

OPINION 6
NEW AGRICULTURAL
PARADIGM**WORLD 8**
PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE: LAST CHANCE
FOR TRUMP TO DEFINE BIDEN**AVENUES 10**
MAKE A CAREER
IN BUSINESS

Established 1864

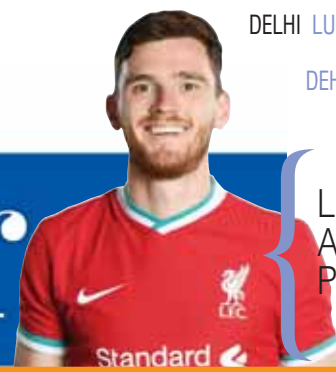
Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA*Late City Vol. 14 Issue 270
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

DEHRADUN, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹2



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

LIVERPOOL BEAT
ARSENAL 3-1 IN
PREMIER LEAGUE
12 SPORT

8-9 crore Indians Covid +ve: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 8-9 crore Indian, or one in 15 individuals aged over 10 years, may have been exposed to coronavirus by the end of August, according to the findings of the second serosurvey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

In percentage terms, the total people exposed to coronavirus will be estimated at around 7 per cent, which is 10 times higher than the numbers thrown by the findings of the first serosurvey released on September 11. It shows that between the two surveys, the infection has spread widely.

"One in 15 individuals aged over 10 years were estimated to be exposed to Covid-19 by August 2020," ICMR chief Balram Bhargava said. "Earlier we had thought that it does not affect those below 18, but have now found there's no difference. The prevalence is not different by age group or gender."

The survey was conducted between August 17 and September 22. As per its findings, the prevalence of Covid-19 among individuals over 10 years was 6.6 per cent, and in adults (over 18 years of age) was 7.1 per cent.

Since India's population is around 140 crore, the total number of people exposed to coronavirus could be around 8-9 crore when we take out the below 10 age group.

Incidentally, the findings of the first national serosurvey which became public on September 11 indicated that 0.73 per cent of adults in India were exposed to SARS-CoV-2, amounting to a total of 6.4 million Covid-19 infections by early May.

Dr Bhargava also said that the second serosurvey report showed that urban slum and

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 62,11,458

DEATHS: 97,374

RECOVERED:

51,68,342

ACTIVE: 9,44,859

VP Naidu tests Covid positive, in good health

New Delhi: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday tested positive for Covid-19 but is in good health, the Vice President Secretariat said. Naidu, 71, who is asymptomatic, has been advised home quarantine. In the evening, Naidu had addressed a virtual event on post-Covid healthcare where he urged the private sector to pitch in to improve healthcare system in rural India. "The Vice President of India who underwent a routine Covid-19 test today morning has been tested positive. He is, however, asymptomatic and in good health," the Secretariat tweeted.

urban non-slum areas had higher SARS CoV 2 infection prevalence than that of rural areas. "Risk in urban slums twice than that in non-slum areas and 4 times the risk in the rural setting," the report stated.

Amnesty cries witch-hunt as it shuts up in India, MHA says it flouted FCRA norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Amnesty International on Tuesday said it was halting all its activities in India due to the freezing of its accounts and "incessant witch-hunt" over "unfounded" and "motivated" allegations, claims which were strongly denied by the Ministry of Home (MHA).

In a statement, Amnesty India said the organisation has been compelled to let go of staff in India and pause all its ongoing campaign and research

work. "The complete freezing of Amnesty International India's bank accounts by the Government of India which it came to know on 10 September 2020, brings all the work being done by the organization to a grinding halt," it said.

Reacting to the development, the MHA said the allegations of Amnesty International is unfortunate and exaggerated and said that the NGO violated the laws in accepting foreign donations.

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	13,66,129	36,181	10,69,159
Andhra Pradesh	6,87,351	5,780	6,22,136
Tamil Nadu	5,92,911	8,777	4,76,378
Karnataka	5,82,458	9,453	5,36,209
Uttar Pradesh	3,94,856	5,715	3,36,981
Delhi	2,73,098	5,272	2,40,703
West Bengal	2,53,768	4,899	2,22,805
Odisha	2,15,676	881	1,77,585
Telangana	1,89,283	1,116	1,58,690
Kerala	1,87,277	720	1,24,684
Bihar	1,81,471	894	1,67,890
Assam	1,73,629	667	1,42,297
Gujarat	1,36,004	3,442	1,15,959
Rajasthan	1,33,119	1,471	1,11,272
Haryana	1,26,974	1,356	1,10,814
Madhya Pradesh	1,24,166	2,242	1,00,012



A health worker collects a nasal swab sample to test for Covid-19 in Hyderabad on Tuesday

Hathras' Nirbhaya succumbs to brutality Protest at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, Cong questions PM's silence

PNS/ STAFF REPORTER ■
LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI

A 19-year-old girl, who was gangraped in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district two weeks ago, died of her grievous injuries at a Delhi hospital on Tuesday morning.

As news of her death spread, protests broke out at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital as well as in Vijay Chowk and in Hathras. Leading the protests outside Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, Bhim Army chief Chandrashekar Azad appealed to all members of the Dalit community to take to the streets and demand the death penalty for the four men alleged to be involved in the crime who were arrested and will now face charges under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

"The Government should not test our patience. We will not rest until the culprits are hanged," said Azad, adding

that the victim was killed in the hospital to silence her forever and shield the culprits.

The Uttar Pradesh Government announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh for the victim's family.

Hitting out at the Yogi Adityanath Government in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and women BJP leaders on the issue and alleged that the state has become the "crime capital" of the country.

The party also staged protests demanding justice for the victim at Vijay Chowk. The party said its leaders PL Punia, Udit Raj, Amrita Dhawan and other party leaders were detained at Mandir Marg Police station for the protest.

On September 14, the young woman had gone to the fields with her mother and went missing soon after. She was found later with severe injuries and her tongue cut as



Protesters being detained at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Tuesday

she bit it when the accused attempted to strangle her, the SP said while giving details of the incident. She was brought to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital on Sunday night.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the young woman's death is a shame for

the entire society, the country as well as for all Governments. "It's highly sad that so many daughters are being sexually assaulted and we have not been able to protect them. The guilty must be hanged at the earliest," Kejriwal tweeted.

PM inaugurates ₹521 crore Namami Gange projects in U'khand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated mega development projects worth ₹521 crore in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission through video conference on Tuesday. He inaugurated a total of eight sewage treatment plants (STPs) including four in Haridwar, two in Rishikesh and one each in Muni-ki-Reti and Badrinath. He also inaugurated the Ganga Avalokan Museum, the first of its kind on the River Ganga at Haridwar and the new logo for the Jal Jeevan Mission. With the inauguration of the STPs, about 15.2 crore litres of contaminated water will not end up in the Ganga daily.

Modi highlighted the importance of keeping the Ganga clean as it plays a significant role in sustaining the lives of about 50 per cent of the country's population from its origin in Uttarakhand till West Bengal. He termed the Namami Gange Mission as the largest integrated river conservation mission which not only aims at the cleanliness of the Ganga but also focuses on

comprehensive upkeep of the river. The PM said this new thinking and approach had made the Ganga return back to life. Had the old methods been adopted, the situation would have been equally bad today. Old methods lacked public participation and foresight, he added. Modi highlighted the fact that under Namami Gange, projects worth more than Rs 30,000 crore are either in progress or have been completed. He pointed out that due to these projects the sewage treatment capacity of Uttarakhand has increased four times in the last six years.

The PM listed the efforts taken to close more than 130 drains in Uttarakhand from flowing into the Ganga. He referred specially to the Chandreshwarnagar drain which was an eyesore for visitors and rafters at Muni Ki Reti in Rishikesh. He applauded the closing of the drain and the construction of a four storied STP at Muni Ki Reti. Modi further said that as it was experienced by the pilgrims at Prayagraj Kumbh, the visitors to Haridwar Kumbh would also experience the clean and



pure status of the Ganga in Uttarakhand. He said fragmentation of work- on an important subject like water- into various ministries and departments, led to lack of clear guidelines and coordination. As a result, problems related to irrigation and drinking water continued to persist. He lamented that even after so many years of independence, piped drinking water has not reached more than 15 crore households in the country. Today, about one lakh house-

holds are being provided piped water supply connections every day under the Jal Jeevan Mission. He said drinking water connections have been provided to two crore families of the country in just one year. The PM said a special 100-day campaign is being launched on October 2 this year under Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure drinking water connection to every school and Anganwadi in the country. Modi also commended the Uttarakhand gov-

ernment for providing drinking water connections to more than 50,000 families even during the Covid pandemic in the past 4-5 months.

Thanking the PM and the Centre, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat that of the 19 projects approved for 16 priority towns, 15 had been completed while the remaining will be completed before the 2021 Kumbh Mela. Of the 135 drains marked in these towns, 128 had been closed while the remaining will be closed before the Kumbh. The benefit of works done in the catchment areas of the Ganga will be evident in the future. Further, organic agriculture is also being encouraged on 5 to 7 kms area on both banks of the Ganga under Namami Gange.

The treated water coming out of the STPs built under this programme is also being provided to farmers for irrigation, he added. The Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat also expressed his views on the occasion. Governor Baby Rani Maurya, Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and others were also present on the occasion.

Sushant didn't die of poisoning, says AIIMS report

But flags lapses in
Cooper Hospital
autopsy report for
leaving out details

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The five-member board of doctors of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) led by Dr Sudhir Gupta entrusted to re-evaluate film star Sushant Singh Rajput's post-mortem and viscera reports has submitted its finding to the CBI and ruled out death by poisoning but raised certain doubts on the autopsy report conducted by the Cooper Hospital, Mumbai.

The report is big blow to those who were claiming that Sushant was first poisoned and then hanged. The CBI investigation has so far not found any evidence to substantiate the

murder theory. The AIIMS report has ruled out poison allegation, leaving it for the CBI to arrive at its own conclusion on the basis evidences, if any.

The AIIMS team submitted the report at CBI HQ. The CBI is probing the death case of Sushant and the agency is seeking to ascertain whether it was a murder or suicide.

"The AIIMS has submitted the report. The CBI is studying the report. The report is definitely a help in investigation but not mandatory in all sense. Certain doubts raised by the medical board towards Cooper Hospital and the previous investigation agency which we will try to answer and find out the facts. The job of the agency is to find facts which can stand court of law with evidence. But AIIMS medical report can't be ruled out completely," a top source said.

CAPSULE

SI HELD FOR SHOOTING FATHER-IN-LAW, LOVER

New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Tuesday arrested its sub-inspector Sandeep Dahiya who allegedly shot at and injured his female friend here and later killed his father-in-law in Rohtak, officials said. "Dahiya was arrested from Sector-3, Rohini around 11 am by the joint teams of special staff, cyber cell and Lahori Gate police station," a senior police officer said.

MARKETS

SENSEX 37973.22 (-8.41)

NIFTY 11222.40 (-5.10)

GOLD 50,435.00 (+302.00)

SILVER 61,385.00 (+989.00)

WEATHER

MAX 32.0°C

MIN 19.0°C

Partly Cloudy Sky

POWERED BY

UNIGATE GENERAL MEDIA (P) LTD

www.pioneeredge.in

Capt holds meeting with farmers' union, declares to fight battle on all fronts

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Extending Punjab Government's full support to the agitating farmers in these 'dark and difficult times', the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Tuesday assured of all possible legal and other steps to fight the "draconian" new farm laws, including a special session of the Vidhan Sabha to discuss and decide the way forward.

Capt Amarinder, chairing a meeting with the representatives of 31 farmer unions to take their views on the matter, said that he would be discussing the issue with his legal team to finalize the next steps, including challenging the farm laws in the Supreme Court.

Besides farmer representatives, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in-charge of Punjab Harish Rawat attended the meeting, along with Cabinet Ministers Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Gurpreet Singh Kangar and Bharat Bhushan Ashu, MLA Rana Gurjit Singh, Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar and the state Advocate-General Atul Nanda.

"We will take all possible steps to counter the Union Government's assault on the State's federal and



Constitutional rights, and fight for the interests of the farmers," Capt Amarinder assured the farmer representatives.

If the legal experts advise amendment to the state laws to fight the central laws, a special session of the Vidhan Sabha will be immediately called to do so, he said.

Making it clear that the Government had no qualms about convening an Assembly session if that was the best course in the circumstances, the Chief Minister, however,

trashed SAD president Sukhbir Badal's demand for a special Vidhan Sabha session as 'cheap

gimmickry" after their active support to the central laws for months.

He questioned, where were the Akalis in the previous session and why Sukhbir did not support the other parties at the all-party meeting.

Asserting that the Centre had no right to enact these laws as it amounted to violation of the Constitution and attack on the federal structure, the Chief Minister said that Punjab Government shared the farmers' concerns and will do whatever it takes to scuttle the Union Government's attempt to ruin the farming commu-

nity with these draconian legislations.

"The battle will be fought on all fronts," said the Chief Minister adding that besides the Congress signature campaign, announced a day before, all Panchayats in the state would be requested to pass resolutions against the Agriculture Acts, and the same would be sent to the Union Government.

Declaring that Punjab Government and the State Congress were with the farmers in this difficult time, Capt Amarinder said that he would take the suggestions of the

Kisan Unions to legal experts to finalize the next course of action.

"If the new laws are implemented, it will spell the end of agriculture," said the Chief Minister, warning that "in the times ahead, the Government of India will follow up these legislation with elimination of MSP (minimum support price) and FCI (Food Corporation of India), bringing an end to the time-tested farming procurement and marketing system as we know it."

Promising to fight the Farm Laws shoulder-to-shoulder with the farmers, Jakhar said that he was ready to quit PPCC presidency to join their protests without making it a political act.

"However, I am confident that the Chief Minister would find way to counter the Central assault on the farming community and protect your interests just as he had done on the water issue.

They (Centre) have killed the farmers with a pen, we will have to find a way to kill them with a pen," he said, quipping "Kalam naal marya hai, assi kalam naal bachavange" (We will save the farmers with the pen.

FARMERS' SPEAK

GOVT'S SUGGESTIONS	FARMERS' SUGGESTION
♦ Govt may challenge farm laws in SC	♦ Farmer leaders urged CM to challenge central laws legally
♦ A special Assembly session to be convened immediately if legal experts advise amendment to the state laws to fight the central laws	♦ They ask CM to take whatever other steps needed to protect the farmers, including blocking construction of Adani's silos in Punjab
♦ Congress signature campaign	♦ BKU Rajewal suggests passing state laws through a special session of Vidhan Sabha to protect the farmers and Punjab
♦ All Panchayats in the state would be requested to pass resolutions against farm laws, to be sent to the Central Govt	♦ BKU Sidhupur urges CM to convene a special session to pass a law to counter central legislations
♦ Govt to take suggestions of farmers' organizations, legal experts to finalize next course of action	♦ Krantikari Kisan Union requests CM to consult constitutional experts so that the State could formulate new laws in line with Congress president Sonia Gandhi's directives
♦ "Punjab Government will do whatever it takes to scuttle the Union Government's attempt to ruin farming community with these draconian legislations...The battle will be fought on all fronts", says CM	
♦ Jakhar offers to quit PPCC presidency to join farmers' protests	

Earlier, several farmer leaders urged the Chief Minister to challenge the central laws legally, and take whatever other steps needed to protect the farmers, including blocking construction of Adani's silos in the State.

Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) Rajewal's Balbir Singh Rajewal said that the new laws will ruin the farmers, the arhtiyas (commission agents), the farm labour, the Mandi employees and rendered lakhs of people jobless, leading to a devastating impact on the state's economy.

"These laws will lead to the establishment of two kinds of mandis — one with tax and other without tax for private players, which will eventually destroy the Government Mandis and lead to corporate monopolisation and farmer exploitation," he said while stressing on passing the state laws through a special session of the Vidhan Sabha to protect the farmers and Punjab.

BKU Sidhupur's Jagjit Singh Dallewal also urged the Chief Minister to convene a special session to pass a law to counter the central legisla-

tions, while Krantikari Kisan Union Punjab's president Dr Darshan Pal requested him to consult constitutional experts so that the State could formulate new laws, in line with Congress president Sonia Gandhi's directives. BKU Ektas Buta Singh and Jhanda Singh said that it was a fight to the finish to protect the farmers and the State from annihilation by the Central Government, whose sole aim was to help private corporates. If Agriculture is destroyed, so will the nation, they warned.

Punjab seeks suggestions from lawyers, kisan unions' legal representatives on farm laws

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Tuesday sought inputs or suggestions from legal experts, including legal representatives of the Kisan Unions, on the next course of action for protecting the interests of the farmers against the Centre's farm laws.

The Chief Minister has directed the state Advocate-General Atul Nanda to collate and consider all such suggestions, which may be received on a specially created email id — agri.law@punjab.gov.in.

The directives were issued by the Chief Minister during a high-level meeting on Tuesday with the top government officials to mull all aspects of the issues arising out of the three

Central acts on Agriculture, which were recently passed by the Parliament and notified after the Presidential assent.

During the course of the meeting, all suggestions given by leaders of various Kisan Unions earlier in the day, were deliberated; and the meeting also mulled the legal options available before the State, said a spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office.

PUNJAB CONG INVITES RAHUL TO JOIN PROTEST

Punjab Congress wants former Congress President Rahul Gandhi to join the party's planned nationwide farmers' protests, beginning from October 2 on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, against the Centre's farm laws in Punjab.

"We are going to invite Rahul Gandhi to participate in farmer protest in Punjab. The date is not fixed yet and might be October 2, 3, or 4. It depends on which date he is going to participate. We are going to invite him, we hope he might get time to join us," said Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar.

Jakhar said that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) has decided to hold a protest from October 2 to express solidarity with the farmers. "Congress will observe 'Kisan-Mazdoor Bachao Divas' on October 2. Dharnas and marches will be held at every Assembly headquarters and District headquarters across India on the Agriculture bills and asking for their immediate withdrawal," he said.

25 more Covid-19 deaths, Haryana toll reaches 1,356; 1,562 fresh cases reported

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The tally of Covid-19 patients in Haryana mounted to 126, 974 on Tuesday with the State Health department reporting 1562 fresh cases of the disease. Deaths of 25 patients were also reported due to Covid-19 on Tuesday after which the death toll from the disease mounted to 1356.

On a positive note, the authorities discharged 2403 patients of the disease from different hospitals of the State after their recovery on the day. A total of 110,814 patients have so far recovered from the disease and the recovery percentage in the state is 87.27. The infection

rate (IR) in the state has increased to 6.73 percent with a doubling rate of 29 days.

Of the 25 fatalities on Tuesday, three each were reported from Rohtak; Hisar, Yamunanagar while two each from Sirsa, Kurukshetra, Bhiwani, Panipat and one each from Faridabad, Gurugram, Rewari, Ambala, Palwal, Panchkula, Nuh and Fatehabad districts. Among the districts which reported a big spike in cases are Gurugram (224), Faridabad (168), Kurukshetra (143), Sonapat (112) and Rohtak (114). Currently, there are 14,804 active Covid-19 cases in Haryana, while 1, 10, 814 people have been discharged after recovery.



MP and BJP Kisan morcha president Raj Kumar Chahar along with leaders and workers of Chandigarh BJP took out a tractor rally in support of farm laws in Sector 34 Chandigarh on Tuesday
T. Sharma/The Pioneer

Punjab has 1,100 fresh cases, 75 Covid-19 deaths

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab on Tuesday added 1,100 fresh cases to the infection tally pushing the state's Covid-19 count to 1,12,460. Besides, as many as 75 more Covid-positive patients succumbed to the contagion in the past 24 hours, pushing the state's death toll to 3,359. The state's mortality rate stood at 2.99 percent. Maximum 12 casualties were reported in Ludhiana, followed by seven each in Amritsar and Gurdaspur; five each in Pathankot, SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr), and SAS Nagar (Mohali); four each in Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, and Ferozepur; three each in Kapurthala, Barnala, and Muktsar; two each in Tarn Taran, Bathinda, Faridkot, Patiala, and Ropar; and one death each in Fatehgarh Sahib, Moga, and Sangrur districts.

Among the fresh cases, highest 180 were reported from Ludhiana district, followed by 145 from Jalandhar, 109 from Mohali, 95 from Amritsar, 71 from Patiala, 62 from Gurdaspur, 55 each from Bathinda and Kapurthala, 50 from Hoshiarpur,

and 1269 on September 28 and 1100 on September 29.

The Minister, while encouraging the people to come forward for corona test and get treatment in home isolation for COVID-19, said that the Punjab Government has made home isolation very simple by allowing elderly and persons with co-morbidities to opt for home isolation as per medical protocol. Around 47,502 patients have been recovered till date and 10,006 are in home isolation in Punjab, he said. As per the daily health bulletin, the State has 16,824 active cases — accounting for 14.96 percent of the state's total infections. Among them, 396 patients were on oxygen support and 65 on ventilators.

Among the total 3,359 fatalities in the state so far, highest 735 deaths have been registered in Ludhiana district, 385 in Jalandhar, 359 in Amritsar, 320 in Patiala, 186 in SAS Nagar, 150 in Hoshiarpur, 144 in Sangrur, 141 in Gurdaspur, 138 in Kapurthala, 109 in Bathinda, 97 in Ferozepur and 81 in Fatehgarh Sahib.

and 1269 on September 28 and 1100 on September 29.

The Minister, while encouraging the people to come forward for corona test and get treatment in home isolation for COVID-19, said that the Punjab Government has made home isolation very simple by allowing elderly and persons with co-morbidities to opt for home isolation as per medical protocol. Around 47,502 patients have been recovered till date and 10,006 are in home isolation in Punjab, he said. As per the daily health bulletin, the State has 16,824 active cases — accounting for 14.96 percent of the state's total infections. Among them, 396 patients were on oxygen support and 65 on ventilators.

Among the total 3,359 fatalities in the state so far, highest 735 deaths have been registered in Ludhiana district, 385 in Jalandhar, 359 in Amritsar, 320 in Patiala, 186 in SAS Nagar, 150 in Hoshiarpur, 144 in Sangrur, 141 in Gurdaspur, 138 in Kapurthala, 109 in Bathinda, 97 in Ferozepur and 81 in Fatehgarh Sahib.

1 IAS, 1 IPS transferred to Chandigarh

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday ordered the transfer of three IAS officers and one IPS officer of the AGMUT cadre. The MHA has ordered the transfer of Nitika Pawar (IAS-2012 batch) from Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Chandigarh and Ketan Bansal, an IPS officer of 2016 batch, from Mizoram to Chandigarh with immediate effect.

A day before, the name of Punjab-cadre IPS officer Kuldeep Singh Chahal (2009 batch) was approved for the post of Senior Superintendent of Police, Chandigarh. Meanwhile, Sanjay Kumar Jha (2008 batch), UT Secretary, Departments of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Public Relations, has been transferred to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Sachin Rana (2014 batch), Special Secretary, Departments of Technical Education and House Allotment Committee, also holding the charge of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Secretary, Red Cross Society, UT, has been transferred to Arunachal Pradesh.

MCI's nod for 150 MBBS seats to SGRR College

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Medical Council of India (MCI) has given approval to the Shri Guru Ram Rai Institute of Medical and Health Sciences to admit 150 students for MBBS course this year. A team of the MCI had recently inspected the medical college and the associated hospital.

The principal of the college, Dr Anil Kumar Mehta said that the MCI has sent a letter for its approval of 150 seats to the college.

He said that the medical college has approval to admit 150 MBBS and 94 PG students in various disciplines. Dr Mehta said that the institute is fully cooperating with the Uttarakhand Government in fighting the Covid-19 infection in the state.

Five more residents die due to Covid as 138 fresh cases surfaced in Chandigarh

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Five more residents succumbed to Covid-19 on Tuesday as Chandigarh reported 138 fresh positive cases. With this, the death toll reached 158 while the total case tally stood at 11816 in the city.

The daily count of cases remained below 200 for the third consecutive day. However, the COVID-19 related fatalities continued to rise in Chandigarh. The COVID-19 fatality rate stood at 1.33 percent in Chandigarh. 102 residents have died in the month of September due to COVID-19 while 56 fatalities were reported from the month of April to August.

According to Chandigarh Health Department's bulletin, out of 11816 total cases, there were 2060 active cases till the evening, 9598 patients have so far recovered from COVID-19 in the city. A total of 273

patients have been discharged including persons from home isolation who have completed 10 days and are asymptomatic, the bulletin added. In the last 24 hours, a maximum of 12 positive cases were reported in Manimajra and eight cases were reported in Sector 48. As per the health bulletin, the fresh cases were reported in Sectors 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 56, 61, Sector 38 west, Dadumajra, Daria, Dhanas, Kajheri, Khuda Lohara, Manimajra, Mauli Jagran, PGIMER campus, Ram Darbar and Raipur Khurd.

A total of 7470 positive cases have so far been reported in the city in the month of September. A biggest single-day spike of 449 cases was recorded on September 13.

सूचना
मेरे पति देवी सिंह कैतुरा आर्मी नं. JCT770730P के आर्मी अफिलेखों में मेरा नाम कमला देवी दर्ज है, जबकि सही नाम कमला कैतुरा है। भविष्य में मुझे श्रीमती कमला कैतुरा पत्नी श्री देवी सिंह कैतुरा निवासी— ग्राम व पो.ओ. नकरीदा, देहरादून के नाम से जाना जाये।
PUBLIC NOTICE
The property number was 11E, I am the owner and spiritualist of a shop located on the third floor of Rajpur Road Dehradun. The said shop, I purchased the sale letter dated 24.03.2017 from Mr. Mohit Kumar Parihar's son also from Mr. Rasal Singh. Prior to the said shop, the sales letter dated 12.01.2010 document number 216 sales letter date 05.08.2008 document number 3692 and the sales letter date 01.09. 2005 document number 5557 originally actually lost somewhere. There has been no misuse of the above mentioned sales letters by me. The shop of my ownership is beyond dispute. Manjeet Bani son Shri Ramal Bani resident 29 Kaval Road, District Dehradun

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice
SRDEN/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following tenders closing date & time 22.10.2020 16:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.
Tender No. Date 78-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 16.09.20 79-DRM-MB-20-21 dt. 24.09.2020
Name of Work Cess repair work at Km. 3/5-7/0 (RHS), 14/0-14/25 (RHS), 19/0-21/12 (RHS), 24/5-25/1 (RHS), 28/12-31/4 (Both side), 32/3-35/7 (Both side) in LRJ-RWL section and Km 39/21A-01/05 (Both side), 1/19-4/0 (Both side) & 4/20-5/14 (Both side) in RWL-RKSH section and restoration of L-xing in LRJ-HW and RWL-RKSH in the section of SR.DEN-IMB.
Tender Closing Date Time 22.10.2020 16:00 22.10.2020 16:00
Advised Value (Rs.) 6966936.19 20009690.66
Earnest Money (Rs.) 139300.00 250100.00
Bidding Start Date 08.10.2020 08.10.2020
Validity of Offer (Days) 45 Days 45 Days
Period of Completion 3 Months 12 Months
Tender No. 74-W/23/WA/Publication Dated : 28.09.2020 2099/2020
Serving Customers With A Smile

Story of young love in Mellow Heart

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Having a fascination and venturing into unknown territory have been the common factors when it comes to teenage love. In her book titled Mellow Heart, the writer Khushi Gupta has depicted the thought process of a teenager through Sevoren Appter who loves to criticise love stories as somewhere we are made to believe the fragility of love by our well-wishers.

The portrayal of a sarcastic teenager by Gupta gives the story an edge. The attitude of the main character who maintains her calm even when she is stuck with the person whom she hates the most gives the reader an account of a teenager's iron will.



Covid-19 tally mounts to 47,995 in U'khand

493 new cases, 11 deaths and 1,413 recoveries on Tuesday

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

For the second consecutive day on Tuesday, the state health department reported less than 500 fresh cases of Covid-19. On the day 493 patients were reported which increased the tally of the disease to 47,995 in the state. Deaths of 11 patients were reported on Tuesday which increased the death toll to 591. Continuing the good trend of increased recoveries, 1,413 patients of the disease were declared cured on Tuesday. A total of 38,059 patients have so far recovered from the disease and the recovery percentage has increased to 79.30 percent. The Infection Rate (IR) of the

disease is 7.09 percent and the doubling rate of the disease is 44.58 days.

Four patients of Covid-19 were reported dead at Sushila Tiwari government hospital Haldwani. In All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh three patients of the disease were reported dead. Similarly two patients succumbed to the disease at Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital Dehradun. One patient each was reported dead at Government Base hospital and SN hospital Almora on the day.

The authorities reported 174 fresh cases of the disease in Dehradun district on Tuesday. In Tehri 65 patients were reported while 60 patients in Udham Singh Nagar, 53 in Haridwar, 47 in Nainital, 40 in Uttarkashi, 15 each in Champawat and Pithoragarh, 13 in Chamoli, six in Bageshwar, four in

Rudrapur and one patient in Almora was reported.

Out of the 1413 patients recovered on Tuesday, 411 are from Dehradun, 301 from Nainital, 169 from Haridwar, 142 from Udham Singh Nagar, 120 Chamoli, 94 from Pauri and 74 are from Almora district.

Incidentally the count of active patients came below the 10000 figure mark on Tuesday. The state now has 9122 active patients of the disease. Dehradun district with 2971 active cases is at top of table while Haridwar with 1506 active cases is on second spot. In Uttarakhand, 988, Nainital 945, Pauri 630, Uttarkashi 431, Tehri 346, Almora 295, Pithoragarh 260, Chamoli 250, Champawat 243, Rudrapur 148 active patients of the disease. With 109 active patients of Covid-19 Bageshwar district is at bottom of the table.

Recovery rate shows 13 per cent increase in a fortnight in State

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In what can be termed as good news for the Covid-19 contagion hit Uttarakhand, the recovery rate in the last 15 days has witnessed an increment of 13 percent. On September 13, the recovery rate was 66 percent which now has increased to 79 percent. Tehri and Udham Singh Nagar districts lead the table of recovery rate with a percentage of 86 percent each.

In Uttarakhand, 988, Nainital 945, Pauri 630, Uttarkashi 431, Tehri 346, Almora 295, Pithoragarh 260, Chamoli 250, Champawat 243, Rudrapur 148 active patients of the disease. With 109 active patients of Covid-19 Bageshwar district is at bottom of the table. The overall IR in the state is at 7.12 percent.

Dehradun with a recovery rate of 72 percent is at 10th spot in the table. Here 9147 patients out of 12693 have recovered from the disease. With a recovery rate of only 60 percent Pauri district has the worst recovery in the state.

Provisional state capital Dehradun which is reeling under the onslaught of the disease has reported 12693 patients of Covid-19 which is highest in the state. Incidentally 49 percent of total fatalities in the state have occurred in Dehradun district alone. Here 285 patients have succumbed to the disease so far. At 12.68 percent, the Infection Rate too is highest in Uttarakhand. The overall IR in the state is at 7.12 percent.

MCD extends bar on public entry for two more days

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation (MCD) extended the restriction of public in its premises when another employee tested positive for Covid-19 in the corporation within three days after an employee was found Covid-19 infected on Sunday.

According to the municipal commissioner, Vinay Shankar Pandey, an MCD employee was found Covid positive on Tuesday due to which the corporation decided to keep the entry of locals restricted for two more days. The campus will be sanitised on Wednesday and Thursday and public entry will be allowed on the following working day, informed officials.

50% of ROB & RUB cost to be borne by CRIF instead of State

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Fifty per cent of the amount to be spent on construction of the railway road over bridges (ROB) and road under bridges (RUB) at identified railway crossings in Uttarakhand will now be facilitated from the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) instead of being borne by the state Government.

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat thanked the Union Road Transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari for this development.

He said that now the state government will be able to use the large sum it would have spent on ROB and RUBs on other developmental works in the state instead. In the past Rawat had written to Gadkari,

requesting that the 50 per cent of the cost to be borne by the state government be paid from the CRIF.

Rawat said that a number of accidents occur at the railway crossings apart from regular traffic jams due to traffic pressure, causing major inconvenience to the public.

To resolve these problems, nine level crossings with more than one lakh TVU have been identified in the state. With the ministry accepting the CM's request, 50 per cent of the cost of constructing the nine ROB-RUBs will be borne by the railways while the remaining 50 per cent which would have been borne by the state earlier will now be paid from the CRIF. These are to be constructed in the Dehradun and Haridwar districts.

Nurses suspend work boycott call

Took decision after meeting CM Rawat on Tuesday. They earlier planned to go on an indefinite work boycott from today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In a big relief to the state government and the people of Uttarakhand, the nurses of the state health services have taken back their agitation plan. The association of the nurses had earlier planned to go on an indefinite work boycott from September 30. The decision to suspend the agitation was taken after a delegation of the association of nurses met the chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. The delegation appeared satisfied after the meeting and decided to suspend their agitation. In the meeting the delegation submitted a memorandum to the CM. Addressing the nurses, the CM said that the nursing staff are discharging their duties

with utmost sincerity during the ongoing pandemic of Covid-19. He appreciated the health workers for their selfless service to the society. Directing the officials to take necessary action on the demands of the nurses, the CM said that the recruitment of vacant posi-

tions of nurses and renaming staff nurses to nursing officers would be soon done.

The president of the association Meenakshi Jakhmola said that the CM heard the grievance of the nurses very attentively. She added that the CM assured them that the pro-

posal to take back the decision to deduct one day's salary of nurses would be brought before the state cabinet soon. She said that the posts of nurses have been increased on the basis of norms of IPHS and GO for which has been issued.



IMA Commandant Lt Gen Negi retires today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After a service of 40 years, the commandant of Indian Military Academy (IMA), Lieutenant General Jaiveer Singh Negi would superannuate on Wednesday. On the day a simple ceremony would be held at the war memorial of IMA, where the outgoing commandant would pay homage to the martyrs.

An alumnus of National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla the General Officer was commissioned into the 16th Battalion, the Dogra Regiment on June 13, 1981. As a Colonel, he commanded his battalion in the western sector during 'Operation Parakram' and later as a Brigadier commanded an Assam Rifles in North East. As a Major General, he commanded a division in Kargil (J&K) and later commanded a strike corps at Ambala as a Lieutenant



General.

As the commandant, IMA he was instrumental in institutionalizing stringent and innovative measures to keep the spread of Covid under control. During his stint as the commandant, the academy swiftly adapted modified training modules to fulfill the primary mandate of the Academy towards imparting quality training to the future military leaders, while ensuring due Covid protocols. After his retirement, Negi plans to settle down in Dehradun.

UAS accuses CEO of pressurising parents, official refutes claims

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Several parents associated with Uttarakhand Abhibhavak Sangh (UAS) accused the chief education officer (CEO) of Dehradun of pressurising the parents to deposit school fees and favouring the management of private schools over the welfare of children and parents. According to the president of UAS, Ram Kumar Singh, many parents have complained to him that when they approach CEO, Asha Rani Painuly, she asked parents whether they deposited the school fee or not and if they hadn't, she instructed them to submit the fee first.

"Initially parents used to file their complaints through the association but Painuly recently instructed that she will listen to the complaint of every parent individually which makes it easier to put pressure on parents," stated Singh. According to a local resident, Mahesh Sharma, "I could not

deposit the fee of my child's new class so I told the school management that I will deposit fee in the installments but they denied him admission stating that if I do not want to deposit fee, I should admit my child to a government school. I even brought a signed letter by MLA Ganesh Joshi to the CEO stating that I should be allowed to deposit fees in three installments due to my financial instability at the moment but she told me to deposit the fee as per the school management. We are facing a severe financial crisis due to the lockdown but for the sake of my child's future, I had to take a loan to deposit the school fee."

Meanwhile, the CEO rejected all the allegations as baseless. She said, "levelling accusations against anyone is easy. I am just doing my job and if anyone has any issue they can write me a complaint letter regarding their issues and I will definitely consider it," stated Painuly.

Ensuring health & happiness of the elderly for a better society



DR GAURAV SANJAY

The United Nations declared October 1 as the International Day for Elderly. On this day UN and its allied groups raise awareness on issues affecting the elderly and our responsibilities towards our elders. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions of the elderly to society. The elderly population is defined as people aged 65 years and above.

This year we are still under the siege of the Covid-19 pandemic and it is the elderly who have been afflicted the most by Covid.

Currently the total population of the world is 7.8 billion. It is estimated that there were 703 million persons aged above 65 in 2019. This number is projected to double to more than 1.5 billion people by 2050. One can imagine how seriously this rise in geriatric population will bring changes to the ailing Indian health system.

It is common knowledge that as our age advances, the immunity of our body decreases to fight against even less virulent virus or bacteria which can give rise to illness. Additionally, elderly people usually have other associated comorbidities like diabetes, hypertension, heart, lungs and kidney problems.

Being an orthopaedic surgeon, in addition to these above mentioned comorbidities, I mainly see two peculiar orthopaedic problems in elderly people - osteoporosis and osteoporosis related fractures. Osteoporosis is a disease which can cause generalised body pain and bending of these fragile bones which is more marked in the lower limbs and the spine. These deformities usually increase as the age advances. The quality of the bone becomes more porous hence the bones become more bent and more fragile which fracture with trivial trauma.

Osteoporotic fractures usually occur in the spine, hip and wrist bone. The common mode of injury is a minor slip in the bathroom in cases of hip fracture and after travelling on bumpy roads, which is quite a common scenario in our country to sustain osteoporotic spine fractures. Wrist fractures usually occur when one falls on an outstretched hand.

Wrist fractures can usually be managed by simple plaster while most osteoporotic spine fractures can easily be managed with brace. But, in the current scenario, there is not much scope for conservative treatment in managing hip fractures. These hip fractures are difficult to manage due to the age of the patients and their comorbidities. These fractures are almost always managed surgically but the results after surgery are also not very predictable. In my own experience - also supported by scientific studies, a third of the patients with hip fracture who are treated surgically die within a year of the injury irrespective of any surgical treatment and the hospital facilities not only in our country but in developed countries

too. Not only do the elderly suffer from physical deformities and problems but also occasionally have mental problems like anxiety, depression, psychosis and Alzheimer's disease or some other sort of neurological problem like Parkinsonism etc.

The UN is promoting the decade of healthy ageing and bringing together UN experts, civil society, government and health professionals to prepare a global strategy and action plan on ageing. This strategy will be integrated into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially goal 3 which is to ensure healthy life and promote well being of all at all ages. One of the aims in the present proposal is reducing the health disparities between elderly people in developed and developing countries so as to leave no one behind. Currently, the Covid pandemic has increased the burden on the health system in treating elderly people in a short period of time, hence the policy, planning and the attitude of the public, social workers and policy maker's needs to change.

Ageing and osteoporosis are creating a burden on the already constrained health services in both public and private sectors in India hence, an attempt should be made to prevent osteoporosis and osteoporotic fractures. Primordial prevention by eating a healthy, nutritious and balanced diet containing calcium, vitamin D and the other micro nutrients, daily exercise in any form, any physical, professional or recreational work improves bone strength. This will definitely reduce the incidence of osteoporosis and related fractures. The other preventive measures to reduce incidence of fractures is using a walking aid like cane or walker, keeping the floor dry, turning on the light bulb in the bathroom particularly during the night.

Human resource is the biggest resource but its worth depends upon the health of the individual. Elderly people can play a critical and an important role through volunteer work and even helping their family with responsibilities and sharing their vast experience. Though elderly people cannot do rigorous physical work they can do many other supervisory works. They can transfer their experience and knowledge to the younger generation which will greatly benefit the family, society and nation. The elderly people particularly the well trained and experienced professionals should be motivated to make contributions to local communities. This will help both the community and the elderly

while boosting their self esteem and making them feel more dignified as they age.

Ageing is a natural and physiological phenomenon which starts from conception of an individual. This process cannot be stopped but can be modified. According to the 2011 Indian census there are nearly 104 million elderly persons in India and we all should be concerned about their mental, physical and nutritional requirements at large.

People are now living longer but not living healthier. Everybody's goal should be to improve quality of life so that all can live comfortably and independently for the rest of their life. For that there is an urgent need to build a stable infrastructure and health care support system for the elderly.

(The writer is an orthopaedic surgeon based in Dehradun)

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No. SSA/MDMS/Plates & Glass/20/2020/2649
Mission Director, Aom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission cum State Nodal Officer-MDM, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from manufacturer of Steel Utensil for supply of Stainless Steel Plates and Stainless Steel Glass for Mid Day Meal.
To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tenders schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Aom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/-Mission Director SSA, Assam cum State Nodal Officer- MDM Kahilpara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog/CF/2007/20

SAIGRACE ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL
Affiliated to C.B.S.E, India
Congratulates The Pioneer Dehradun on completion of its 13 year of publication
Admission Open for 2020
Near Shiv Mandir, Raipur Rd, Raipur, Dehradun, Uttarakhand - 248001
Phone No.- 0135 2789949, 91 73026 60052
Email id- info@saigraceacademy.com

'IAF ready to face any misadventure at LAC'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With no let up in the five-month-long tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, IAF chief RKS Bhadauria on Tuesday said the present security scenario along the border is at an "uneasy no war no peace" status. He said the IAF has responded to the situation with rapidity and is fully resolved to counter any "misadventure" in the region.

Making this point here during a conference, he said "The present security scenario along our northern frontiers is at an uneasy no war no peace status. Our defence forces are prepared for any eventuality as you are aware."

The IAF is looking at inducting around 450 aircraft and helicopters in the next two decades, besides upgrading at least 200-300 planes during this period, the Air Chief said.

He also said the recent induction of the Rafale fighter jets along with previous acquisitions of C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft as well as Chinook and Apache helicopters have provided the IAF with substantial tactical and strategic capability enhancement.

"Air power will be a crucial enabler in our victory in any future conflict. It is therefore imperative that the IAF obtains and maintains technological



edge over our adversaries," he said at the conference on energising the Indian aerospace industry. Five French-made multi-role Rafale fighter jets were inducted into the IAF on September 10. The fleet has been carrying out sorties in eastern Ladakh in the last couple of weeks.

The Chief's observations came in the backdrop of the IAF deploying all its frontline jets including the Su-30, Mirages, MIG-29 and Jaguars at the forward airbases all along the 4,000 km long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

The IAF is also carrying out night time combat air patrols over the eastern Ladakh region in an apparent message to China that it was ready to deal with any eventualities in the mountainous region.

The IAF Chief said the raising of two squadrons of light combat aircraft Tejas and integration of some indigenous weapons on the Su-30 MKI combat jets in a very reduced time frame have been the "most promising" development, reflecting the coun-

try's capabilities to develop indigenous military hardware. He also strongly backed indigenous development of a fifth generation aircraft.

"We strongly support indigenous development of a fifth-generation aircraft. We need to have a single point agenda to have a fifth-generation aircraft with sixth generation technology," said Bhadauria, while congratulating all the stakeholders in development of the light combat aircraft Tejas.

He also complimented the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for its airborne early warning and control system Netra, calling it a pathbreaking achievement. Bhadauria also asked the DRDOs and defence public sector undertakings to include the private sector in key projects and treat them as their own.

"Overall, we are looking at 450 aircraft orders. It will include the helicopter fleet," Bhadauria said.

"There cannot be a better time to energise the aerospace sector and there cannot be a better opportunity...IAF is ready to be an engine of growth for the aerospace industry, you have to be ready to provide the requirement and get on board with confidence and determination," he said.

AIKSCC plans pan-India protest from Oct 2



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) on Tuesday announced its plans to hold a massive all India farmers' protests from October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Their decision came a day after Congress workers set a tractor on fire while protesting near India Gate. Meanwhile, the 'Rail Roko' agitation by the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee against the newly enacted farm laws entered the sixth day on Tuesday.

Members of the committee sat on railway tracks in Devidaspura in Amritsar, wearing black clothes, in protest against the laws. All 31 farmers unions will join in the protest of BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) of gheraoing the corporate businesses.

According to AIKSCC, farmers will hold a protest across India on October 2. All farmers will take a pledge for social boycott of those political leaders and representatives whose parties have not opposed these anti-farmers legislations and for holding village meetings

to adopt resolutions on October 2. The committee has chalked out a month-long protest plans. The Committee also decided to stage a dharna at Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala's residence on October 6. Punjab farmer rights' associations are using social media to build momentum for the movement against the central laws.

In a related development, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Tuesday met farmers' leaders and assured farmers of all possible legal and other steps to fight the "draconian" new farm laws, including a special session of the Vidhan Sabha to discuss and decide the way forward. Chairing a meeting with representatives of 31 farmers' unions

to take their views on the matter, the Chief Minister said he would be discussing the issue with his legal team later today to finalise the next steps, including challenging the farm laws in the Supreme Court.

On Monday, large-scale protests were held in several states of India including Uttar

Farm reform laws like daggers through hearts of farmers, says Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday interacted virtually with farmers from several States. Accusing the Central Government of 'breaking the back' of the informal sector through its policy decisions, Rahul said while demonetisation and 'ineffective' rollout of GST had affected the poor, the recent farm laws are like a dagger through the heart of the farmers.

"We were told (demonetization) was aimed at fighting black money but that was a lie. The main aim was to financially hurt farmers and workers. Rollout of GST had the same aim. Similarly during the coronavirus pandemic too, money was needed but they did not give any," Rahul said during the 10-minute-

long interaction which was telecast on his social media handles on Monday.

"The aim of this Government is to break the back of farmers and workers. There is no difference between demonetization and the farm laws. Or between the rollout of GST and the farm laws. The only difference is that the three farm laws are like a dagger through your hearts...I am very clear that we need to oppose this not just for the farmers alone but for the country," he added.

During the interaction, farmers from states like Punjab, Bihar, Haryana and Maharashtra shared their views on the issue and raised concerns over minimum support price (MSP), scope of earning from their produce among other topics.

Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana, Gujarat, Goa, Odisha and Tamil Nadu, where the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and its allies, including the Congress, hit the streets. The Congress has also planned to observe October 2 as 'Kisan-Majdoor Bachao Diwas' and hold dharnas across India.

States told to strictly implement 'inventive containment strategies' to keep Covid at bay

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wary of India seeing an explosion of coronavirus cases during the festival season, which starts next month, if people do not follow Covid-appropriate behaviour, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday asked the States to strictly implement inventive containment strategies to keep the virus under check.

So far, India has recorded 61,45,291 confirmed Covid-19 cases, including 96,318 deaths. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have reported the highest number of cases. However, infections are rising rapidly in states like Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, as per the government data.

"In the light of the upcoming festivities, winter season and mass gathering, inventive containment strategies need to be implemented by the states," said Balram Bhargava, DG, ICMR at a press briefing here.

NTI Aayog member V K Paul urged people to keep following Covid-appropriate behaviour, saying there is no



reason to get lax if stability in coronavirus cases is observed.

"We need to have Puja, Chhath, Diwali and Eid with masks, it is very important to keep that in mind. We have seen a second peak in Delhi, Kerala and Punjab so we should not get lax and keep following Covid-appropriate behaviour," he said.

People are more prone to respiratory infections like pneumonia and influenza in the coming winter months and festive seasons and "we have to put in all efforts, stay vigilant and diligently follow Covid-appropriate behav-

iour", Paul said.

The Navratri festival that involves temple visits and fasts for nine days will begin from October 17. It will culminate with Vijaya Dashmi or Dussehra on October 25 while Diwali will be celebrated on November 20. Chhath follows thereafter.

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said India has 4,453 Covid-19 cases and 70 deaths per million population which is among the lowest in the world. He also said that India's recovery rate continues to rise and now stands at 83 per cent.

EC fixes schedule for bypoll to one LS, 56 Assembly seats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday announced dates for bypolls to one Lok Sabha seat and 56 Assembly constituencies spread across 12 States. Bypolls to 54 Assembly constituencies will take place on November 3 while bypolls to the Lok Sabha seat and two Assembly constituencies will be conducted on November 7. The votes will be counted on November 10 alongside the counting of votes for the general assembly elections in Bihar.

Before announcing the schedule, the poll panel had issued a separate statement on Tuesday to announce that it has decided not to hold assembly bypolls in seven seats across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal "at this stage" after specific request from the states in conduct of polls.

By-polls will be held for Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of seats--27--among the 54 Assembly constituencies for which polling will be held on November 3. Next is Gujarat (eight), Uttar Pradesh (seven), Jharkhand, Karnataka, Nagaland, Odisha (two each) and one each from Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Haryana. The term of the legislative assemblies of the four states would end on different dates between May and June next year.

The bypolls in Madhya Pradesh were necessitated after 25 Congress MLAs followed their leader Jyotiraditya Scindia in joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in March. This led to the collapse of the state's Congress government and paved way for the BJP to return to power. The bypolls were necessitated on three of the seats - Jaura, Agar and Biora - due to death of the MLAs - two from the Congress and one from BJP, and on the remain-



ing seats due to resignation of the then Congress MLAs.

The Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha seat fell vacant in February after the death of incumbent Lok Sabha MP Baidyanath Prasad Mahato of the JD(U). The bypolls were necessitated following resignations tendered by Congress MLAs, five in March and three in June. The reason is that the number of vacant seats in some states has changed due to various reasons, including court cases.

According to EC, the date of issue of notification for bypolls to 54 Assembly seats in various states, except Manipur, is October 10, while the last date of filing nominations is October 16, and date for withdrawal is October 19. In the two Assembly seats of Manipur, and one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar, the date for filing nominations October 20, and for withdrawal of nominations is October 23.

CEC in Patna to assess Bihar poll preparation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Commissioners Sushil Chandra and Rajiv Kumar visited Patna on Tuesday to assess preparations in poll-bound Bihar. On Wednesday, they would meet various stakeholders, including civil and police officials, and representatives of political parties. The Commission would also visit a few places in Bihar before returning to Delhi on October 1 evening, sources said.

SC directs States to provide dry rations to sex workers without insisting on identity proof



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all States to provide dry rations to sex workers, who are identified by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and legal services authorities, without insisting on any proof of identity.

The apex court asked all the states to file compliance report within four weeks giving details of number of sex workers who got dry ration within this period.

A bench comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Ajay Rastogi said that it would later deal with the aspect of whether financial assistance could be provided to them during the period of COVID-19 pandemic.

The top court, which posted the matter for hearing after four weeks, said that states would provide dry rations to sex workers and would identify them with the assistance of NACO, district as well as state legal service authority.

The bench was hearing a plea which has raised the issue problems faced by sex workers on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It asked the states to file a detailed report on how they would provide ration cards and other facilities to sex workers.

"We are aware of the facts that states are coming forward to provide assistance but the problem is that these sex workers don't have any proof of identity. Therefore, all should be given rations. States should tell

us how this should be implemented," the bench said.

The counsel appearing for the Centre said it has no objection if states would provide dry ration to sex workers.

Advocate Pijush Kumar Roy, assisting the apex court as an amicus curiae in the matter, said bank accounts of sex workers should also be opened without insisting upon proof of identity in order to provide them financial assistance.

The apex court had last week taken note of problems faced by sex workers on account of COVID-19 pandemic and directed the Centre and states to apprise it about modalities for distribution of monthly dry rations and cash transfer to them without insisting on proof of identity.

Appearing for an NGO, senior advocate Anand Grover had argued that a survey among 1.2 lakh sex workers in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana found that 96 per cent of them had lost their source of earning in the pandemic.

Senior advocate Jayant Bhushan, who has also been appointed as an amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter, had said plight of sex workers could be solved if they were provided ration cards without insisting on identity proof.

The apex court was hearing an application filed by NGO, Durbār Mahila Samanwaya Committee which had moved the SC to highlight the destitution faced by sex workers on the account of COVID-19.

SC acquits man in 20-year-old rape case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has acquitted a man in a 20-year-old rape case observing that he and the alleged victim were in love, their relationship was consensual and the case was "an afterthought" filed when the man was about to marry another woman.

The bench of Justices RF Nariman, Navin Sinha and Indira Banerjee set aside the conviction by a trial court and the Jharkhand High Court quoting medical experts, who established that the woman was 25 years old when she filed the case in 1999, and not 20 as she claimed, making her a major at the time of the alleged assault in 1995.

The court added that letters exchanged between the two and their photographs together showed they were in love and that a case of rape and cheating on pretext of marriage was filed a week ahead of the man's wedding to another woman.

It added that no woman, after being sexually assaulted at knife-point, would write love letters to the accused and share a live-in relationship with him for four years.

The woman had claimed she stayed quite after the assault because the accused has promised to marry her.

"The marriage between them could not materialise due to societal reasons as the man belongs to a Scheduled Tribe, while the woman is a Christian... The woman had deposed that their marriage could not be solemnized because they belonged to different religions. She was therefore conscious of this obstacle all along..." the court said.

The court added it was not possible to hold, on the basis of evidence, that the man never intended to marry her and quoted the woman's letters in which she had acknowledged that the man's family always treated her well, and that their families even got them engaged.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that (1) Smt. Maya Devi W/o Shri Mahender and (2) Smt. Babita W/o Shri Sunder Pal are the owners of Bungalow property bearing No. 15042, Plot No. 1, area measuring 60 Sq. Yards (i.e. 50' x 16' 50"), Meters, part of Khata No. 657401-Min. & 658401-Min. Ward No. 87, Situated in the block of West Roshab Nagar of the area of Village Loharpur, Bhausa Shikhar, Delhi-110032, by virtue of SALE DEED (Regd. No. 5028, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 1102, Page No. 66-76, Dated 22.11.2011, SRO-VIII, Delhi, in the Chain Document Surviving member Certificate of Late Shri. Chandra Anand is not available and Entire Upper Ground Floor, without roof rights of subject property is being sold to Smt. Rakha W/o Shri Rajesh Kumar and the same property to be Loan financed by M/s. Home First Finance Company India Ltd. Branch Gurugram.

If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact us within 7 days from date of this notice on Email: neelvala@gmail.com or contact M/s. Home First Finance Company India Ltd. Branch Gurugram, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Neelvala Singh (Advocate)
630, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001
Contact No. 9811685559

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients Kusum & Talewar Singh R/o Haryana, Dist. Gurgaon, No. 9, Jagatpura Ext., Delhi-110093 have debarred and disowned their son Balwant Singh & his Wife Neelam from their all movable-immovable properties due to their disobedient and misconduct with our family. In future any clients shall not be responsible for any acts, deed or conduct.

Dilawar Singh (Advocate)
G-719, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110032
M. 9811451160

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that story titled 'Maine Apna Vada Nihaya Dost' was authored by Late Dinesh Goswami of Guwahati, Assam published on 1st of July of 1991 in 'Dharmayug'. That Mr. Dinesh Goswami died on 02.06.1991. Debashish Goswami is his legal heir, residing at House No. 4, Green Path, Near S.B. Deurah College, Bora Service, Ulubari, Guwahati - 781007, is the exclusive owner of the copyright in the above mentioned work. That any objection/proposals on the subject, if any be submitted within 15 days of publication of this notice on the address above.

WESTERN RAILWAY

MAHIM - BANDRA CONSTRUCTION WORK

Deputy Chief Engineer (Const)II, Western Railway, 8th Floor, station building Churchgate Mumbai - 400 020 invites offer through e-tender portal www.reps.gov.in under single packet system for the following tender -

Tender No.: Dy CE(C) 1-775. Name of work : Mahim - Bandra Construction/ strengthening of cast iron screw piles (bridge No 20) : Placing of precast RCC box segments between south abutment and pier No. 1 and strengthening of piers and other Misc works, Mumbai Division, W.Ry.

NIT Cost (in Rs.) : 6,14,46,942/- **EMD (in Rs.) :** 4,57,200/- **Bid submission closing on :** 22.10.2020 15.00 hrs. **Instruction of tenders :** Only e-offers submitted online through e-tender portal will be considered. **Please note that printed offers will not be entertained.** The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available only in electronic format in our website www.reps.gov.in

Like us on : [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

Govt to hold review meeting on air pollution measures, stubble burning on Oct 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To review the progress of air pollution control initiatives and the problem of stubble burning, environment secretaries of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan along with officials from the Union Environment Ministry and representatives of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will hold a

meeting on October 1, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Tuesday.

"All the agencies were asked to make short, medium, and long-term plans in 2016 to fight pollution. The meeting will focus on reviewing the progress of these plans," Javadekar told reporters here at a press briefing. The Government feels that as the economic activities have

opened up, air pollution is likely to rise to pre-lockdown levels.

Farm fires, which were noticed in Punjab last week, coupled with resumption of economic activities in the wake of Covid-19 lockdown has already started deteriorating air quality in Delhi.

According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research

(SAFAR), which is run by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, the air quality in Delhi is set to worsen over the next three days.

"The problem of air pollution is not restricted to Delhi and NCR. It is a common problem of all the areas falling under the same airshed, which includes Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan," Javadekar said adding that 50

teams of CPCB officials will be deployed from 15 October to monitor sources of pollution in Delhi, and recommend quick fixes.

The meeting, to be held virtually, will also be attended by chiefs of the Municipal Corporations of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Council.

Javadekar also listed some of the initiatives taken by the Narendra Modi government

since 2016 to fight pollution. These include introduction of BS VI vehicles and fuel, incentives to boost e-vehicles usage, and completion of peripheral highways that prevent unnecessary traffic from entering the capital.

He, however, said despite all efforts Delhi is likely to see increased pollution levels for two-three months in winter due to meteorological condi-

tions. According to a report by the CPCB and the Ministry, cold, dry air, and ground based inversion with low wind conditions are responsible for increasing concentration of pollutants during winter in Delhi.

Javadekar also encouraged citizens to inculcate eco-friendly habits such as cycling to reduce pollution.

BJP promised moon but delivered nothing: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Renewing her attack on the BJP Government Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said it seldom delivered on its promises and resorted to communal propaganda for the sake of publicity during the elections.

The Chief Minister who was currently touring North Bengal said those in the central Government "had promised many things but delivered nothing... they did nothing for the tea plantation workers but when it comes to voting they would raise communal issues to derive publicity."

Claiming that her Government had done more than it promised Banerjee said

"we have continuously performed. Despite having performed so well for the past one decade there is no publicity because we do not engage in communal riots... rather we are defamed and become victims of disinformation campaigns despite having worked hard for the people of this region whereas when the elections will come they will incite communal riots to get cheap publicity and votes."

Earlier Banerjee had attacked the Centre for bulldozing the opposition voice in Parliament to pass a number of "draconian anti-people laws" like the farm bill and said the people would take account of that during the elections. Bengal will go to Assembly polls in May next year.

The Chief Minister on Tuesday promised the plantation workers their own houses in a few years' time. "The Government will construct houses for the plantation workers in three years," she said adding "those who had come and promised to you so many things have done nothing for you which can be proved by the condition of the plantation workers and industry here."

Reacting to Banerjee's statements Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said "our Chief Minister is a person who loves to beat her own trumpet... If she has worked well then it will be for the people to see and for them to recognize her services... but here it is different. The Chief Minister is patting her own back."

IMA demands health emergency in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Taken aback by the surge in the number of Covid-19 patients, the Indian Medical Association, the highest policy making body of modern medicine practitioners have asked the Government of Kerala to declare a state of "Health Emergency".

Dr Abraham Varghese, president, IMA (Kerala) said in a statement to the Government that the situation in Kerala is precarious and requires stringent action and an awareness campaign. The number of cases diagnosed with Covid-19 on a daily basis is disturbing. But what is of more concern is the number of patients contracting the pandemic through social contacts," said Dr Varghese.

The soft-spoken doctor has been cautioning the author-

ities about community transmission which was set long back in the State.. He said the Government should go for strict social controls and regulations to check the number of people crowding at public places and shopping centres. "Offices and business establishments could work with skeleton staff and there should be restrictions on the number of people who could gather in public or private places," said Dr Varghese.

Though the official figures state that almost 58,000 people are under treatment in the State for Covid-19, Government doctors themselves say that the figure has crossed 2 lakh mark. "The IMA's studies prove that the situation in Kerala is getting worse by the day as shown by the spurt in numbers.

7,354 new cases in Kerala, 5,546 in TN

KOCHI/CHENNAI: As the Indian Medical Association's Kerala branch demanded a state of Health Emergency in the State, the number of new Covid-19 patients shot up to 7,354 which include 7,036 patients who contracted the pandemic through social contacts.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who briefed the media after an all party meeting said that there were 61,791 persons under treatment in the State for Covid-19 on Tuesday.

Neighboring Tamil Nadu is gradually bringing down the number of cases on a daily basis without any fanfare. On Tuesday, Tamil Nadu diagnosed 5,546 new persons afflicted with Covid-19. A medical bulletin released by the Tamil Nadu Government said the number of patients in the State as on Tuesday were 46,281 which was well below that in Kerala. Tamil Nadu saw 70 persons succumbing to the dreaded disease during the last 24 hours.

Kerala, which had claimed that it tamed Covid-19 as early as May 8 is facing a precarious position. Malappuram district alone diagnosed 1,040 new patients while the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram diagnosed 935 patients. The Chief Minister blamed the Opposition, particularly the BJP for the State's failure in countering the pandemic. Tamil Nadu tested almost 85,000 persons across the State while Kerala had to content with 53,000 persons.

WB reports 3,188 fresh cases, 62 more deaths



Kolkata: West Bengal on Tuesday reported 3,188 new cases of COVID-19, taking its tally to 2,53,768, as per a bulletin issued by the Health Department.

The COVID-19 toll rose to 4,899 after 62 more people died. Since Monday, 2,961 people have recovered, improving the discharge rate to 87.80 per cent.

There are 26,064 active cases in the state at present. In the last 24 hours, 43,769 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state, the bulletin said.

AP's daily corona count at 6,190

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh's COVID-19 tally increased to 6,87,351 as 6,190 more cases were added on Monday, while 35 deaths took the fatalities to 5,780.

Also, the overall infection positivity rate dropped below the 12 per cent mark for the first time in over two months, standing at 11.99 per cent on Tuesday after a gross 57.34 lakh samples were tested so far.

Heart patients at high risk during pandemic

Aligarh: The speed at which the corona infection is spreading has destroyed health services and created a crisis for the economy.

Along with other patients, this virus has a fatal impact on heart patients as well. Many people have died from this disease.

According to M.U Rabbani, chairman of the Department of Heart Disease at JN Medical College and a

renowned Cardiologist, the global mortality rate according to coronavirus data is 3.02%, this rate is 2.6% in America and 1.4% in India.

In poor and medium-income countries, the number of corona infected patients without symptoms is 5 to 10 times more due to less testing of coronavirus. 25% of heart attack patients died because of not getting proper treatment on time.

PNS

Karnataka CM's Political Secy MP Renukacharya, tests corona +ve

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa's political Secretary and MLA M P Renukacharya on Tuesday said he has tested positive for COVID-19.

The MLA from Honnali constituency said he underwent a test as some changes were observed in his health conditions this morning, and the report showed him to be positive. Appealing all those who had come in contact with him in the last four-five days to get tested, he said, he was doing fine.

Chief Minister Yediyurappa tweeted wishing for Renukacharya's speedy recovery. Several Ministers and legislators in Karnataka including Deputy Chief Minister Govind Karjol, Law Minister J C Madhuswamy, senior Congress MLAs H K Patil and Diensh Gundu Rao are among those who have tested positive for COVID in the last few days.

The state recently lost the Belagavi BJP MP and Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi, BJP Rajya Sabha member Ashok Gasti and Basavakalyan Congress MLA B Narayan Rao due to coronavirus.

PTI

Covid may hit mental health

Aligarh: The Covid-19 pandemic has created a global crisis with far-reaching social and economical repercussions and one of the biggest challenges this crisis has brought is of mental health, said Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Indian spiritual leader and Art of Living founder.

He was addressing at the inaugural function of the two-day international webinar on 'Role of Faith in Facing Personal and Collective Crises: What Religion Can Offer to the Post-Covid World' organised by the Dara Shikoh Centre for Interfaith Understanding and

Dialogue, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

He explained that faith gives courage to people and prevents depression.

"During crisis, people tend to become either aggressive or depressed and these two extremes can be prevented with spiritual knowledge," said Sri Sri Ravi Shankar adding that spirituality leads to serene, calm and meditative state.

He added that Corona virus is a catastrophe, but not an apocalypse and faith can help us to search the silver linings despite the dark clouds of gloom.

PNS

Aligarh DM postpones home isolation until further notice

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Due to the rising rate of Corona infection in the district, the district administration has postponed the home isolation until further orders. In a review meeting held at Collectorate, the control room in-charge Smriti Gautam said that during home isolation, asymptomatic patients are not following guidelines and are moving outside, living with family members which is increasing the infection. Nodal

Officer Principal Secretary Nitin Ramesh Gokarn has also been notified. On this, the DM Chandra Bhushan Singh postponed the home isolation with immediate effect. All Magistrates/ SDMs have been directed to strictly follow it.

The people kept in home isolation will complete their time by Tuesday. But if a patient does not follow the rules during home isolation, then that patient should be shifted to COVID Hospital. There will be no negligence in this.

SUSHANT DEATH-RELATED DRUG CASE Bombay HC reserves order on bail pleas of Rhea, Showik, others

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday reserved its order on the bail applications of accused actress Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik and others in the Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case, after observing that its verdict would have "wide reach and repercussions" and that it would pass separate orders in all matters.

After hearing all the sides, Justice S. V. Kotwal of the Bombay High Court noted: "Arguments on the matter are closed. The matter is now reserved for orders. Due to voluminous proceedings, the order may take some time".

"This judgment has wide reach and repercussions. I will try to write separate orders in all matters, but I might end up attributing Sayyed's arguments of Sayyed (advocate for co-accused Abel Basit Parihar to (Sattish) Maneshinde. Please

excuse me for that," the Judge noted.

At the hearing, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh argued for the state, while Sattish Maneshinde represented Chakraborty siblings, advocate Tareq Sayed appeared for co-accused Abdel Basit Parihar. Advocate Subodh Desai for Samuel Miranda (late Sushant's house manager) and advocate Rajendra Rathod for Dipesh Sawant (late Sushant's house help).

Rhea, Showik and other accused in the Sushant death-related drug case had moved the high court after the Special Court had rejected their bail applications on September 11.

Apart from Rhea and Showik, the four other accused whose bail applications were denied by the special court were: Sushant's house manager Samuel Miranda, house help Dipesh Sawant and two alleged drug peddlers Abdel Basit Parihar and Zaid Vilatra.

Schools in AP to reopen on Nov 2

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

Schools in Andhra Pradesh would be re-opened for the 2020-21 academic year on November 2, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced here on Tuesday.

"We wanted to open the schools on October 5, but in view of the prevailing situation, we have now decided to re-open them on November 2," the Chief Minister told district Collectors during a video conference. Schools remained shut due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic in the current academic year.

The state government initially announced September 5 as the re-opening day and later deferred it to October 5. Though the Centre is yet to issue fresh guidelines on opening the schools fully, the Chief Minister set November 2 as the date.

The Chief Minister said the 'Jagannanna Vidya Kanuka' (Jagans Education Gift) would, however, be

The state Government initially announced September 5 as the re-opening day and later deferred it to October 5

distributed on October 5 to all students.

A school kit, including uniforms, would be distributed to the students under the freebie scheme.

"If we distribute the kits on October 5, students can get them stitched and be ready when the schools re-open on November 2," he said. The Chief Minister, who reviewed the progress of the 'Mana Badi, Naadu-Nedu' scheme, under which school infrastructure is being renovated, directed the District Collectors to step up the works.

Of the 15,715 schools chosen for renovation in the first phase, works were yet to begin in 153 schools, he said. Start the works immediately. The district Joint Collectors should monitor the works daily and ensure that they are completed in time," Jagan added.

No decision yet on reopening schools: Karnataka Minister

Bengaluru: Karnataka Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar on Tuesday said that the State Government had not taken any decision yet on reopening of schools.

The Karnataka government had decided about a fortnight ago that Classes 9, 10, 11 and 12 would be partially allowed to be held.

In other words, teachers of these classes would be present in schools wherein students who have doubts in any topic could seek clarifications in their respective subjects though regular classes won't be held.

This had led to speculations that Karnataka would reopen schools soon. A section of parents had vehemently opposed the reopening of schools amid the pandemic. Owing to parental pressure, the government on September 20 prohibited Class 9 to 12 students from visiting schools and only undergraduates to meet teachers amid the pandemic.

In a bid to allay the fears, Suresh Kumar had posted detailed information on the issue on Facebook.

He maintained that the Karnataka government planned to elicit views from various quarters like politicians, academics and health experts before taking any final decision on this matter.

Soon after returning from Bidar district tour in a day or two, the Minister asserted, he would convene a meeting of different stakeholders along with the departments concerned to decide on reopening of schools.

IANS

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rohitak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Pardeep Kumar Ganotra/ Seema Ganotra/ LBDEL00000840712	AA- 250, Residential Scheme, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi/ September 28, 2020	October 31, 2019 Rs. 5,33,056/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Sai Industries/ LBDEL00002010380	Property No 400, 1st Floor Without Roof Rights, Block A4, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi/ September 28, 2020	October 31, 2019 Rs. 30,76,340/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Saket Satyam & Sushil Kumar Shrivastava/ LBDEL0000237603	Flat No 32, LIC Block B-18, PKT 5, Sec- 35, 2nd Floor, Rohini, Delhi/ September 28, 2020	January 31, 2020 Rs. 13,62,125/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : 30-09-2020 Place: Delhi/Ncr Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients 1. Shri Sandeep Kumar S/o Shriram Dass. (PAN NO. AHQPK1328J) 2. Shri Ved Prakash S/o Shri Laxmi Chand. (PAN NO. AGCPF0059K) 3. Shri Ashok Kumar S/o Shri Avinashi Lal. (PAN NO. AFIPA7381R), do hereby declared that Plot No. 652-B, Gali No. 7, Kharsa No. 84, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-19, measuring 50 sq. Yards, that they had purchased this property from Mr. Vivek Bharat Gulati S/o Shri Shiv Kumar Gulati, vide Sale Deed Dated 02/05/2018, Whereas Shri Shiv Kumar Gulati died on 23/08/2014 and his wife Smt. Shushila Gulati also died on 20/10/2017, who was GPA holder of Entire property. Both has died and there is no other legal heirs and successor of deceased except that following legal heirs and by operation of law according to Hindu Succession Act 1956. Following Legal Heirs with their relationship with deceased.

1. Indu Batra - Daughter.

2. Vivek Bharat Gulati - Son.

That the above said statement is true and correct and I have knowledge of my clients. If any person claiming any right, interest or having any objection, may contact with the above named person at address above, with 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

D. P. Verma (Advocate) O/E. 304, PNB Building, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110092

HPL ELECTRIC & POWER LIMITED

CIN : L74999DL1992PLC048945 Regd. Office: 120, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi 110 002 Ph.: +91-11-23234411, Fax: +91-11-23232630 E-mail: hpl@hplindia.com, Website: www.hplindia.com

NEWSPAPER SEALED TENDER (WATER AFFECTED STOCK OF WIRES & CABLES, LIGHTING AND SWITCHGEARS)

Newspaper Sealed Tender is invited from interested buyers for disposal, strictly on "As is Where is" basis with all defects, on Lump-Sum basis, for the Water affected Stock of Wires & Cables, Lighting and Switchgears belonging to M/s. HPL Electric & Power Ltd. Salvage of the above materials can be inspected at: VPO: Bhigan, Dhatoori Road, Tehsil Ganaur Sonapat, Haryana between 10/10/20 to 12/10/20 (except Sunday), after taking prior appointment from Mr. Naveen Mittal Ph- 9996782266.

Tender document with terms and conditions can be obtained, in person, on payment of DD of Rs.2,000/- in favour of M/s. J.C. Gupta & Co. Insurance Surveyor & Loss Assessors' payable at PAR. The Sealed tenders are to be opened on 12/10/20 at below mentioned address at 5 P.M.

For Tender forms, Contact Mr. Lovesh at Mob:- 95823 88072.

Address:- RP-22, 2nd Floor, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 or download from website: www.SalvageSettlers.com. Last date for submission of Tender form is 12/10/20 before 12.00 PM.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

Telefax :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

Gist of e-tender

NIT No: MHCHD/TS/2020-21/126/e-tendering Dated 25.09.2020

E-tenders are invited from Original Equipment Manufacturers or their Authorized dealers/ Representatives for the below mentioned work:

Name of Work:- Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Air Compressors of Capacity 275 CFM, Screw type along with maintenance for Three years at Govt. Chest Disease Hospital, Srinagar.

Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs):- 24.00

Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees):- 1000

Earnest Money (Lacs of Rs):- 0.48

Time of completion (in Days):- 30

Position of AAA/funds:- Available

Name of Work:- Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of two stage Vacuum Pumps along with allied works at Govt. Chest Disease Hospital, Srinagar.

Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs):- 10.00

Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees):- 1000

Earnest Money (Lacs of Rs):- 0.20

Time of completion (in Days):- 30

Position of AAA/funds:- Available

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 25.09.2020 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 25.09.2020 (18.00 hrs).

2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 26.09.2020(10.00 hrs) to 07.10.2020 (15.00hrs) in two (02) covers.

3. Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 08.10.2020 at 14.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

No. DIPK-6425/20 Dated:- 28.09.2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: approx 18-20 years, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'6", Built: Thin, Face: Long, was wearing Black Lower Checkdar, Black & White Shirt, Steel Kada in right hand, Black Dora in Left hand and Bare feet, was committed Suicide in Saleemgarh Park, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 30-A, dated 26.09.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi DP/600/N/2020 Ph.: 011-23968730, 8750870123

INDIAN RAILWAYS "PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25000 Volt 50 Hz. AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all the times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead lines.

Section	Date
Adani Logistics Limited PFT siding at Patli station of Northern Railway	05.10.2020

INTRODUCTION OF AC 25 KV TRACTION "WARNING TO ROAD USERS"

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 25 KV AC electric traction on Adani Logistics Limited PFT siding at Patli station of Northern Railway. Height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear height between 4.76m and 4.78m above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire (contact wire), which shall be at a height of minimum 5.5m above the rail level at level crossings.

Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.

The danger of a load of excessive height are as follows :-

- Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway line.
- Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself.
- Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Northern Railway, New Delhi No. 230-Elect./TRD/14/114(EIG) Date: 29.09.2020 2096/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Another silent Nirbhaya

Dalit girl from Hathras dies after being brutally gang-raped. Where are the deterrent laws and action? Will we have to wait years again?



The “*Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*” campaign is being slandered with each passing day as it becomes a “*Beti Hatao, Beti Darao*” mission in reality, with heinous crimes against the girl child and women going up every day across the country. So it is that just two days after Daughter’s Day, a 19-year-old Dalit girl was brutally gang-raped in Uttar Pradesh’s Hathras district. In a chilling throwback to the Nirbhaya case and the incident in Hyderabad not so long ago, the girl was left with her tongue cut out, ostensibly to prevent her from testifying. Her legs were bruised so severely and her spine was so lethally battered that she was completely paralysed while her arms could just about register a movement. Still she fought for her dear life over 15 days in hospital but gave up despite being brought to Delhi. Yet there was no outcry for the last fortnight till she became just another cold statistic. Nobody mourned a young life snuffed out in its prime due to caste-based hatred, sexual depravity and a deteriorating law and order situation, particularly in the Hindi heartland. Exacerbating the situation, as usual, were the poorly conducted investigations and a slow justice system. The conviction rate for rape is only 27.2 per cent despite the fact that it accounts for 11.5 per cent of the total crime statistics. On an average, 91 rapes were reported every single day across India in 2018, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) says that trial in rape cases should be completed in 60 days but that never happens because of the tardiness of police investigations. Then there are judicial flaws that need to be plugged when it comes to rape, the primary being bail to the accused, which should be denied till the probe is completed. Some independent studies indicate that the average time of finishing trial even in fast track courts is eight months. And even if one were to get death penalty, acquittals, appeals and mercy petitions mean that only about five per cent death penalties are actually upheld by the Supreme Court. A traumatised rape survivor hardly has the courage to go through such travesty and gives up midway. The 2012 Nirbhaya rape, which shook the conscience of not just the nation but the world, too, compelled our parliamentarians to strengthen the punitive justice delivery system based on the recommendations of a committee that included eminent jurists. It led to some crucial amendments to the law, which included changing the very definition of “rape”, the establishment of fast-track courts to ensure victims get justice without undue delay, harsher punishments for the accused with the provision of death sentence being added to it and the abolition of the two-finger test among others. Two other such incidents, in Kathua and Unnao, where two children were raped, had widened the scope of punishment for raping a child under 12 to death penalty. Undoubtedly, there has been an increase in reportage of crimes against women after Nirbhaya though much of them are still under-reported. Besides, as the Hyderabad incident has shown, question marks remain on the use of the death penalty as criminals are now murdering their victims to destroy evidence. For the criminal, there is no deterrent. But yes, he can be stalled if deterrence is built into the system by fast-tracking procedures and ensuring swift justice. Conviction rates need to go up proportionately. At present, fast-track courts are no different from the usual courts in terms of case pile-ups and vacancies. A quick, fair and unbiased judicial set-up with requisite number of judges is a *sine qua non*. A continuously responsive system is a bigger deterrent than one or two landmark rulings.

The unchecked crimes against women and the girl child are also skewering gender equity in the rural hinterland. According to a study supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), that was conducted in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, the increasing crimes against women have deepened preferences for a son. So much so that we have lost around 4,60,000 girls to sex selection at birth each year between 2013 and 2017, according to the UNFPA. When errands go scot-free and the woman’s family is left to wallow in pain and shame, a malaise becomes a societal archetype. And the girl child will continue to be vulnerable, either used as a tool in a caste war as the rapists in Hathras belonged to the upper caste, a sacrifice in a revenge drama or a family feud or a life cheap enough to be pawned by male-dominated codes. Predictably, there is a political slugfest over this latest incident, with the Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) slamming the BJP Government in UP for the sorry plight of law and order in the State. Their protests will once again be tainted by the ruling party as “crocodile tears” and a “political conspiracy” to “defame the Government.” The Opposition will predictably make the rape a subset of excesses on Dalits. But neither the Opposition nor the ruling party was there for the girl when she was writhing in hospital for a fortnight. And much to the shame of India’s most populous State, nobody wants to roll back UP’s unique distinction of reporting the highest crime spiral against women. As for justice, will we have to wait another seven years?

Amnesty shuts shop

The human rights watchdog may have looked at India through a Western prism but can we dispute its findings on Delhi riots?



The trouble with human rights watchdogs is that they have, by virtue of countering the establishment narrative, assigned themselves a certain kind of legitimacy and credibility without realising that some of their own investigations are compromised by subjective assessment rather than objective investigation. This has also been a problem with Amnesty International, which has many times been accused of looking at India through a Western prism. But as a robust democracy, we have it within ourselves to accept vilification and acknowledge cogent counterpoints. We shouldn’t need lobbyists to get the other side of the story; our media should be free to do that. Besides, by and large, the organisation has an international acceptability even if we take some of its reports with a pinch of salt. But by targetting Amnesty, which says it is now forced to shut shop in India because the Government has completely frozen its bank accounts here, we appear to be in the bracket of oppressor and authoritative regimes like China. And considering its activists have been particularly penalised for tracking dissent pan-India over the last two years, it gives them a moral upper hand and claim a witch-hunt. The reasons that the organisation lists behind the Government crackdown on it are the same as those cited by tormented civil society activists — namely “unequivocal calls for transparency in the Government, more recently for accountability of the Delhi police and the Government of India regarding the grave human rights violations in Delhi riots and Jammu & Kashmir.” Frankly, even without the Amnesty’s reports, there is far too much on-ground evidence of the charges it has made. And the way the disclosure statements and names in the chargesheet of the Delhi Police on the city riots have been circled out, targetting the liberal intelligentsia, protesters and activists while leaving out the inflammatory fringe Rightists, there is a move to freeze the right of democratic dissent. So the timing of its India exit suits Amnesty more than us at this point of time.

It would have made more sense had the Government zeroed in on Amnesty in 2016, when it was booked in a sedition case for allowing “anti-India” slogans on Kashmir at an event in Bengaluru. But to pursue it for violating foreign funding rules in 2019 obviously raises questions on intent. Amnesty though claims that its India operations have been funded domestically. The immediate context seems to be the report it released last month on the complicity of Delhi police in the riots. Yes we must defend our pluralism and challenge the official narrative. But by hounding out Amnesty, we have a public relations battle ahead. Nothing will happen to it. Nothing would have if it had been allowed to continue.

opinion 06

New agricultural paradigm

The end of socialist-era impediments should ideally stimulate increased private sector investment across the value chain and help create jobs



SANDHYA JAIN

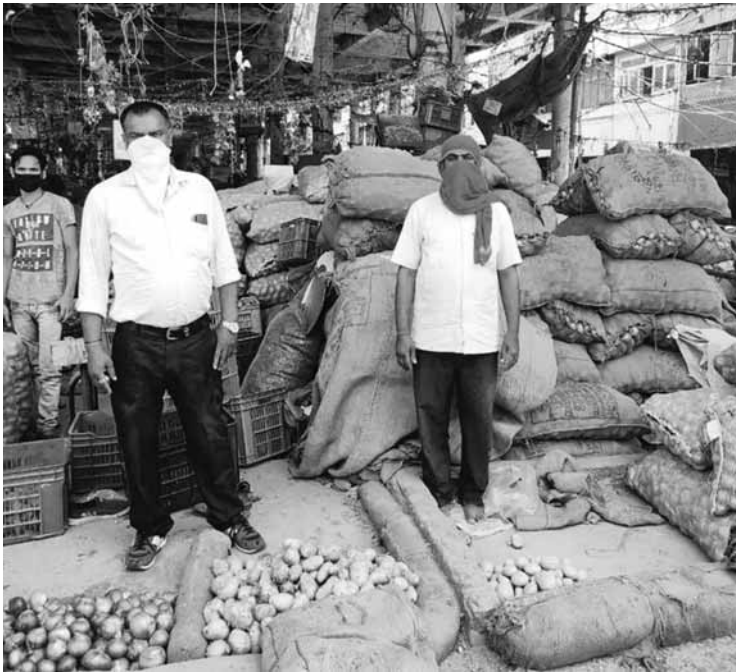
The over-hyped green revolution of the late 1960s introduced varieties of dwarf rice and wheat in northern India with a cocktail of chemical fertilisers and pesticides that sucked up groundwater and gradually made it unfit for drinking. The chemicals leached into the soil and water. State-sponsored propaganda about “miraculous yields” extended the phenomenon across the country, ruining soil fertility and the nutritious value of food crops; the impact on public health was noticed by the medical community but all voices were silenced. Today, Gurdaspur-to-Delhi trains are called “Cancer Express”, yet there has been no medical study of the harm caused by chemical agriculture to the health of humans, animals, soil and water resources.

Now, four momentous laws could pave the way for a revolution in which farmers drive the change, with technology playing a supportive role. If the Government repudiates the genetically-modified food crops lobby, India could return to farming methods that do not require costly inputs and force farmers into a vicious cycle of debt (and even suicide).

On September 16, 2020, one day before the three agriculture-related Bills were moved in Parliament, the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020 was passed, bringing all cooperative banks under the purview of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It means stricter supervision of 1,482 urban and 58 multi-state cooperative banks, with deposits of ₹4.84 lakh crore.

The legislation undermines the strongmen who control the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs), *mandis*, loans and so on in many States. It is noteworthy that large farmers are resisting the new laws; earlier they opposed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) as they had to match wages or lose farm labour. The ongoing COVID pandemic has also improved the bargaining power of farm labourers and added to the bitterness of large farmers.

Often, agents arranged debt-funding for farmers from private moneylenders, who charged usurious interest and enjoyed political heft; such debt has been linked to



farmer suicides in some States.

Simultaneously, the Union Cabinet approved the ₹15,000 crore fund for animal husbandry as part of the *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan* stimulus package and a scheme for interest subvention of two per cent to “*shishu*” loan category borrowers for one year under the *Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana*. These developments form the sub-text of the farm Bills.

The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2020 allows sale and marketing of produce outside notified APMC *mandis*. State Governments cannot collect market fee, cess or levy for trade outside the APMC markets; inter-state trade barriers are nixed and provisions have been made for electronic trading of agricultural produce. No licence is needed; anyone with a PAN card can buy directly from farmers. The new system provides a dispute resolution mechanism in case farmers are not paid immediately or within three days.

The APMCs failed as they allowed vested interests to seize the system. States levied cess to earn extra revenue that was not part of the budget and was used for “discretionary” development spending, mostly under the Chief Minister’s orders. As the cess increased, political appointees took charge of the APMCs. Even the Food Corporation of India (FCI) paid cess. Small farmers were bur-

“THE NEW LAWS COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR A REVOLUTION IN WHICH FARMERS DRIVE THE CHANGE, WITH TECHNOLOGY PLAYING A SUPPORTIVE ROLE. IF THE GOVT REPUDIATES THE GENETICALLY-MODIFIED FOOD CROPS LOBBY, INDIA COULD RETURN TO FARMING METHODS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE COSTLY INPUTS”

dened with the cost of transport to take their produce to the *mandis* and deal with middlemen. For instance, waiting outside sugar mills, with heat evaporating the sugar content in the cane, desperate farmers have succumbed to agents (of nearby *mandis*) who arrive miraculously and dictate the price.

Under the new Act, politicians and urban elite farmers will find it difficult to get large “agricultural” incomes *mandi*-certified and pay zero per cent income tax, as payments have to be made against PAN cards.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 regulates contractual farming rules and State APMC Acts. Farmers can make contracts with a corporate entity or wholesaler at a mutually agreed price. The system already exists in 20 States; PepsiCo buys potatoes from 24,000 farmers across nine States. Further, 18 States already permit private *mandis* while Kerala and Bihar don’t have APMC *mandis* at all. More pertinently, the Act prohibits acquiring ownership rights of farmers’ land.

The Centre has funded ₹6,685 crore for the formation of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and the ₹1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). The FPO will give farmers higher bargaining power while AIF and market reforms serve as additional enablers. They can invest

in farm equipment, infrastructure and build forward market linkages by making agreements with agribusinesses, thus improving access to technology and investment. Maharashtra’s Sahyadri Farmers Producer Co. Ltd, with 8,000 marginal farmers, exports 16,000 tonnes of grapes every season.

The end of socialist-era impediments should stimulate increased private sector investment across the value chain, creating jobs in logistics service providers, warehouse operators and processing unit staff. The rise of food-processing industries could create non-farm jobs in rural areas.

India processes less than 10 per cent of output (cereals, fruits, vegetables, fish, etc) and loses around ₹90,000 crore annually to wastage. Hopefully, market linkages will motivate farmers to diversify and grow crops such as edible oils and help reduce India’s edible oil import bill that currently stands at over \$10 billion.

Finally, The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 removes excessive control on production, storage, movement and distribution of food commodities; removes cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities, and paves the way for cold chain infrastructure to come up. Previously, control regarding the storage of essential commodities (onions, potatoes, edible oils, jute, rice paddy, sugar) gave draconian powers to authorities to raid “hoarders”, confiscate stocks, cancel licensing and even imprison offenders. This naturally discouraged investment in storage as entrepreneurs feared being prosecuted as “hoarders.” Lack of storage also contributed to volatility in prices as their stability depends on adequate warehousing infrastructure.

Henceforth, the ECA 2020 will be invoked only under extraordinary circumstances such as war, famine, natural calamity of grave nature and extraordinary price rise (100 per cent increase in retail price of horticultural produce over the preceding 12 months, or 50 per cent increase in retail price of non-perishables over the preceding five years).

Dismissing the propaganda that the new laws would end the minimum support price (MSP), the Centre has quietly ordered procurement, effectively nipping the canard that small and marginal farmers would be short-changed. Implementation will be the key.

(The author is a senior journalist. Views are personal)

SOUNDBITE

I think home quarantine can play a role in the future and it’s something that is being considered by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, particularly as we move beyond the phase we’re in now.



Australian PM
—Scott Morrison

There is an undercurrent of painful events — passing away of people, the tragedy of migrants walking home — everything is in the back of my mind.



Artist
—Atul Dodiya

Yogi Adityanath Government kept sitting for eight days. Why was no action taken against the culprits all these days? It was only when the case was highlighted that the administration woke up.



Congress General Secretary
—Priyanka Gandhi

I would say it is a very crucial time for the team and each player should have her own yardstick and must work on raising the bar.



Former hockey player
—Deepika Thakur

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Road to revival?

Sir — The 2015 Assembly elections in Bihar saw the Congress regain a reasonable space in the State legislature. After a gap of 15 years, the party’s tally rose to double digits, as 27 out of 41 candidates in the fray won their seats. But will the grand old party be able to revive itself this time again? The Congress began to lose its support base as it failed to address backward caste aspirations between 1988 and 1990, when four of its Chief Ministers were nominated to the top post only to be pulled down swiftly, giving in to the intra-party caste divides. The support base also suffered massive erosion following the desertion by Muslims after the Bhagalpur riots in 1989 and Babri Masjid demolition in 1992. However, the electoral prospects for the party seem rather good this time, particularly for its role in mitigating suffering of the migrants and students during the lockdown and its active support to farmers’ protests against the enactment of the three new farm laws. Also, Dalits and Muslims are now mobilising in favour of Congress.

Nihal Raj
Noida

A reminder of the 2012 Delhi gang-rape case

A woman passenger was allegedly gang-raped inside a moving bus for the entire night on September 25. The police found her lying unconscious on Delhi Road in Meerut the next morning and rushed her to the hospital. This comes as a chilling reminder of the harrowing 2012 Delhi gang-rape case when the 23-year-old female medical student, who came to be known as Nirbhaya, was severely assaulted and gang-raped by five men and a juvenile inside a moving bus in South Delhi.

This is the third incident in the last one month in Uttar Pradesh when a woman passenger, on her way to Delhi, was gang-raped on a moving bus and that too by the staff. This highlights how law and order in the State has deteriorated drastically. The victim, according to reports, told the police that she had boarded a bus from Bhaishali bus stand on Friday night. En route, she was given a cold drink which had been spiked after which she lost consciousness and was raped by the driver and the conductor throughout the night.



It took seven years and three months for justice to be served in one of India’s most talked-about criminal case — the Nirbhaya gang-rape. However, the numerous cases that have followed since, haven’t been able to draw the nation’s attention. It is crucial that all cases are given equal attention and justice is served swiftly.

Noor Ahmad
Hyderabad

Stormy affair

Sir — The tussle in the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), relating to the naming of the chief ministerial candidate for the 2021 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly election, continues with no solution in sight. Both Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O

Panneerselvam, who are chief ministerial hopefuls, have dug in their heels and are slugging it out. Even the five-hour-long meeting of the AIADMK executive council on Monday failed to arrive at a consensus on who will be its chief ministerial candidate. The final decision will be taken on October 7. Hopefully, by then, Palaniswami and Panneerselvam will be able to sort out their dif-

ferences and come to a decision.

CK Subramaniam
Tirumangalam

Battle for the ballot

Sir — The popularity of the ruling Janata Dal (United) and the BJP-led Government, headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, is waning. While Nitish has been under fire for badly handling the

COVID outbreak and the returnee migrants, the BJP has taken on the defensive mode on questions of border security, economic stagnation and farmers’ backlash. This should be enough for the Opposition to challenge the State Government. However, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress together have not been able to push the Government on any substantial matter. Being held under exceptional circumstances, the battle for the ballot promises to be a challenging and exciting affair.

Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

Legal fiction

Sir — The investigation into Sushant Singh Rajput’s death seems to have been sidetracked as officials haven’t been able to find any concrete evidence. It has become a whirlpool of misreported facts and concocted lies and sheer entertainment in the name of news, reducing a tragedy into a sensational drama.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

BJP all set to make it alone

It is well within its rights to expand its base and in times to come, go solo as the top brass believes in making the party electorally strong



KALYANI SHANKAR

The saffron party must slowly learn to live without its major allies now that its oldest partner, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), quit the BJP-led NDA alliance on Saturday. The BJP and the SAD had been partners even during the Jan Sangh days. However, with a brute majority in the Lok Sabha, the BJP's attitude now is "go if you want to leave." That is why there are no efforts to mollify miffed allies as it was done during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee era. There was a time in the eighties when it was difficult for the BJP to get allies but today Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in a strong position and hence the alliance partners are not needed by the party anymore.

The BJP had five major allies till two years ago. They were the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the Shiv Sena, the SAD, the Janata Dal-United (JD-U) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). With the Bihar elections round the corner, the party is left with only the JD(U) as its major alliance partner now. The others are smaller parties. Out of all these NDA allies, the TDP was the first to leave in March 2018 over the issue of grant of special status to Andhra Pradesh. Soon after the TDP's departure, another one of the oldest allies, the Shiv Sena parted company in October 2019 on the issue of chief ministership in Maharashtra after the Assembly polls. The Sena formed the Government in the State under the Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) as partners. Now, the SAD too has left on the issue of the controversial farm Bills that were pushed through amid din and allegations of riding roughshod on the objections of the Opposition parties and allies alike.

The only partner the BJP itself dumped was the PDP in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). In any case, the BJP-PDP alliance was an uneasy marriage of convenience and the late PDP chief Mufti Mohammad Sayeed termed it as "an alliance of the North Pole and the South Pole."

The NDA partners had been unhappy with the BJP for long, claiming that they were not consulted or even informed about major issues. "Where is the NDA," asks SAD chief Sukhbir Badal. The relationship under Modi has changed compared to Vajpayee's time when one of the partners was the convener of the NDA while Vajpayee or later Advani were the chairmen of the alliance. There were NDA meetings on important issues. Though Modi has included the representatives of the allies, despite the BJP having a majority in both 2014 and 2019, there is no formal NDA structure now. However, the BJP needed them in the Rajya Sabha for pushing the Bills where it was in a minority.

The BJP, under the leadership of Modi has learnt the art of dividing the Opposition and pushing through even some controversial Bills like the recent farm ones and the earlier Citizenship Amendment Bill. Also, the Punjab elections are in 2022 and the next Lok Sabha polls are even further off, in 2024. Who knows what will happen by then? However, according to insiders, the BJP wants to improve its performance by going solo in the coming polls. The main grouse of the allies is that the BJP, which was the junior partner in Maharashtra and Punjab, has expanded its base in the last six years. Not only has it overtaken the allies, it has become the richest party, too. Notwithstanding the concerns of its partners, the BJP is aggressively pursuing its objective of coming to power in States where it is not in Government. The only aim of the party is to consolidate Hindu voters even further by eating into the votes of its alliance partners. It has a major presence in most big States and is now eyeing the South and the North-East for expansion. The saffron party has replaced the Left in Tripura and edged the Congress out in West Bengal and Odisha as the main challenger to the ruling party.

In the 552-member Lok Sabha, the NDA has 335 seats, of which the BJP alone has 303 representatives. It does not need partners in 334 seats and is dependent on allies in 212 seats. When the BJP came to power in 2014, it had only 23 Rajya Sabha seats but today, it has 87. So far, the party has managed to push even controversial Bills like the bifurcation of J&K and the Citizenship Amendment Bill by dividing the Opposition. The three farm reform Bills, too, were passed similarly.

The Modi regime wants to have ties in which the BJP stands to gain. This has mostly worked in the last six years. The BJP has overtaken the Sena in Maharashtra and in other States too it has improved its electoral chances. It is indeed well within its rights to expand its base and in times to come, go solo as the top brass believes in making the party electorally strong.

Is it not said that in politics there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies? The BJP, too, is banking on the old allies coming back to its fold and new allies joining it. If one looks at the coalition politics, which is practised by both the main parties — the Congress and the BJP — the Congress-led UPA too is not in a good shape.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THESE (OPPOSITION) PARTIES ARE INSULTING THE FARMERS. THESE REFORMS WILL STRENGTHEN LABOURERS, YOUTH, WOMEN, FARMERS OF THE NATION.
 —PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



EVEN YOUR ALLY OF 24 YEARS, THE SHIROMANI AKALI DAL (SAD) HAS DUMPED YOU (ON THE FARMERS' ISSUE). MODI JJ, IS THE SAD INSULTING FARMERS?
 —CONGRESS LEADER KAPIL SIBAL

Education as revolution

The poor have found innovative ways of helping themselves and visionary leaders from among these communities are nurturing a growing industry of good quality private schools



MOIN QAZI

The state of India's school education continues to be abysmal despite so many high-sounding policy prescriptions being tossed around. There are, however, islands of excellence and even in this bleak landscape there are shoots of green. While Government schools are the mainstay of school education for the poor, some exceptional private schools are affordable even to the extremely marginalised. The accepted wisdom is that private schools serve the privileged; everyone else, especially the underprivileged, requires public schools. This logic is grounded on the assumption that the poor need Government assistance if they are to get a good education. Which helps explain why many school choice enthusiasts believe that the only way the poor can get the education they deserve is through Government schools.

But if we reflect on some of the underprivileged communities, we find these assumptions lacking. The poor have found remarkably innovative ways of helping themselves educationally and visionary leaders from among these communities are nurturing a large and growing industry of good quality private schools. Tikiapara, a sprawling slum in Howrah, is a witness and a willing participant in a quiet revolution led by Mamoon Akhtar that has the potential to turn around the lives of its residents, especially of its children. Mamoon was forced to drop out of middle school because his parents couldn't afford to educate him further. Three decades later, he is the driving force two schools in Tikiapara with 3,000 students, most of them children of unlettered parents. Mamoon's extraordinary journey from a victim to champion of the underprivileged started the day he decided that just because his family couldn't pay for his schooling, he wouldn't forego education. Mamoon's passion helped him overcome his deprivation.

His father was keen that his son get a good education. So he put him in one of the area's leading schools, St Thomas. After his father died, the teenager had to give up his studies and took up a librarians' job at a private school in Tikiapara, supplementing his income by giving private tuitions. Life would have gone on as usual but Mamoon couldn't get over the tragedy he suffered on being forced to lose out on education. The young idealist believed in giving direction to the fire within, not in extinguishing it.

In 1991, he started an informal "school", teaching five to six children in his own house in the Tikiapara slum. Thus began his lifetime romance with education. As the residents of the area became aware of this "school", more and more children started coming and soon there was no place to seat them. The enterprising Mamoon constructed a room on his own 600 square foot plot of land. In that one room, the Samaritan Help Mission School was born with 25 young and eager children flocking to it daily. The good Samaritan stretched his every rupee and canvassed from door to door to raise ₹28,000 per annum (in addition to his own contribution of ₹10,000). The organisation has continued to steadily grow through the years. The catchment area of the school can break the determination of even the greatest optimist but Mamoon is alive and equal to the challenge. The parents come from very poor backgrounds, some are rickshaw-pullers, drug peddlers and daily labourers. But with Mamoon's effort, their dreams of educating their children in an English-medium school has become a reality.

Social responsibility: As an educationist, Mamoon is also sharply aware of his role of a social reformer. Most children come from families afflicted with social maladies, with a large number of them being children of drug peddlers. Mamoon believes that schools should have the right to exclude pupils

TIKIAPARA, A SPRAWLING SLUM IN HOWRAH, IS A WITNESS AND A WILLING PARTICIPANT IN A QUIET REVOLUTION LED BY MAMOON AKHTAR, THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TURN AROUND THE LIVES OF ITS RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY OF ITS CHILDREN. MAMOON WAS FORCED TO DROP OUT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL BECAUSE HIS PARENTS COULDN'T AFFORD TO EDUCATE HIM FURTHER. THREE DECADES LATER, HE IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND A SCHOOL WITH 3,000 STUDENTS, MOST OF THEM CHILDREN OF UNLETTERED PARENTS



only as a last resort and that too, to protect the other children in the class as well as teachers. The excluded children, he avers, can be affected by anxiety, depression and loss of self-worth. There is a decline in their mental health and children become very reclusive. The stress of the exclusion takes its toll on parents, too.

Mamoon knows the pain of deprivation only too well. At a time when there is a widespread practice of pupils being shunted off a school's rolls in order to manipulate its exam results or rankings in league tables — he is doing his every bit to ensure that children remain at school during the day. There are hundreds of pupils who joined his school after being booted out of another one. Taking in as many vulnerable pupils as possible is the core of this teacher's mission. His school is single-handedly ensuring pupils remain on the rolls. There are a number of youngsters who wouldn't be getting an education were it not for the Samaritan Help Mission School. In a world where schools are clearly pushing vulnerable pupils out through the back door with little thought to their next steps and best interests, he is embracing them with a cheerful heart.

With a little help from friends: When he canvassed for help from the community around him, Mamoon reaped a bonus — a strong connect with the community. In 2007, the Samaritan Help Mission School became accredited and recognised by the West Bengal Government. Today, it is a co-educational English-medium school, affiliated to the State Board of Secondary Education, with an enrolment of 1,300. The big thing is that with the school being an English medium one, it makes a major difference to the future prospects of the kids once they go out into the world. However, the odds are stacked against the children of this locality given the inter-generational nature of poverty and the poor developmental outcomes that families face. This impacts the children in many ways. They battle poor academic achievement, inferiority complex, maladjustment, lack of initiative and

an underdeveloped personality. Disheartened and discouraged by financial stress and their own inadequacy, parents are ill-equipped to adequately support their children. Sadly, parents in Tikiapara have little motivation to invest in their children's education. Fortunately, Mamoon's conviction and commitment are unflagging and his enthusiasm is contagious, sending hope in the community.

Some of the students are orphans; some have run away from home; all are underprivileged. The Samaritan Help Mission School charges them a meagre ₹5 a year, and that too because the teacher believes that people will not value anything that is free. Funds to run the school come from Mamoon's savings and private donors whose motivation is inspired by the good Samaritan's devotion. This led to an addition to the original school on Mamoon's plot, the IR Belilious Institution on Belilious Road, covering two acres of land bequeathed by a Jewish couple, Rebecca and Isaac Raphael Belilious. The school today has a football field, basketball court, a water body, a two-storeyed school building and a bigger one coming up close by. As a child Mamoon swam there, to later see the water body turn into a municipal garbage dump and the Government school that used to run there become virtually defunct, the whole space go derelict and transform into a den of drug pushers. The land on which the second Samaritan Help Mission School stands had thus been a garbage dump for years until Howrah City Police and the Howrah Municipal Corporation got together to create a conducive atmosphere for Mamoon to expand his initiative. The police helped them (Mamoon and his staff) build a wall, remove encroachments and start a school there.

Creating safe spaces for children at risk: Many children studying in the two schools attest to the fact that they have a fun-filled, interactive and encouraging atmosphere and that the teachers are extremely supportive. Children are engaged in creative activities like sports,

quiz competitions, picnics and recreational programmes in the local parks. Regular cleaning campaigns in Tikiapara are organised in which students, teachers and other volunteers take an active part. Mamoon has also introduced a paramedic course for senior students. His policy of inclusive education has ensured that the constitutional right to primary education is a reality in this slum. There are schools which identify parents who are not well-educated and living in the slum. They are approached informally and told that it "will be difficult for your child to stay" in the hope that the parents agree to move out or home-school their child. But Mamoon's schools are a safe learning haven where no one is shunned — either because of creed, low academic scores or poverty.

Innovative approaches: Mamoon says that the process of teaching and learning is an intimate act that neither computers nor markets can hope to replicate. It is a small wonder then that the technology-centric corporate business model has not worked in reforming the school system as there is simply no substitute for the personal element. There is no substitute for a good teacher and nothing more valuable than quality classroom instruction. But we also need more involved parents to make learning more effective.

The core objective of a school is to provide high-quality instruction: Fostering both excellent teaching and a learning environment in which students can thrive. These schools don't develop randomly on their own; an essential ingredient behind each of these success stories is transformational leadership.

A lot of good programmes got their start when one individual looked at a familiar landscape in a fresh way. What they did was to simply change the fundamental approach to solving problems, and the outcomes have been truly revolutionary. Thus, people only need to summon their will power the way game-changers like Mamoon are doing to bring about change.

(The writer is a well known development professional)

How many child deaths will it take to stop hunger?

The wasted, stunted, anaemic and mentally underdeveloped youth of our country, who barely survived, cannot build a strong nation



AR SINDHU

In the fourth month of the lockdown, the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) had warned India that if the nation does not seriously address the issue of hunger and malnutrition aggravated due to the shutdown and make proper arrangements for providing adequate nutritional food to underprivileged children, 3,00,000 more kids under the age of five would die within the next six months and make the toll a total of around 12-13 lakh this year.

Even before the Coronavirus pan-

demically struck, the situation was quite alarming. In 2018, a whopping 8.8 lakh children under the age of six died in India, says the UNICEF. Nearly half of all our children are underweight, about 45 per cent are stunted (too short for their age), 20 per cent are wasted (too thin for their height), 75 per cent are anaemic and 57 per cent are deficient in Vitamin A. Half of the world's malnourished children live in India.

The rate of malnutrition among India's children is almost five times more than China and double that in Sub-Saharan Africa, says a World Bank report. A study commissioned by the UNICEF in 2019 had found that over 80 per cent of adolescents in India suffered from hidden malnutrition. This includes deficiency of one or more micronutrients such as iron, folate, zinc, vitamin A, vitamin B12, and vitamin D.

According to the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Mission document of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, out of the total

child births of 2.5 crore annually in India, child survival is only 1.75 crore. Infant mortality is 0.8 crore annually or 80,00,000 children die every year in our country before six months of age. This means that on an average as many as 21,917 children die every day in India. Maternal and child malnutrition is one of the reasons for 68 per cent under-five deaths in India.

What has been the COVID-19 lockdown impact? With job and income loss on a large scale, closing of schools and consequently the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and Anganwadis that gave hot, cooked meals, a poor Public Distribution System (PDS) and poor implementation of the announced schemes of free rations during the last five months, there is a situation of absolute poverty and hunger in our country that will have a serious impact on the already pathetic nutritional status of our people, especially the children and women.

The UNICEF has estimated that 120 million children living in South

Asian countries, including India, could slip into poverty within the next six months due to the COVID-19 crisis, taking the total number of such kids in the region to 360 million. The UNICEF also warns: "In the worst-case scenario, where health interventions are reduced by around 45 per cent, there could be as much as a 44.7 per cent increase in under-five child deaths and 38.6 per cent increase in maternal deaths per month."

In the last two decades, there have been many dialogues, debates, and legal steps like the Supreme Court Judgment on Right to Food Act and so on to address the issue of malnutrition. But the schemes or missions rolled out by respective governments proved to be inadequate. The ICDS, the flagship scheme to address this crisis, has been deprived of funds despite the apex court's judgment for universalisation of the scheme. The fund allocation pattern has been changed to 60:40 in the last few years, putting a major financial burden on the States. With the

ongoing issues of lack of funds in States, things are going to worsen. In addition, there were drastic budget cuts. As an impact, according to the Global Hunger Index 2019, wasting among children in India rose from 16.5 per cent in 2008-2012 to 20.8 per cent in 2014-2018.

The much-acclaimed "Poshan Mission" is just policing of the Anganwadi workers, who are already overburdened with non-ICDS work. Similar is the case of the other schemes like the MDMS and the National Health Mission. At present, despite the warning bells, the announced packages do not address the problem of malnutrition. Moreover, there is an absence of a national composite guideline to address malnutrition at the community level.

To stop further loss of precious lives, there is an urgent need for the Government to show political will to recognise the right to food/nutrition of every citizen of India, make quality infrastructure and basic nutrition ser-

vices schemes like ICDS, MDMS efficient with increased financial allocation, so that the most marginalised and vulnerable are benefitted as well.

The pandemic has shown that the lakhs of community-based women caregivers like the Anganwadi workers and helpers, Accredited Social Health Activists and MDMS workers, are the crucial link between the community and policymakers. Their work must be regularised with minimum wages and social security, as recommended by the 45th Indian Labour Conference. Otherwise whom do we expect to be "skilling" for the 'Make in India' projects? The wasted, stunted, anaemic and mentally underdeveloped youth of our country, who barely survived, cannot build a strong nation. How many more deaths do we need before we realise so many of our children are dying?

(The writer is general secretary, All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers and national secretary of the CITU)



FOREIGN EYE



TEST, TRACE AND TEACH

Final figures on the take-up of UK's university places are not yet known. But predictions that the recruitment of international students would collapse due to COVID have not come true. This worst-case scenario having been avoided, UK's universities must ensure that students get the education they deserve, while obeying pandemic rules put in place. (The Guardian editorial)

IN DEBATE

Last chance for Trump to define Biden

Washington: As a presidential candidate in 2016, Donald Trump seized control of the White House race and never let go.

He masterfully defined and denigrated his opponents with cutting nicknames and a say-anything debate style, and repeatedly drew his rivals into the controversies he created.

That's proven far more difficult for Trump in the 2020 race.

Though he may still be the most visible and visceral force in the White House contest, he has repeatedly struggled to control the contours of the campaign against Democrat Joe Biden.

The president's attacks on Biden have been scattershot and inconsistent, frustrating some Republicans who believe he has squandered repeated opportunities to define his rival.

His efforts to move past the coronavirus pandemic and onto issues he views as more favourable for his reelection prospects, including law enforcement and the economy, have failed to convince many voters that the public health crisis is any less of a concern or that his leadership during the pandemic has been effective.

Even Trump's rollout of Judge Amy Coney Barrett as his Supreme Court nominee on Saturday, a pick aimed at energizing conservative voters, was overshadowed the very next



day by bombshell revelations in The New York Times about his personal finances.

Tuesday's first presidential debate between Trump and Biden offers the president one of his last opportunities to reshape the race and colour voters' impressions of the former vice president.

But with just five weeks until Election Day, voting already underway in some battleground states, and partisan views among many voters deeply entrenched, some Republicans say Trump may have effectively run out of time.

"Donald Trump is essentially facing three enemies in this campaign: He's facing the coronavirus, he's facing Joe Biden, and he's facing the calendar," said Neil Newhouse, a Republican pollster.

Few leaders in either party are ready to truly count Trump

out, particularly given that polls broke late for him in his 2016 contest against Hillary Clinton.

And in the lead-up to Tuesday night's debate, Trump has previewed a broad attack on Biden's record, his character and his mental acuity.

But his messaging has inherent inconsistencies. Sometimes Trump paints Biden as a far-left candidate; at other times he argues that while Biden is more moderate, he would be controlled by his party's most liberal factions.

Trump has aggressively argued that his 77-year-old rival has lost a step and isn't up for the job; yet in talking points Trump's campaign sent Republicans on Monday, they warned that Biden's abilities in the debate should not be underestimated.

Some of the president's supporters say they remain

confident Trump has both the time and the political skill to overtake Biden in this final stretch.

"President Trump has plenty of ready-made ammunition he has been using effectively on the campaign trail," said Ed Brookover, a Republican strategist who advised Trump's 2016 campaign before being ousted dur-

ing the general election.

"They will resonate as people learn more about Vice President Biden."

But privately many Republicans are perplexed that Trump, who skillfully identified and preyed on his rivals' weaknesses in 2016, seems to still be grasping for the most effective ways to define Biden at this late stage of the campaign. **AP**

Sikhs in US safe under Trump: Community leader

Washington: Asserting that Sikhs in the US have never been as safe as under the Trump administration, a prominent Sikh-American leader has claimed that the Biden campaign is trying to "demoralise and demotivate" the community.

Jasdeep Singh, co-chair of the Sikhs for Trump, said on Monday that it was because of President Donald Trump that so many Sikh youths were serving in the US military today with their turbans and beard intact.

This is because of the steps that he has taken with regard to religious freedom and liberty. Prominent Sikh American attorney Harmeet Dhillon is co-chair of Lawyers for Trump, he said.

"Sikhs in the United States

have never been as safe as under President Donald Trump. We are a martial community, no one can bully us. By saying so, the Biden campaign is trying to demoralise and demotivate us," Singh said.

His remarks came a day after the Biden campaign launched the 'Sikh Americans for Biden', an initiative to reach out to the Sikh community in the US. The Biden campaign vowed to address the unique challenges, including xenophobia, being faced by the Sikh community in the US.

In the November 3 presidential election, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris will challenge incumbent Republican President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. **PTI**

Afghan peace negotiator urges new era in ties with Pakistan

Islamabad: The chief of Afghanistan's peace negotiating team said Tuesday on a visit to Pakistan that the time has come for the two neighbouring countries to shun the suspicion, "stale rhetoric" and tired conspiracy theories that have dogged past relations.

Abdullah Abdullah is in Pakistan on a bridge-building mission meant to mend deep-rooted mistrust between the two countries. It was his first visit in 12 years.

Abdullah told the Institute of Strategic Studies in the federal capital of Islamabad that the two neighbors are on the threshold of a new relationship characterised by "mutual respect, sincere cooperation and shared prosperity."

"I am a firm believer that after many troubling years, we now need to go beyond the usual stale rhetoric and shadowy conspiracy theories that have held us back," Abdullah said. "We cannot afford to pursue business as usual. We

need fresh approaches and our people demand it. It is more urgent than ever to look to our region as one region."

His statements came ahead of meetings later Tuesday with Pakistan's powerful army chief and prime minister. His visit also comes at a crucial time in Afghanistan's troubled history as a government-appointed negotiation team is in the Gulf state of Qatar brokering an end to war with its Taliban foes.

Even before coming to power in 2018, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has advocated for a political end to Afghanistan's war and has been a strong critic of Washington's so-called war on terror saying it has left tens of thousands of Pakistanis and Afghans dead.

But many in Afghanistan have been critical of the support the Taliban received in Pakistan following the collapse of their rule in 2001 with the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan. **AP**

Tensions mount as Armenia, Azerbaijan continue fighting

Yerevan (Armenia): Armenian and Azerbaijani forces accused each other of attacks on their territory Tuesday, as fighting over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh continued for a third straight day following the reigniting of a decades-old conflict.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said Armenian forces shelled the Dashkesan region in Azerbaijan, while Armenian officials said Azeri forces opened fire on a military unit in the Armenian town, setting a bus on fire and killing one civilian.

Armenia's Foreign Ministry "completely" denied reports of shelling the Dashkesan region and said in a statement that with those reports Azerbaijan was laying the groundwork for "expanding the geography of hostilities, including the aggression against the Republic of Armenia."

The previous two days of



an Armenian soldier fires an artillery piece during fighting with Azerbaijan's forces in the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh on Tuesday **AP**

fighting killed dozens and left scores wounded. The Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Ministry reported 84 servicemen killed so far. Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, said Tuesday that 10 civilians were killed on its side, but he didn't offer any details on the country's military

casualties.

The heavy fighting broke out Sunday in Nagorno-Karabakh, which lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by the Armenian government since 1994 at the end of a separatist war. **AP**

Pompeo voices support for talks between Greece, Turkey

Athens (Greece): US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed support Tuesday for talks between Greece and Turkey, NATO allies whose relations have deteriorated sharply to the point where both had warships facing off in the Mediterranean.

Speaking from the Souda Bay military base on the island of Crete, on the second day of a five-day regional tour, Pompeo said relations between the United States and Greece are "at an all time high and getting stronger."

"Today I'm in Crete to showcase one of America's strongest military relationships throughout all of Europe," Pompeo said.

"We, the Americans, look to Greece as a true pillar for stability and prosperity in the eastern Mediterranean, and we're incredibly proud to support its leadership." Greece has been looking to the U.S. And the European Union for support in its dispute with

neighbouring Turkey, which it accuses of encroaching on its sovereign rights in the eastern Mediterranean.

Last month Turkey sent a research vessel, accompanied by warships, to prospect for energy resources in an area Greece claims is on its own continental shelf and where it claims exclusive economic rights. Athens sent warships of its own to the area, and put its armed forces on alert. The dispute has led to fears of open conflict. EU leaders are to discuss potentially imposing sanctions on Turkey for its actions later this week.

But tension has eased somewhat recently, with Athens and Ankara announcing they will restart an ongoing process of exploratory talks.

Technical discussions on a military level have also been taking place at NATO for the avoidance of a military accident, such as the collision in August of warships from the two sides, which reportedly

caused minor damage to a Turkish frigate and no injuries on either side.

"We strongly support dialogue between NATO allies Greece and Turkey and encourage them to resume discussion of these issues as soon as possible," Pompeo said in brief statements after meeting with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

"I spoke with (NATO) Secretary-General (Jens) Stoltenberg just two days ago on the progress being made at NATO. And we hope that these talks can continue in a serious way." Amid the tension with Turkey, Greece has announced major arms purchases, including fighter jets from France, as well as warships, helicopters and weapons systems.

"In the Mediterranean, there should be no waves caused by threats and rivalry. It is a sea of strategic importance, also for the United States," Mitsotakis said. **AP**

UAE defends decision to normalise Israel ties

United Nations: The United Arab Emirates has defended its decision to normalise ties with Israel and criticised interference in Arab affairs, an apparent reference to its foes Iran and Turkey.

Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the brother of Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince, made the remarks during a speech Tuesday before the U.N. General Assembly.

He proclaimed that the UAE's decision announced in August to formalize ties with Israel froze a controversial Israeli plan to annex occupied territory in the West Bank claimed by Palestinians.

Israel's prime minister, however, has insisted that plans have only been temporarily suspended.

"We hope this peace accord will provide the opportunity for the Palestinians and the Israelis to re-engage in

negotiations to achieve peace," Al Nahyan said.

Palestinians have blasted the deals signed by the UAE and Bahrain with Israel, which were brokered by the United States, as acts of betrayal. President Mahmoud Abbas used his U.N. Speech on Friday to stress that his government has not given a mandate to anyone to speak or negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people.

Abbas said that the only path for lasting peace is an end to the Israeli occupation and creation of a Palestinian state.

The Emirati foreign minister also warned against what he said were "the expansionist ambitions of some countries in the region." Though he stopped short of naming any countries, the UAE has long accused Iran, Turkey and Qatar of meddling beyond their borders in the affairs of other states. **AP**

Protesters clash with police, hurling rocks, 24 arrested

Portland (US): Protesters and Portland police clashed again in Oregon's largest city late Monday, with demonstrators hurling rocks, punching a police sergeant in the face and spraying a chemical irritant at officers, police said in a statement. Twenty four people were arrested.

The demonstration with about 150 protesters took place outside a police union building that has turned into a frequent protest site, police said in the statement issued Friday.

The protesters with makeshift shields gathered earlier for their demonstration in a park and officers moved in to take away the shields,

police said.

A scuffle happened when officers tried to seize a sign that said "vote," multiple videos from the scene showed, and police also used pepper spray. The Oregonian/Oregonian Live reported.

Police in their statement called the protesters' walk from the park to the union building a "planned unpermitted march." Most of those detained amid clashes were arrested on suspicion of interfering with a police officer and disorderly conduct.

Portland has been gripped by nightly protests for more than three months since the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. **AP**

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rohitak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Surendra Singh Rawat & Anoop Rawat/ LBDEL00001515215	Office No- 201, 2nd Floor, Nipun Plaza, Plot No- 2, Sector- 1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad/ September 26, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs.4,67,519/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Anil Arora & Geeta / LBDEL00001676825	Flat No. 5, Ground Floor, PKT- Gh- 1, DDA, Mig Flat, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063/ September 24, 2020	January 31, 2020 Rs.9,89,434/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Mandeep Kumar & Neetu Kumar/ LBDEL00002304100	Property No 400 1st Floor, Without Roof Rights, Block A4, Paschim Vihar, Delhi/ September 24, 2020	February 22, 2020 Rs.64,050/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Anshu Reshi/ Ankita/ LBDEL00004837284	Plot No- L- 42, First Floor, Without Roof Rights, Lblock, Sector 12, Pratap Vihar, Pargana Loni Tehsil & Dist. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ September 24, 2020	December 31, 2019 Rs.40,13,940/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Dheeraj Kumar Singh & Eva Singh/ LBGUR00002058864	Plot No- 08, Street 4, Second Floor, Premium Floors, Sector- 82, Block F- 4, Vatika, Gurgaon, Haryana/ September 26, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs.28,59,221/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Sonu Kumar & Shiv Kumar/ LBNOD00002252451	G/ UH- 801, 8th Floor, Tower- G, Urban Homes, Shahpur, Barnhatta, Nth- 24, Ghaziabad/ September 26, 2020	October 31, 2019 Rs.14,75,317/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Sushil Sharma/ Ramesh Sharma/ LBDEL00004081659	Dda Janta Flat H No 157, Ground Floor, Basant Gaon, Delhi/ Sep 24, 2020	February 22, 2020 Rs.28,49,561/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	T Dhir/ Hema/ LBDEL00003111981	Free Hold Flat No- L- 1/ 222- B, 1st Floor, Without Terrace Rights, DDA Flats, Category- LIG, Kalkaji, New Delhi/ Sep 24, 2020	November 30, 2019 Rs.40,93,051/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Satish Chand/ Ved Kumari/ LBDEL00004581237	22, Ground Floor, Block- B3, Sec- 16, Rohini, Delhi/ Sep 25, 2020	February 22, 2020 Rs.19,04,011/-	Delhi/ NCR
10.	Manju Grover & Harish Grover/ LBDEL00004918248	Property No 14, 3rd Floor Without Roof Rights, Block- B, Pocket- 3, Sector- 17, Rohini, Delhi/ Sep 25, 2020	February 22, 2020 Rs.22,20,865/-	Delhi/ NCR
11.	Arti Pathak & Ram Prakash Pathak/ LBDEL00002364330	Flat No 31, Second Floor, Dda Lig Flat, Pocket 2, Sector 34, Block C9, Rohini, Delhi/ Sep 25, 2020	October 31, 2019 Rs.12,04,136/-	Delhi/ NCR
12.	Neeraj Chauhan & Arun Chauhan/ LBNOD00001430948	Plot No- A- 489, Block A, Sector- 47, Noida/ Sep 26, 2020	January 31, 2020 Rs.19,07,066/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : 30-09-2020 Place: Delhi/Ncr

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 25-30 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead at Gaddha Bazar Metro Vihar, Phase-1, Holambi kaian near Sector 5, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No: 56-A dated 26.09.2020 at PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:
Sex: Male, **Age:** about 25-30 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Blue & cream colour t-shirt and blue colour track pant.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/ Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.
E-mail: c/c@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-27282350, 27280435

DP/504/ON/2020

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

(A) NAME OF THE WORK: Hiring of (01) no. of Non-A.C Ambulance (Swaraj Mazda/Mahindra Max, Tata Sumo or similar type equipped with Oxygen Cylinder, first aid box, protective gears(PPE) and including fuel, driver with attendant and maintenance and sanitization of the ambulance for use of all kinds of COVID 19 activities in KGH/CLW/ Chittaranjan, round the clock 5000Kms per month, for a period of six months. (a) TENDER NOTICE NO. Med-G- COVID Amb-2020-A. (b) TENDER NO. Med-G- COVID Amb-2020-A. (c) Cost of Tender Form (Document): ₹ 2,000.00 (Rupees Two thousand) only. (d) Approx. Value of the work (Tender Value) : ₹ 5,71,638. (Rs. Five Lakh seventy one thousand six hundred thirty eight) only:

Item No.; Description of item; Unit; Qty.; Rate (Rupees); Amount: (1); Fixed charge for supply of COVID ambulance on hire basis including maintenance, wages of driver & attendant, oxygen on monthly basis for six months; Month; 06; ₹ 31,773.00; 1,90,638.00. (2); Cost per Km running including fuel, lubricants and other consumables for 5000 Kms per month for one nos. of Ambulance for 6months =5000x06= 30,000 Km; Km; 30000; ₹12.70; 3,81,000.00. Total: 5,71,638.00. (e) Earnest money to be deposited : 11,400/- (Rupees Eleven thousand four hundred only. (f) Completion period of the work: 06 months. (g) Validity Period=90 (ninety) days. **(h) Tender Submission Closing Date : 28.10.2020 at 13.00 hrs. (i) Complete details of tender can be seen in the Railways website www.ireps.gov.in**

Principal Chief Medical Officer/ ABC-122 KGH/CLW/Chittaranjan
Like us on: www.facebook.com/chwrrailways

Deputy General Manager, Rajasthan State Guest House, 13, Veer, Tikenderjeet Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021

F-14/RS/GH/2020/128 Dated:- 21.09.2020

Bid for Providing the Services of Cleaning & Housekeeping of Guest Rooms, Bathrooms-Toilets, Internal and External Public area etc. (Housekeeping Services) inclusive of Man Power on Job Basis and Cleaning Agents & Material on yearly rate Basis at Rajasthan State Guest House situated at 13, Veer Tikenderjeet Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi are invited from interested Bidders up to 14.10.2020 at 03.00 PM. Other Particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<https://sppp.rajabstn.gov.in> and <http://eproc.rajabstn.gov.in>) of the State.

NIB: GAD2021A0015
UBN: GAD2021SLOB00017

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager,
Rajasthan State Guest House
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

DIPRC/7730/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Mrs. Sumita Bansal & Mrs. Krishna Devi who are the owners of Entire First, Second & Third Floor with roof rights, Built on Property Bearing No.4767, admeasuring 55.37 Sq. Meter, Situated at Ward No. VI, Phatak Rashied Khan, Jodhpura, Nai Sarak, Delhi-110006 and further will be mortgaging the same against the financial assistance from Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Ltd. That the Sale Deed dated 08.05.2018 registered as doc no.4482 registered in sub register 1 New Delhi & Sale Deed dated 21.05.2011 registered as Doc. No.3935 in Sub Registrar 1 New Delhi in respect of said property has been lost. Public is being warned not to deal with the said document. Any person dealing with the said document would do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person if anybody found these documents or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, Concern person is required to communicate in writing to the undersigned below address.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor,
Masjid Moh. Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.II,
New Delhi-49, Contact #011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client Mr. Pawan Jain S/o Sh. Ram Kumar Jain declared that he received the mentioned property through relinquishment deed executed by Mr. Ram Kumar Jain S/o Late Sh. Bhalu Ram Jain, Mr. Rajinder Kumar Jain S/o Sh. Ram Kumar Jain, Sh. Rajesh Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Kumar Jain, Mrs. Kavita Jain W/o Mr. Sunil Jain, Mrs. Shalu Jain W/o Late Mr. Rajiv Jain, Mr. Bhavik Jain S/o Late Sh. Rajiv Jain and Ms. Mudita Jain D/o Late Sh. Rajiv Jain and Mrs. Mudita Jain D/o Late Sh. Rajiv Jain. Property Address is A-49 & A-50, Kewal Park Extension, Azadpur, Delhi-110033. W.R.T. this property, Late Smt. Om Wali Jain was the absolute owner of the property. If somebody has any objections regarding this property or will please contact me within 10 days at Advocate Amarendra Kr. Dubey, 501A, 5th Floor, Usha Kiran Building, Commercial Complex, Azadpur, Delhi-110033. Mob.: 9559801188.

SD/- Amarendra Kr. Dubey (Advocate)
Enr. No. D-200/2013
501A, 5th Floor, Usha Kiran Building, Commercial Complex, Azadpur, Delhi-110033

WESTERN RAILWAY				
VARIOUS WORKS				
Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	WORK AND LOCATION	Approx. cost of work in ₹	EMD in ₹
1	EL/ Maint/4/ 313/WA/10 dt.29.09.2020	Mumbai Division (Churchgate): Manning, Operation and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of AC Plants at GLO Building and Churchgate for a period of two years.	23,84,528/-	47,700/-
2	EL/Maint/4/ 312/WA/11 dt.29.09.2020	Mumbai Central- Manning, operation and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of AC plants at TMS, Rail Nikunj hall, PRS & Upper Class Waiting Hall at Mumbai Central (MMCT) for a period of two years.	19,80,910/-	39,600/-
3	EL 81/14/ 439/WA/15 dt.29.09.2020	Mumbai Suburban Section: Electrical works in connection with i) Bandra Terminus - Minimum infrastructure development, and Linen management facilities, ii) Bandra - Relocation of M/E booking office with provision of new G+1 bldg., iii) STC-VR Sec - New tool rooms at 5 locations.	50,90,906/-	101,800/-
Sr. No. : 1 & 2 : Date & Time of Submission : Till 02.11.2020 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening : On 02.11.2020 till 15.30 hrs. Sr. No. : 3 : Date & Time of Submission : Till 04.11.2020 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening : On 04.11.2020 till 15.30. Regarding detailed tender conditions please visit www.ireps.gov.in				
Like us on : facebook.com/WesternRly			Follows us on : twitter.com/WesternRly	

Market takes a breather after 2-day stellar rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

After two consecutive sessions of thumping gains, benchmarks Sensex and Nifty took a pause on Tuesday amid lack of directional cues from domestic and global markets. After starting the session on a positive note, the BSE Sensex was caught in an intense volatility as the trade progressed, paring all intra-day gains to end 8.41 points or 0.02 per cent lower at 37,973.22. Similarly, the NSE Nifty slipped 5.15 points or 0.05 per cent to 11,222.40.

Analysts said that domestic equities traded on a choppy note amid lack of directional cues from the domestic as well as global markets.

On the Sensex chart, ONGC was the top loser, shedding around 3 per cent, fol-

lowed by IndusInd Bank, PowerGrid, Axis Bank, HCL Tech, NTPC and ITC.

On the other hand, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Tata Steel, Titan and HDFC were among the gainers.

Of the Sensex constituents, 20 logged losses and 10 registered gains.

Sectorally, BSE telecom, utilities, FMCG, bankex, realty and power indices fell up to 2.13 per cent.

On the other hand, consumer durables, metal, energy, basic materials, IT and auto indices rose up to 1.97 per cent.

Broader midcap and small-cap indices fell up to 0.16 per cent. After a gap up opening, the benchmark indices grew volatile, before ending the day flat. Global markets were also undecided and slightly negative for the day as the outcome of the first US presidential debate was awaited," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

With increasing coron-

avirus infections and chances of location-specific lockdowns, Indian indices were also uncertain, he said, adding that markets are awaiting a trigger in the form of confirmation of a stimulus package by the government to boost economic activity.

Market participants across the globe are looking for cues from the first presidential debate between US President Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Joe Biden, set for later in the day.

Asian markets ended mixed after a mildly higher opening on Tuesday ahead of the first US presidential debate later in the global day, with investors also remaining cautious over the global economy's prospects as coronavirus deaths surpassed the one-million mark worldwide, market experts said.

Bourses in Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul ended with gains, while Hong Kong was in the red.

Concerns over pace of economic recovery have deepened: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The steady rise in caseloads and the spillover effects of the strict lockdown measures will continue to undermine economic growth in the country, says a report.

According to Dun and Bradstreet's Economy Forecast, concerns over the pace of economic recovery have deepened.

"The recovery now is expected to be gradual as rising infections pose constraints. Even if the growth takes the form of a V-shape, the level of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will matter. Credit growth has not picked up as envisaged," said Arun Singh, Global Chief Economist, Dun & Bradstreet.

Morever, with the credit guarantee scheme in place for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), credit off-take was expected to strengthen more than the current level so far, Singh added.

According to various estimates, India's coronavirus-battered economy will witness

During August, D&B expects IIP to have fallen by (-) 4 per cent to (-) 3 per cent

significant contraction during the current financial year.

India's economy suffered its worst slump on record in April-June, with the GDP contracting 23.9 per cent as the coronavirus-related lockdowns weighed on the already-declining consumer demand and investment.

"The steady rise in caseloads and the spillover effects of the strict lockdown measures will continue to undermine the growth impulses during the subsequent quarters of the year. Constrained government finances, contraction in investment activity and probable

defaults, both at the firm and consumer level will continue to be a drag on growth," Singh said.

According to the Union Health Ministry's data updated on Tuesday, the total coronavirus cases in the country mounted to 61,45,291 with 70,589 new infections, while the death toll reached 96,318.

According to the Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) report, following the easing of lockdown restrictions, the pace of contraction in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is expected to reduce further.

"The pent-up demand and re-start of small businesses and street vendors along with medium and large firms are likely to drive demand for industrial goods. The index is expected to rebound to the positive territory from the month of October," the report said.

During August, D&B expects IIP to have fallen by (-) 4 per cent to (-) 3 per cent.

According to official data, India's industrial production shrank 10.4 per cent in July.

Over 16,400 tonnes paddy procured at MSP from Punjab, Haryana in last 72 hrs: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said 16,420 tonnes of paddy worth ₹31 crore has been procured at minimum support price (MSP) in the last 72 hours from farmers in Punjab and Haryana, while procurement has just commenced in other States.

With the latest procurement data, the Government aims to send a message to farmers protesting against new farm laws that it has no intention of scrapping procurement at MSP. Farmers in Punjab and Haryana and several other states are protesting against the new farm laws, which they feel will lead to procurement in the hands of corporates and the end of MSP regime.

The Union Agriculture Ministry, in a statement, said arrival of kharif crops has just begun and the government continues to procure 2020-21 kharif crops like paddy at MSP from farmers as per the existing schemes.

Paddy procurement commenced from September 26 in

Punjab and Haryana, while it started on September 28 in other states.

In Punjab and Haryana alone, about 16,420 tonnes paddy at MSP of ₹1,888 per quintal, totalling ₹31 crore, has been procured up to September 28, it said.

Of this, about 3,164 tonnes paddy has been purchased in Haryana, while 13,256 tonnes in Punjab from 1,443 farmers, it added.

For the current year, the government has fixed the MSP of paddy (common grade) at ₹1,868 per quintal, while that of A grade variety has been fixed at Rs 1,888 per quintal.

The Government has also given nod for procurement of 14.09 lakh tonnes of kharif pulses and oilseeds for Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Haryana under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). The approval to other states will be given on receipt of proposal under the PSS which gets operationalised if the mandi prices fall below the MSP in the notified harvesting period, the statement said.

Rupee widens losses by 7 paise against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee lost further ground on Tuesday, settling 7 paise down at 73.86 to the US dollar, tracking weaker Asian peers against the greenback.

Besides, month-end dollar demand from importers too exerted pressure on the Indian currency.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.78 per US dollar and traded between a high of 73.75 and a low of 73.91 during the session. It finally closed at 73.86, registering a fall of 7 paise over its previous close.

"The slide in the Indian rupee continued for the second straight day, with INR hitting levels last seen in August.

The primary reasons for the depreciation in the rupee could be month-end dollar buying. The dollar index was trading steadily against the basket of currencies," said Nish Bhatt, founder and CEO, Millwood Kane International.

Bhatt further noted that the Reserve Bank postponing its monetary policy later this week also had a bearing on the rupee.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.09 per cent to 94.19.

Cement industry has started recovering: India Cement MD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian cement industry has started recovering from the impact of Covid-19 helped by pent-up demand and improved rural markets, India Cements Vice-Chairman & Managing Director N Srinivasan said.

The company expects an uptick in demand on the back of Government's push towards infrastructure projects such as construction of highways, rural infrastructure and irrigation projects, Srinivasan said while addressing the 74th Annual General Meeting of India Cements Ltd (ICL).

"The industry has started recovering slowly from May 2020 given the pent-up demand and the improved rural demand," Srinivasan said while addressing the shareholders virtually.

During the first quarter of FY2021, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments restarted their infrastructure projects and housing for poor schemes. "With further relaxation of lockdown measures, there are expectations of increased public spending on rural infrastructure, irrigation, road building and other projects. This along with pick up in individual home building and construction is expected to improve the cement demand," he added.

According to DIPP data, the cement industry had a steep de-growth of 86 per cent in production in April 2020 and marginally improved to register a de-growth of 39 per cent unto June 2020, said Srinivasan. "Based on the information available, the cement industry in the south had also registered a negative growth of around 45 per cent during the first quarter," he said.

While talking about ICL's performance in the COVID impacted April-June quarter, Srinivasan said it reported good working results on the back of improved selling price and sustained efforts on cost reduction despite the steep drop in volume caused by the lockdowns.

"The company achieved an EBITDA of Rs 159 crore during the first quarter as compared to Rs 245 crore in the previous year during these challenging times with much lower volume (was down by 52 per cent) as compared to the previous year," he said. Total revenue of Chennai-based ICL, including other income, was down to Rs 5,085 crore in FY 2019-20 as against Rs 5,659 crore. As per the official estimates, the overall cement production for the industry in 2019-20 had a "marginal negative growth" to 334.48 million tonnes from 337.32 million tonnes in 2018-19.

Automobile sales may fall 20-25 pc this fiscal: Ind-Ra

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rating agency Ind-Ra expects automobile sales to decline by 20-25 per cent this fiscal against its earlier forecast of 22-25 per cent on account of increasing preference for personal mobility and an expected demand rebound from rural and semi-urban markets.

At the same time, the rating agency has maintained a negative outlook for the auto sector for the second half of the fiscal, owing to continued weak consumer sentiments and macroeconomic headwinds amid the disruptions caused by the pandemic, Ind-Ra said in a release.

The latest forecast is marginally better than the earlier forecast of 22-25 per cent Y-o-Y decline in sales volume in FY2021, released in June this year, Ind-Ra said.

Favourable regulatory changes such as GST cuts or incentive-based scrappage policy could help demand revival in the medium-term, the ratings agency said.

It, however, warned that any significant spread of the virus to rural India could affect the recovery trend due to further disruptions in those parts of the economy.

Both passenger vehicles

(PVs) and two-wheelers (TWs) sales could fall 18-21 per cent y-o-y in this fiscal while the decline in the commercial vehicles (CVs) sales would be 30-35 per cent y-o-y in FY2021, on account of lower economic activities, it said.

Ind-Ra further expects auto volumes could post double-digit growth (in mid-teens) in FY22 primarily due to a lower base over FY20-FY21.

According to the ratings agency, lower affordability due to job losses/ loss of income would shift consumers' preference towards lower-end vehicles, especially PVs.

In 2Ws, motorcycles will continue to outperform scooters as the former derives substantial demand from rural markets, it said adding CVs and more specifically medium and heavy CVs would continue to see a muted demand due to lower industrial production and excess capacity in the system, and any demand revival, therefore, is unlikely before the fourth quarter of 2021-22.

Light commercial vehicles are likely to benefit from increased e-commerce, and last mile transportation particularly for essential commodities, it said in the release.

Jio seeks early spectrum auction, says policy pause to hurt national exchequer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom major Reliance Jio has questioned the Department of Telecom's rationale to pause the policy of annual spectrum auction and demanded that the sale of airwaves should be held at the earliest to meet the demand for data services in the country.

Mukesh Ambani-led Jio in a letter dated September 28 to Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash said that the nation-building policies should not be kept hostage to the vested interest of few operators and delay in auction is hurting the national exchequer as well as making investors jittery as perceived against the principle of ease of doing business.

The telecom major said that any delay in auction of unutilised spectrum will lead to serious issues around quality of mobile services in terms of call drops etc and also result in "revenue loss to the government."

"We are unable to find any reasonable rationale behind this sudden pause in a successful and fruitful policy of auctioning all available spectrum every year, since the Hon'ble Supreme Court decision in 2012," Reliance Jio said in the letter.

The spectrum auctions were held every year after the apex court order in the 2G case

Oil's 2019-20 profit 2,584 cr, revenue ₹ 13,649 cr: CMD

IAS ■ GUWAHATI

State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) has posted a profit after tax of ₹2,584 crore with revenue of ₹13,649 crore in fiscal 2019-20, its Chairman and Managing Director Sushil Chandra Mishra said on Tuesday. Addressing the 61st Annual General Meeting virtually, he said that during 2019-20, OIL's annual domestic production of crude oil stood at 3.133 million metric tonnes and domestic natural gas production was 2,801 million metric standard cubic metres.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Rajinder, S/o: Sh. Mangal Singh, R/o: H. No. 2870, Kucha Chalan, Darya Ganj, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **23.09.2020** from his house from the area of **P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi**. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 7A dated 23.09.2020** has been registered at P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi. The description of the missing person is as under: **Age: 40 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Hair: Black, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black colour shirt & capri and sleeper in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/393/CD/2020

SHO
P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi
Tel.No. 011-23279331, 8750870421

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely: Aaysha Chauhan, W/o: Shri Takat Singh, R/o: H.No. G-103, Bhagya Vihar, Madanpur Dabas, Delhi, Age: About 27 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Hair: Long & Black, ID Mark: A mole on nose, Wearing: Green Colour Suit and Golden Colour Salwar and Fancy Hawai Chappal in Feet** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of **P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi**. In this regard **DD No. 116A, Dated 21.09.2020**, has been lodged at **P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped lady please inform the undersigned.

Phone: 011-23014046 (Direct) 23015229, 23015218 Ext. 210.
Web-site: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/428/RD/2020

SHO
P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25952485, 7065036125

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Tunni kumari D/o Raja Ram R/o Kh No. 62/10, B-267 Krishana Colony, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **11.09.2020** from the area of **P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi**. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 468 dated 18.09.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi**.

The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under : **Name : Tunni kumari, Father's Name : Raja Ram, Age : 17 years, Height : 5', Face : Round, Complexion : Sallow, Built: Medium, Wearing : Yellow Colour top, and blue Colour jeans.** If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/497/ON/2020

SHO
P.S., Shahbad Dairy, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27821407
27822207

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a girl **Namely: Gudiya@Preeti D/o Shri Kashi Prasad R/o H.No. Bhatpara Pana, Village Karala, Delhi. Age: About 21 years, Height: 5'3", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Hair: Long & Black, Identification Marks: A scar on left leg, Wearing: Green colour suit & Pyjama, yellow colour Chunnai and Black colour ladies shoes in feet** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of **P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi**. In this regard a case **DD No. 92-A dated 19.09.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this girl please inform the undersigned.

E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/423/RD/2020

SHO
P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25951486, 8750870324

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a girl **Namely: Roshani D/o: Deen Dayal, R/o: L-101, Sec-1, DSIIDC, Bawana, Delhi** has been reported missing/kidnapped since **22.09.2020 at 08:00 AM** from her house. In this regard **FIR No. 575/2020, dated 23.09.2020, U/s 363 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Bawana, Delhi**. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under: **Name: Roshani, Age: 15 Years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: Green colour suit-salwar and ladies chappal in feet.** If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Bawana, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
Police Station, Bawana, Delhi
DP/502/ON/2020

SHO
P.S. Bawana, Delhi
Ph: 011-27752534, 7065036321

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely: Manju, W/o: Vicky, R/o: H.No. 812, Gali No. 2, Balmiki Mohalla, Village Bankner, Narela, Delhi, Age: 28 Years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Hair: Long Black, Wearing: Yellow Colour Suit and Salwar & Yellow Colour Chappal in Feet** has been missing since **18.09.2020** from the area of **P.S. Narela, Delhi**. In this regard **DD No. 56A, Dated 20.09.2020** has been lodged at **P.S. Narela, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform the undersigned.

Web-site: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/493/ON/2020

SHO
P.S. Narela, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27280435, 27282350 & 7065036323

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE



General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) **Namely: Mohd. Arif S/o Mohd. Idrih R/o H. No. C-6/39, 3rd Floor, Sec-5, Rohini, Delhi Aged- 29 Years** has been reported missing since **07.08.2020 at 6:00 PM** from his house vide **DD No. 36A Dated 08.08.2020** has been lodged at **Police Station Budh Vihar, Delhi**. His physical description is as under- **Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'7", Built: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing: Red & black coloured Check shirt, Gray coloured jeans and blue slipper in feet.** Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform **SHO, Budh Vihar, Delhi** at E-mail : cbi@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-23014046(Direct), Sd/-
011-3015229 & 23015218 extn. 210 **SHO, Budh Vihar, Delhi**
FAX No. : 011-230111334 Tel.: 011-27052772-73
DP/313/RD/2020 Mob.: 8750870326

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a boy **Namely: Vishal Mehto S/o: Vibhishan, R/o: A-630, Shyam colony, Budh Vihar, Ph. II, Delhi** has been reported missing since **29.05.2020 at 05:00 PM** from his house. In this regard **DD No. 43-A, dated 03.06.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi**. The description of missing boy is as under: **Name: Vishal Mehto, Age: 19 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Black Shirt, Black Pant and Hawai Chappal in feet.** If anyone have any information about this missing boy please inform **P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi**.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 **SHO**
Police Station, Budh Vihar, Delhi
DP/427/RD/2020 Ph: 011-27052771, 8750870387

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) **Namely: Vaishali D/o Ramu Sharma R/o H.No. 28, Gali No. 2, Near Dayal Market, Alipur, Delhi Aged- 17 Years** has been reported missing since **17.09.2020 at 6:00 AM** from the area of **P.S. Alipur, Delhi vide FIR No. 432/20 u/s 363 IPC Dated 17.09.2020** has been lodged at **Police Station Alipur, Delhi**. Her physical description is as under- **Complexion: Shallow, Height: About 5'5", Built: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Pink coloured suit & black pajami and slipper in feet.** Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform **SHO, Alipur, Delhi** at E-mail : cbi@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 **SHO, Alipur, Delhi**
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-27202290, 27202265
DP/495/ON/2020 Mob.: 7065036325

Business law as a specialisation is gaining popularity and with a degree in business law, young lawyers can also explore career options in different facets of business like legal fee auditors and transactional analysts, says DR SUKHVINDER SINGH DARI



Manage your business

Each day, new businesses are created with the aim of becoming profitable and successful. Businesses have always been intertwined with the legal regulations, and with the ever-evolving ecosystem, it becomes necessary for lawyers and solicitors to comprehend the importance of business law. Business law specifically deals with the evolution and establishment of new business ventures and any problems that may arise as the business associates with the government, other companies, and the public. It is, therefore, important to have a business-law attorney representing your business as well as to avoid any incidences of future litigation.

Individuals need to be governed by legal restrictions in a country in order to operate with some measures. Similarly, businesses need to operate under some legal guidelines. In the

absence of these laws, it will become extremely challenging to manage the various activities that are initiated in the name of the business. The laws also help to lay down the certainty and stability to the stakeholders of the business, besides providing a means to resolve disputes and protect the public against any wrongdoings for ensuring better profits or assured sustenance in a highly competitive market.

It is important to enter some form of a contract while doing business. Let's take an example of a wholesaler. A wholesaler wouldn't ship shoes to the retailer unless there is a legal document or a force that can bind the retailer to pay for the goods. When a business enters into a contract with other businesses, it is important to know who is bound to the contract and the outcomes in case the individuals who agreed upon the contract fail to perform as legally outlined in the

contract.
■ **Businesses need a universal set of standards:** A basic understanding of business law helps the business owners and other professionals to make better decisions. There are several legal rules and regulations that apply to businesses, and they need these legal guidelines to resolve disputes and grievances, provide certainty, define unacceptable behavior, and protect the employees.

■ **Handling contracts and legal agreements:** For a smooth business operation, it is important to keep all the legal documents clear of discrepancies. Studying business law can equip young legal professionals to suggest their legal team to make the appropriate changes to eliminate any terms that might seem conflicting with their business interests.

■ **The rationale for judgment calls:** Legal professionals need to tackle a

wide range of legal issues as a part of day to day business operation. Possessing appropriate knowledge of business law enables the professionals to not only fully understand these legal issues, but also their consequences and implications for the business. This, in turn, proves critical in helping the professionals to make the most beneficial decisions for the business.

■ **Outlines the legal responsibilities for the business and the consumer:** In the day-to-day operations of a business, engaging with other parties like customers or vendors is crucial to any business. Companies need to know that a set of legal responsibilities obligates them. Once it becomes complex, a clearly defined set of terms and conditions should be outlined by legal professionals to ensure the businesses' ethics and disputes are resolved in the best possible way.

■ **Help understand and manage**

transactions: Exchange of money taking place between businesses, customers, or banks helps businesses to make their transactions smooth. But the obligations associated with it are also necessary to be understood. Business law makes sure that the organisation is legally covered from all angles before any financial transaction takes place.

The legal team also prepares the documents to ensure that the business is protected on papers.

Business law as a specialisation is gaining popularity, and with a degree in business law, young lawyers can also explore career options in different facets of business like legal fee auditors, transactional analysts. All this translates into a plethora of options for law graduates to engage in a mix of business and law.

The writer is Director, Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The more that learn to read the less learn how to make a living. That's one thing about a little education. It spoils you for actual work. The more you know the more you think somebody owes you a living.

— Will Rogers

FIITJEE's Big Bang Edge Test

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

FIITJEE's Big Bang Edge Test will be held across the country in Proctored Online Mode on October 18, 2020 for students presently in Class V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X & XI (going to Class VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI & XII in 2021).

It is a unique platform for students aspiring all-round excellence as it will help students realise and maximise their current potential for National and International Level Competitive as well as Scholastic exams. This test is also a scholarship test.

With the Big Bang Edge

Test, students will have a golden Opportunity to accelerate their preparation for JEE Advanced, JEE Main, BITSAT, Olympiads, KVPY, X & XII Boards, NTSE & Jr. Olympiads, without any break, impediments and hurdles even amidst COVID pandemic.

The test will showcase the student's readiness reflected by a single All India Rank Potential Index for the goals they aspire for, such as JEE (Main & Advanced), KVPY, Boards, BITSAT, NTSE, Senior and Junior Science Olympiads KVPY, BITSAT and X / XII Boards. For more details log on to www.bigbangedge.com.

Survey on skill development

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the current day scenario, Education is making major strides away from the erstwhile 'rote learning' which was its primary focus. Now, many companies look for individuals who do not just have a bag full of academic qualifications, but rather skills and experience that they bring with them making them work-ready.

A survey conducted by Vastitum, a recruitment start-up, and Talerang, employability and training organisation, has released some insights by employees about what they consider to be vital career skills for success in the workplace.

The survey has revealed some interesting observations. Results show that there is a consensus among all about the importance of skill development for jobs. Skill development is no longer a matter of choice. It is inevitable to adapt, survive and succeed.

About 45.5% of the participants are graduates and 31.8% are employed full-time with various companies, but not necessarily having years of experience. About 14.9% are trained professionals who say that they acquired the necessary skill-set on the job. This goes to show the skill-gap that the existing education regime needs to address on an urgent basis.

Make way for entrepreneurs

Encouraging students for entrepreneurship in the under-graduation level allows them to develop and enhance skills such as creative thinking, problem-solving ability and time management, among others, says PROF DR C KARTHIKEYAN



Business models across the world have changed and the expectations of the customers' expectations, be it service or products, the ever increasing expectations to run business is getting tougher. With the change in the models, the opportunities to start ups and run business with support of other resources with combination of technology is ubiquitous. The opportunities to raise capital funding and advisory services are almost aplenty.

Hence the shift in the paradigm of business environment has undergone a massive transformation in recent years. This transformation has changed the perspective of our nation regarding various things including the approach we have towards developing students for the challenges thrown at the Indian Economy and Prosperity. Earlier, we concentrated on building job-ready students so that they can strengthen the economy.

However, this notion has changed in recent years. Nowadays, we as a nation are more focused on developing students who can create job opportunities; students who can not only strengthen the economy but can also take our country towards development. Therefore, entrepreneurship should be encouraged among students right from undergraduate degree education.

But, why should entrepreneurship encourage among students right from undergraduate courses?

The best platform to inculcate the qualities of entrepreneur is the undergraduate degree education, and enhancing interest and exposure to the opportunities of being an entrepreneur and helping them to develop basic entrepreneurial skills can give a strong foundation for students. It prepares the student for the journey ahead of them. Encouraging students for entrepreneurship in the under-graduation level

allows them to develop and enhance skills such as creative thinking, problem-solving ability, problem identification ability, time management, among others.

All these skills enable students to climb the ladder of success quickly. Moreover, these skills also prove beneficial in personal development. Therefore, in recent years colleges are encouraging entrepreneurship through courses such as BBA.

How is BBA suitable to foster entrepreneurial spirit as well as appropriate skills?

BBA is a professional degree programme has the potential to expose various business concepts that are basic requirements to start a business on own, as well as the basic skills of accounting and finance, which are indispensable to be an entrepreneur. It is also opening up chances to meet real life entrepreneurs in the form of guest lectures to listen to their experience and learn fruitful

lessons on the same. All the subjects of BBA together will assist students in acquiring business knowledge and management skills at an early stage. Furthermore, it also allows students to master in fields like finance, marketing, information systems, and international business.

The course is distributed in six semesters that spread across three years. Its curriculum is designed in a way that enables students to develop skills that are needed in the management career. The factors listed below establishes ways BBA is helping students to achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

The six semesters of the entire BBA curriculum has the potential to offer versatile nature. It provides students with an in-depth understanding of management concepts and its implementation in the business environment. BBA program not only provides the students with theoretical knowledge but also build them for practical applications of this knowledge through internships. The end of semester mini projects and specialisation project with viva presents ample opportunities to use creativity in completion of projects as well as presentation skills, alongside earning experience through internships.

The internship opportunity during college duration gives students an exposure to the work environment. Furthermore, allowing them to learn more about business practices. Along with it, they get a clear understanding of the domain they would like to pursue a career.

While at the pursuance of the course, many of the management colleges expose the students to special lectures in the form of entrepreneurship events, where in many real life entrepreneurs including the alumnus of the colleges who turn out to be a successful entrepreneur to share their experience in a common platform to encourage entrepreneurship among students. In conclusion, we can say that if one wants to open their own business or enhance their management skills to pursue a career in management, then BBA is the right choice for under-graduation.

The writer is Principal, T.John Institute of Management and Science

Earn while you learn

The pandemic has brought into focus the importance of upskilling, reskilling and expanding skillset to prevent job loss in the new normal, says VIKAS SHARMA

Experts have been debating for the last few years that the introduction of machines, automation and digitisation will cause job loss. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven it right, as the majority of work and other activities, approximately 69 per cent, have moved online.

Work online, buy online, learn online is the new normal.

The pandemic has changed the mindset and parameters of hiring managers. During this pandemic the online professional platform "LinkedIn" created a buzz by adding a tool to provide help to professionals who wanted a job change. In a short span of time more than 30 million members have used this tool to help them become more discoverable by hiring managers.

It is now common knowledge that organisations that have skilled employees with expertise in specific skill sets can manage operations with less staff but greater efficiency. That is the key learning for professionals. Upskill, reskill, and expand your skillset to prevent job loss in the new normal that has been brought into focus by the pandemic.

There is a huge demand for professionals in sectors such as ICT, FMCG, healthcare, logistics and e-commerce to name a few, who are not only skilled in the relevant field but also possess good problem solving, communication, research and presentation skills, and are also technologically savvy. It is expected that hiring in these sectors may go up by 15 per cent to 20 per cent during the current year. Even in the manufacturing sector, organisations are on the lookout for individuals with such skills.

India is a young nation with more than 65 per cent of its population being less than 35 years in age. It also possesses the largest workforce in the world. Our youth has an incredible opportunity to become skilled in white collar and blue-collar jobs. Universities focused on skilling such as Shri Vishwakarma Skill University of Government of Haryana, are doing a commendable job by skilling learners



Vikas Sharma

through a unique model of two-way learning, in various sectors. In this model, theoretical training is provided in the university by its expert faculty and the practical training is provided through on-the-job training by partner organisations. Students get the chance to experience practical training, through on-the-job to not only develop the skill sets in real life situations but also earn while they learn.

We hope this pandemic is seen as a wake-up call and more and more professionals and students embrace learning and skilling as a part of everyday life to make New India — Skilled India.

The writer is a public policy expert presently serving as Director & Chief Executive, Centre for Strategy & Leadership, New Delhi (me@vikassharma.name)

NSS day celebrations at IP varsity

The NSS Cell of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, in collaboration with the NSS unit of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, affiliated to GGSIPU, celebrated the NSS Day on September 29, 2020. The event was held online on Zoom and streamed live over YouTube and Facebook.

The theme was — Holistic Health and Wellbeing. Throughout the week, several online competitions were conducted including poster making, cooking, slogan writing, logo making, essay writing & recitation, NSS quiz and plantation campaign. The sub-themes were — mental health, nutrition, physical health, environment, anti-

tobacco, harmful effects of drugs and unhealthy lifestyle.

The welcome address was given by Dr BVR Reddy (programme coordinator of NSS Cell of the university). With motivating the NSS volunteers, he highlighted the previous activities of NSS Cell and said: "We have 10 units and have a list of promoted activities at respective units and also promote to adopt villages/slums so that, children get sensitised towards the societal problems and in a big way, university contributes in alleviating programmes and finding technical solutions by sending our children to what we call as special campaigns. These are our primary objectives."

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vidyamandir Classes, one of the leading institutes of the test preparation industry, is delighted to announce the launch of Vidyamandir Intellect Quest (VIQ). Its biggest admission & scholarship test of the year for one lakh plus prospective IITJEE and NEET aspirants.

VMC aims to pave the way for students scoring high marks in IITJEE and NEET through this launch. This exam will be conducted on October 24 and November 1, 2020 through the proctored online medium for

admissions in classroom and online programmes starting April 2021.

Students have the option of selecting any of the two dates as convenient considering festive period during the time of exam. In lieu of the pandemic, students will get to study at last year fee as Vidyamandir management has decided not to have the customary increase in fees implemented. Upon qualifying, students can register for the course at just ₹9,999 and pay the balance by April 2021.

This is a huge opportunity for students as they can get mini-

mum savings of ₹50,000 on select classroom programmes upon qualifying and upto 100 per cent scholarship on fees basis their merit and their score in this qualifying test. It is also a chance for the aspirants to be part of unique pedagogy of VMC, which outshines in JEE Main 2020 (Sep) with six toppers from four states Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar and J&K.

This exam is specially designed for IIT/JEE and NEET aspirants who want to be a part of the top engineering and medical colleges and want to pursue courses in these streams. This

exam is also a way for students to understand their current potential and basis their marks obtained in VIQ, students can comprehend their academic intellect. With VIQ Vidyamandir has also launched Prodigy Programme which caters to pre-Foundation stage students who will be entering Class VI to VIII in April. These students will get to build their acumen for reaching their fullest potential. The registration fee for the exam has been revised to ₹99/- during the lockdown. The students can visit the website www.vidyamandir.com for more information on VIQ.

New book released

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh on September 29, 2020 launched *A bouquet of flowers*, a book written by author Dr Krishna Saksena, at his residence. This is the ninth book authored by the senior English Professor who is the first lady to get a PhD from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in 1955. Through this

book, Dr Saksena, presents a series of anecdotes that allow the reader to extract the moral of the stories, rather than a didactic imposition of her views.

Speaking about the book, Dr Saksena says: "The book has been designed to allow the readers to travel their journey, arrive at their personal realisation and be inspired. I hope the readers enjoy and relate with it."



The JEE Advanced 2020 organised by IIT-Delhi for admission to the 23 IITs was held on September 27, 2020. There were two papers — Paper-I and Paper-II and both were compulsory. Analysis of JEE Advanced (Paper-I):

Total Marks: 198
The Paper had (54) questions in total.
It had three parts — Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics.
Maximum marks for each part was 66.

Over all analysis of Paper I: Students found the overall level of paper moderate to difficult level but not easy. However, it was easier compared to 2019 as per students.

Some students have reported Chemistry was easy to moderate, Physics was moderate but Maths relatively difficult.

In Physics almost questions from chapter of Classes XI and XII were asked. Some students reported Physics was lengthy. Chapters like Rotation, Work Power Energy, magnetism & Thermodynamics had more questions.

In Mathematics, there were five-six questions from Calculus. There were questions from

Let's analyse

The JEE Advanced 2020 was held on September 27, 2020. FITTJEE expert RAMESH BATLISH breaks down the two papers based on the feedback given by the aspirants

Students found the overall level of the Paper-II moderately tough. It was lengthy and tougher compared to Paper-I. Chemistry was easy to moderate, Maths was moderate & Physics was moderate to tough

Continuity & Differentiability, Application of Derivative, Definite Integrals. One question each from Probability, Complex Numbers, Determinants and two questions from 3 D Geometry.

In Chemistry, few questions on Organic Chemistry compared to Inorganic & Physical Chemistry. No mistakes reported till now as complete paper is yet to be analysed.

Over all analysis of Paper-II: Students found the overall level of the paper to be moderately tough. It was lengthy and tougher compared to Paper-I.

Chemistry was easy to moderate, Mathematics was moderate & Physics was moderate to tough.

In Physics questions were more concept based and covered all chapters. Questions were asked from Chapters of Fluids , Ray Optics, Electromagnetic Induction, Current Electricity, Rotational Motion, Heat & Thermodynamics. Mixed concepts questions took more time.

In Mathematics, there were more questions from Calculus & Algebra . Questions were asked from Functions, Limits, Continuity & Differentiability, Application of Derivatives, Differential Equation. In Co-ordinate Geometry, there was a question from Hyperbola. In Algebra, there were questions from Permutation & Combination, Complex Numbers, Matrices. A

question on Probability was had lengthy calculations.

In Chemistry, questions from all chapters were covered and were Easy to Moderate level. Organic Chemistry had good no. of questions. In Physical Chemistry there were questions from Chapter of Solutions, Atomic Structure, Ionic Equilibrium & Chemical Kinetics.

No mistakes reported till now as complete paper is yet to be analysed. As the test was computer-based students had the option to clear response to change any option, they could mark it for review, save and next to proceed further.

The writer is head FITTJEE, Noida

‘GRE tests students on relevant metrics’

In order to secure a seat in a B-school globally, one must clear show academic capabilities. The GRE test is one of the best option available for aspirants, says ALBERTO ACEREDA

Every year, thousands of B-school aspirants apply for schools around the world as a first step to securing a place in prestigious institutes. Cracking one of these schools is not an easy task though. B-schools reflect this recognition and hence typically lean towards candidates who demonstrate all-round academic capabilities, a well-rounded personality, leadership qualities and intellectual vigour- attributes that are seen to be important for success in the real world of business and finance.

A key element of the admission process to these schools is a standardised assessment test. Given the abilities that are on test, the GRE is the one which best tests the students on the relevant metrics. The GRE measures the students' verbal reasoning, problem solving, critical reading and analytical writing ability- in short, it's a test for some major competencies that are required for success in B-Schools as enumerated above and is structured as such.

The first section is the analytical writing section which is essentially a task in writing two essays each spanning 30 minutes. The first essay is typically written by the student on a topic as chosen by her stating her position on an issue. The second essay is then written to dissect the logic provided in the first essay and to figure out where the logic falters and can therefore be improved.

The scoring is done on a scale of 0-6. Each essay is rated by a human reader and an e-reader and in case of difference in ratings, it's sent to another human reader and the average of the two human scores is taken. Analytical abilities and analytical writing in particular are important skills which are not only relevant to B-Schools but are extremely critical for success in the world outside.

This is followed by the verbal reasoning section. This section places a great deal of emphasis on vocabulary, logic and reading comprehension. This is important as proper vocabulary helps the student better communicate with peers and others in an academic environment. To crack this section, one would require a fair degree of expertise



Alberto Acereda
Executive Director, Higher Education,
Global Education Division,
Educational Testing Service

in reading and reasoning skills. A fair amount of habitual reading should get a student past this section comfortably. This section is scored on a scale of 130-170 with one-point increments.

The last section is the quantitative abilities section which involves problem solving and quantitative comparisons and essentially measures an individual's ability to interpret and analyze data and quantitative information using mathematical concepts. Quantitative reasoning is also on test here. Students are also allowed to use the calculator for this section. As in the previous section, here too the scoring is done on a scale of 130-170 with 1-point increments.

The three-hour 45 minutes assessment is a section adaptive test which means one can skip a question which is tough and move on to another one which could be answered first and come back to skipped question.

An important feature of the GRE is Score Select option. On test day, this enables a student to send scores from the most recent test or any other test taken within the last five years as per the student's preference. This has enabled students to send off their best scores, thus enhancing chances of success.

Homeschooling is where children learn outside of a traditional school setting, the most common setting being their home. This was an option consciously chosen by a small segment of parents for reasons that could range from health to dissatisfaction with the traditional school system, flexibility to explore different methods of learning or to provide personalised attention that meet a family's value system or a child's learning need.

With COVID, however, homeschooling is no longer offbeat. It's become mainstream. This sudden shift has left parents across demographics grappling with a flurry of questions on how to turn their home into the primary learning environment.

This is where technology, when used correctly as the tool it is meant to be, can calm these anxieties. However, for it to work in a demographically diverse country like India, it must allow for:

Democratising learning: Technology erases geographical barriers and gives parents the opportunity to discover and choose from limitless learning opportunities, no matter where they are. Keeping in mind their child's learning needs, interests, their day-to-day schedule or the values they resonate with, parents can try out different homeschooling programs or learn with different teachers without being confined to a rigid curriculum. It has the potential to create a level playing field and put the power

MINDIT

of choice back in the hands of parents. In our own work in the preschool segment, we've seen parents from Jaisalmer to Majuli Pathanamthitta to Srinagar actively using technology to provide meaningful learning experiences for their little ones at home.

Transparency: The credibility and authenticity of Homeschooling resources or a teacher can be vetted and reviewed before signing up. Parents we interact with tell us that they avoid downloading a learning app that has less than a 4.2 rating on Play Store. They choose to download our app only after

reading our reviews and subscribe to it after going through the trial period where they get to experience what is being offered transparently. Service providers have to constantly be on top of their game, or risk losing customers to other qualitatively appealing options.

Affordability: With financial pressures associated with the COVID pandemic, many parents have had to realign life choices. However, the possibility of not providing the best education for their child is a compromise they would not like to make.

Technology can make access to quality learning resources and teachers affordable, flexible and customised to suit one's need.

Collaborative participation: Instead of packaging learning like instructions on a 'Ready To Cook' meal packet, technology should provide the right ingredients and the freshest ideas for parents and children to tinker, create, connect, collaborate, share feedback and add their own touch.

Localised product experiences: It is crucial that technology allows localised solutions to address learning needs at home — from using local languages in the product and content experience, to making the infrastructure light and easy to access in low bandwidth areas and devices with

limited storage. Technology should not be intimidating, but rather inclusive, and built on a strong premise of empathy so that a fundamental right like access to good quality education is not limited to only those who are experienced users of technology.

The pandemic has certainly gatecrashed into our lives but I also see this as a tremendous opportunity for different stakeholders in the education system to be it parents, teachers or technology platforms to introspect and come together to usher in new ways to ensure continuity in education goals while always putting the needs of children first.

The writer is Sneha Sundaram, Founder, Kutuki



arship is December 1, 2020.

Applications are invited from highly motivated applicants for the Presidential Scholarship at Boston University. The programme is open for international students.

Eligibility: Applicants must be an incoming first-year student at BU. Applicants must have SAT scores above 1500 and ACT scores above 33.

Award: \$25,000
Supporting documents: Submit all the required supporting documents such as secondary school records, English proficiency testing results, documentation of financial support, and copy of data page of the passport

Admission requirements: The candidates are advised to check the entry requirements asked by the university to study an UG degree programme.

Language requirement: If the candidate's first language is not English, then they have to demonstrate the English language ability by taking the TOEFL or IELTS test.

How to apply: After taking confirmation, no additional application form is required for this study-fund. The candidates will be automatically considered by the university based on their eligibility.

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this scholarship is December 1, 2020.

Over 600 opportunities are available at the Tennessee Technological University, USA for both home and international students.

Eligibility: Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the higher level required by the University.

To complete the university's application, you must be admitted to Tennessee Tech (The admission application for Fall 2021)

Any required supplementary materials must be received and processed by January 15 to be fully considered. Supplementary materials include:

Official Transcripts from any institutions you have previously attended

FAFSA (completed by December 15, 2020 used for consideration for need-based awards)

Any required letters of recommendation (must be received in ScholarWeb by January 15)

Official ACT or SAT scores if you are a new freshman MUST be received by January 15.

Review the scholarship Timeline. Tennessee Tech's application must be completed each year.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is December 15, 2020.

ANGULAR 9 DEVELOPMENT AT FLEXIELE CONSULTING SERVICES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523550
Deadline: October 8, 2020

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AT SIRPI
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523552
Deadline: October 8, 2020

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT SAFEJOB
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523555
Application deadline: October 8, 2020

EVENT COORDINATION AT MILESTONE PAGEANTS
Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523556
Application deadline: October 5, 2020

FRONT OFFICE OPERATIONS AT BOLLYGRAD STUDIOZ
Location: Chandigarh, Shimla, Mohali, Gurgaon, Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523557
Application deadline: October 7, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT WEBPULSE SOLUTION
Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523559
Application deadline: October 5, 2020

CAD DESIGNING & ANALYSIS AT INVENT GRID INDIA
Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523558
Application deadline: October 6, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

‘Study abroad can be an enriching experience’

Choosing right university to study abroad can be a daunting task hence students should tread carefully, says SADIQ BASHA

Choosing a university is one of the biggest decisions that you will make in terms of your education, and it can be overwhelming if you do not know where to start. Start researching universities and make sure you choose the right course.

There are many important factors that the students need to consider before shortlisting. University rankings are a good source for an overview of how a university is performing. Depending on which ranking you turn to, you can determine different information about an institution.

Students must also consider the total cost of studying in the country (both tuition fee and living costs). Other factors include working opportunities while studying, job prospects after completing education.

Students can join webinars, organized by online study abroad platforms that will help them make decisions.

Organise your Finances
Financial planning is crucial

in the study abroad process. As a student you will be spending money on the university's tuition fee, accommodation, food, and other activities.

These costs vary from country to country. So it is essential to plan your expenses beforehand. One can also opt for an education loan. Banks in India provide education loan schemes with flexible repayment options. Education loan repayment starts six months after the student has completed their course.

Scholarships that you can look for

Students can apply for scholarship options provided by the Government as well as the university to support their education. Applying for scholarships can be confusing. Students can seek guidance from advisors on digital study abroad platforms such as Edvoy, who can help them through the process as they have direct partnerships with universities abroad.

Choosing to study overseas is one of the most rewarding decisions you will ever make in your life. Contemplate, plan and make the right choice.

The writer is CEO-founder, Edvoy

IN BRIEF

EDUCATION FEE PAYMENT MADE EASY

The education financing has been a key challenge for parents in India. While it is still relatively easy to avail financing options for higher education there are not enough options available for school education. With rising aspirational levels of parents and wanting the best educational institutions for their child, paying hefty amounts of fees continues to be a challenge.

An average Indian household spends nearly 24 per cent of its total annual income on children's education, placing financing of education fees top-of-mind for parents. To add to this, due to the current COVID-19 induced financial crisis, parents are facing a huge liquidity crunch. This makes it even more challenging to finance the school education for their children.

Keeping these challenges in mind,

GrayQuest is an innovative fintech start-up which has taken the initiative of making the process of school fee payment more convenient and rewarding. It provides parents the option to pay their child's annual education fees in up to 12 monthly instalments – without incurring any extra cost – instead of paying it to their educational institution in two-three bulk instalments.

At present, the company is enabling over 3,00,000 students across the country to access education in an affordable manner while also becoming a strong source of liquidity and fee collection support for its partner institutions. Parents can also safeguard the lifetime education expenses against any fatality or unfortunate event to earning members of the household by a complimentary insurance cover.

NIU JOINS HANDS WITH UZBEKISTAN GOVERNMENT

The Noida International University (NIU) has joined hands with the Government of Uzbekistan. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan along with a number of other high ranking officials

from the Government and BSMI signed an MoU virtually.

With the signing of this MoU, joint faculty programmes will be introduced for MBBS and also the dual degrees

wherein the students can study for two degree courses at a time. Student exchange programmes, medical tourism and joint research programmes will be introduced at NIU and BSMI, Uzbekistan.

APP TO DETECT UNORIGINAL WORK IN SCHOOLS

Turnitin has launched a comprehensive academic integrity solution called Turnitin Originality. Turnitin Originality combines the text similarity checking functionality that Turnitin is known for with new features that help instructors address trends such as contract cheating and teach students the value of original thinking skills.

It uses comprehensive technology to help deter unoriginal work and support

students in learning how to properly attribute ideas and concepts to others. When reviewing submissions, it examines whether the work is similar to other known text, or if it has indications that it was not authored by the student. The need for this combined solution is clear: as schools and universities move to online instruction, they must be even more thoughtful and holistic about their approach to academic integrity.



Nothing to take away from RCB. They stuck to their plans, although we put them under pressure, they held their nerve more than us



Saini has been amazing not just this year but the last couple of years also. He has been very good and he is going from strength to strength and growing as well



Outstanding Super Over from Saini, bowling against Hardik and Kieron Pollard. I think the longer boundary helped him gain some confidence with his yorker



We have a very well-balanced team, good bowling strength, we are confident with our batting lineup, we bat deep with even someone like Shreyas batting at number nine

DC restrict SRH to 162-4



Sunrisers Hyderabad captain David Warner walks back to the pavilion after getting out

IPLT20.com

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Opener Jonny Bairstow scored his second fifty of the tournament as Sunrisers Hyderabad posted a competitive 162 for four against Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Bairstow smashed two fours and one

six in his 48-ball 53 and shared two crucial partnerships — 77 off 57 balls with David Warner (45 off 33) for the opening stand and 52 off 38 balls with Kane Williamson (41 off 26) for the third wicket.

Making his IPL debut, Jammu and Kashmir's Abdul Samad (12 off 7) blasted a four and six in his useful cameo.

Put into bat, Warner and Bairstow were circumspect with the pace trio of Ishant Sharma, Kagiso Rabada (2/21) and Anrich Nortje maintaining their line and length.

The result was Sunrisers could only score 38 in the powerplay, which yielded just two fours and a six — all hit by Warner.

Bairstow picked his first boundary in the seventh over, launching a slog sweep for a six off leg-spinner Amit Mishra (2/35).

The duo tried to make up for the lack of boundaries on the slow track with their excellent running between the wickets to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Warner sent one straight over Ishant's head for his second six and then picked a four off Mishra with a reverse sweep but the spinner had the last laugh as he had him caught behind with SRH reaching 82 for one in 10 overs.

Mishra returned to dismiss Manish Pandey (3) before Sunrisers crossed the 100-mark in 14th over.

Playing his first match of the season after recovering from an injury, Williamson smashed two fours in the 16th over to take SRH to 128 for two.

Bairstow reached his fifty off 44 balls before holding out to Nortje in the 18th over. Williamson too was dismissed in the last over.

Had faith in seniors to bat well in Super Over: Mahela

PTI ■ DUBAI

Mumbai Indians' decision to not send Ishan Kishan, who was striking the ball hard and clean, to bat in the Super Over surprised many but their head coach Mahela Jayawardene defended the tactic saying they had faith in their experienced players to do the job.

It was wicket-keeper batsman Ishan Kishan, who with his blistering knock of 99 runs brought Mumbai Indians back in a stiff 202-run chase along with Kieron Pollard (60).

However, the match had to be decided via Super Over, where the defending champions opted to send Hardik Pandya with Pollard.

The strategy backfired as all they could manage was only seven runs off Navdeep Saini and lost the match to Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Jayawardene said, Kishan felt tired after giving his all during the contest.

"If anyone could see, he (Kishan) was very tired at that moment and we were thinking that we probably need a couple of fresh guys who can go and hit the ball," the Sri Lankan said at the post-match press conference.

"It is quite easy to say in hindsight this and that, but Polly (Pollard) and Hardik had done the job in the past in those Super Overs, two experienced guys who are capable of doing that. So you take a chance on these



calls and it could have gone either way. If we had 10-12 runs anything could have happened," explained the coach. Jayawardene had to admit that seven runs were too small to defend even for a bowler of the calibre of Jasprit Bumrah.

"In the Super Over, we had three dots, so that's a killer for you because we lost a wicket and then we had a couple of more dots.

"We needed to make sure that we played some smart shots, get that early boundary away, which we couldn't, we had one, but a couple of boundaries would have been really handy especially when Booms (Bumrah) comes to bowl," added the Sri Lankan batting great.

Marsh's scans lost in UAE

Cricketer in dark about extent of injury

Dubai: Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh is unaware of the extent of his injury, which ruled him out of the IPL, as the reports of the scans performed on his right ankle went missing in the UAE.

This was confirmed by the cricketer himself on Tuesday.

"We don't really know what happened with the scans over in the UAE. Cricket Australia haven't been able to get their hands on them so it's bit of a weird situation," Marsh told reporters during

a virtual press conference.

Marsh, who twisted his ankle while going for a dive in his franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad's season opener against RCB, is currently undergoing a 14-day quarantine in a Perth hotel.

The injury cut short his outing in the remainder of the lucrative T20 league.

Marsh, whose IPL cam-

paign in 2016 was also derailed by an injury, could only bowl four deliveries in his spell before being helped out of the ground.

"Hopefully I'll go for another scan at some point this week, if I can get clearance, and then we'll be a lot clearer on what we're dealing with.

"This one is obviously

really frustrating and a little bit unlucky. I've tried to dive for a ball like that a thousand times in my career.

"It's one of those frustrating injuries. I've been through a few now so I think I know how to deal with it. I moaned and groaned for about 48 hours in the UAE," Marsh said.

The Australian, who shone on the tour of England prior to the IPL, expressed his disappointment at not being able to be a part of the action in the UAE.

PTI

KKR's batting firepower faces Royals test

PTI ■ DUBAI

Kolkata Knight Riders will have to bat out of their skin to stop a marauding Rajasthan Royals when the two teams clash in an IPL match at the Dubai International Stadium on Wednesday.

Having started off as underdogs, the Royals have taken the IPL by storm, chasing down the highest tournament total 224 against Kings XI Punjab in their last match.

In two wins from two matches, the Royals have got past the 200-mark with ease. In their success, they have found two stars in Sanju Samson and Rahul Tewatia, who have outshone marquee players.

In his second coming at the Royals, little known Haryana all-rounder Tewatia has got instant stardom for his 31-ball 53 against KXIP, which helped the side chase down a record

224 with three balls to spare against KXIP.

But the season so far belongs to Samson — the wicketkeeper from Kerala.

Boasting of the season's highest strike-rate of 214.86, Samson has two successive half-centuries that has once again put him in contention for a longer rope in the Indian team as a keeper-batsman.

Skipper Steve Smith has been ever reliable, striking two half-centuries, while opener Jos Buttler will be waiting to explode.

To match or even surpass the Royals, KKR have the biggest stars in Andre Russell to go along with reigning World Cup winning English skipper Eoin Morgan, one of the best in limited-overs cricket.

But both Morgan and Russell have got limited oppor-



tunities so far, having dropped down to No 5 and 6 respectively.

The fixture might just finally see them bat higher up, especially the star Jamaican, who was their highest run-get-

ter last season with 510 runs at a astonishing strike rate of 204.81.

Having started off with a familiar defeat to Mumbai Indians in their opener, Kolkata Knight Riders put up a determined show to bounce back against a sloppy Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Talented opener Shubman Gill's unbeaten half-century, aided by Morgan's late firepower overtook SRH's below-par 145 with two overs to spare.

Come Wednesday, it may well be a run feast with no target 'safe' against the Royals.

Dubai has been host to both the Super-Over matches this season. The venue will be an uncharted territory for both the teams who will be playing here for the first time this season.

For the record, the teams batting first have won all the five matches here so far.

No one can, no one should try to play like MSD: Samson

PTI ■ DUBAI

"No one can" and "no one should try" to play like Mahendra Singh Dhoni, wicketkeeper-batsman Sanju Samson said on Tuesday, rejecting comparisons with the cricket great after taking the IPL by storm with his incredible hitting prowess.

Samson cleared the boundaries at will to power his franchise Rajasthan Royals to two massive wins over Chennai Super Kings and Kings XI Punjab, the second one ending in record IPL chase.

After his exploits, Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram, Shashi Tharoor, called him the next MS Dhoni.

But Samson did not think so, quite like former India player and BJP MP Gautam Gambhir.

"I am sure that no one can and no one should try to play like him. It's not at all easy to play like MS Dhoni, so leave that aside. I never think of playing like MS Dhoni. He is a legend of Indian cricket, legend of the game," Samson said.

"I only focus on my game, what I can do, how I can do it

best and how I can win matches," the Keralaite added, again like Gambhir, on the eve of his team's match against Kolkata Knight Riders.

With his belligerent knocks of 74 and 85, Samson has again staked his claim for selection in the Indian team. Asked if he thinks he has done enough to attract the attention of the national selectors, Samson said, "I maybe, I maybe not. The only think I know is I am in good form, my only dream is to win matches for my team, any team I play. My focus is on the IPL right now."

Having performed admirably well over the last few IPL but probably not as much in the domestic circuit, Samson said he has started to understand his game better.

"I have understood my game, it's more of power hitting. So I have been training on my strengths on my power hitting."

He said playing most of his cricket in Kerala and Jaipur has helped him in adapting to the hot and humid conditions of the UAE better.

"I am in a very good space mentally. I have worked closely with our video analyst for four to five months and that really helped me improve."

Pliskova survives early scare

French Open (Day 4)
Live from 2:15pm IST
STAR SPORTS 2 NETWORK

AFP ■ PARIS

Second seed Karolina Pliskova ended Mayar Sherif's fairytale Grand Slam breakthrough to set up a Roland Garros second round clash against former champion Jelena Ostapenko on Tuesday.

Pliskova, a semi-finalist in 2017, squandered eight set points in the opening set as world number 172 Sherif, the first Egyptian woman to play in the main draw at a Slam, took a shock lead.

However, the Czech's greater experience eventually told as she recovered to progress 6-7 (9/11), 6-2, 6-4.

"I think she was playing very smart today. Of course she had a lot of confidence just winning three matches from quallies," said Pliskova of her 24-year-old opponent. "She had nothing to lose."

Latvia's Ostapenko, the world 43, won her first match at the French Open since sweeping to her shock 2017 title when she fired 46 winners



Mayar Sherif and Karolina Pliskova walk to their benches after the 1st round

past Madison Brengle of the United States to win 6-2, 6-1.

"After I won here it was a tough time. I had to get used to the pressure but now it's all gone," said the 23-year-old Ostapenko.

Meanwhile, a row was brewing after French player

Kristina Mladenovic suffered a controversial exit against Laura Siegemund when the German player won a point off what appeared to be a double bounce.

The incident, which came with Mladenovic 5-1 ahead and holding a set point in the

opener, was missed by chair umpire Eva Asderaki.

World number 44 Mladenovic pleaded in vain and her German opponent took full advantage, racing into the next round 7-5, 6-3.

It was a second successive miserable Grand Slam for the 27-year-old Frenchwoman who was withdrawn from the doubles at the US Open earlier this month in a row over coronavirus.

Denmark's Clara Tauson, just 17 and a qualifier, unleashed 48 winners to knock out American 21st seed and US Open semi-finalist Jennifer Brady 6-4, 3-6, 9-7.

Tauson also saved two match points on her way to a first career main draw win.

Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin recovered from a break down in the final set to defeat 125th-ranked Liudmila Samsonova 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Fourth seed Kenin, who dumped out Serena Williams in Paris a year ago, fought back from 2-0 down in the decider Tuesday to advance to a second-round tie against



Romania's Ana Bogdan.

DJOKER WINS

Novak Djokovic's bid to become the first man in half a century to win all four Grand Slam titles twice got off to a straightforward start on Tuesday at Roland Garros as a 'double bounce' row prompted calls for video replays to be introduced in tennis.

World number one Djokovic, returning to Grand Slam action for the first time since his US Open disqualification, eased past Sweden's Mikael Ymer, ranked 80, in straight sets 6-0, 6-2, 6-3.

It was his 32nd win in 33 matches in 2020 and kept him on course for a second French Open title following his 2016 triumph, and 18th career major.

"It's always a pleasure to return to Paris on Philippe Chatrier, this important court. The atmosphere is a little different this year with few fans but I remain motivated to win the title," said Djokovic, only one of two men to have defeated 12-time champion, Rafael Nadal, in 15 years in Paris.

DIOGOAL

Jota finds name in scoresheet in first league start for Liverpool

AP ■ LONDON

Three wins from three games, two big rivals dispatched, and an expensive new signing already on the scoresheet.

Liverpool is making an ominous start to its title defense in the Premier League.

The champions' high-risk, high-reward strategy paid off in its come-from-behind 3-1 win over Arsenal on Monday in an open game featuring a late clinching goal by Diogo Jota in his first league start for Liverpool.

"This was absolutely exceptional," Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp said, "100% dominant against a team in form."

Liverpool is one of three teams to have opened with three straight wins, including over Chelsea and now Arsenal. With two of its other main rivals — Manchester City and Manchester United — having



Diogo Jota celebrates after scoring his maiden goal for Liverpool

AP

already lost a game each, the start to the season could hardly have gone better for Liverpool.

Arsenal dropped points for the first time but was threatening to beat Liverpool for a third straight month — after wins in the league in July and the Community Shield in August — when Lacazette took advantage of a rare mistake by Andrew Robertson to give the visitors a 25th-minute lead.

Sadio Mane equalized inside three minutes before Robertson made amends by scoring himself after controlling a cross from Liverpool's other flying full back, Trent Alexander-Arnold.

That wild nine-minute period, featuring three goals, characterized a high-risk game plan from Liverpool that causes chaos

for its opponents because of the way they are squeezed high up.

Break the press and Liverpool is in trouble, though, and Lacazette was played through clean on goal in the second half for chances to equalize. Both of his efforts were tame and comfortably saved by Alisson, and Lacazette was spotted hiding his head in his jersey in the dugout after being substituted.

Jota sealed victory in the 88th by driving in a shot that glanced the post as it went in, after David Luiz's headed clearance only reached the edge of the area.

"It's an amazing feeling, of course," said Jota, who recently joined from Wolverhampton for 41 million pounds. "I just wish it was in front of a full stadium."

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE











Reacting to RCB win over MI on Super Over's last ball, actress Anushka Sharma took to Instagram Story and wrote, "Phew! Too exciting a game for a pregnant lady! What a team this one!"



After Virat Kohli managed to score just combined 18 runs in his first three innings, KXIP owner Preity Zinta defended him. "As for Virat's critics - the last one ball 4 won RCB the game...Form is temporary, class is permanent. So, chill out," she tweeted



Team India head coach Ravi Shastri took to Twitter to praise RCB's off-spinner Washington Sundar for his performance against MI. Washington registered figures of 4-0-12-1 including 13 dot balls and did not concede any boundary.

POINTS TABLE							
		P	W	L	NRR	PTS	
1		DC	2	2	0	+1.100	4
2		RR	2	2	0	+0.615	4
3		RCB	3	2	1	-1.450	4
4		KXIP	3	1	2	+1.498	2
5		MI	3	1	2	+0.654	2
6		KKR	2	1	1	-0.767	2
7		CSK	3	1	2	-0.840	2
8		SRH	2	0	2	-0.730	0