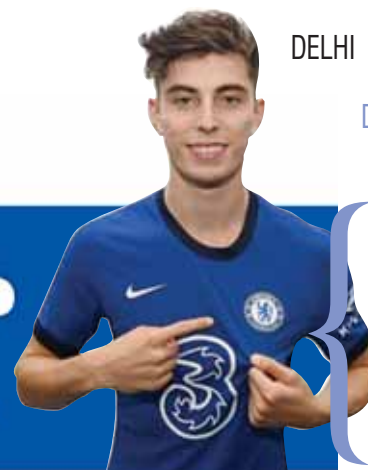


OPINION 6
PLA'S 'PEACE
DISEASE'**WORLD 8**
NAVALNY POSTS HOSPITAL PHOTO
OF HIMSELF, PLANS RUSSIA RETURN**AVENUES 10**
DETAILED ANALYSIS
OF NEET 2020DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
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*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Ready for any eventuality: India

In LS, Rajnath raps China for violating established rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

invited counter-measures from Indian side".

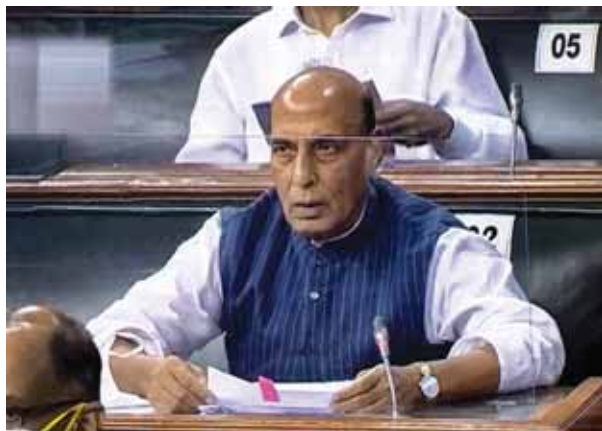
In his brief statement in the House, Rajnath said China has mobilised a large number of troops on the LAC and India too has made "suitable counter-moves". He said he could not go into more details but assured that armed forces are fully prepared to protect the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

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

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

The Defence Minister constantly alluded to the "distrust" created by China by its actions on the ground while talks between the two sides on the military and diplomatic level were underway during the last few months. He said China had increased its mobilisation on the LAC since April and May, this year, and tried to "transgress" LAC.

Continued on Page 2



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

PTI



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

PTI

Cong questions absence of PM from LS, demands LAC reality

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 2



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

PTI

Modi inaugurates ₹540 crore projects for poll-bound Bihar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI

₹940 crore in the poll bound State.

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

country by producing millions of engineers. Modi said Bihar is the land of historical cities

and has a rich heritage of thousands of years.

Continued on Page 2

Cabinet approves AIIMS in Darbhanga

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

India's Covid-19 cases cross 5 million mark

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

new cases twice in a single day.

Each of the four worst-affected States — Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka — recorded fewer cases than their highest single-day spike. But Uttar Pradesh (6,841 cases), Delhi (4,261 cases) and West Bengal (3,237 cases) showed no sign of any weakening in the spread of the pandemic.

Continued on Page 2

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL	
CASES: 50,17,930	
DEATHS: 82,088	
RECOVERED: 39,39,048	
ACTIVE: 9,96,079	

ARUNACHAL CM PEMA KHANDU COVID +VE

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said that he tested positive for Covid-19 on Tuesday and is presently in home isolation in New Delhi. "I have undergone Covid test RT-PCR and have tested positive for Covid19. I am asymptomatic and feeling healthy," Khandu tweeted.

SC's interim stay on Bindas Bol for vilifying Muslims

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday restrained Sudarshan TV from telecasting two episodes of "Bindas Bol" programme, which are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday saying it prime facie appears to "vilify" the Muslim community.

"At this stage, prima facie it does appear that the programme does vilify the Muslim community," the SC said while staying the telecast of two episodes of the programme on alleged infiltration of Muslims into the bureaucracy.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud which heard the plea against the serial said it would hear the matter on September 17.

Continued on Page 2

No J&K leader under house arrest, says Govt

PDP calls it blatant lie; MoS Home tells Parliament 223 people under detention

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that no leader in Jammu & Kashmir is currently under house arrest.

It, however, admitted that 223 people in J&K are under detention.

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

Minister of State (Home) G Kishan Reddy in a written reply to a question raised by Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Ray said, "The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has reported that after



An old picture of Congress leader and former Union Minister Saifuddin Soz trying to speak to a media person in Srinagar

PTI/File

the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year various measures were taken to maintain public order, which included preventive detention of certain persons."

"As on September 11, 223

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

Meanwhile, a close aide of Mehbooba and a former Cabinet Minister reacted

sharply labeling it a "blatant lie".

Naeem Akhtar, a former Minister in the Mehbooba Government tweeted, there are many categories of lies. "Lies, white lies, data, judicial lies (spoken on oath), parliamentary lies: This Government excels in all."

Another Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Waheed Para in a separate tweet said, "Blatant lies (told) in Parliament by Union Ministers that no one is under house arrest. It has now been seven months of house arrest and six months of detention for many of us, since 5 August 2019. The detention of Mehbooba under the stringent Public Safety Act was extended by three months, hours before it was due to expire ahead of the anniversary of Abrogation of Article 370.

India walks out of SCO meet as Pak map shows J&K, Ladakh, Guj its part

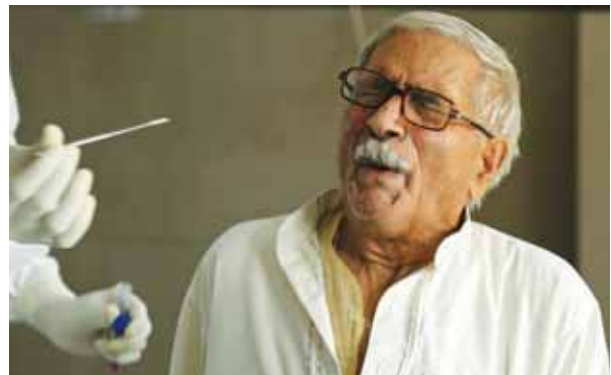
Russia calls Pak action 'provocative'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday walked out of a meeting of the National Security Advisors (NSA) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) after Pakistan presented a "fictitious" map of the country showing Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Gujarat as its part.

The Ministry of External Affairs said what Pakistan was in "blatant disregard to host Russia's advisory".

Making its position clear, the Ministry said, "At the meeting of NSAs of member states of the SCO, hosted by the



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

AP

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

CAPSULE

DRUGS CASE: 2 KANNADA ACTORS SUMMONED

Bengaluru: Kannada actors Aindrita Ray and Diganth have been summoned by the police in connection with an alleged drugs case that has sparked a massive controversy in Karnataka. A five-acre property near Bengaluru's Hebbal Lake in the name of Nandini Alva, wife of late politician Jeevaraj Alva, was also raided by the Bengaluru Police.

SC BREATHES FOR PUNJAB EX-DGP IN MURDER CASE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted interim protection from arrest to former Punjab SGP Sumedh Singh Saini in the 1991 case of alleged murder of a junior engineer Balwant Singh Multani. The SC sought response from Punjab Government on Saini's plea challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court order refusing to grant him anticipatory bail in the case.

Continued on Page 2

SEROSURVEY IN DELHI

No antibodies in 30% of recovered Covid patients

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A sero-prevalance survey conducted in the first week of August in Delhi has found that 79 of the 257 people, who recovered from Covid-19 and were part of the exercise, did not have antibodies against the virus.

About 15,000 representative samples were taken in the August 1-7 survey from 11 districts. Antibodies against Covid-19 infection were found in 29.1 per cent of people in the August sero-prevalance survey in the national capital, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said last week while announcing its results.

Prevalence of antibodies found in males was 28.3 per cent, and in females 32.2 per cent. Out of total number of samples, 25 per cent were taken from the age group of less than 18 years, another 50 per cent from 18-49 years age bracket and remaining 25 per cent from those in the age group of 50 years or more, the Delhi Health Minister had said.

Among the people sampled, who had Covid-19 earlier and recovered but did not show antibodies during the survey might have had contracted the disease several months ago at the early stage of

part of this exercise spanned different areas and age groups, gender and economic class. Antibodies against Covid-19 infection were found in 29.1 per cent of people in the August sero-prevalance survey in the national capital, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said last week while announcing its results.

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Among the people sampled, who had Covid-19 earlier and recovered but did not show antibodies during the survey might have had contracted the disease several months ago at the early stage of

the novel coronavirus infection. So, their antibodies (IgG) might have disappeared, experts said. But in most cases, the memory cells would remember the virus and trigger an immune response if a person who has recovered from Covid-19 is again attacked by the virus, they said.

On longevity of antibodies developed in response to Covid-19, Jain on August 20 had said, according to experts these antibodies can last for several months — say 5-8 months — but the body also produces T-cells in response to the infection. These T-cells, also called memory cells, help fight any possible infection again, and so, it is “very rare” that a person who has recovered from Covid-19 will be diagnosed with it again, the health minister had said.

Scientists and experts at Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC) had led the technical team of the August survey.

The sero-prevalence found in northeast district was 29.6 per cent, south district 27.2 per cent, southeast 33.2 per cent and New Delhi 24.6 per cent. The report also said the

participants who were living in or had ever lived in a containment zone in Delhi, had a “significantly higher sero-prevalence” than those who had never lived in it.

Delhi records 4,263 fresh Covid cases, taking tally to over 2.25 lakh; over 62K tests conducted

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital recorded 4,263 fresh Covid-19 cases on Tuesday, taking tally to over 2.25 lakh, with authorities conducting more than 62,000 coronavirus tests.

Thirty-six more fatalities have been recorded, taking the death toll to 4,806, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department. The active cases tally on

Tuesday rose to 29,787 from 28,641 the previous day.

Over 62,000 Covid-19 tests were conducted in the national Capital on Monday, authorities said.

The death toll from Covid-19 in Delhi stood at 4,770 on Monday.

The bulletin on Tuesday said the death toll from coronavirus infection has risen to 4,806 and the total number of cases has climbed to 2,25,796.

17 people, including staff, family members, residing inside Delhi BJP office test +ve

New Delhi: Seventeen people, including staff and their family members living inside the Delhi BJP office, have tested positive for Covid-19 following which the premises will remain closed for sanitisation on Wednesday, party leaders said.

Delhi BJP media cell head Ashok Goel said no party leader or office has tested positive for Covid-19. “All the staff members and their families who live on the Delhi BJP office premises were tested through rapid antigen test on Tuesday.

Seventeen of them including a guard, a driver and two peons have tested positive,” Goel said.

PTI

SC says need to regulate electronic media; Centre bats for journalistic freedom

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is a need to regulate the electronic media as most of the channels are running for TRPs, leading to “more sensationalism”, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday even as the Centre batted for journalistic freedom saying it would be “disastrous” for any democracy to control the Press.

The apex court, making clear it is not suggesting “censorship on media”, said there should be some kind of self-regulation in the media. “Regulating internet is very difficult but we need to regulate the electronic media now,” a bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud said.

The top court said this while hearing a plea which has raised grievance over Sudarshan TV’s “Bindas Bol” programme whose promo had claimed that the channel would show the ‘big expose on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in Government

service’. While the apex court said that some kind of self-regulation in media was needed, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued that “freedom of journalist is supreme”.

“It would be disastrous for any democracy to control press,” Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices Indu Malhotra and KM Joseph.

Mehta said sometimes certain channels are being used for providing medium to accused to point his or her views. Mehta also said that it needs to be seen if a potential accused could be given a platform to air his or her defense. “The problem with electronic media is all about TRPs, thus leading to more and more sensationalism. So many things masquerade as a form of right,” the bench observed. The apex court said the electronic media has “become more powerful than print media and we have not been supportive of pre-broadcast ban”.

SC grants interim protection from arrest to Punjab ex-DGP in 1991 murder case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted interim protection from arrest to former Punjab SGP Sumedh Singh Saini in the 1991 case of alleged murder of a junior engineer Balwant Singh Multani.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, RS Reddy and M R Shah sought response from Punjab government on Saini’s plea challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court order refusing to grant him anticipatory bail in the case. The bench posted the matter for hearing after four weeks and said that Saini is not to be arrested till further orders and he shall

cooperate in the investigation.

During the hearing, the bench questioned the senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for the Punjab Government that what is the hurry in arresting Saini after 29 years of the case. Luthra replied that the former DGP having “Z” plus security is absconding.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Saini, said that he is a decorated officer who had suffered bullet injuries and risen from the ranks.

He said Saini was the Superintendent of Police who went on to become the state’s DGP and did commendable service during Punjab militancy.

Wife of head constable jumps to death from 7th floor in Gurugram

Gurugram: A 36-year-old wife of a head constable of the Haryana Police allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the 7th floor of a residential tower located in district police lines in Gurugram late on Monday night.

The deceased has been identified as Chanchal. She originally hailed from Hansi in Hissar district of Haryana, the police said on Tuesday. According to the police, head constable Rajesh Saini lives along with his family in Tower-C at the police lines and

was currently posted at the Udyog Vihar police station.

Preliminary investigations suggest that a family dispute could be the reason behind the extreme step.

“Family members of the couple were present in Gurugram to resolve the dispute between the couple on Monday night. Later, the woman stepped out towards Tower E and jumped off from the 7th floor and died on the spot,” said Subhash Boken, spokesperson of the Gurugram police. **SR**

Ready for any...

From Page 1

He said on June 6, commanders of both sides agreed on disengagement, but on June 15 China created a face-off at Galwan where Indian forces inflicted “bhari chhati” (heavy damage”) on the Chinese side.

He said Indian soldiers showed “patience and valour” according to time and situation at Galwan and mentioned the supreme sacrifice of Col Santosh Babu and his 19 “brave soldiers”.

While asserting that “none should doubt our determination” to protect the country, the Defence Minister was quick to add that mutual respect and sensitivity was needed to deescalate the situation on the border. He said both the countries are in dialogue with three guiding principles — respect LAC, no one-sided violence and all agreements be duly followed.

The Defence Minister, however, mentioned incident of August 29-30 when he accused China of “provocative action from China” which he said was “foiled by us with timely action”. He said, “China’s action was in full disregard of agreements of 1993-1996” which Indian forces follow but not China which creates face-off situations on the LAC from time-to-time.

Rajnath said in the past stand-offs on the border were resolved but “this time scale of troops involvement and number of friction points, is different”. The Defence Minister, however, asserted that “we are fully ready to accept the situation and challenge”.

On the possibility of de-escalation through dialogue, Rajnath said he himself met his Chinese counterpart in Moscow on September 4 and spoke about armed provocation and aggressive behaviour by Chinese forces and “made it clear that we are committed to

our sovereignty and territorial integrity”. He said Foreign Minister S Jaishankar also met his Chinese counterpart at Moscow and made the point at the border the issue can be resolved if the other side implements agreements “sincerely and faithfully”.

In the beginning of his statement Rajnath gave historical details of the India-China boundary dispute saying while “China does not accept customary and traditional alignment of the boundary, we accept that this alignment is based on well-established geographical principles which are confirmed not only by treaties and agreements but also by historic usage and practices. Both sides are aware of this for centuries”.

He said China has illegally occupied around 38,000 Sq km Indian land in Ladakh, besides 5,180 Sq km in PoK under the so-called 1963 agreement illegally transferred by Pakistan to China. He said China also has claims on 90,000 Sq Km land on the boundary of Arunachal Pradesh. The Defence Minister said China and India have different perception of LAC and border needs to be settled by dialogue and discussion.

NCB has no...

From Page 1

Reacting to Jaya’s scathing criticism, Ravi Kishan said, “I expected Jaya to support what I said. Not everyone in the industry consumes drugs but those who do are part of a plan to finish the world’s largest film industry. When Jaya and I joined, the situation was not like this, but now, we need to protect the industry.”

Actress Kangana soon jumped in, questioning Jaya’s statements. She asked if Jaya would react in the same manner if her daughter or son were affected. Kangana tweeted, “Jaya would you say the same thing if in my place it was your daughter Shweta beaten, drugged and molested as a teenage, would you say the same thing if Abhishek Bachchan complained about bullying and harassment constantly and found hanging one day? Show compassion for us also.”

Coming out in support of Jaya, actress Sonam Kapoor said she wants to be like the veteran actress when she grow up while producer director Anubhav Sinha termed the three-time Rajya Sabha member from the SP as a person with spine. “I send my best regards to Jaya.

Those who don’t know, please see this is how the spinal cord looks,” Anubhav tweeted.

Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu tweeted, “For we have always stood by the initiatives, causes and awareness campaigns. It’s time for payback. Hitting the nail on its head and how! yet again a woman from the industry spoke up #Respect.” “Respect. She has always stood up to be counted when it mattered. #JayaBachchan,” tweeted actor-filmmaker Farhan Akhtar.

“I stand with Jaya as Kangana put it Bollywood is a Gutter so Jaya said Jis thali mein khathe hai ussi mein ched nahi karte And those who hv made a name here don’t spoil the name of Bollywood, as for drugs they made fleeting comments if they know names name them,” tweeted actress-politician Nagma.

Actor-producer Nikhil Dwivedi too took to social media and said Jaya is right. “A false narrative that a certain malaise infects the entire #FilmIndustry is being created by few to look gud in these times. A percentage of people in any field including politics & journalism indulge in thngs illegal or immoral. Call thm out specifically and not ALL,” tweeted Dwivedi.

Indian territory at specific positions across the border.

“The entire country is proud of the armed forces and that is why we are talking here. But why is the Prime Minister shying away from a discussion?” he asked.

“Our questions are very straight forward. Has China occupied Indian territory? Have the Chinese encroached on Depsang Plains, Gogra, Pangong-Tso Lake till Finger 8, Y-junction in Bhutan, Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and in Arunachal Pradesh. The Government must answer these questions,” said

Surjewala.

He said the Prime Minister should apologise to the nation if the answers to the questions asked by the Congress are affirmative as he had told an all-party meeting on June 19 that the Chinese have not entered and occupied Indian territory.

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the Prime Minister’s absence from Parliament when the Defence Minister made a statement on the India-China situation showed that the Government was afraid of a discussion on the face-off.

Modi...

From Page 1

After independence, Bihar was led by visionary leaders who tried their best to remove the distortions which developed during the era of slavery. He said thereafter there was a lopsided development with changed priorities which resulted in urban infrastructure degradation and collapse of the rural infrastructure in the state.

The Prime Minister said when selfishness overtakes governance and the vote bank politics come into play then the already marginalised and deprived would be the most affected. He said people of Bihar have endured this pain for decades when the basic needs like water and sewerage are not met. He said people contract diseases by drinking dirty water under compulsion and a large part of his earnings goes to treatment. Under these circumstances, a very large section in Bihar had accepted debt, disease, helplessness, illiteracy as his fate.

The PM said in the last 4-5 years, lakhs of families have been provided access to drinking water in the urban areas of Bihar under the Mission AMRUT and State Government schemes. In the coming years, Bihar will be among those States, where every house will have piped water supply.

“For the Congress party, the country is the most important. We are proud of our armed forces. This Government did not allow us to speak in Parliament. They are afraid of the Congress asking questions that they will not be able to answer,” he said.

“It is our entitlement to put forward our views. When the Defence Minister made a statement on the India-China situation in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister was not present. He is afraid of conducting a discussion on the issue in Parliament,” Chowdhury alleged.

India walks out of SCO meet...

From Page 1

They said Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the National Security Council of the Russian Federation, has conveyed that Russia does not support what Pakistan has done.

Unable to reconcile to abrogation of Article 370 giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir last year, Pakistan recently released it new political map on August 4 which presented Indian union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and parts of Gujarat as its own territories. The map was released on the eve of the first anniversary of scrapping of Article 370. India had then labelled Pakistan’s move as an “exercise in political absurdity” without any legal basis.

The NSA’s message to Pakistan by walking out came weeks after India pulled out of the multinational military exercises under the aegis of the SCO in southern Russia. The withdrawal came in the backdrop of the stand-offs at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh between the Indian and Chinese armies and already fragile relations with Pakistan. Both these countries are part of the SCO and participating in the exercise. Incidentally, India had taken part in a similar SCO exercise last year along with China and Pakistan.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had travelled last week to take part in the SCO conclave. Both these Ministers held bilateral meetings with their Chinese counterparts Wei Fenghe and Wang Yi respectively to defuse tension at the LAC. The two countries had agreed to continue holding dialogue to ensure speedy de-escalation and disengagement at the earliest.

India’s Covid-19...

From Page 1

As far as fatality, the country has an impressive record of a mere 1.64 per cent death due to Covid-19. This is nearly half the global average of death due to pandemic. India is constantly recording 1,100 plus deaths every day for the last month. Maharashtra’s Tuesday’s fatality tally of 515 is more than 495 deaths recorded in the State on September 10. With the fresh deaths reported on Tuesday, the

total deaths mounted from 29,894 to 30,409. With 20,482 fresh infections, the total infected cases in the State jumped from 10,77,374 to 10,97,856. Of the total 515 deaths reported on Tuesday, Nagpur accounted for a maximum of 88 deaths, while there were 60 deaths in Thane, 50 in Pune, 49 each in Mumbai and Kolhapur, 38 in Sangli, 22 each in Ahmednagar and Jalgaon, 16 in Solapur, 14 in Raigad, 13 in Latur and 10 each in Palghar, Nashik and Aurangabad.

SC’s interim stay on Bidas...

From Page 1

The bench, also comprising Justices Indu Malhotra and KM Joseph, suggested that a committee can be appointed to help in self-regulating the electronic media.

“We are of the opinion that we may appoint a committee of five distinguished citizens who can come up with certain standards for the electronic media. We don’t want any politically divisive nature and we need members who are of commendable stature,” the bench said.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner has sought reliefs, including injunction on broadcasting of the programme whose promo had claimed that channel would show the ‘big expose on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service’.

The bench, which said it is necessary to hear the matter further, observed that court is duty bound to preserve the “salutary principles”. It referred to the Cable TV rules and said that “defamatory, false and reflective of half-truth and innuendos” must not be shown.

The bench said that pending further orders, the channel is “injunction from making any more broadcasts on this subject on any other name too”.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Sudarshan TV, told the bench that the channel considered it as an investigative story on national security and the programme has 10 episodes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Chhatar Singh S/o Shri Tota ram Saini R/o House No.RZ-H-30, Street No.2, Raj Nagar-II, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045 has disowned his son Yugdeep Saini, and daughter-in-law Deepa from all his moveable and immoveable properties, due to disobedience, misconduct towards him, my client shall not be responsible for any acts of them in future.

Pawan Kumar (Advocate)
(District & High Court of Delhi)
309, Vardhman Prasad Plaza, Pkt-6, Sec-12, Dwarka, New Delhi-75



The Valley License No.- 45 of 2018, Dated 29/06/2018

DRAW OF FLATS

This is to inform that the draw of 721 No. flats against 36 applicants of Affordable Group Housing Colony, THE VALLEY, situated in the licensed granted area in Sector-78, Gurugram, Haryana being developed by M/s Revital Reality Pvt. Ltd. will be held on Friday, 18th September, 2020 at 4:00 PM in The Nirvana Patio Club, Sector 50, South City - II, Gurugram, in the presence of government officials. All the applicants are invited to attend the draw of flats.

If any applicant wants to check his/her name in the list, he/she may contact STP Office, Gurugram as well as the Office of Colonizer before draw of lots.

For entry, please carry your acknowledgement or any valid applicant ID proof.

REERA NO.: RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/2018/20

M/S REVITAL REALITY PVT. LTD.
Corp. Off.: Supertech E Square, Plot No. C2, Sector 96, Noida - 201303 | www.supertechlimited.com



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
CENTRAL CIRCLE (R&B) NIRMAN
SODUHA, PHASE-II, 2ND FLOOR, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail ID: secbbsrs@gmail.com

e-Procurement Tender Call Notice No. 2 of 2020-21


No 2101 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 11th September 2020

The Superintending Engineer, Centra Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Government of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for two number of Composite Building work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in:https://tendersorissa.gov.in. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 5.00 PM of 24.09.2020 to 5:00 PM of 8.10.2020. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11:00 AM of 09.10.2020 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Addendum/Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/-Er. G.C.Sahu
Superintending Engineer
Central Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar

OIPR-34005/11/0004/2021



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE: BALANGIR
e - Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION No: SE(R&B) BGR / 03/ 2020-21

No. 1564 // Dtd. 10.09.2020

- The Superintending Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Bolangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A/ Special Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.
- Nature of Work : Building work
- No. of tender : Building : 05 Nos.
- Tender Cost : Rs.10, 000/-
- Class of Contractor : B/A/ Special Class.
- Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids : From Dt.21.09.2020, 10.00 A.M. to Dt.05 .10.2020 up to 05.00 P.M.
- Date of opening Bid : Dt.07.10.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

OIPR-34131/11/0003/2021

Superintending Engineer
Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir

Delhi riots: FB skips House panel meet, Committee warns action

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly “committee on peace and harmony” expressed displeasure over flouting the directions of the notice issued to Facebook India’s vice-president and managing director Ajit Mohan by not appearing before the committee on Tuesday, which is looking into Facebook’s alleged role in Delhi riots in February.

Chairman of the committee Raghav Chadha said the Delhi legislative committee is operating in its constitutionally lawful jurisdiction and does not conflict or weaken the jurisdiction of the Central Government on similar issues.

As per the judgment of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India in

State (NCT of Delhi) v. Union of India (2018) 8 SCC 501, the Legislative Assembly of the NCT of Delhi has legislative powers in respect of these subjects, and the Government of Delhi has the exclusive executive power in respect of the same, he said, adding that the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Legislative Assembly (Assembly Conduct Rules) that have been framed under Section 33 of the GNCTD Act provides this committee the powers to summon and ensure the presence of witnesses.

It was also noted by the committee that despite being crystal clear about the objective behind calling the Facebook Officials, which on the face of it is distinguishable from that of

- Chairman of the committee Raghav Chadha said the Delhi legislative committee is operating in its constitutionally lawful jurisdiction and does not conflict or weaken the jurisdiction of the Central Government on similar issues
- The committee also clarified to the Facebook once again that refusal to appear before the committee for reasons which are evidently untenable in law and facts, gives the committee the impression that they are attempting to conceal crucial facts in relation to Facebook’s role in the February 2020 violence/riots in Delhi



the Parliamentary committee, Facebook chose to dishonour the powers and privileges of the committee in the garb of obliging with the directives of the Parliamentary Committee.

Chadha also clarified that the notice of appearance issued to Facebook is directly related

to the incidents of violence/riots that occurred in the NCT of Delhi in February, 2020, whereas the proceedings in Parliament are on the subject ‘Safeguarding citizens’ rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms including special

emphasis on women security in the digital space’.

“It is manifest from a perusal of this notice that the proceedings before the Parliament are in no way connected to the role of Facebook in the riots/violence in the NCT of Delhi in February,

2020. Therefore, the Committee considers this nothing but an untenable excuse by Facebook to defy the summons issued to them for examination on oath,” he said.

It was further decided by the committee that in the event of subsequent default in complying to the orders of the committee it shall be constrained to proceed against the Facebook India for committing the breach of committee’s privilege which shall follow consequent penal jurisdiction of the house under the relevant laws and rules and regulation.

It is also noted that the powers and privileges of the members and committees of the Delhi Legislative Assembly are sourced from Section 18 of the Government of National Capital

Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 (“GNCTD Act”). Sub-section (3) thereof provides that the powers, privileges, and immunities of the Legislative Assembly, its members, and committees, would be the same as those enjoyed by the House of People, i.e. the Lok Sabha and its members and committees. This is pari-materia with Article 105 of the Constitution of India.

The committee also clarified to the Facebook once again that refusal to appear before the committee for reasons which are evidently untenable in law and facts, gives the committee the impression that they are attempting to conceal crucial facts in relation to Facebook’s role in the February 2020 violence/riots in Delhi and thus as a note of caution

that the Committee advises as well as commands the to ensure your appearance in person on the next date of meeting, failing to which will be admitted as an intelligible breach of privilege and shall ensue the lawful and legal adverse actions against yourself.

Chadha also reminded the backdrop wherein the very inception of the committee finds its roots to the incident of unfortunate communal riots witnessed by the city after decades in the month of February this year. “In order to avoid any such mis-happening again in future as well as mitigate the damage and communal hatred spread in the society as the aftermath of deadly riots, the committee has been tirelessly working with the same objective,” he said.

AAP alleges BJP bringing in anti-farmer privatisation laws

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for bringing ‘anti-farmer laws’ like Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance 2020.

Addressing the media, Lok Sabha Member of Parliament Bhagwant Mann and Delhi MLA Jarnail Singh said that these bills are a step towards privatising the farming industry; ‘minimum support price’ will be finished and these bills will give free hand to the private players.

Jarnail Singh also said that the party believes that this bill is another step towards the devastation of Indian farmers. “In Punjab, Bharatiya Janata Party’s ally is Shiromani Akali Dal and they have also ruled Punjab for many years. While the farmers of Punjab are protesting against this bill then why Shiromani Akali Dal has not opposed this bill. The AAP



AAP Lok Sabha MP Bhagwant Mann and MLA Jarnail Singh addresses a Press conference at Rouse Avenue in New Delhi on Tuesday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

will oppose this bill in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. All the MPs of the APP will stand united in opposition to this bill and will stand for the rights of the farmers,” he said.

Party senior leader Bhagwant Mann said, “We are also opposing the ‘Essential Commodities (Amendment) ordinance 2020’. The most unfortunate part is that the two Shiromani Akali Dal MPs supported this ordinance. The SAD has two MPs in Lok

Sabha, Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal and Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal who is also a Cabinet minister. To save a cabinet post, the Shiromani Akali Dal has sold out the rights of the farmers of Punjab.

Mann said that this bill will not only destroy the lives of farmers but also this will destroy the lives of agricultural labourers, people of tractor industry, transportation industry and those working in the mandis and others.

DMRC launches i-ATS for signaling system

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) took a major step towards the development of an indigenously built Communication Based Train Control (CBTC)-based signalling technology for metro railway with the launch of i-ATS, which is an important sub system of the signalling system.

This prototype system as well as a state of the art laboratory for further developing other sub- systems of indigenous CBTC technology was inaugurated on Tuesday at Shastri Park by Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in the presence of DMRC’s Managing Director Dr Mangu Singh, Shikha Gupta, Director, BEL and other senior officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Mishra said, “It is a really proud occasion to start something like this which is going to add to our strength on the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The way we have promoted indigenisation in the development of Metros in the country, I am fully confident that this Indian system will also be sold outside and we will be the leaders in this area as well.”

Dr Mangu Singh termed this achievement as a major



DMRC MD Mangu Singh and MoHUA Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra at the inauguration of the technology

step forward towards the development of indigenous technologies required for the operation of Metro rail systems. “This is a very important step towards the development of an indigenous CBTC system. I am sure that we will be able to work together and scale newer heights to completely indigenise Metro railway construction as well as operations,” he said.

Automatic Train Supervision (ATS) is a computer based system, which manages train operations. This system is indispensable for high density operations such as the Metro, where services are

- DMRC has decided to use indigenous ATS (i-ATS) while upgrading the ATS of line 1 (Red Line) i.e. from Rithala to Shaheed Sthal, Ghaziabad. The same shall also be used in Phase 4. Some of the important features of this technology are:
- It can work with Train Control & Signalling Systems of

- different suppliers
- i-ATS can work with different levels of technology of Train control and Signalling systems
- It is also suitable for introduction in Indian Railways which is now introducing Centralised Train control, on a large scale, which uses part of ATS functions



scheduled every few minutes. i-ATS is the indigenously developed technology, which will significantly reduce the dependence of Indian Metros on foreign vendors dealing with such technologies.

Technology systems such as the CBTC are primarily controlled by the European countries and Japan. As part of the ‘Make in India’ initiative of the Government of India, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) had decided to indigenise the CBTC technology.

Along with DMRC, Niti Aayog, MoHUA, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and

CDAC are part of this development. DMRC has been nominated to lead this important ‘Make in India’ initiative.

To take the project forward, DMRC and BEL entered into a MoU for development of this indigenous ATS system. A dedicated team of DMRC and BEL, Ghaziabad worked together round the clock to take this important step towards ‘Atma Nirbhar Bharat’.

“DMRC has decided to use indigenous ATS (i-ATS) while upgrading the ATS of line 1 (Red Line) i.e. from Rithala to Shaheed Sthal, Ghaziabad. The same shall also be used in Phase 4,” it said.

Faculty of Music and Fine Arts, DU, holds two-day virtual Malhar Utsav-2020

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It was a musical treat in the virtual world as the Faculty of Music and Fine Arts, Delhi University, took the bold step of organising the two-day “Annual Malhar Utsav-2020”, undeterred by the current Covid pandemic.

It was the first-ever virtual live music festiva, streaming online on Youtube, with Indian classical music concerts by the country’s renowned artistes like the Sargam Choir presentation in Raga Amritavarshini by the students of Delhi University Faculty of Fine Arts and Music conducted by Dr Prashant G Pai and two soulful performances by Pandit Shashank

Maktedar from Goa who rendered Raga Gaud Malhar and Veena by Tirupati Srivani Yalla from Andhra Pradesh.

The concluding saw another captivating performance by the famous Bengaluru duo, the Kanchana sisters who enthralled with rare compositions in ragas Amritavahini, Varunpriya and Raag Megh Malhar. The Malhar Utsav concluded with a scintillating sitar recital by Ustad Saeed Zafar Khan in Raga Miyan Ki Malhar, and a Tabla Solo by Pandit Vinod Lele from Delhi who performed Teental with remarkable precision and command. He was accompanied on Harmonium by Dr Vinay Kumar Mishra.

88,000 liters oil stolen from over 120 transformers in BSES areas in 18 months

New Delhi: In the last 18 months, around 88,000 liters oil has been stolen from over 120 transformers in BSES areas, the discom official said, adding that of these, around 40 cases are from April 2020.

According to BSES spokesperson, “These incidents of oil theft can cause a lot of inconvenience to the residents. We appeal to our consumers to be vigilant and if they or the colony security guards find anyone suspicious near an electricity substation/transformer, they should check the person’s ID and immediately alert BRPL on 19123 or BYPL on 19122 or call police on 100. Let us join hands to fight this menace.”

“Removing oil from the transformer has the potential of severely damaging it, besides causing power outages. Leaking oil from a transformer can also lead to a fire hazard. BSES has taken these incidents very seriously and registered FIRs in various police stations,” the discom said in a statement. SR

2 drivers who lost jobs during lockdown held for robbery

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two drivers, who lost their jobs during the lockdown, were arrested for allegedly robbing a person after giving him lift in a cab in west Delhi’s Dwarka area.

The accused have been identified as Dharmendra Dabas (44), a resident of Salahpur Majra Dabas, and Vikash (29), a resident of Kanjhawala area. Police said that Dabas was a cab driver and Vikash was a Delhi

Transport Corporation (DTC) cluster bus driver.

According to Santosh Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka district, on the intervening night of September 4 and 5, police received information regarding a robbery.

“It was found that complainant Rakesh Gupta was at a bus stop near IFFCO Chowk, Gurgaon, when two persons in a taxi offered him a lift to Dwarka Mod. When they

reached Dwarka, they both held him at the gun point and robbed him of cash Rs 700, a few documents and a mobile phone. They pushed him out of the car and fled from the spot,” said the DCP.

“During investigation, the complainant’s mobile phone was put under surveillance. On Sunday, the phone was found active in Kanjhawala area. Thereafter, raids were conducted and the accused persons were apprehended on Sunday evening,” said the DCP.

Okhla Bird Sanctuary opens after 5 months

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With all precautions and instructions for ornithologists, Okhla Bird Sanctuary opened on Tuesday after five months of lockdown.

Forest official told to *The Pioneer* that to monitor the birds cameras have been installed, a new command centre, sitting at birding point, shelters and signage have been fitted parallel to the canal for utmost bird watching experience.

Spread over 2.5 km long stretch, the bird sanctuary is favourite spot for bird watchers and been declared eco-sensitive zone of the Gautam Buddha Nagar district, Noida (UP).

The sanctuary was shut for bird watchers due to Covid-19 pandemic.

According to ornithologists, the sanctuary is a home for 300 plus Indian birds while migratory birds also pay visit for breeding during the harsh winter span of three to four months.


To contain the virus spread in sanctuary vicinity, contactless sanitiser stand is placed at the entry point while official has been appointed to monitor the temperature of visitors.



“Visitors will be scanned for temperature, hands will be sanitised, mask is essential,” we have installed signboard to keep aware visitors.”

Interestingly, to keep accurate count, the administration has installed camera to motor birds for the upcoming birding season — October 2020 to March 2021.

With different 115 species, the bird sanctuary has a record of hosting 21,000 birds. Closest to Delhi, the bird sanctuary is a centre of attraction for bird watchers, ecologists and ornithologists.



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EXTRACT FROM THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 TH JUNE 2020							
(₹ in Lakhs)							
S. N.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED	
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)		30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	
1	Total Income from operations	283790	304006	260982	1319186	283790	304006
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) from operations before exceptional items and tax	15150	6504	(9676)	13614	14958	5574
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) before tax after exceptional items	15150	(32381)	(9676)	(25271)	14958	(33311)
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax	11023	(23935)	(6402)	(17101)	10831	(24865)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/ (Loss) and Other Comprehensive Income for the period	10954	(26205)	(6478)	(19631)	10762	(27135)
6	Equity Share Capital	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	143036	-	-
8	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each)*						
	(a) Basic	2.25	(4.88)	(1.30)	(3.49)	2.21	(5.07)
	(b) Diluted	2.25	(4.88)	(1.30)	(3.49)	2.21	(5.07)
* Not annualised in case of quarterly figures							

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges websites, www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and website of the Company www.nationalfertilizers.com.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/-
(Virendra Nath Datt)
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN : 07823778

Place : Noida
Dated: September 15, 2020

NFL : FARMER'S FRIEND, NATION'S PRIDE

LS passes Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

Another Bill cleared for 30% cut in MPs' salaries



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid Opposition's reservations about the possible entry of corporate houses, the Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed amendments to the Essential Commodities Act and a Bill mooting 30 per cent salary cuts for MPs in the wake of economic constraints due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Though the MPs supported the salary cut, a majority of them demanded the restoration of the MPLADS funds citing its need for the development in their respective constituencies.

BJP ally Akali Dal urged the Government to clear the doubts in the minds of farmers on many points mentioned in the amendments to the Essential Commodities Act. Akali Dal's Sukhbir Singh Badal questioned the manner in which the ordinance was brought without having any consultation with farmers' organisations. "The most affected are the farmers from Punjab. The farmers want clarification of their doubts; they fear that the multinationals will initially offer lucrative deals and then dominate the market," said Badal.

Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said there are a lot of ambiguities in the amendments and this would open up the entry of big industries to enter into the

stock holding and distribution of agriculture products. "This is a way to make hoarders 'Atmanirbhar'," he said in a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for becoming self-reliant.

"The hoarders can create multiple entities to stock commodities. It is a highly centralised law. Under the law, licences are not required for purchasing produces. Why does this government rely all the time on the ordinance route? What was the link between the ordinance and the pandemic, the Government should explain," added Chowdhury.

Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Raosaheb Patil Danve said: "The 1955 Act was brought at a time when we faced food scarcity, now we have surplus agriculture production. In order to reduce the losses, we should have food processing units, due to non availability of cold storages, farmers suffer losses. The proposed amendment will encourage competition and it will help farmers get fair price for their produces. The consumers will also benefit," he said.

Supporting the amendments, Bhartruhari Mahtab from BJD, said there was a need to remove many restrictions in trade of agricultural commodities. "This reform will improve agricultural production, the Government should have done away with restriction on exports. We are self sufficient in food grains, we can counter China's loan diplomacy with food diplo-

House nod to Bill for statutory status to aviation regulators

Violators to pay penalty up to ₹1 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed 'The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020' providing for statutory backing to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) and entailing increasing the fine for violations from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore. The Bill was passed by a voice vote after an hour-long discussion. The legislation had already been cleared by the Lok Sabha in March this year.

Under the new Act (after its implementation), any violation will attract heavy punishment, for example, violators will be punished up to two years in jail or fine up to ₹10 lakh or both. Carrying arms, ammunition, and explosives or other banned goods on board, and developing illegal construction around the airports will attract fines up to ₹10 lakhs to ₹1 crore.

Replying to the debate, Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that the Government in the last three years has recruited 1,000 air traffic controllers as against requirement of 3,500 such officials. "India is the third largest market globally after the United States and China, and

macy," he said.

Earlier, Lok Sabha passed the bill reducing MPs' salary by 30%. "The Government has taken unprecedented mea-



India is growing rapidly in the aviation sector, in terms of passengers' growth and aircraft in the skies," he said.

Earlier, opposition parties had opposed the Bill, and Congress' Rajyasabha MP KC Venugopal raised concern over "many vacancies in the aviation industry". He also pointed out to the near-misses of the aircraft in the skies for last many years.

Former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel said that airlines are financially stressed due to COVID-19 and need support from the government. Stating the importance of civil aviation sector in the country, he said: "Four to five per cent people of the country board flights one time in a year. If this number goes up to 10-15 per cent, we would need a huge increase in the number of airports and aircraft."

Replying to issues raised by Congress member, Puri said Venugopal should look at the issue of privatisation in historical context. The country's

largest airports Delhi and Mumbai were successfully privatised in 2006 under a previous political dispensation, and proceeds from the process have resulted in getting resources to develop airport infrastructure in the country, he noted. Since the privatisation of Mumbai and Delhi airports, the Airports Authority of India has received ₹29,000 crore, Puri said.

On the Congress' charge of allotting six airports to one group, Puri said the Delhi and Mumbai airports account for 33 per cent of air traffic and earnings. The six airports that were awarded in 2018 together account for only nine per cent of traffic and earnings, he said.

On Air India's privatisation, he said, "If I could help it, we would keep it, but with ₹60,000 crore debt, the choice is not between privatisation and not privatisation. Some of my colleagues should realise that the choice is between privatisation and closing down."

However, majority of the MPs urged the Government to restore the MPLADS funds for the development of local areas.

Bill brought in Rajya Sabha to give 'national importance' tag to three Jamnagar-based Ayurveda institutes



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Bill that seeks to accord the status of an institution of national importance to a Jamnagar-based cluster of three Ayurveda institutes — Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Gulabkunwerba Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya and Institute of Ayurveda Pharmaceutical Sciences was introduced in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Approved by Lok Sabha in the last session, the Bill 'The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020,' was introduced by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday here.

Moving the Bill for passage, Vardhan said this for the promotion of quality and excellence in education, research and training in

Ayurveda and allied disciplines.

"This is going to be the first institution in the country in the field of Ayurveda to be given the status of an institution of national importance. This is one of the oldest in the country under the Government sector. 10 per cent of Ayurveda research publications are from this institute," he said.

The Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda is the only centre, which is a WHO collaborating centre and is the only institution, where PG and research facility is available.

"This is a first attempt to give such recognition to an Ayurveda institution, which has already attained an international stature," the Minister added.

head, ₹2.52 lakh crore was spent, such is the efficiency," said Chowdhury, urging BJP MPs to pressurise the Government for the restoration of the MPLADS scheme.

3 States account for 48.8% of total active Covid cases in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Of the nearly 10 lakh active cases in the country, at least close to half (48.8 per cent) are concentrated in three States — Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh while Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Kerala and Telangana contribute close to a quarter (24.4 per cent) of the active cases.

In contrast, there are 14 states and Union territories where the total number of active cases are less than 5,000 while 18 States and Union territories are reporting cases between 5,000-50,000, the government said on Tuesday as the country's tally went past 49 lakh.

India's Covid-19 tally surged to 4,930,236 on Tuesday after 83,809 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours, according to the Union health ministry.

The country also recorded 1,054 new fatalities due to the viral disease during the same period, taking its death toll to 80,776.

Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary said during a press conference here that there are 990,061 active cases and 38,59,399 patients have been discharged across the country.

He added there are only four states, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, in the country where the total number of active cases is more than 50,000.

Bhushan also said the country's average positivity rate is 8.4% and that Maharashtra, the worst-hit state, has 21.4 per cent. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, he said account for 60 per cent of total active cases in the country.

Fake news triggered unexpected movement of migrants during lockdown, Parliament told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday told Parliament that unexpected movement of large number of migrant workers during lockdown was triggered by panic created by fake news.

"The migration of a large number of migrant workers was triggered by panic created by fake news regarding the duration of lockdown. And people, especially migrant labourers, were worried about an adequate supply of basic necessities like

food, drinking water, health services and shelter. However, the central government was fully conscious of this, and took all necessary measures to ensure that during the period of the inevitable lockdown, no citizen should be deprived of basic amenities of food, drinking water, medical facilities etc," MoS Home G Kishan Reddy said in a reply to an unstarred question by TMC MP Mala Roy. She had asked the reasons why thousands of these labourers ended up walking home post lockdown.

However, in reply to MP Mala Roy's another question regarding the number of people who died during the said migration, the Minister said the Centre does not have the data as it is not maintained centrally.

The MHA further listed out the measures taken to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the country. On Monday, Union Minister of Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar had informed Parliament that the exodus saw over one crore migrant workers return to their native States.

Key accused in Vizag Espionage case in NIA net

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA has arrested a key accused in Visakhapatnam Espionage Case, Giteli Imran (37), a resident of Panchmahal, Godhra, Gujarat.

The Visakhapatnam Espionage Case of NIA, Hyderabad was registered under various sections of IPC including criminal conspiracy and waging war against the nation

besides relevant provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Official Secrets Act for his involvement in espionage activities and working for Pak ISI. The case relates to an international espionage racket in which Pakistan-based spies recruited agents in India for collecting sensitive and classified information on movement of Indian Naval Ships and Submarines.

Flood forecasting, its efficacy should be evaluated by independent expert: RS panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha's Committee on Petitions has recommended that the country's entire flood forecasting network and its overall efficacy should be evaluated by an independent, third party expert. The Committee also recommended building of more flood forecasting stations, especially in States and adoption of latest technology being used in other countries to forecast floods accurately.

The Committee, headed by Prasanna Acharya, tabled its report in the Upper House, on the petition moved by Prof Raj Kachroo, a resident of Gurugram, Haryana 'praying for development of capacity to make real time forecasting of floods so as to issue timely warning to the affected people'. The panel recommended both the Centre and the State government to bring an immediate end to illegal construction activities and vegetation on flood plains across the country.

The Committee has asked the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to encourage C-DAC to specifically develop supercomputer for flood forecasting system and implement 2D/3D distributed model on a very fine resolution grid for better prediction thereby increasing data size.

The Committee further recommends that the latest forecasting techniques presently being used by the other countries are required to be studied and a suitable method required to be adopted for purpose of the forecast.

The petition highlights the issues of negligence and inattention on parts of the Ministry

413 earthquakes recorded from Mar 1 to Sept 8 in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two tremors jolted India every day on an average over the last six months. The National Seismological Network recorded 413 earthquakes in the country between March 1 and September 8 this year. Fortunately, 135 out of them were of magnitude 3.0 or lower which are "usually not felt". The Ministry of Earth Sciences informed the Rajya Sabha about the quakes on Tuesday and also enlisted that there were five cyclones over the Arabian Sea in 2019 against the average of one per year. Also, 2019 witnessed the development of more intense cyclones over the Arabian Sea.

of Jal Shakti (erstwhile Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) and Ministry of Science and Technology in developing capacity for real time forecasting of floods and management of reservoirs, lack of any significant effort made by the Central Water Commission (CWC) in developing real time flood forecasting, exigency of developing the required expertise and capacity at home by roping in Universities across the country, and necessity of having legislation on Dam Safety.

Calling for evaluation of the entire flood forecasting network, the Committee recommended resolving the shortcomings.

OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED					
CIN : L28219HR1988PLC030347					
Regd. Office: Plot No. 17, Roz-Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Tehsil Nuh, District - Mewat, Haryana -122103, India					
E-mail : investor.relations@okplay.in, Website: www.okplay.in					
EXTRACTS OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 TH JUNE, 2020					
(Rs.in lacs)					
Sl No	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated	
		Quarter Ended 30.06.2020	Year ended 30.06.2019	Quarter Ended 31.03.2020	Year ended 31.03.2019
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited
1	Total Revenue from operations	499.66	2,946.50	6,867.98	617.40
2	Net Profit/(Loss) before Exceptional items and tax	(420.09)	65.76	(707.27)	186.25
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	(422.67)	67.49	(752.34)	187.98
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	(422.67)	53.60	(274.18)	149.35
5	Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	(422.67)	53.60	(271.35)	149.35
6	Equity Share Capital	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81	1,920.81
7	Other Equity (Reserves excluding revaluation reserve)	-	-	3,992.92	-
8	Earning per share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
(a)	Basic (in Rs.)	(2.20)	0.28	(1.41)	0.78
(b)	Diluted (in Rs.)	(2.20)	0.28	(1.41)	0.78
NOTES:					
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of quarterly financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website (www.okplay.in).					
b The above standalone and consolidated financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 15 th September, 2020.					
for OK Play India Limited					
Sd/-					
RAJAN HANDA					
MANAGING DIRECTOR					
DIN - 00194590					
Place : New Delhi					
Dated : 15 th September, 2020					

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, SIRSA	DNIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SHED FOR CAR PARKING, STUDENTS PARKING UNDERGROUND TANK AND CONCERTINA COIL ON NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BOUNDARY WALL IN CAMPUS OF GOVT. COLLEGE AT KALANWALI IN SIRSA DISTT. (CM ANNOUNCEMENT CODE NO. 10484 DATED 20.07.2015) + 2 OTHER WORKS	15.09.2020 29.09.2020	88.65 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-220530 pwd-eeep1-sirsa@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R YAMUNA NAGAR	RE-INVOKE CONSTRUCTION OF INDOOR BADMINTON HALL IN GYMKHANA CLUB AT SEC-17, HUDA JAGADPHRI IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT + 2 OTHER WORKS	19.09.2020 30.09.2020	118.11 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	pwd-eeepd-yamunaganar@hry.nic.in01732-237834
3	PWD B&R SONIPAT	IMPROVEMENT BY PROVIDING WIDENING, STRENGTHENING & 20MM THICK PC ON VARIOUS ROAD (ROAD ID 6154 & 6174) OF BARODA CONSTITUENCY IN PROVINCIAL DIVISION NES). IN SONEPAT DISTT + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 24.09.2020	121.94 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2244690 pwd-eeep1-sonapat@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, AMBALA	PGD. FOUR LANE ROAD FROM KALANAU TO KAIL UPTO GURUDWARA FROM (RD 71.64 TO 94.772 + 23.132 KM) (CITY PORTION OF YAMUNA NAGAR) IN THE STATE OF HARYANA & ROAD TRANSFERRED FROM NHAI TO PWD B&R IN DISTT. YAMUNA NAGAR (PGD. SHIFTING OF HT/LT LINES).	18.09.2020 05.10.2020	71.30 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2630877 pwd-eeed-ambala@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, AMBALA	UP-GRADATION OF CIVIL HOSPITAL FROM 200 BEDDED TO 300 BEDDED AMBALA CITY IN AMBALA DISTT. (PGD. MEDICAL GAS PIPE LINE & MODULAR OT'S SYSTEM).	17.09.2020 05.10.2020	496.16LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2630877 pwd-eeed-ambala@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R, REWARI	CONSTRUCTION OF FOOT OVER BRIDGE TO CONNECT TRUMA CENTER TO CIVIL HOSPITAL IN REWARI DISTRICT (CM ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 22170 DATED 14.06.2018)(RE-INVITED)	16.09.2020 01.10.2020	133.91 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-253703 / pwd-eeepd-rewari@hry.nic.in
7	PWD B&R GURGAON	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. COLLEGE RITHO - SOHNA IN DISTRICT GURUGRAM (PGD. 30 HOLOGRAM, VIRTUAL REALITY BASED EDUCATIONAL APPLICATIONS)	14.09.2020 28.09.2020	19.02 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Pwd-eeed-gurgaon@hry.nic.in 0124-2320874
8	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AMBALA	PROVIDING 1 NO. TUBEWELL IN PLACE OF FAILED TW, FHTC AND LYING OF DI PIPELINE IN BALANCE STREETS UNDER JALJEVAN MISSION IN VILLAGE KAULAPUR, DISTT. KURUKSHETRA UNDER JJM EMD AMT. RS. 1550/-	15.09.2020 25.09.2020	7.75 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2631402 eemambala@phedharyana.gov.in
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE BLOCK HANSI-II DISTT HISAR	SUPPLY OF VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS IN ALL VILLAGES OF BLOCK HANSI-II DISTT HISAR. (GROUP-1 TO GROUP-12)	15.09.2020 30.09.2020	6.89 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8684957080 bdpo.hansi1@hry.nic.in
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE BLOCK AGROHA DISTT HISAR	SUPPLY OF VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS IN ALL VILLAGES OF BLOCK AGROHA DISTT HISAR. (GROUP-1 TO GROUP-12)	14.09.2020 29.09.2020	6.78 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9555225121 bdpo.agroha@hry.nic.in
11	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE BLOCK NARNAUND DISTT HISAR	SUPPLY OF VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS IN ALL VILLAGES OF BLOCK NARNAUND DISTT HISAR. (GROUP-1 TO GROUP-12)	14.09.2020 29.09.2020	6.94 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8684957080 bdpo.narnauund@gmail.com
12	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE BLOCK HISAR-I DISTT HISAR	SUPPLY OF VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS IN ALL VILLAGES OF BLOCK HISAR-I DISTT HISAR. (GROUP-1 TO GROUP-12)	12.09.2020 28.09.2020	7.75 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466304428 bdpo.hisar1@hry.nic.in
13	HARYANA IRRIGATION RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (HIRM), KURUKSHETRA	SUPPLY OF MANPOWER THROUGH OUTSOURCING POLICY ON D.C. RATES FOR THE YEAR 2020-21	11.09.2020 21.09.2020	EMD 30,000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01744-239533/ 9466751473 hirmi2002@gmail.com
14	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA LOHARU	CONSTRUCTION OF V.R. BRIDGE SYPHON AT RD 10200 BARALOO MINOR + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 28.09.2020	22.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416288857 loharundivision1@gmail.com
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BPO JULANA	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK JULANA DISTT. JIND	16.09.2020 30.09.2020	50000/- (FOR EACH GROUP	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	bdpo.julana@hry.nic.in 81683-06629
16	ADC, OFFICE KARNAL	PURCHASE OF 112 TRICYCLES/ GARBAGE RICKSHAW REHRI.	16.09.2020 30.09.2020	EMD 50000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	98120-63408 knlhssbm.gov.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in						
RO NO. 82800						

Notice of Loss of Shares of Hindustan Unilever Limited (Formerly Hindustan Lever Limited)			
Regd. Off. : Hindustan Unilever Limited, Unilever House, B D Savani Marg, Chokkila, Andheri (East) Mumbai-400099			
Notice is hereby given that the following share certificates have been reported as lost / misplaced & the company intends to issue duplicate certificates in lieu thereof, in due course. Any person who has a valid claim on the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered Office within 15 days hereof.			
Name of the holder	Folio No.	No. of Shares (Rs.1/-s)	Certificate No. (s)
Dwendra	HL013498	830	5002391
Raj Mehta	HL020398	320	5256037
Place : Delhi		Date : 15-09-2020	

NOTICE	
No.DUBA/Cons434/MR/20-1135 Dated:08.09.2020 MR. Karan Narang S/o Ravinder Kumar Narang Resident of D-82 GF New Delhi-110018 India. Present Address G06, C3 1 E, Oasis Park, AL Ghadeer Community AUH PO BOX 485017 and Miss Rajni Dhawan Di Dharanbir Dhawan Rio 8573 Roshanara Road (Bahar-Ghar) New Delhi-110007 India, Present Address G 02 Building G, AL Forsan Elthad Accommodation, AUH PO BOX 35566.	
Above mentioned Indian Nationals are presently residing in UAE have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriages Act 1969. If any one has any objection to the proposed Marriage He/She should file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rules within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.	
Marriage Officer & Consul(Consular & Labour) Consulate General of India, FAX NO.009714-3970453 P.O. Box 737, DUBAI(UAE). Email: consl.dubai@mea.gov.in, cons3.dubai@mea.gov.in	

PUBLIC NOTICE	
This is to inform to all concerned that Smt. Kishno Devi W/o Sh. Suraj Bhan Gupta R/o. 435-A Ram Pura Delhi. Owner of property No. G-26 Sector 56, Noida had executed a General Power of Attorney in favour of Mrs. Gauri Singh W/o Late R.P. Singh R/o. B-49, Sector- 15, Noida, Distt Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.). On 14.05.1991 Regd. with S.R Noida dt. 16.05.1991 as document no 1634, and the Agreement to Sell is not registered Because an Agreement to Sell is not registered so it is publicly notified that the transfer application of the said property is going to apply for transfer through G.P.A. Holder in Favor of Shri Himanshu Kabir S/o Late R.P. Singh & Mrs. Anju Singh W/o Shri Himanshu Kabir Both R/o G-26, Sector 56 Noida, Distt Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.). If anyone has any objection he should move his/their objection with proof within 30 days from this notice in the Residental plot department of Noida Authority. Gauri Singh	

BSF foils Pak bid to infiltrate terrorists

PNS ■ JAMMU

Alert jawans of the Border Security Force (BSF) late Monday night foiled a major infiltration bid along the International border with Pakistan after exchanging heavy volume firing with the group of five infiltrators in the Samba sector of Jammu frontier.

The BSF jawans had even illuminated the area using Para bombs to track down the foot prints of these heavily armed terrorists as they retreated back inside the Pak territory.

The BSF authorities are going to lodge a strong protest with the Pakistan Rangers for extending an helping hand to

these armed terrorists to sneak inside the Indian territory.

A BSF spokesman in Jammu said, “on the intervening night of 14-15 Sep 2020, alert troops of BSF foiled an infiltration bid from the Pakistan side in the Samba Sector”.

The spokesman said, initially the suspicious movement of a group of 05 terrorists was noticed on the Pakistan side of the International boundary of Samba sector which was tracked by the alert BSF troops”.

He said, “ at about 12.30 am the group of heavily armed 05 terrorists were seen by alert BSF troops coming close to the International boundary. He said the terrorists reached there tak-

ing advantage of an undulating terrain and thick wild growth”.

BSF spokesman said, “after alerting all the BSF duty points when BSF troops challenged them to stop they fired on BSF party with heavy volume of fire. BSF troops retaliated in self defence with coordinated effective fire and foiled a possible infiltration bid attempt of armed terrorists from Pakistan side helped by Pakistan rangers”.

“Area was illuminated with the help of Para bomb and BSF troops saw fleeing terrorists toward Pakistan side. The area was searched but nothing recovered as terrorists could not cross the IB”,BSF spokesman added.

Bihar: 18 killed in lightning strikes

IAN S ■ PATNA

At least 18 persons were killed in lightning strikes in 10 districts of Bihar on Tuesday, even as the Meteorological Department cautioned people not to move about in open places due to fear of lightning and heavy rain in the next 24 hours.

Lightning detection centres have been established in Madhubani, Katihar, and Gaya. Teams from the state disaster management authority have been asked to remain on standby.

Four deaths due to lightning were reported from Raghavpur block in Vaishali district, two each from Rohtas, Bhojpur and Gopalganj, and Saran districts, and one each from Patna, Begusarai, Araria, Supaul, and Kaimur and another district after heavy rain on Tuesday afternoon.

The officials said that over 330 persons had lost their lives due to lightning strikes this year, including 100 on June 24.

Land grab case: CBI searches Lal Singh’s premises in Jammu, Kathua

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) early Tuesday morning swooped down on the premises of the former BJP Minister and Chairman of the Dogra Swabhimaan Sangathan Lal Singh across multiple locations in Kathua and Jammu districts in connection with a land grab case.

The firebrand leader had parted ways with the BJP after he was shown the exit door from the council of ministers during Rasana rape and murder case involving an eight year old nomadic girl. Singh had later floated Dogra Swabhimaan Sangathan and had unsuccessfully contested 2019 Lok Sabha polls from both the Lok Sabha seats of Jammu province.

According to official sources, “CBI sleuths raided the residential premises of Lal Singh in Kathua and Jammu along with few other locations around 7.00 am early Tuesday.Two separate CBI teams carried



out these raids in connection with a land grab case”.

CBI had formally registered a case against RB Educational Trust, run by the family members of Lal Singh, and others including the then DC Kathua (J&K), the then Tehsildar, then Naib Tehsildar, the then Girdawar, the then Patwari and other unknown persons on the allegations of having facilitated the trust to possess land much beyond the ceiling limit, and submitting false affidavits in support of the trust, causing losses to the State exchequer. The raids were going on during the day across nine different locations (three in Jammu and six at Kathua) including the office of RB Education Trust.

Earlier, on June 25, CBI had registered a preliminary enquiry (PE) against RB Educational Trust to probe into the allegations of illegal gratification and extraneous consideration by the revenue and forest officials of Kathua district in allowing the sale and purchase of forest land.

J&K: Over 4 lakh receive domicile certificates

Jammu: Notwithstanding resistance shown by the separatists and mainstream politicians against acquiring Domicile certificates more than 4 lakh residents across kashmir valley have been issued these certificates by the Union Territory administration while 1 lakh applications were under process till September 14.

According to a press statement issued by the Department of Information and Public relations, “over 16.79 lakh persons across twenty districts of the Jammu and Kashmir union territory have been issued Domicile certificates till September 14, 2020”. As per the figures, total 2113879 lakh applied for the issuance of the certificate of which 1679520 were issued the domicile till September 14.

The certificates issued include over 4.16 lakh in Kashmir division and 12.44 lakh in Jammu division.

The figures also revealed that 19571 West Pakistani Refugees, 2424 Balmiki community members and 765 Gorkha Community members were also issued domicile certificates under clause 2.

Of the total Domicile certificates issued in the UT, over 14.32 lakh were issued to the PRC holders (clause 1(a) and Clause 1(b), 1.38 lakh under clause 2(a) and Clause 2(b) (to state subject applicants and non-state subject applicants and their children), including 1.01 lakh to state subjects and 45794 to non-state subject; 34045 to the students under (clause3) including 24455 state subjects and 9590 non-state subjects; and 18612 to Kashmiri Migrants/ children (Clause 4).

PNS

AMU organises int’l virtual art exhibition

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The Moinuddin Ahmad Art Gallery and the Department of Fine Arts, Aligarh Muslim University jointly organised an International Virtual Art Exhibition, “A Walk In Time”, in a 3D Art Gallery, Berlin, Germany with 70 invited artists from 16 countries including US, Germany, Turkey and Saudi Arabia and 115 artworks put on display in the show.

BJP activists rally throws normal life out of gear in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Normal life was thrown out of rails by the BJYM (the youth brigade of the BJP) across Kerala on Tuesday as they took out processions and rallies in district headquarters demanding the immediate resignation or sacking of higher Education Minister KT Jaleel and Industries Minister EP Jayarajan who are in the eyes of controversies for their association with gold smuggling scam and LIFE Mission corruption charges. Things are likely to turn for the worst on Wednesday when BJP’s state president K Surendran will take out a procession to the Secretariat.

This is the second day in succession the State is coming to a standstill fol-

lowing widespread stand off between the demonstrators and police. On Monday the activists of the Mahila Morchha had shocked the police in the capital city by laying siege to the Secretariat. Hence the police came fully prepared on Tuesday morning to prevent untoward incidents of any kind.

But the BJYM which staged a rally in front of the Secretariat refused to disperse despite the urging by police officers. “We will disperse only after Jaleel and Jayarajan submit their resignations or the chief minister sacks these ministers,” retorted VV Rajesh, general secretary of the BJP who led the rally.

The Police resorted to lathi charge, bursting of tear gas shells and water can-

Vijayan warns Opposition, alleges conspiracy to sabotage Govt’s works

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday warned those creating a raucous all over the State under the garb of agitations have only one intention and that is to facilitate the spread of Covid-19 pandemic across Kerala.

Briefing the media, Vijayan came down heavily on the BJP and its frontal organisations which he alleged were trying to sabotage the good works his Government was doing to control the coronavirus.

“These are not agitations but an apology under the garb of agitations. These is no situation in Kerala which warrants an agitation. Their intention is to destroy the peace and tranquillity prevailing in the State by spreading rumours, lies and half truths. The Government will take strong action against those who try to spread the Covid-19 pandemic,” said Vijayan while referring to the State-wide agitations unleashed by the BJP.

Govt taking all necessary steps to prevent spread of virus: Vardhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the gradual opening up of the economy and consequent rise in Covid-19 cases, the Government on Tuesday told Parliament that the battle against the virulent virus is far from over but asserted that the lockdown from March 25 to May 31 successfully controlled the aggressive progression of the disease. At the same time, it admitted that there has been a steady rise in the number of cases in the post-lockdown phase.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Vardhan said that the government is taking all necessary measures to prevent the

spread of the disease. “It is important that sustained community support is ensured to control the spread of the virus and break its chain of transmission.”

“We are in the stage of unlocking to revive the economy and it’s important that sustained community support is ensured consistently to control the spread of COVID-19 infection and break its chain of transmission,” he said.

“I want to remind the members that the battle against Covid-19 is far from over. I wish to inform the house that the government is taking all necessary measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in India,” said Vardhan.

Maha sees all time high of 551 fatalities

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra breached a landmark of 30,000 deaths on Tuesday, as an all-time high 515 people succumbed to Covid-19, while

20,482 more people tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of the state.

Tuesday’s fatality tally of

515 is more than 495 deaths recorded in the state on September 10. With the fresh deaths reported on Tuesday, the total deaths mounted from 29,894 to 30,409.

With 20,482 fresh infections, the total infected cases in the state jumped from 10,77,374 to 10,97,856.

Of the total 515 deaths

Centre approves HORC project, new AIIMS hosp in Darbhanga

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor (HORC) project and a new AIIMS hospital in Darbhanga in poll-bound Bihar.

The HORC from Palwal to Sonipat via Sohna-Manesar-Kharkhauda will be implemented in a joint venture between the Railways and Haryana Government.

The 122-km project worth more than Rs.5617 crore will facilitate diversion of traffic not meant for Delhi and will help in developing multimodal logistics hubs in Haryana State sub-region of NCR.

This ambitious project is expected to be completed in

fiuve years.

“This Rail Line will start from Palwal and end at existing Harsana Kalan station (On Delhi-Ambala section). This will also give connectivity enroute to existing Patli Station (On Delhi-Rewari line), Sultanpur station (On Garhi Harsaru-Farukhnagar Line) and Asaudha Station (On Delhi Rohtak Line),” said Government in statement, adding that private stake holders will be accommodated in the project to de-congest Delhi. The districts of Palwal, Nuh, Gurugram, Jhajjar and Sonipat districts of Haryana will be benefitted through this rail line.

PNS

Maha HM orders probe into assault on Army veteran by BJP man

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In an apparent counter to the effort by the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to politicise the alleged assault on a retired Navy man at Kandivli by some ruling Shiv Sainiks, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh of the NCP on Tuesday ordered investigations against BJP MP Unmesh Patil for the alleged assault on an Army veteran Sonu Mahajan in 2016.

Taking to twitter on Tuesday, Deshmukh said: “In 2016 the BJP MLA and incumbent MP Shri Unmesh Patil and others had attacked retired Soldier Shri Sonu Mahajan. The then state BJP Government did not give justice to Shri Mahajan. I have received several applications in this matter and have ordered investigation in this matter”.

“The offence was committed in 2016 but due to the State BJP Government protection to Shri Patil no FIR was filed. In 2019 on Hon’ble High Court directions a FIR was filed but no further legal action has been taken against Shri Patil and others,” Deshmukh said in another tweet.

Maharashtra Congress general secretary and spokesperson Sachin Sawant, who had on Sunday alleged that the BJP MP had tried to kill Army veteran Mahajan during chief minister Devendra Fadnavis’ tenure, slammed the previous BJP government for its failure to act against the BJP MP concerned.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found on 10.09.2020 at Shree Ram Steel 215, Sarai Pipal Thala opposite Metro Pillar No. 98 near Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. Admitted in BJRM Hospital, Delhi. Vide MLC No. 163558/20. During the treatment the doctors declared him dead. Dead Body has been preserved in BJRM hospital mortuary for 72 hrs for identification. In this regard DD No. 86-A, dated 10.09.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Mahendra Park, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:**

Name: Unknown, Age: 45-46 Years, Height: 5'3" Face: Oval, Build: Medium, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Blue light pant.

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

SHO

Police Station, Mahendra Park, Delhi Ph.: 011-27632501, 8750870227 DP/383/NW/2020

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one lady (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Kajal, W/o: Jeevan, R/o: Jhuggi No. B-46/57, Balmiki Camp, Lawrence Road, Delhi, Aged: 19 years, has been missing (along with her daughter Sakshi, Age: 05 months) from Jhuggi No. B-46/81, Balmiki Camp, Lawrence Road, Delhi,, since 31.08.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 19A, Dated 02.09.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi. Her physical description is as under: Height: 5' Feet, Complexion: Shallow , Face: Round, Built: Normal, Clothing: Unknown Colour Suit Salwar.**

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing lady and her daughter, may inform SHO, Keshav Puram, Delhi at **E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641**



Kajal

S.H.O

P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi Ph: 011-27181325, 27156090 DP/375/NW/2020.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Gaurav, S/o Mukesh Kumar, R/o H.No. A-590, Dhobi Ghat, Delhi Cantt., New Delhi, Age: 10 years, Height: 4', Complexion: Shallow, wearing Blue T-Shirt, Black Half Pant and Chappal, has been missing from the jurisdiction of P.S. Delhi Cantt, New Delhi since 31.08.2016. In this regards a FIR No. 283/2016 U/S 363 IPC, dated 01.09.2016 has been lodged at P.S. Delhi Cantt. New Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

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

SHO

P.S. Delhi Cantt. New Delhi DP/259/SW/2020 Tel.: 011-25693161, 25694444

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



General public is here by informed that one Person **Name: Dildar Hussain, S/o Gulam Hussain Ansari, R/o H. No. 80-E, Munirka Village, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. Age: 58 Years, Height: 5'10", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: Grey Pant and Dark Blue Shirt, Cream Colour Sweater and Brown colour Leather**

Chappal in feet has been missing since 04.02.2018 from his house. In this regard a D.D. No. 21A/2018 dated 05.02.2018 has been registered at P.S. Vasant Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this 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.

SHO

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: cbi.nic.in P.S. Vasant Vihar, New Delhi Ph. 7065036221 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 7065036221 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/257/SW/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of **male Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 30-35 years, Height: 5' 6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Hair: Black, Wearing: Brown colour pant and bare feet, who was found at the footpath opposite Red Fort Ring Road, Near Monkey Bridge, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 46A Dated 09.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.**

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

DP/560/N/2020(UJIDB) Sd/- SHO P.S. Kotwali, Delhi Tel.: 011-23977100, 23953442, 8750870121

UJVN Limited H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone Nos: 0135-276380, Fax: 0135-2763509 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com	
Letter No.: 551	E-Tender Notice Date : 14.09.2020 Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chilla Power House via Haridwar, Pauri Garhwal (Uttarakhand), invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below: Tender No. 03/EEM/2020-21
Name of work: Procurement of S.S Rotating Shaft Sleeves for Chilla Power House. Estimated cost: Rs. 6,06,648/- Date of availability of bid document on website: 16.09.2020 from 16:00 Last date for submission of bids on website: 12.10.2020 upto 14:00 For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in . Executive Engineer (Maint.)	
" Avoid wasteful use of Electricity "	

No dignity of labour

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



Benjamin Disraeli once said, “There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics.” Perhaps this is what the Government has internalised in dealing with a national crisis. Since it doesn't believe in any kind of data collection that has not been commissioned by it, it denies that there has been any migrant death during the pandemic-induced lockdown. It doesn't matter that its white lies are caught out by countless heart-breaking stories in the media of labourers turfed out of their city jobs overnight, forced to trudge back to their villages and without money, succumbing to hunger and illness on the way or even to destitution at their homes, without relief or dole of any kind. This denial of reality by the Government is not only brutal in its insensitivity but also a shabby disowning of its responsibility in keeping a nation together in the middle of an unprecedented crisis. Worst, its inhuman response came on the floor of the Parliament where, to a question on whether families of those who had lost their lives while trying to reach home during the lockdown had been compensated, the Union Labour Ministry put out a clinical statement that since there was no data on migrant deaths, the “question does not arise” of relief and aid. Even if one were to assume that the concerned Minister, his office and bureaucrats had for some curious reason blacked themselves out from news about India's worst reverse migration, how does the Ministry explain its own admission that more than one crore migrants made their way back to their home States from various corners of the country? Can it blithely assume, therefore, that no hazard befell them, considering most were daily wage earners and had nothing to fall back upon? Hungry, sick and walking for days, were they in an endurance test on a reality show where their deaths could be easily dismissed as collateral damage? Is the figure not an indication of the jobs lost in the country's largely unorganised labour market? For once, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reacted rightly, tweeting, “If you haven't counted, have the deaths not taken place?” Also, how can the Government discount the deaths recorded by its own Railway Ministry of the many migrants who died on Shramik trains that were organised much later to ferry them back home? Or were run over by trains as they fell asleep on tracks, exhausted and beaten? More than 1,400 road accidents killed 750 people, including 198 migrant workers, between March 25 and May 31.

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

Equality in marriage

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



When the Supreme Court struck down the penal provisions of Section 377 that criminalised all but vaginal intercourse, it effectively removed the legal persecution of homosexual relationships. Now a group of petitioners has approached the Supreme Court asking that it mandates that same-sex marriage be legalised in India. Surprisingly, for some in the LGBTQ community, this petition is being led by Right-wing agent provocateur Abhijit Iyer-Mitra, who has identified himself as a homosexual for many years. Yet the Solicitor-General (SG) of India Tushar Mehta, arguing before the Division Bench, has toed the cultural line that our values will not allow us to recognise same-sex marriage.

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

PLA's 'Peace Disease'

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



BHOPINDER SINGH

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUND BITE

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

Afghanistan Ambassador
—Adela Raz



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

Cricketer
—Kuldeep Yadav



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

Pakistan's Foreign Minister
—Shah Mahmood Qureshi



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

Footballer
—Neymar



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where is the logic?

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

Navneet Seth
Punjab

Fair play

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

Crime graph shoots up in Goa

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

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



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

Pachu Menon
Goa

Abe's legacy

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

him to continue Abe's policies.

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

Minister Narendra Modi.
Sanjana Soni
Ujjain

A clarification

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

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

US showing ominous signs

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



GWYNNE DYER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—BJP MP AND ACTOR RAVI KISHAN



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

—SP MP AND ACTOR JAYA BACHCHAN

Move the needle on cooling

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



SHANMUGANATHAN K ASHISH SARASWAT

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

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

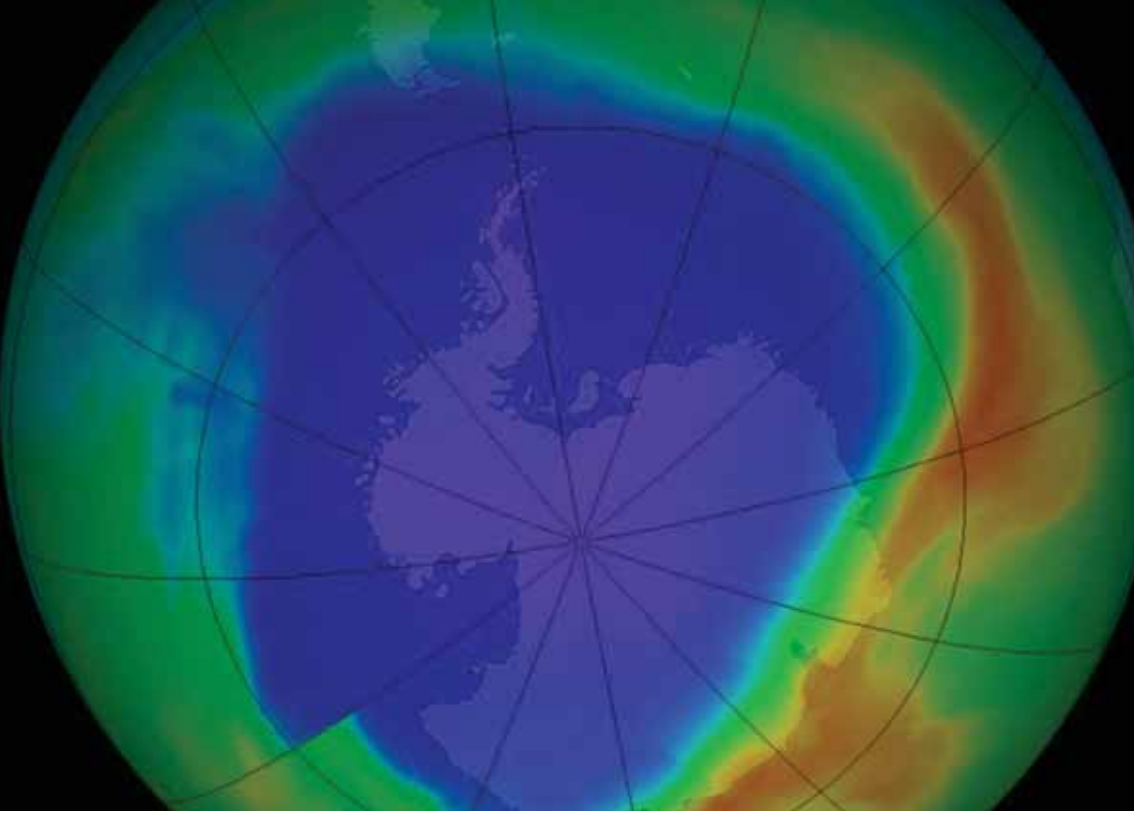
Beginning of the world's most successful environmental agreement: Eleven years after the findings of Professor Rowland and Professor Molina, a team of English scientists, too, learnt about the thinning of the ozone layer, which is popularly known as the "Ozone Hole." They realised that the CFCs had started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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The death of a credible media with a backbone

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



SIDHARTH MISHRA

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

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

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

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

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

Then there is another issue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DO NOT ISOLATE THE ELDERLY

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

(The Guardian editorial)

IRAN PLANNING TO AVENGE SOLEIMANI KILLING

Trump: Retaliation will be 1,000 times greater

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iran has denied the allegations.

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

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

Iran warns US against strategic mistake after Trump threat

AFP ■ TEHRAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Navalny posts hospital photo of himself, plans Russia return

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

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

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

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



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

“Just on my own, no extra help, I didn’t even use the simplest valve in my throat,” he said of being able to breathe without ventilation.

“I liked it very much. It’s a remarkable process that is underestimated by many. Strongly recommended.”

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

Navalny’s spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh, tweeted that once he had recovered, Navalny plans to return to Russia.

“No other option has ever been considered,” she wrote.

Leonid Volkov, a top associate of Navalny, refused to give any details on his condition or his possible return when reached by The Associated Press on Tuesday. **AP**

No info on reported detentions in Taiwan, says Hong Kong

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

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

“We have no information, and haven’t received any assistance requests from family,” she said. **AP**

US issues sweeping new travel warning for China, Hong Kong

AFP ■ BEIJING

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

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

The new advisory warned US citizens that China impos-

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

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

China successfully launches 9 satellites into orbit from ship

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

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

The nine satellites belong to the Jilin-1 Gaofen 03-1 group.

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

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

AFP ■ BERLIN

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

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


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

ing a deal by Wednesday.

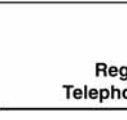
After a fire laid waste to Greece’s biggest refugee camp Moria last week, pressure has grown on Merkel’s government to offer refuge to the 11,500 left homeless by the disaster.

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

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

<div> <div> <div></div> <div>RATHI BARS LIMITED</div> </div> <div> <div>Regd. Office : A-24/7, Mohan Co-operative Indl. Estate, New Delhi-110017</div> <div>Ph.: +91-11-43165400,</div> <div>E-mail : contact@rathisteels.com, Web: www.rathisteels.com,</div> <div>CIN No: L74899DL1993PLC054781</div> </div> </div>				
Statement of Standalone Unaudited Results for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2020				(Rs. In Lacs)
Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	30-06-20	31-03-20	30-06-19	31-03-20
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1 Total Revenue From operations	4,290.72	10,638.73	11,400.50	38,333.59
2 Net Profit/Loss for the Period (Before Tax)	13.69	76.24	59.22	287.37
3 Net Profit/Loss for the Period (After Tax)				272.09
4 Total Comprehensive Income	13.69	76.24	59.22	272.09
5 Equity Share Capital	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04
6 Reserves(Excluding Revaluation Reserves)				6,603.53
7 Earning Per Share(of Rs. 10 Each)				
Basic :	0.08	0.47	0.36	1.67
Diluted :	0.08	0.47	0.36	1.67
* Not Annualised				
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange's websites i.e. 'www.bseindia.com' and also at the website of the Company at www.rathisteels.com.				
2 The Company does not have any Exceptional and Extraordinary item to report during the above periods.				
3 The Company has not discontinued any of its operations during the above periods.				
4 Tax expenses / Provision for Taxation has been made on annual basis only.				
5 The figures of previous year / Quarters have been re-arranged/re-grouped wherever felt necessary.				
By order of the Board for Rathi Bars Limited sd/-				
Anurag Rathi Whole Time Director DIN : 00063345				
Place: New Delhi Date : 15/09/2020				

<div> <div> <div>COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED</div> <div>CIN : L25199DL1980PLC010173</div> </div> <div> <div>Regd. Office : 2/8, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110 007</div> <div>Website : www.cosco.in Email : mail@cosco.in</div> <div>Tel. : 91-11-23843000 Fax : 91-11-23846000</div> </div> </div>				
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2020				(₹ in lacs)
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended
		30.06.2020	30.06.2019	31.03.2020
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations	2,723.63	3,327.29	3,335.30
2	Net Profit for the period before Tax	57.97	48.53	4.23
3	Net Profit for the period after tax	37.02	75.09	19.58
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	37.02	75.09	18.67
5	Equity Share Capital	416.10	416.10	416.10
6	Other Equity	-	-	-
7	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10 each)			
(a)	Basic (₹)	0.89	1.80	0.47
(b)	Diluted (₹)	0.89	1.80	0.47
Notes :-				
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites (www.bseindia.com/corporates) and on the Company's website www.cosco.in.				
2 The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the respective meeting held on September 15, 2020.				
By Order of the Board for Cosco (India) Limited				
Devinder Kumar Jain Managing Director and CEO DIN : 00191539				
Place : Delhi Date : 15.09.2020				



ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED

CIN:- L74899DL1976PLC008036

Regd. Office: Unit No. 8, Ground Floor, Pocket M, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi 110076

Telephone:- 011-47366600 E-mail:- info@rotoindia.co.in Website:- www.rotoindia.co.in

EXTRACT OF UN-AUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS

FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30 2020

(In Lakhs Except EPS)

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

Notes:-

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

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


For Rotographics (India) Limited

Naresh Kumar Bansal

Director

Place: New Delhi

Date: 15.09.2020

<div> <div> <div></div> <div>BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED</div> </div> <div> <div>CIN: L01403AS1999PLC005741</div> <div>Regd. Office: Debendra Nagar, Jhoom Basti, P.O. Badarpurghat, Distt. Karimganj, Assam-788803</div> <div>Corp. Office: 281, Deepali Pitampura, New Delhi-110034</div> <div>Tel No.: 03843-269258/881, Fax: +91-3843-268965</div> <div>Website: www.barakcement.com; E-Mail Id: cs@barakcement.com</div> </div> </div>				
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 TH JUNE, 2020.				(Rs. in Lakhs)
PARTICULARS	STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED	
	Quarter Ended		Quarter Ended	
	30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	2,231.22	4,146.64	3,852.38	15,633.13
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	106.98	151.32	437.79
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	106.98	151.32	437.79
Net Profit for the period after Tax (After exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	182.87	104.67	422.31
Total Comprehensive Income for the period	(79.86)	169.60	104.67	409.04
Paid Up Equity Share Capital (face value of Rs. 10/- per share)	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)				
Basic :	(0.36)	0.83	0.47	1.91
Diluted:	(0.36)	0.83	0.47	1.91
NOTES:				
1. The above Unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and have been approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 14 th September, 2020. Limited review of the results as required under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation 2015, have been carried out by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.				
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com)				
3. Figures of the previous period have been regrouped / rearranged, wherever necessary.				
For and on behalf of Board BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED Sd/- Kamakhya Chamaria Vice Chairman & Managing Director				
Place : New Delhi Date : 14 th September, 2020				

Boat capsizes near Libya, 24 migrants presumed dead: UN

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

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

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Kolkata's Pride

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO.: 08/20-21 Date : 14.09.2020

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Metro Railway, Kolkata, 33/1, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700071 for and on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tender for following items already uploaded in website www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details/description/ drawing/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online.

Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Tender closing date & time
02205136	1.1 KV 3CX50 SQ. MM XLPE Insulated Copper Cable	4000 MTRS	01.10.2020, 14.00 Hrs.
	1.1 KV 4CX50 SQ. MM XLPE Insulated Copper Cable	2000 MTRS	
02205135A	Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Ventilation Panel	At KGPK & KJPK	01.10.2020, 14.00 Hrs.
		At KBEL	
		At Mid Point	
		At KRSB	
02205124	Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of L. T. Panel	At Esplanade Ass	28.09.2020, 14.00 Hrs.
		At Maidan Ass	
		At Noapara TSS	
	Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Ventilation Panel	At Mid Point	
		At Central	

Principal CMM, Metro Railway/Kolkata

FASTER

SAFER

SMOOTHER

CLEANER

US import curbs on Chinese textile to benefit India: Icra

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

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

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

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

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

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

cent of China's cotton output.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further, there could be likely retaliatory actions by China, as seen over the past couple of years amid the ongoing US-China trade war, which could prevent widening of the scope of the ban, Icra report added. **PTI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mid and small-cap stocks extended their gains as participants wagered on increased inflows into the segment following changes in asset classification norms for multi-cap mutual funds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rupee settles 16 paise lower at 73.64 against US dollar

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

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

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

Indian economy to shrink 9 pc in FY21: ADB

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

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

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

"India imposed strict lockdown measures to contain the spread of the pandemic and this has had a severe impact on economic activity," said ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada.

Sawada further noted that "it is crucial that containment measures, such as robust testing, tracking, and ensuring treatment capacities, are implemented consistently and effectively to stop the spread of COVID-19 and provide a sustainable platform for the economy's recovery for the next fiscal year and beyond."

With lockdowns stalling private spending, ADB said GDP will shrink by 9 per cent in April 2020 to March 2021, sharply down from its June's forecast of (-) 4 per cent.

"The growth outlook remains highly vulnerable to either a prolonged outbreak or a resurgence of cases, with the country now having one of the highest number of COVID-19 cases globally," It said.

Other downside risks include increasing public and private debt levels that could affect technology and infrastructure investment, as well as rising non-performing loans

caused by the pandemic that could further weaken the financial sector and its ability to support economic growth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is with regard to levy of penalty for non-collection of 'other margins' on or before T+2 days from clients

working days, the other margins would deemed to have been collected and penalty for short / non-collection of margin, including other margins, would not arise.

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

SBI extends OTP-based ATM withdrawal facility round the clock

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

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

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

"With the enablement of 24x7 OTP authenticated ATM withdrawals, we believe SBI cus-

tomers will have a secured and risk-free cash withdrawal experience," the bank's managing director (retail and digital banking) C S Setty said. Implementing this facility throughout the day would prevent SBI debit cardholders from the risk of falling prey to fraudsters, unauthorized withdrawals, card skimming, card cloning and the likes, the release said.

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

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


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

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

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

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

The GMB manages the existing port at Bhavnagar, having a capacity to handle 3 MMTPA cargo. While the consortium would invest ₹1,300 crore in the first phase, ₹600 crore will be invested in the second phase. To develop CNG and other terminals on the north side of the existing port would require major modifications in the existing infrastructure, including dredging in the water channel of the port basin, construction of two lock gates and off-shore infrastructure for CNG transportation, the release said.



UJVNL LTD.

H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006

Telephones : 0135-2763808 & Fax : 0135- 2763508

CIN No.-U40101UR2001SGC025866 Web.: www.ujvnl.com

e-procurement date extension Notice 1

The schedule time of the Tender are extended as follows Tender No: 01/EE(IC&CM)/2020-21

Name of work : Procurement of new Transformer Oil for various Power Stations of UJVNL Ltd. for the F.Y.2020-21

Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal : 26.09.2020 up to 16:00 Hrs

Date/Time for submission of original documents : 30.09.2020 up to 11.00 Hrs

Date/Time of opening of bid on website : 30.09.2020 form 13:00 Hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://ukntenders.gov.in>

Letter No. 555 Dated 15.09.2020 **EE(IC&CM)**

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division, HMT, Srinagar

GIST OF TENDER

e-NIT No:- PHE/QC&PD/08/e-Tender Dated: 12-09-2020

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

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

Estimated Cost :- Rs 15.00 Crores

EMD Fee :- Rs 30.00 Lakhs

Cost of tender Documents :- Rs 2500.00

Validity of Rates :- 180 days from opening of the Price Bid.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed /downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

Time Schedule of e-Tender

1. Date of Inviting Tender :- 12-09-2020.....10.00AM

2. Documents Downloading Period :- 14-09-2020 (02.00PM) to 05-10-2020 (02.00PM)

3. Clarification Period :- 14-09-2020 (02.00AM) to 26-09-2020 (04.00PM)

4. Pre Bid Consultation :- 28-09-2020 (02:00PM)

5. On Line Document Submission Period :- 14-09-2020 (02.00PM) to 05-10-2020 (04.00PM)

6. Date of opening of Cover 1st. :- -06-10-2020.02.00PM

7. Tender Document Receiving Authority :- Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar. E-mail: xenmandp@gmail.com

8. Tender Inviting Office :- Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar payable at Srinagar.

9. Document Fee :- In the shape of treasury Challan favoring to Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar payable at Srinagar or e-transfer to J&K Bank A/c No: 0005010100005110 IFSC: JAKA0CHINAR

10. Earnest Money :- In the shape of CDR/FDR/BG from nationalized banks only having a branch in Srinagar.

11. Bid Opening Authority :- Chief Engineer, Kashmir PHE, Jal Shakti Deptt. Srinagar.

No. DIPK-5689/20

Dated: 15-09-2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer,

Jal Shakti QC&PD PHE (K) HMT Srinagar.



“KAVYAM”-AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

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

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

Eligibility:-

1. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licenced colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.

2. Any applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retain only one flat.

Allotment Criteria:-

1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.

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

3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy 2013 notified vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof (available at the Department website, i.e., tcp.haryana.gov.in).

Agrante Realty Ltd 704 7th floor DLF Tower-B, Jasola, New Delhi., CIN: U70101DL2013PLC248731

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

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



IT'S A NEET ANALYSIS

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

Here is a detailed analysis of the paper.

PHYSICS

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

CHEMISTRY

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

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

BOTANY

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

ZOOLOGY

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

- A couple of terms beyond the NCERT domain.
- Two questions required linguistic prowess.
- Overall, the questions were quite thought provoking requiring alertness of mind and critical approach.
- Comprehension, application & synthesis required to interpret the questions.

Detailed analysis:
Physics: The Physics section was easy as compared to previous years' papers. About 30-40% of the questions were directly based on the NCERT textbook. Graphs, data as well as some statements were directly picked from the NCERT textbook. Calculations were comparatively easy. All the questions were from the prescribed NEET syllabus with absolutely no controversial questions. Mechanics dominated with 12 questions followed by Electricity with 9 questions and Modern Physics with eight questions. Overall, we can say, Physics was easy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

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

— James Madison

Second NATA 2020 held

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

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

The HBT mode was introduced by the Council for the

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

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

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

BTech programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Get ready to play

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When it comes to qualifications, most recruiters in the gam-

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

Analysing the future potential

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

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

The writer is Founder, Pacific Gaming

Upskilling is key

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

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

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

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

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



ensure their personal and professional growth.

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

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

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

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

The writer is the Founder & CEO of SpeakIn

SRM MCHRS signs MoU with NIS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Placement opportunities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

companies across the globe.

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

The students bagged an average package of over ₹2-₹3 lakh per annum.

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

TIPS TO ACE CAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

based upon complexity or number of variables in problem sets.

Type-III: Topic Based DILR Sets:

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

Type-IV: Mixture of DI and LR Sets:

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

Type-V: New Puzzle types:

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

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

The writer is Academic Head, TIME, Delhi

‘Fashion needs to reinvent now’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mithun Bhardwaj
Director, Zashed Fashiontech

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

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

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

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

Businesses across the world have been ravaged by the disruptive disturbances caused by the novel Coronavirus pandemic. As physical meetings and gatherings are largely prohibited due to the virulent dissemination, going virtual via digital pathways will prove to the new all-embracing norm for the year 2020. This will bode a tremendous and perhaps an irreversible impact on businesses worldwide, as the optimisation of technology is set to change the way companies think and act. Businesses that have crossed over to the digital side are constantly jeopardized by a plethora of cybersecurity attacks from threats such as malicious software, viruses, malwares, etc. developed by sinister hackers

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

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

MIND IT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is Rakesh Kharwal, MD-India, Cyberbit



Application deadline: It is November 1, 2020.

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

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

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

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

WEB DESIGN AT THE DREAMER DESIGNS

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

SOFTWARE TESTING AT 361 DEGREE MINDS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5348891
Deadline: September 23, 2020

FRONT END DEVELOPMENT AT MEINIGAR TECHNOLOGIES

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

PRODUCT DESIGN AT BOOKMARK PROJECTS TRUST

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5348895
Deadline: September 24, 2020

TELECALLING AT BEHIND THE SCREENS

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

CONTENT WRITING AT ACROSS CODE

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

CUSTOMER SERVICE AT OZIVA

Location: Chandigarh
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link - internshala.com/i/5348899
Application deadline: September 24, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

New points-based immigration system opens

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

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

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

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

The Minister reassured his

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

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

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

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

IN BRIEF

SURVEY: POSITIVE CHANGE WITH NEP 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TERM SYSTEM IN MBA PROGRAMME AT IIT ROORKEE

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

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

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

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

POWER OF 3

AP ■ BRIGHTON

A Chelsea team featuring just two of its slew of high-profile and expensive signings got off to a winning start in the English Premier League by beating Brighton 3-1. Timo Werner and Kai Havertz - signed for a combined \$160 million - didn't manage to score at Amex Stadium, either, with Chelsea's goals coming from Jorginho, Reece James and Kurt Zouma. James' was the most spectacular



Brighton's Aaron Connolly, left, and Chelsea's Andreas Christensen battle for the ball

AP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Murray gets French Open wildcard

AP ■ PARIS

Andy Murray received a wild card into the French Open.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DC has firepower to go all the way: Axar

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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



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

think we can become champions this time.

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

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

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

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

"Nevertheless, the positive thing

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

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

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

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

McDonald says not sure about Stokes availability

PTI ■ DUBAI

Rajasthan Royals head coach Andrew McDonald says the franchise is "not sure" about the availability of star all-rounder Ben Stokes in the upcoming IPL as he is tending to his ailing father in New Zealand.

Stokes, hero of England's World Cup triumph last year, is going through a tough phase. He pulled out of the three-match series against Pakistan in August before the second Test to be with his father, diagnosed with brain cancer.

"First and foremost, thoughts with the Stokes family. It's a difficult scenario, so we're giving him as much time as he needs, and connecting with him as best we can," McDonald was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"So yeah, we're not sure where Stokesy's at right now, but once it has played out, then we can make our decisions from there. But I don't want to second-guess what will happen with him just yet."

Since the first Test against Pakistan, the top all-rounder has not played any cricket. Instead, he travelled to New Zealand, where his parents are settled.

Stokes' father Ged, a former New Zealand rugby league international, was admitted to hospital in Johannesburg two days before Christmas last year with a serious illness.



Finally, Thomas & Uber Cup postponed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

"BWF is looking into possible



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

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

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

Among top players, India's Saina Nehwal had on Sunday raised con-

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

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

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

by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vimal blames Asian nations withdrawal for postponement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

for the sport," Vimal told PTI.

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

India had announced both the men's and women's squads for the event.

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

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

Fuming Paire shows little effort in 1st-round loss

AP ■ ROME

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ramos-Vinolas 6-4, 7-6 (3). Also in the first round, Casper

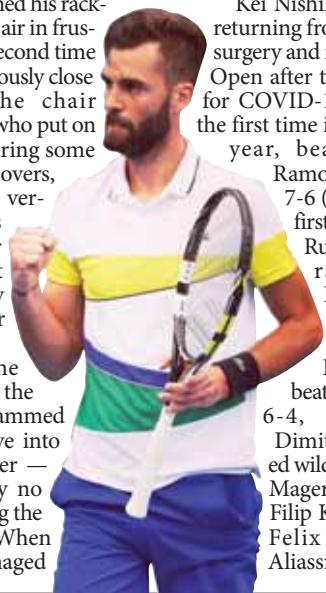
Ruud of Norway rallied past K a r e n Khachanov 6-

3, 3-6, 6-1; Borna Coric beat Cristian Garin

6-4, 6-4; Grigor Dimitrov eliminated wild card Gianluca

Mager 7-5, 6-1; and Filip Krajinovic beat Felix Auger-

Aliassime 6-4, 7-5.



Bumrah probably the best T20 bowler: Pattinson

IAN S ■ ABU DHABI

While terming Jasprit Bumrah as the best T20 bowler in the world, Australia pacer James Pattinson has said he is looking forward to working with the India pacer and New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult, among others, in the Mumbai Indians' bowling unit during the Indian Premier League (IPL) starting on September 19.

"Personally, it's just fantastic to work with some of the best bowlers in the world. Obviously, Bumrah is probably the best T20 bowler in the world. And Boult [Trent Boult] is up there as well. So, for me it will be a great experience to be around those guys," Pattinson said in a video shared on Mumbai Indians' official handle. "I have played a few One-day Internationals here in the UAE before, so I have got a bit of experience over here in UAE."

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

Pattinson also spoke about



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

nations. "...In view of the recent COVID-19 related developments around the world, a number of teams and individual players have elected not to travel to Denmark for tournaments in Aarhus and Odense; a choice the BWF has to respect and acknowledge.

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

The governing body admitted

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

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