. Limited review of the results as required under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulation 2015, have been carried out by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.					
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com)					
3. Figures of the previous period have been regrouped / rearranged, wherever necessary.					
For and on behalf of Board BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED S/- Kamakhyia Chamarla Vice Chairman & Managing Director					

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

D

enr788903

RESULTS

(Rs. in Lakhs)

CONSOLIDATED	Year Ended 31.03.2020	Year Ended 31.03.2019	Year Ended 31.03.2018
(Audited)			
4,398.50	4,055.32	16,340.14	
(38.95)	103.34	140.30	
93.15	458.53	627.62	
164.64	411.58	607.74	
151.37	411.58	594.47	
2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	
0.74	1.86	2.74	
0.74	1.86	2.74	

Our meeting held on 14th September, 2020, in connection with the above tender, has been carried out by the

SEB (Listing and Other Disclosure of Tender) and www.seb.co.in

For and on behalf of Board
BARAK VALLEY CEMENT LTD

Kamakhya Chandra
Vice Chairman & Managing Director

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/Dankuni/E-Procurement/20-21/13 Dated:14-09-2020

PCMM/CLW/DKAE on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from interested and reliable manufacturer for supply of the following. The following E-Tender's is/are for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.reps.gov.in. These are E-Tenders; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website: www.Stg.Tender.Nic

Description of Stores:
Qty: Due On; Cost of Tender:

1. 34202529: Blower for Oil Cooling Unit with casing including 30 KW Motor for OCU as per specification No. RD50 2016/ELSPEC/2013, 03

(2) and SPEC/E-103/09 (MOTOR) with amendment Nos. 01 to 05 As per Tender Doc.; 20-2020; 0.00.

PCMM/CLW/DKAE-107

US import curbs on Chinese textile to benefit India: Icr

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further, there could be likely retaliatory actions by the US. Measures of the kind have been in place since the early 1990s amid the ongoing US-China trade war, which could prevent widening of the scope of the ban, Icr report added. **PTI**

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

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

The 30-share BSE Sensex overcame bouts of volatility to end 287.72 points or 0.74 per cent higher at 73,044.35.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sector-wise, BSE telecom, healthcare, banks, basic materials, finance, power and utilities rose up to 1.94 per cent, while realty closed lower.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices climbed as much as 1.44 per cent.

On the macroeconomic front, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said India's coronavirus-battered economy will shrink by 9 per cent this fiscal, and growth outlook remains highly vulnerable to either a prolonged outbreak of the pandemic or a resurgence of cases. **PTI**

Rupee settles 16 paise lower at 73.64 against US dollar

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

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

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

Indian economy to shrink 9 pc in FY2: ADB

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SBI extends OTP-based ATM withdrawal facility round the clock

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UJVVN LTD.
H.O.: UJJWAL, Mahanadi Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones : 0135-2763008 & Fax : 0135-2763008
CIN No. U40101UP201500252598 Web : www.ujvvn.com

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

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

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

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

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

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

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

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

Estimated Cost - Rs. 15.00 Crores
EMD Fee - Rs. 30.00 Lakhs
Cost of tender Documents : Rs.2500.00
Validity of Rates : 180 days from opening of the Price Bid.
The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Materials (BOM), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed /downloaded from the website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in) as per the schedule of dates given below:

Time Schedule of e-Tender

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KAVYAM

"KAVYAM"-AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

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

Project Details

1. Project Approvals	Coloniser/Developer: Agrante Realty Ltd License No/ Year: 101/2017, Building Plan Approved on 06.07.2018 Haryana RERA Registration No. RC/REPHARERA/GGM/2018/23 dated 22.11.2018.
2. Location	Sector 108, Gurugram, Haryana
3. Provisions	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, i.e. tchpharyana.gov.in).
6. Payment Terms	* Statutory & government taxes are as applicable. i. With application/Booking amount, i.e., 5% of cost of flat. ii. On allotment: Additional 20% of cost of flat. iii. Balance 75% of the amount in six equal monthly instalments over three year period. No interest shall fall due before the due date of payment. Any default in payment shall invite interest as provided in rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Rules, 2017
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	2 BHK + 3 Balconies 2 BHK + 2 Balconies (Detailed specifications are provided, in application form)
8. Applications Timelines	i. Applications can be procured from: 704 DLF Tower-B, Jasola, New Delhi by paying an application fee of Rs 1000/- starting from 16.09.2020. ii. Last Date of submission of Applications: 01.10.2020. iii. All Applicants who have already applied and the prospective applicant are also directed to submit an affidavit declaring "weather applicant is or not identified beneficiary under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna and relevant documents.

Eligibility:-

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

Allotment Criteria:-

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

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

Contact at - website: www.kavyamhomes.com; 011-41924100-199, 8800499674.

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



IT'S A NEET ANALYSIS

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

Here is a detailed analysis of the paper.

PHYSICS

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

CHEMISTRY

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

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

BOTANY

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

ZOOLOGY

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

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

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

Detailed analysis

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

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

Second NATA 2020 held

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

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

The HBT mode was introduced by the Council for the

first time as an online proctored examination using Artificial Intelligence technology.

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

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

BTech programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Electronics & Computer Engineering, and Computation & Mathematics.

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

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

Get ready to play

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



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

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

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

Opportunities galore

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

For gamers, large PC companies, as well as mobile gaming startups, now organise large-scale gaming tournaments wherein participants can win attractive cash rewards and gaming merchandise.

The emergence of real-money skill gaming, too, has presented an earning opportunity for gaming enthusiasts.

Pursuing a career in gaming

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

When it comes to qualifications, most recruiters in the gaming industry focus primarily on technical skills and applied knowledge over professional degrees.

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

Analysing the future potential

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

The COVID-19 pandemic will also play a significant role in the growth of new users as more people turn to gaming apps and platforms to unwind themselves.

Against this background, the gaming industry will generate more and more employment opportunities. Of course, there are still misconceptions around gaming, but the mindset of students and their parents are slowly changing and they are now considering starting their professional journey in the gaming world.

The writer is Founder, Pacific Gaming

Upskilling is key

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

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

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

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

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



ensure their personal and professional growth.

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

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

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

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

The writer is the Founder & CEO of Speakin

SRM MCHRS signs MoU with NIS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Placement opportunities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

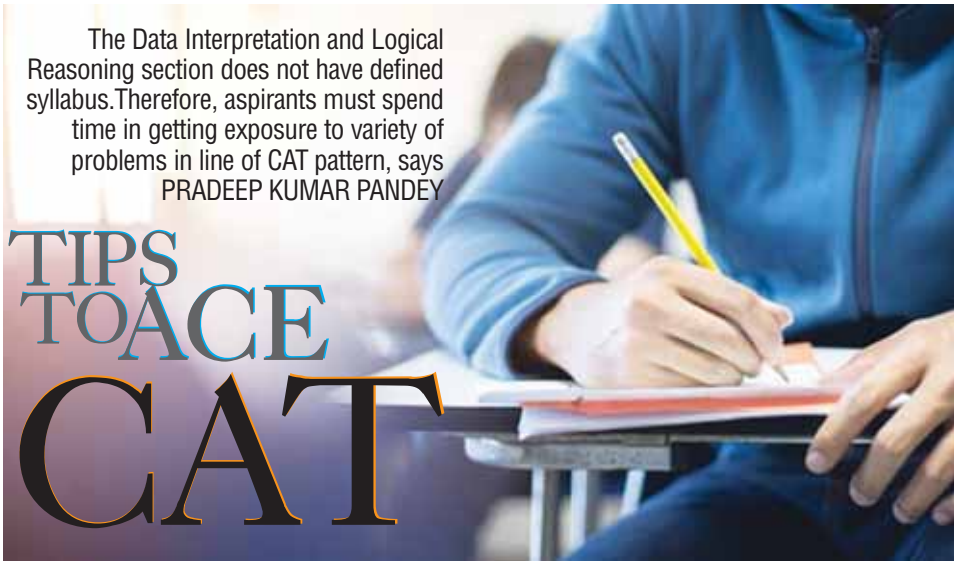
With the Covid-19 pandemic cutting down job opportunities, India's leading training, and skill development institute ICA Edu Skills has switched over to the virtual placement drives to help students get employment.

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

companies across the globe.

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

The students bagged an average package of over ₹3 lakh per annum.



TIPS TO ACE CAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

based upon complexity or number of variables in problem sets.

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

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

Type-V: New Puzzle types:

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

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

The writer is Academic Head, TIME, Delhi

‘Fashion needs to reinvent now’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mithun Bhardwaj
Director, Zashed Fashiontech

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

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

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

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

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

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

MIND IT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is Rakesh Kharwal, MD-India, Cyberbit

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

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

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

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

Application deadline: It is November 1, 2020.

The SGS Dean offers funding and invites applicants from international students pursuing their masters or PhD studies at the University of Lethbridge.

Benefits: An amount of \$10,000 to successful participants.

Eligibility: An applicant must be full-time participant and demonstrate aptitude, research skill, material and/or performance-related productions and activities. The participants need to upload unofficial transcripts, letter of intent, curriculum vitae, and language ability proof. **Admission requirements:** The participants must have an undergraduate degree in applying to a graduate degree programme. **Language requirement:** Overseas applicants are suggested to take the TOEFL/IELTS test for demonstrating their English language ability. **How to apply:** There is no additional application for the grant. All eligible participants will be considered for the grant, after the enrollment in a master or a PhD degree program at the university.

Application deadline: The university accepts applicants in three terms: Summer term: May-August; Fall term: September-December and Spring term: January-April/Check deadlines according to the course and term.

WEB DESIGN AT THE DREAMER DESIGNS
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5348890
Deadline: September 23, 2020

SOFTWARE TESTING AT 361 DEGREE MINDS
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5348891
Deadline: September 23, 2020

FRONT END DEVELOPMENT AT MEINIGAR TECHNOLOGIES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹6,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5348892
Deadline: September 23, 2020

PRODUCT DESIGN AT BOOKMARK PROJECTS TRUST
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5348895
Deadline: September 24, 2020

TELECALLING AT BEHIND THE SCREENS
Location: Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5348896
Application deadline: September 24, 2020

CONTENT WRITING AT ACROSS CODE
Location: Lucknow, Chandigarh
Stipend: ₹3,000-₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5348898
Application deadline: September 19, 2020

CUSTOMER SERVICE AT OZIVA
Location: Chandigarh
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STUDY ABROAD

New points-based immigration system opens

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

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

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

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

The Minister reassured his

commitment "to make our immigration system much more user friendly and to work with businesses and communities to make sure the system works for everyone."

Speaking of the new student route which has positive implications for Indian students choosing U.K. universities, the Government said: "International students play a key part in the government's agenda to unleash the UK's potential now that we have left the EU. They make important contributions economically, academically, and financially."

"Launching the student route early sends a clear message to the world we want the best and brightest to come to the UK to study at our globally renowned education institutions."

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

IN BRIEF

SURVEY: POSITIVE CHANGE WITH NEP 2020

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

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

In the survey, 60.3% of students preferred the idea of choosing subjects over hard streams like Arts, Science, etc. as it gives them more flexibility to pursue their favourite subjects. Only one-fifth of the Brainly users (20.4%) would like to stick to the prevalent stream-based curriculum. However, a majority (58.7%) of students prefer to be taught in a commonly accepted language as opposed to 24.8% who would like being taught in their mother tongue.

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

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

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

TERM SYSTEM IN MBA PROGRAMME AT IIT ROORKEE

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

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

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

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

POWER OF 3

AP ■ BRIGHTON

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

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

James was the most spectacular



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

and the most crucial, the right back's swerving pilfered from 30 meters regaining the lead for Chelsea at 2-1 in the 56th minute, just two minutes after Brighton equalized through Leandro Trossard.

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

space. "I thought we were OK," Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said. "I liked the work ethic and discipline of the team. "We have been together for four days. ... To expect everything to click on day one would have been difficult."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Murray gets French Open wildcard

AP ■ PARIS

Andy Murray received a wild card into the French Open.

Frenchman of eight players to be given a free pass into the main draw of the clay grand slam which starts in 13 days.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DC has firepower to go all the way: Axar

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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



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

think we can become champions this time.

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

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

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

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

"Nevertheless, the positive thing

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

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

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

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

COVID-19 episode made me mentally stronger: Manpreet

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

His team will take on Sunrisers Hyderabad on September 19 in the UAE.

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

The Karnataka left-hander is being talked



about highly in the Indian cricket circles after top-scoring in both the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the Vijaya Hazare Trophy.

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

Fuming Paire shows little effort in 1st-round loss

AP ■ ROME

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

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

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

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

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

During the final game of the match, Paire slammed returns of serve into the net in anger — with seemingly no intent of putting the ball into play. When he finally managed

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

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

"It was a good training, I'm happy I played one hour. I even played one hour and four minutes. I'm happy I hung on for 1:04.1 I gave what I could. Jannik played very well."

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

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

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

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

Kei Nishikori — who is returning from right elbow surgery and missed the U.S. Open after testing positive for COVID-19 — won for the first time in more than a year, beating Alexander Zverev 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

Ramos-Vinolas 6-4, 7-6 (3). Also in the first round, Casper Ruud of Norway rallied past

Karen Khachanov 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

Borna Coric beat Cristian Garin 6-4, 6-4; Grigor Dimitrov eliminated

wild card Gianluca Magro 7-5, 6-1; and Filip Krajinovic beat

Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 7-5.

Bumrah probably the best T20 bowler: Pattinson

FIANS ■ ABU DHABI

While terming Jasprit Bumrah as the best T20 bowler in the world, Australia pacer James Pattinson has said he is looking forward to working with the India pacer and New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult, among others, in the Mumbai Indians' bowling unit during the Indian Premier League (IPL) starting on September 19. "Personally, it's just fantastic to work with some of the best bowlers in the world. Obviously, Bumrah is probably the best T20 bowler in the world. And Boult (Trent Boult) is up there as well. So, for me it will be a great experience to be around those guys," Pattinson said in a video shared on Mumbai Indians' official handle. "I have played a few One-day Internationals here in the UAE before, so I have got a bit of experience over here in UAE."

Reigning champions MI named Pattinson as a replacement for veteran fast bowler



Lasith Malinga for this year's IPL.

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

Finally, Thomas & Uber Cup postponed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

"BWF is looking into possible alternative dates to reschedule the



World Men's and Women's Team Championships, but on dates not before 2021," it added.

BWF had tried to rope in Singapore and Hong Kong as replacements but they declined the invitation.

There were also reports that Japan was contemplating withdrawing from the event, while China too was awaiting government's approval. September 18 was the last date for confirmation.

Among top players, India's Saina Nehwal had on Sunday raised concerns about the timing of the event, asking whether it would be safe to go

ahead with it in the middle of the pandemic.

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

However, the teams' preparations were not progressing smoothly with a proposed camp cancelled a few days ago due to the players' refusal to accept the quarantine norms set by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

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

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

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

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

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

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

BWF said it had planned to put in place a bio-bubble for the safe return of the sport but it respects the concerns of players and member nations. "...In view of the recent COVID-19 related developments around the world, a number of teams and individual players have elected not to travel to Denmark for tournaments in Aarhus and Odense; a choice the BWF has to respect and acknowledge."

"These are exceptional circumstances we find ourselves in and while a return to international badminton remains a priority for the BWF, the health and safety of the entire badminton community is of utmost importance."

The governing body admitted that it would not be possible to deliver a high quality tournament in the current circumstances and hence it decided to defer the event.

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

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
CENTRAL CIRCLE (R&B) NIRMA
SOUTH, PHASE-II, 2ND FLOOR, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail id: secbbsr@gmail.com
e-Procurement Tender Call Notice No. 2 of 2020-21
No 2101 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 11th September 2020
The Superintending Engineer, Central Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Government of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for two number of Composite Building work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in https://tendersorissa.gov.in. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 5.00 PM of 24.09.2020 to 5.00 PM of 30.09.2020. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III Bids received online shall be opened at 11:00 AM of 09.10.2020 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Addendum/Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.
Sd/- Er. G.C.Sahu
Superintending Engineer
Central Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34065/11/0004/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE: BALANGIR
e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO: SKR/R&B BGR / 63/ 2020-21
No. 1564 // Dtd. 10.09.2020
1. The Superintending Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A/ Special Circles Contractors registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.
2. Nature of Work : Building work
3. No. of tender : Building : 05 Nos.
4. Tender Cost : Rs. 10, 000/-
5. Class of Contractor : B/A/ Special Class.
6. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids : From Dt.21.09.2020, 10.00 A.M. to Dt.05.10.2020 up to 05.00 P.M.
7. Date of opening Bid : Dt.07.10.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: http://tendersorissa.gov.in. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.
Superintending Engineer
Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir
OIPR-34131/11/0003/2021