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**BARTY OPTS OUT
OF FRENCH OPEN
TITLE DEFENCE**
14 SPORT

PLA's bid to dislodge India from peaks foiled

Chinese troops marched to Indian post with rods, spears, clubs; fired shots, a first in 45 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The tense situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has further aggravated with India thwarting yet another aggressive move by the Chinese in Eastern Ladakh.

The Chinese troops also fired warning shots in the air but the Indian Army maintained calm. China, however, claimed it was the Indians who used firearms after breaching the border. This is the first time in more than 45 years that shots were fired on the LAC.

This provocative act by the Chinese on Monday took place in the southern region of the Pangong Tso (lake) in Eastern Ladakh. The PLA soldiers tried to dislodge the Indian Army troops now positioned on the strategically-important hill tops in the area. When they were warned, the Chinese fired a few shots in the air. However, there were no physical clashes or skirmishes, sources said here on Tuesday.

Given the gravity of the issue, Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reviewed the ground situation. The meeting came as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar left for Moscow to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the LAC stand-off. The two leaders will meet on the sidelines of the Foreign Ministers' conclave of the



China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers approaching an Indian post near Mukhpari peak in Pangong Tso in Eastern Ladakh about 6 pm on Monday PTI

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The much-awaited bilateral meet between the two Ministers is likely to take place on Wednesday, it was learnt.

The latest episode of provocation by the Chinese troops came just four days

after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese Wei Fenghe held a marathon bilateral meeting in Moscow during the SCO meet.

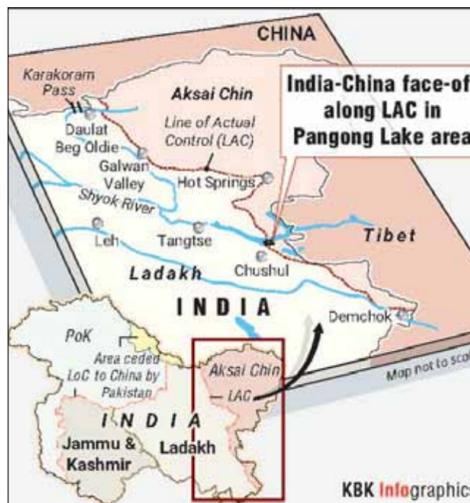
As regards the events on the LAC on Monday evening, sources said the latest Chinese foray came in the area now

dominated by the Indian Army since August 29-30 when it foiled an attempt by the opposing force to unilaterally change the LAC.

Since then, the Indian Army is now deployed on key hills, including Black Top besides Rezang La and Rechin

La. Mountain passes are known as La in the Tibetan language. The latest attempt to remove the Indian soldiers was in the area between these two mountain passes at Mukhpari, sources said.

When more than 100 Chinese soldiers armed with



spears, long knives and automatic weapons tried to come close to the Indian position at a height of more than 15,000 feet about 6.30 pm in a provocative action, they were warned. In turn, they fired, sources said. Nearly 5,000 Indian troops are now positioned there along with tanks and heavy guns to foil any counter-move by the Chinese.

In an official statement on Tuesday, the Army said, "In the instant case September 7, 2020, it was the PLA troops who were attempting to close-in with

one of our forward positions along the LAC and when dissuaded by own troops, PLA troops fired a few rounds in the air in an attempt to intimidate own troops. However, despite the grave provocation, own troops exercised great restraint and behaved in a mature and responsible manner."

The Indian Army is committed to maintaining peace and tranquility, however, is also determined to protect national integrity and sovereignty at all costs.

Continued on Page 10

5 abducted men from Arunachal located in China, confirms PLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Five youths who had reportedly been abducted by China's PLA from Arunachal Pradesh last week have been located on the Chinese side.

The PLA has confirmed the presence of the missing youths and modalities are being worked out between the two sides for their handover to the Indian Army.

"China's PLA has responded to the hotline message sent by Indian Army. They have confirmed that the missing youths from Arunachal Pradesh have been found by their side. Further modalities to hand over the persons to our authority are being worked out," Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijji tweeted.

The Arunachal Pradesh Police had on Monday said the whereabouts of the missing youth could not be known after a search team returned from the LAC. The five villagers from Upper Subansiri district were said to be engaged as porters and guides by the Indian Army.

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Rhea held for drug deal

Mumbai cops turn complaint against SSR sis, doc into FIR, transfer it to CBI

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At the end of 19-long hours of grilling carried out during a span of three days, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Tuesday arrested actress Rhea Chakraborty in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, even as the Mumbai Police converted a complaint filed by her against the late actor's sisters Priyanka, Meetu Singh and New Delhi-based Dr Tarun Kumar into an FIR and transferred the case to the CBI.

Rhea's arrest appeared to be a fait accompli, coming as it did



Bollywood actor Rhea Chakraborty leaves for a medical test after being arrested by the NCB in Mumbai on Tuesday PTI

in the wake of what appeared to be orchestrated leaks from the investigating agency that she had reportedly admitted that she had procured drugs for

Sushant through her currently arrested brother Showik Chakraborty, that she had acknowledged that she knew about Samuel purchasing drugs for the actor from drug peddler Zaid Vilatra and that she had accepted that she had accepted drug-related WhatsApp chats between her and others.

Rhea, who had been questioned for six hours on Sunday and grilled for eight hours on

Monday, arrived at the NCB's office at Ballard Pier in south Mumbai at 10.30 am for the third day of questioning in a T-shirt that read "Roses are red, violets are blue, let's smash the patriarchy, me and you". The 28-year-old actress was placed by the NCB under arrest at 3.30 pm, exactly five hours later.

Confirming the arrest, NCB deputy director KPS Malhotra said, "Rhea Chakraborty has been arrested and due process of informing the family has been completed".

Rhea is the tenth accused to have been arrested in connection with a drug case linked to the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who was found dead in his closed room of his sixth floor duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai, on June 14.

Besides Rhea's brother Showik, eight other arrested accused in the case are: Abbas Lakhani, Karan Arora, Zaid Vilatra, Abdel Basit Parihar, Anuj Keswani, Kaizan Ibrahim, Samuel Miranda and Dipesh Sawant.

Continued on Page 10

ADB to give \$500 mn loan to speed up Delhi-Meerut RRTS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor project has received a big boost after the Asian Development Bank (ADB) decided to provide USD 500 million as loan for the construction of the high-speed 82 kilometre RRTS corridor.

Sameer Kumar Khare, additional secretary (fund bank and ADB), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, have signed a loan agreement to this effect.

The RRTS corridor, consisting total 22 railway stations (including 6 stations of Meerut Metro Rail Project) to connect Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut through a rapid rail network, is a first of its kind project in the country. It is being implemented by National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).

This will be the first tranche of total \$1 billion facility that the ADB had agreed to fund the RRTS. Of the total project cost of USD 3.94 billion, the Centre will provide USD 1.89 billion and co-financiers are expected to provide USD 1 billion dollars.

Financing for the project will be implemented in four tranches between August 2020 and May 2025.

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Sonia for joint Opp candidate for RS Deputy Chairman post

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday called for reaching out to other like-minded Opposition parties to put up a joint candidate for the post of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman for the elections scheduled for September 14.

The post fell vacant after the tenure of JD (U) MP Harivansh expired in April this year. He has been re-elected to the House from Bihar and is expected to be the NDA's candidate for the post, while the name of DMK MP Tiruchi Siva has been doing rounds as the Opposition candidate. The election will be held on the first day of the Monsoon Session starting September 14. The Budget Session was called off in March due to Covid-19.

Harivansh was elected as the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson after Congress MP PJ Kurien's tenure ended in August 2018. Harivansh had defeated senior Congress leader BK Hariprasad, who was the joint Opposition candidate, by bagging 125 votes against 105 by latter.

The Congress discussed the issue of election at a meeting of the party's Parliament Strategy Group chaired by Sonia. She has asked Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad to reach out to other Opposition



parties for fielding a joint Opposition candidate. The last date for filing nomination for the post is September 11.

The name of the joint candidate will be decided after consultations with the Opposition parties, and a meeting is also scheduled mid-week.

The meeting was attended by Rahul Gandhi, Azad, Anand Sharma, AK Antony, Ahmed Patel, KC Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Mallikarjun Kharge, party leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, party's chief whip in upper house K Suresh, Manish Tewari, Gaurav Gogoi, Manickam Tagore, and Ravneet Singh Bittu.

The post of Deputy Speaker in Lok Sabha too has been lying vacant since May last year when the Lok Sabha was reconstituted post-elections.

Continued on Page 10

Maha orders probe into alleged drug use by Kangana

Actress challenges police to proof 'false' charge

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As the stage is set for actress Kangana Ranaut's return to Mumbai on Wednesday, the Shiv Sena-run BMC on Tuesday slapped a notice against her for illegal constructions undertaken at her Bandra office, the Maharashtra Government ordered a probe into alleged consumption of drugs by her and a Sena corporator lodged a complaint with the Thane police against her for her controversial statement comparing Mumbai with Pak-Occupied Kashmir (POK).

Kangana challenged, "I am more than happy to oblige @MumbaiPolice@AnilDeshmukhNCP please do my drug tests, investigate my call records if you find any links to



drug peddlers ever I will accept my mistake and leave Mumbai forever, looking forward to meet you."

Kangana — who has come under fire from various quarters for controversial statements comparing Mumbai to "Pak-Occupied Kashmir" and saying "it seems Mumbai is addicted to blood" and dubbing Bollywood as an "Islam-dominated" film industry — will have her plate when she arrives in Mumbai on Wednesday from Himachal Pradesh where she was away during the lockdown.

Continued on Page 10

Death-row ruling party leader takes oath as Lanka MP

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan lawmaker from the ruling party, who was elected to Parliament while serving a death sentence in a murder case, was on Tuesday sworn in as an MP by the Speaker.

Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) lawmaker Premalal Jayasekera was convicted in a murder case on July 31, just days ahead of the August 5 parliamentary elections which he contested from the south western Ratnapura region.

He was sworn in as a Member of Parliament by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena.

His oath taking followed the court of appeal issuing an interim order directing the Commissioner-General of Prisons to make arrangements for Jayasekera to attend Parliament.

Continued on Page 10

IX to XII students may attend schools from Sept 21 MHA allows it on voluntary basis if parents permit, issues safety SoPs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As part of its ongoing 'Unlock-4 process', "partial resumption" of academic activities has been allowed in schools only on voluntary basis from September 21 for students of Classes 9-12.

A detailed guideline the Government issued on Tuesday said it encourages online classes, but older students "will be permitted to visit schools on voluntary basis".

The final decision has been left to the parents, who will have to provide a written permission for wards going to school.

Similar go-ahead has also been given to skill or entrepreneurship training institutions, higher educational institutions conducting doctoral courses and postgradu-

ate studies in technical and professional programs requiring laboratory /experimental work.



TOTAL
CASES: 43,63,843
DEATHS: 73,894
RECOVERED: 33,93,583
ACTIVE: 8,95,764

The Union Health Ministry has issued separate guidelines for operations of these institutions amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The SoPs dwell on detail about the safety measures.

Sunday lockdown over across UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government decided to do away with the mandatory Sunday closure across the state and instead ordered restoration of the old system of staggered market closure. The decision was announced by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at a Team 11 meeting held in Lucknow on Tuesday.

"Restore the original system of weekly closure of different markets instead of Sunday closure. All hotels and restaurants, except those in containment zones, should restart normal activities but by following coronavirus protec-

tion protocol," the chief minister said.

Last week, the state government had announced that shops would remain closed across the state only on Sundays, rescinding its previous order of two-day weekend restrictions.

In that order, the government had said that all markets and business establishments would open for 12 hours (9 am to 9 pm) and Sunday would be the weekly closure.

With the new order restoring the old system of weekly closure of markets, the government also ended the Sunday lockdown with immediate effect.

Prayagraj SSP suspended; 5 IPS officers shifted

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a serious note of several complaints of corruption and laxity in controlling crime, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath suspended Senior Superintendent of Police of Prayagraj, Abhishek Dikshit, on Tuesday and attached him to the DGP headquarters in Lucknow.

Besides, five other IPS officers were given new postings. Serious allegations had been pouring in against Dikshit from various quarters and even the Allahabad High Court had expressed its displeasure at the SSP's conduct.

Originally a Tamil Nadu cadre officer, Dikshit was posted at an important place like Prayagraj despite charges of his involvement in corruption during his posting as SP of Krishnagiri (Tamil Nadu). The Directorate of Vigilance and

Continued on Page 10

CM: Resume tehsil and thana diwas

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that at least 1,000 ICU beds should be arranged in super speciality hospitals of Lucknow and tehsil and thana diwas should be resumed to resolve people's problems.



directed the Public Works Department (PWD) to make roads free of potholes.

He said that Covid tests should be done on all people in containment zones and people be asked to strictly follow protection guidelines of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said on Tuesday that 1.43 lakh samples were tested on Monday, taking the number of total Covid tests done so far to 67.73 lakh.

He said that there were 33,386 positive asymptomatic patients in home isolation.

"Till date, a total of 1.31 lakh patients preferred home isolation and out of them 98,591 recovered. Besides, there are 3,105 people in private hospitals, 234 in semi-paid hotels and rest in government-run Covid hospitals," he said.

Prasad said that under surveillance and contact tracing, over 3.29 lakh health department teams reached 93,663 areas and visited 2.20 crore houses and checked and contacted over 11.03 crore people.

The additional chief secretary further said that the state had decided to go for a month-long drive against water and vector-borne diseases like dengue, swine flu, encephalitis, chikungunya and others occurring during October.

Earlier in August, the government had gone for a drive against water and vector-borne diseases.

was required for this. He said that more and more traders be registered for GST.

The chief minister directed officials to offer all help to investors and entrepreneurs and take up their problems for solution in a time-bound manner. Yogi said he himself would interact with them in the meeting of Udyog Bandhu.

Yogi asked officials to organise training programmes for zero-budget agriculture and said that families of malnourished children be provided cows from shelters under special scheme. He asked the officials to strengthen milk samitis to expand the dairy sector.

The chief minister said that under the Smart City project of the Centre, 10 cities were being developed while seven cities were being developed at the state level. He asked officials to expedite the progress of Smart City projects as well as AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) scheme and

Presiding over an Unlock review meeting at the Lok Bhawan here on Tuesday, the chief minister said that medical employees should be protected from infection and asked officials to add 1,000 ICU beds in SGPPI Lucknow, RML Institute of Medical Sciences and KGMU.

He also asked officials to conduct Covid tests of all people in containment zones.

Yogi was particularly happy over UP jumping to second rank in Ease of Doing Business, and said that an action plan be prepared for 'Ease of Living' to make living standard of the people better.

Asking officials to make extra efforts to augment goods and services tax (GST) collection in the state, the chief minister said that an action plan

Yogi: Fast track Aligarh Smart City project

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Asserting that Aligarh would play an important role in realisation of the Atmanirbhar Bharat dream, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the Aligarh Smart City project be fast tracked.

"The state's share for the project should be released soon while a letter should be sent to the Centre for release of funds," the chief minister said.

Yogi was reviewing projects worth over Rs 10 crore and other developmental projects of Aligarh division comprising Aligarh, Kasganj, Etah and Hathras districts through video conferencing from his official residence here.

In the whole division, there are 25 projects worth over Rs 50 crore — ten in Kasganj, nine in Aligarh and six in Etah.

The chief minister reiterated that all the developmental works should be done in a time-bound manner while maintaining quality.

"Every project should have a timeline and it should be adhered to by all means," he said. The chief minister said that Aligarh, already one of the six nodes of the ambitious Defence Manufacturing Corridor project, was a hub of hardware, including the lock industry, and held immense potential for employment.

The chief minister asked for a departmental review of the construction of no frills air-

CM for financial empowerment of rural women

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that his government was committed to ensuring financial empowerment of women in the rural sector to not only help in improving their status in the family but also in society.

Speaking at a function held here on Tuesday in which a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed digitally between the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission and the United National World Food Programme (UWFP), Yogi said that one woman from each family would be involved in self-help

groups and the group would be provided financial help by the government.

"The Livelihood Mission is doing a commendable job. The ICDS in collaboration with Livelihood Mission has distributed food grains in 204 blocks in 18 districts. In future, we have plans to link all the blocks with this system," the chief minister said.

The 18 districts which have been linked with Livelihood Mission are Aligarh, Ambedkarnagar, Auraiya, Baghat, Banda, Chandauli, Etawah, Bijnor, Fatehpur, Gorakhpur, Kanauj,

Lakhimpur Kheri, Lucknow, Mainpuri, Prayagraj, Sultanpur and Unnao.

"The Livelihood Mission will help over 3,000 self-help group women to become entrepreneurs. Every woman will get employment of more than 240 days in a year. They would be able to earn between Rs 5,000 and Rs 7,000 per month. One year's turnover of this group is expected to be over Rs 1200 crore," the chief minister said. He also interacted with the beneficiaries of many districts. Rural Development Minister Rajendra Pratap Singh also spoke on this occasion.

port at Aligarh. "If there is any laxity, the responsibility must be fixed," he said.

He directed the additional chief secretary (home) to fix the timeline for the regional forensic lab project in Aligarh and take action if it was not followed.

The chief minister praised the people's representatives for taking interest in the development projects. He sought to remind the officials, in general, to take People's representatives into confidence while preparing the development projects.

While stressing on completing the development projects in time, the chief minister said that the utilisation certificate should be furnished after completion of 80 per cent of the work for timely release of funds. He said matters related to land be disposed of at the

earliest and efforts for land acquisition be speeded up. "Land plays an important role in the development hence land related issues should be accord priority," he said.

Stressing on prompt decisions on development projects, the chief minister said matters related to roads, drinking water and other public amenities be decided on priority.

Yogi said that the health services for Hepatitis and COVID-19 should always be available at the district level. He said the non-functional ventilators be fixed immediately by seeking help of experts and technicians.

The chief minister asked officials to prepare an action plan to take the One District One Project (ODOP) work forward. "Like the lock industry of Aligarh, every district has

some possibility or another to be explored under this scheme," he added.

All the people's representatives, including parliamentarians and legislators thanked the chief minister for setting up a state university in the name of Raja Mahendra Pratap in Aligarh. They said that Raja Mahendra Pratap was the one who gave land for Aligarh Muslim University but his name was never mentioned and not a single stone was erected in his name. They said it was because of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath that a university was now being set up after his name.

The chief minister said the government medical college of Etah should start functioning at the earliest. He was apprised by the divisional commissioner that studies would

start at the medical college from the next academic session. He also directed officials to ensure early commissioning of a 100-bed maternity wing in Etah and to release money for construction of Aliganj Women's Degree College after obtaining utilisation certificate. The chief minister also spoke to the local legislator of Etah, Satya Pal Singh Rathaur, and directed the district magistrate to take action after probing the matter related to PM Mandhan Yojana brought in his notice by the MLA. While talking to the MLAs of Hathras, Yogi asked them to send proposals for the staff in trauma centre. He told MP Rajvir Singh Diler to send a proposal about Har Ghar Nal Yojana. He also asked the district magistrate to dispose of the issues raised by the MP.

CLASSIFIEDS
NOTICE

I, Rohit Singer, R/o T-2 Flat No 404 Parsvnath Planet, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010, have changed my name to Rohit Sengar.

NOTICE

I change my name Chaudhary Ram Awatar from old name Ram Awatar Ram, So I new my new name CHAUDHARY RAM AWATAR, Address-Vill-Surawat, P.O. -Pali, District-Ghazipur (UP).

NOTICE

I declare that my daughter's Tazeen Amin pass certificate & mark sheet of ICSE 2018 & ISC 2020 with Index No 6710187 wrongly has been written my name as Amin Ul Hasan, but my actual name is Aminul Hasan, for all purposes. Aminul Hasan (Father) C 3064, Indira nagar Lucknow.

NOTICE

I, Saurabh Gupta, S/o Late Rajendra Gupta, R/o 1177H-1/298, Prabhu Kripa apartment, model town, kanpur have changed my minor daughter name from Mansi Gupta To Maansi Gupta, and be known by this name for all future purposes.

NOTICE

In my service records my daughter name is wrongly records as Arpana Yadav. Her correct name is Aparna Yadav. In future she would be known as Aparna Yadav Service No. 151318474M Rank BHM (RST) Anil Kumar 637 SATA BTY C/o 56 APO PIN CODE - 926637.

NOTICE

I, Army No. 15422649-Y, Rank-NK/DMT, Rajaneekar Kasuri Unit 1 TT Wg AMC, C & C, C/o 56 APO Cannt., Lucknow. In my service record my wife Kasuri Lohitha date of birth mentioned as 26-04-1993 as per Adhar Card her correct D.O.B. is 26-04-1995, her date of birth should be corrected in service records.

UPCC for action against IAS, IPS officers found guilty of helping Sengar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee, while attacking the Uttar Pradesh government for just recommending departmental proceedings against then district magistrate of Unnao and two superintendents of police found guilty in the CBI investigation on charges of negligence in the Kuldeep Singh Sengar rape case, said that the name of those ministers should come out who indirectly helped Sengar.

UPCC chief Ajay Kumar Lallu said the Congress was committed to ensuring justice to Unnao's daughter.

"We have been saying from the very beginning that there are very big officials involved in this whole matter. The CBI has recommended action against three officers, then DM Aditi Singh, SP Neha Pandey,

Pushpanjali and ASP Ashtabhuj Singh. This is just the beginning. Those who gave patronage to Kuldeep Singh Sengar should be exposed so that the world can know the truth about how those behind the slogans of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao were engaged in saving a rapist.

Lallu said that the names of ministers and legislators of the BJP government should now come to the fore.

"After all, the then DM and the SP of Unnao were assisting rapist Kuldeep Singh Sengar at the behest of the BJP leaders," he charged.

The UPCC chief alleged that at that time, many ministers and MLAs of the BJP government were openly defending rapist Kuldeep Sengar. "Will Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath take any action against these MLAs and ministers too?" he asked.

Maya, Lallu slam govt on Dalit murders, crime situation

Lucknow (PNS): Concerned over the brutal lynching of a Dalit youth in Mainpuri, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said that the rising incidents of murders in UP were exposing Yogi Adityanath government's tall claims on improved law and order.

In a tweet on Tuesday, Mayawati said, "The murder of a Dalit, Sarvesh Kumar, after being beaten up in Mainpuri on Monday and similar incidents with Govind Chauhan in

Maharajganj, Rajvir Maurya in Shahjahanpur, Wasid in Bareilly, Sudhir Singh in Kushinagar and Vinod Garg in Banda (Brahmin) who was shot dead, are extremely sad," She added, "Apart from this, the murder of a cab driver in Noida only on Monday reveals the truth about government claims as far as law and order is concerned."

Further, the BSP supremo had posted, "The government should take stringent legal action against those



who take law in their own hands and provide justice to the victims while giving them financial assistance also."

Meanwhile on Tuesday, UP Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu tweeted, "The dreaded picture of jungle raj is being witnessed in UP. Four persons got murdered in Greater Noida, two in Ajnara Society, two killed in Bisarkh area. Youth shot dead in Agra. What kind of Ram rajya is this chief minister?"

Six die due to snake bite; five suffocate in well

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Six persons died due to snake bite in separate localities of Chitrakoot and Banda in the last 24 hours.

Medical Officer of District Hospital (Banda) Dr Vineet Sachan said that among patients admitted for snake bite on Monday, Vinod (27) of Girwa and his wife Mithlesh (25) died within a few hours of admission in the hospital. The couple were sleeping outside their house when a poisonous snake bit them in the night.

Similarly, Rajaram (27) of Sangara hamlet of Marka and Shanti Devi (45) of Singhpur area were also admitted to the hospital after being bitten by

snake while working in the field on Monday evening. They too succumbed in the night.

Elsewhere in Chitrakoot, Ramchander (42) of Sabhapur hamlet of Pahadi was bitten by a poisonous snake while working in the field on Monday. He was rushed to a local hospital where he died early Tuesday morning.

Muniya Devi (45) of Bhairupganga area of Karvi, was bitten by a snake on Monday evening and she too later died in the hospital.

Meanwhile in another tragedy in Gonda, five persons, including four youths of a family, died while attempting to save a calf which had slipped into a well in Kotwali area on

Tuesday.

As per reports, Ravishankar (36) and his brother Dinesh (30) and their two cousins, Vishnu (35) and Vaibhav (18), slithered into the well to save a bovine from drowning in Maharajganj area. However, due to poisonous gas emanating in the well, all four were suffocated and started drowning. In an attempt to save them, their neighbour Mannu (35) also jumped into the well but met with the same fate.

Upon being informed, a fire brigade team and police jawans rushed to the spot and extricated the bodies after which they were sent for autopsy.

Unnao achieves top ranking in EODB

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Unnao district has achieved the top ranking in Ease of Doing Business (EODB) in Uttar Pradesh.

With a total score of 178.12, Unnao has retained the top rank in Category-A of districts (receiving over 2,000 applications) through single window portal, Nivesh Mitra, while with 185.74 score, Kaushambi retained its position in the Category-B of districts (receiving less than 2,000 applications) for the month of August 2020 district-level Ease of Doing Business ranking. From May this year, state government has started evaluating monthly district-level EODB rankings for all 75 districts. Unnao and Kaushambi have been the leading districts in categories A and B, respectively, continuously since then. On monthly basis, the districts are being assessed on key EODB parameters such as monthly disposal of licences/NOCs, grievances resolution and user satisfaction feedback.

In the preceding month of August, 64 out of 75 districts of the state improved their district-level Ease of Doing Business scores. More than 15 districts such as Kanpur Nagar, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Meerut, Lalitpur, and Sitapur have improved their ranks by more than four places.

Due to the district-level EODB ranking, Uttar Pradesh saw its user

PGV jibe at govt over EODB ranking

Lucknow (PNS): Taking a dig at Uttar Pradesh leaping ten positions in the recently released list of Ease of Doing Business ranking of states, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tweeted that the Yogi Adityanath government was patting its back for this in the same way as it claimed of investments on missing MoUs.

In a tweet, Priyanka Vadra said, "UP government patting its back on Ease of Doing Business ranking is the same way as making claims of investing on missing MoUs. Industries are getting closed in the state. There are locks on factories, weavers are selling looms."

She further took to satire and posted, "In reality, there is only ease of doing crime and ease of doing scams in UP." The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had issued the Ease of Doing Business Ranking on the basis of feedback from entrepreneurs and investors on September 5. In this, UP got the second position after scaling 10 positions leaving behind

Gujarat, Telangana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, Congress appointed 32 new office-bearers, including two vice-presidents and six general secretaries, to strengthen the UP unit of the party. The list was vetted by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. The shake-up was apparently made keeping the 2022 UP Assembly polls in mind as caste equations weighed heavily in the jig. A total of 40 per cent office-bearers are from backward castes, 30 per cent from upper caste while minorities are accommodated on 17 per cent posts. Among upper castes, Brahmins are especially obliged with 19 per cent posts and Muslim leader Suhail Ansari has been appointed keeping the weavers belt in mind. While Suhail Akhtar Ansari and Yogesh Dixit are the new vice presidents of UP Congress Committee, Vivekananda Pathak, Maqsood Khan, Ankit Parihar, Vidit Chaudhary, Brahmaswaroop Sagar and Prakash Pradhan Lodhi are the state general secretaries.

"Increasing monthly user satisfaction and higher grievances disposal are clear indicator of the ground level change in the state and the monthly district-level EODB ranking exercise shall be a game changer."

Two battered to death in separate incidents

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man was battered to death by three brothers for asking for a payment in Hardoi, while in Mainpuri, a Dalit man was lynched by a mob on the suspicion that he was trying to sell his daughter.

As per reports, Asharam of Lalpur area used to run a general merchant's shop. During lockdown, Mewaram and his brothers Nekram and Roshan, purchased goods worth Rs 1,150 from him, promising to make payments later.

On Monday morning, Ashram asked the brothers to pay the arrears which irked them and they started beating him. Later locals intervened and the brothers assured to make the payment later this week.

But late on Monday night, the trio accosted Asharam and battered him to death. Ashram's son and neighbours learnt about the murder only on Tuesday morning.

A case was registered and efforts were underway to nab the accused.

In Mainpuri, Sarvesh Diwakar sold sweets on a cart and lived with his daughter, who worked as domestic help and also studied at a local school. Some days back, Diwakar sent his daughter to live with some kin as both had little work due to the coronavirus pandemic. But rumours did rounds that Diwakar had sold his daughter after which five men dragged him to the terrace and beat him up mercilessly. A video clip of the assault also went viral on Monday.

On being informed, the police reached the spot and took Diwakar to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The police later registered a case and arrested four of the five assailants.

JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN MAUNATH BHANJAN (U.P.)
SCHEME BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
REQUIRED DIRECTOR
Skill India
We are a leading voluntary agency working in the field of literacy linked vocational skill development training to Non/Neo literacy & rudimentary level of educational, we are looking for a dynamic person head the organization as Director.
Essential Qualification:
✓ Graduation & desirable vocational degree/diploma.
✓ Seven years experience in supervisory capacity, preferably but not necessarily, in the field of education of Social Science.
✓ Working knowledge of the local language both written and spoken.
Desirable
• Experience in Administration/Accounts.
• Experience in leading a team.
• Experience in heading an organization.
• Experience in guiding/conducting of research or education.
Age:-Maximum 55 years as on the date of Application.
Emoluments:-Consolidated emoluments of Rs. 35000 - 40000 per month (all inclusive)
Terms and conditions
The position shall be filled purely on contractual basis for a period of ordinarily not exceeding five years out of which the first year of the first term will be the probation period. On satisfactory Performance and by mutual agreement the order will be continued for next four years. Interested person may send their complete application along with passport size photograph, Bio-data, division and percentage of marks with supporting documents (Self attested copies of mark sheet and certificate). In case of persons employed in organizations would be required to have applications sent through proper channel. They would be required to have application sent from their employer at the time of interview. Outstation candidates Called for interview will be reimbursed to and for India Rail fare. Eligible candidates will be shortlisted and call for the interview. Apply within 15 days from the date of publication of advertisement to The Chairman, Jan Shikshan Sansthan Plot no 26 behind UBI, Nara Bandh Ghazipur tiraha Maunath Bhanjan (U.P.) 275110. Contact us: 0547-2228588/9452655026
Apply To: jssmaunath@rediffmail.com

MOTOR SALES LIMITED
Regd. Off. 11, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Lucknow - 226001
Corporate Identity Number: L65921UP1972PLC003642
Email: ajaygupta0045@gmail.com Ph. No. : 0522-2630830 to 38
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, BOOK CLOSURE AND E-VOTING INFORMATION
Notice is hereby given that:
1. The Forty Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on **Wednesday, 30th September, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. at the Registered Office of the Company at 11, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Lucknow - 226001** to transact the businesses as set out in the notice convening the AGM.
2. Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, Rules made thereunder and Regulation 42 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 **Register of Members of the Company and Share Transfer Books will remain closed from 24th September, 2020 to 30th September, 2020** (both days inclusive) for the purpose of 48th Annual General Meeting of the Company.
3. Members and all other concerned are requested to lodge transfer deeds, change of address and any other communications at the Registered Office of the Company or with the Share Transfer Agent of the Company at: M/s Skyline Financial Services Private Limited, D-153A, 1st Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi-110020.
4. Pursuant to Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended by the Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2015, the Company is pleased to provide its members with the facility to exercise their right to vote at the 48th Annual General Meeting by electronic means and the business may be transacted through e-voting services provided by **Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL)** on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of the AGM. Members holding shares in physical form or dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date/ entitlement date i.e. **23rd September, 2020**, may cast their votes electronically on the Business as set out in the Notice of the AGM through e-voting facility of the CDSL. Apart from providing e-voting facility, the Company is also providing facility for voting by ballot at the AGM for the members who shall be present at the AGM but have not casted their votes by availing the e-voting facility. Miss. Gunjan Gok, Practicing Company Secretary has been appointed as scrutineer to scrutinize the remote e-voting and ballot process in fair and transparent manner.
5. Any person who acquires the shares of the Company and become the member of the Company after the dispatch of notice of the Annual General Meeting but before the cut-off date may obtain the login ID and password by following procedure as mentioned in the notice of the AGM or sending a request at helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com.
6. The e-voting period shall commence on **Saturday, 26th September 2020 (10:00 A.M. IST) and ends on Tuesday, 29th September 2020 (05:00 P.M. IST)**, after which e-voting shall not be allowed. The e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member by e-voting, he shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
7. In case of queries/grievances with regard to e-voting, members may refer to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at www.evotingindia.com or write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or may call on Toll-free no. 1800 200 5533.
For Motor Sales Limited
Saurabh Gupta
Compliance Officer
Date: 07.09.2020
Place: Lucknow

Process begins for more beds at 3 Covid hosps 887 test positive for coronavirus

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On the directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the process has begun for setting up 1,000 ICU and HDU beds at the Level-3 Covid facilities of SGPGI, RML Hospital and KGMU. CMO incharge MK Singh said meetings had already been held for the same and extra ICU and HDU beds would be available for Covid patients shortly.

"At SGPGI, there is separate building in which 300 more beds will be increased while at RML Hospital, the beds will be increased in the existing facility. There will be a need to hire additional manpower and we will rope in doctors from private hospitals besides staff nurses, paramedics and class IV employees," he added. About the rise in positive cases in Lucknow, Singh said their prime focus was on reducing the mortality rate with early detection. From Wednesday onwards, 220 rapid response teams will start working in the 110 city wards.

He said though their Covid hospital was inaugurated by the chief minister, actual functioning would still take some time to start.

On Tuesday, DK Shukla from UP Secretariat donated 30

stretchers, 10 geysers, five wheelchairs and 50 repaired stretchers to KGMU on the 15th death anniversary of his wife.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash carried stock of treatment facilities at SGPGI and Apollo Hospital. He said a 20-bed ICU unit would soon be started at Apollo hospital.

At SGPGI, the DM said 100 beds would be increased phase-wise and the medical institute would be provided 300 additional oxygen cylinders. He directed the hospital authorities to have two hearses and five mini-vans. He interacted with Covid-19 patients and reviewed the arrangements of control room at the hospital.

He also launched 'Sanitisation on One Call' services at Collectorate. The DM pasted a poster outside Collectorate announcing the number (0522-2307770).

The DM said anyone can call on this number for sanitisation services within 12 hours.

Meanwhile, director of Lok Bandhu Hospital Dr Madhu Saxena said that with five of their doctors testing positive for coronavirus, they were faced with shortage and it was affecting the functioning. She said she had informed the CMO



DM Abhishek Prakash during an inspection at Apollo Hospital on Tuesday

and Health department and both assured assistance.

"Two of our female doctors have tested positive for coronavirus and three out five gynaecologists are working in three shifts in a day, which is why we need more doctors,"

she said. However, she pointed out that there were more gynaecologists who came forward to help them in this hour of crisis. "A 62-year-old gynaecologist said she was ready to help us and that she would offer her services in C-section sur-

geries, whenever required," she said.

Meanwhile, in a webinar on 'Hindi Pakhwara' held on Tuesday, scientist CM Nautiyal stressed on the importance of accurate communication of science in the times of coron-

avirus pandemic. Citing the example of Covid-19, he said initially there was a lot of confusion about the nature, symptoms and treatment of patients.

"It was partly because scientists themselves were not sure as it was a new virus. Frequently changing statements from some international organisations also added to the confusion. However, there were also problems of communication," he said.

He pointed out that the pandemic led to an increase in the number of people getting interested in science. "It has been felt strongly all over the world that we need good science communicators without whom it will be difficult to handle situations like this," he added.

Nautiyal also mentioned the efforts of various organisations in making information on Covid-19 available to people through their websites and involving international agreements on handling recoveries. He appreciated the efforts made in covering the pandemic and in keeping people informed on preventive and other strategies. He said the new digital media has assumed a major role but given the ease of communicating on web, people still trust the print.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Senior Samajwadi Party leader SRS Yadav died of Covid-19 at SGPGI as the graph continued to rise with 887 more testing positive in the city on Tuesday, taking the total number of cases in the state capital to 34,333. SGPGI spokesperson said Yadav died in the morning.

Besides, 853 recovered in the district, taking the number of recoveries to 25,211. With eight deaths, city's death toll reached 461 with 8,661 active cases. Six of the patients who died were from Lucknow while two others from Rae Bareilly and Haridwar.

A senior official at the CMO office said those who tested positive included 49 from Indiranagar, 48 from Gomtinagar, 42 from Alambagh, 32 each from Ashiyana, Jankipuram, Thakurganj & Chhat, 31 each from Talkatora & Naka, 29 each from Mahanagar & Madaon, 28 from Hazratganj, 25 each from Cantt & Chowk, 21 each from Hasanganj & Vikasnagar, 19 each from Para & Saadatganj, 12 from Gomtinagar Extension, 15

from Krishnanagar and 13 from Hussainganj. As many as 5,745 samples were collected on Tuesday under contact surveillance.

Meanwhile, in the state, 6,743 more tested positive for coronavirus, including 431 in Kanpur, 306 in Prayagraj, 287 in Gorakhpur and 200 in Varanasi, taking the total number of cases in Uttar Pradesh to 2,78,473.

There were 73 deaths in the state, including six in Prayagraj, four in Kanpur, three each in Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Moradabad, Maharajganj & Rae Bareilly, two each in Meerut, Jhansi, Shahjahanpur, Basti, Sultanpur, Chandauli & Fatehpur, and one each in Saharanpur, Barabanki, Ayodhya, Rampur, Agra, Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Gonda, Pilibhit, Unnao, Sant Kabirnagar, Amroha, Mirzapur, Sambhal, Amethi, Farrukhabad, Auraiyya, Balrampur and Chitrakoot, taking the toll to 4,047.

Meanwhile, as many as 5,439 Covid-19 patients recovered in the state, taking the number of recoveries to 2,11,170 with 63,256 active cases.

Minister inaugurates new crematorium

Lucknow (PNS): A new crematorium was inaugurated at Gulala Ghat on Tuesday by Urban Development Minister Ashutosh Tandon in the presence of mayor Sanyukta Bhatia and Municipal Commissioner Ajay Dwivedi.

Additional municipal commissioner (AMC) Amit Kumar said it would be of great help amidst the coronavirus pandemic. "Mortal remains of 15-17 Covid victims are being cremated everyday in the current times and most of them arrive at the same time in morning hours. The new crematorium will give us some relief because

there were times when the Bhaissakund crematorium had to be kept open till 2:30 am," he said. On whether people would opt for Gulala Ghat considering that it was more convenient to reach Bhaissakund, he said they could not force anyone but at least there would be some option in case of heavy load in the one at Gomtinagar. He said LMC teams carry out sanitisation each time after cremation at Bhaissakund. The AMC said that the electric crematorium is environment-friendly and quicker as compared to traditional and conventional method.

University gets mask bank

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Vice-Chancellor inaugurated a mask bank at Lucknow University on Tuesday. It is an initiative of NSS and LU. He said masks would be distributed from the NSS office at LU on working days. With the help of the members of society, 5,000 masks have been collected at the NSS office.

Meanwhile, LU spokesperson said there have been several requests from UG applicants that they have been unable to upload documents on the counselling portal for various reasons. "The university has thus decided to extend the last date for uploading documents on the counselling portal till September 13 midnight. This is the final extension and no more time will be given after that. The applicants who do not upload their marks by September 13

midnight will not be considered in the merit list," he said. Besides, the entrance test for BLED will be held on September 26. Admit cards will be available through logins from September 11. In case the candidates have forgotten the password, they can reset it through 'forgot password' link. The entrance test will comprise 100 objective-type questions to be answered in 90 minutes. "Each question will be of four marks and one mark will be deducted for every wrong answer. The questions will be from Language Ability (Hindi & English), General Awareness, Logical Reasoning and Mental Ability sections," he added.

The PG admission process is also in progress. Since the results of graduation final year, semester examinations of any state university have not been announced as yet, the admission process got delayed.

IDBI BANK Regional Office (Central U.P.), 2nd Floor, Virendra Smriti Building, 15/54-B, Civil Lines, Kanpur-208001
Branch: Sharda Business Plaza 17/10, Shiv Charan Lal Road, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211003

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Bank issued demand notice to the following borrower/Co-borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor on the date mentioned against their name calling upon them to repay the amount within sixty days from the date of receipt of said notice. Since, they failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to them and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against the name of the borrower.

The borrower/Co-borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor, in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of IDBI Bank Limited for the amount given against their names with future interest and charges thereon.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/Co-borrower/Guarantor and owner of the property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession	Description of the Property	Amount O/s (as mentioned in the notice u/s 13(2))
1.	Smt. Nisha Agrahari Prop. Pranjal Medical System / Nisha Agrahari (Mortgagor)	28.02.2020	04.09.2020	All that piece and parcel of immovable property admeasuring 151.67 sq. mtr. of part of arazi no.6M1 situated at Mauza Abhaychandpur, Pargana- Arail Tehsil- Karchhana Distt.- Allahabad (Now-Prayagraj), Boundaries: East: Plot of S V Gupta, West: Rest of Land of Vendor, North: 20 Feet wide Kutchha rasta, South: Land of Mission	Rs. 9,58,676.00/- + Future Interest & Other Charges/ Expenses w.e.f. 04.02.2020 till realisation of the loan

Date: 09.09.2020 Place: Allahabad Authorized Officer, IDBI Bank Ltd

15-year-old boy electrocuted

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a tragic incident, a 15-year-old boy was electrocuted after he inadvertently came in contact with a wire over the boundary wall of a park under Gomtinagar Extension police station area on Tuesday morning. The incident came to light after a morning walker, Santram Chaudhary of Gomtinagar Extension locality, spotted the body lying in a corner around 6 am.

A police team reached the scene after Santram called them. A huge number of residents assembled at the scene. The deceased was identified as Karan Kumar Bharti of Peeli Colony in Ganti Nagar Extension. Inspector AK Pandey said the identity of the deceased was ascertained by his father Ramesh Kumar Bharti, who is a mechanic. He said Karan had gone for a morning walk and might have inadvertently touched the electric wire. He was a student of class X.

Meanwhile, 2-day-old body of an unidentified man, aged around 35 years, was recovered from Sharda canal in Para police station area on Tuesday. Police said he died of drowning and they were making efforts to ascertain the identity of the deceased.

THEFT

Ornaments of worth lakhs of rupees were stolen from a house in Chinhath. Reports said Rahul Khare of Satrikh road in the area said that he, along with his family, had gone to his native home in Bhadohi for some work on September 1. "I returned home on September 6 and found my house burgled. The lock at the main gate was broken and the thieves had decamped with all the ornaments kept in the almirah," he said.

Customer thrashed by petrol pump staffers

Lucknow (PNS): Four staffers of a petrol pump at Purania (Aliganj) thrashed a customer after the latter made the payment in coins on Monday night. As the video went viral in social media groups, police swung into action and arrested the accused. They were identified as Deepak Singh, Amrith Pal, Shubham Singh and Madhav Tiwari.

The police said a youth, Akash Rastogi of DS Colony on Sitapur road, purchased petrol gave coins to a staffer. The staffer lost his cool and asked him for notes. Akash said some of the staffers taunted him, he confronted them. It snowballed into a verbal spat during which he was thrashed.

Meanwhile, a 55-year-old unidentified man was found dead on railway tracks between Rehmat Nagar and Chandauli stations in Gosainganj police station area on Tuesday morning. The mutilated body was spotted by a railway staffer and a memo was sent to the Gosainganj police. The police suspected that the man was mowed down by a train while crossing the tracks. Locals could not ascertain the identity of the deceased.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No.73/2020		13.17	13.22	Kanpur Central	08.15	08.20
In reference to Railway Boards message, it is notified to run following additional special trains (these services shall be in addition to the shramik special and the special trains, which are already under operation) from 12.09.2020 to till further advice. These trains would run with reserved accommodation only. Details are as under:-		14.23	14.25	Pokhrayan	06.33	06.35
1. 05008/05007 Lucknow Jn. - Varanasi City - Lucknow Jn. (Daily) Special Train		15.05	15.07	Orai	05.54	05.56
05008 Ex. Lucknow Jn. on Daily from 12.09.2020		16.45	16.55	Jhansi Jn.	04.18	04.28
05007 Ex. Varanasi City on Daily from 13.09.2020		17.59	18.01	Lalitpur	03.05	03.07
05008		21.05	21.10	Bhopal	00.00	00.05
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		22.55	23.05	Itarsi Jn.	22.10	22.20
05007		00.07	00.09	Ghora Dongri	20.29	20.30
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		00.52	00.55	Betul	19.49	19.50
05008		01.20	01.22	Amla Jn.	19.30	19.35
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		02.17	02.19	Pandhurna	18.24	18.25
05007		03.55	04.00	Nagpur	17.05	17.10
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		04.58	05.00	Sevagram	15.34	15.35
05008		05.38	05.40	Hinganghat	14.54	14.55
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		07.14	07.17	Chandrapur	13.44	13.45
05007		09.05	09.10	Balharshah	13.20	13.25
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		09.58	09.59	Sirpur Kagazngr	12.06	12.07
05008		10.35	10.36	Belampalli	11.39	11.40
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		10.51	10.52	Mancheral	10.59	11.00
05007		11.02	11.03	Rangundam	10.29	10.30
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		12.25	12.27	Kazipet Jn.	09.14	09.16
05008		15.10	15.20	Secunderabad Jn.	06.55	07.20
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		15.28	15.30	Begampet	06.23	06.25
05007		20.18	20.20	Raichur	00.23	00.25
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		20.49	20.50	Manthralayam Road	23.54	23.55
05008		21.19	21.20	Adoni	23.14	23.15
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		22.15	22.20	Guntakal Jn.	22.30	22.35
05007		23.48	23.50	Anantapur	21.08	21.10
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		04.45	---	Yesvantpur	---	17.20
05008		08.05	08.10	Bhatni Jn.	20.40	20.45
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		08.21	08.23	Salempur Jn.	20.11	20.13
05007		08.34	08.36	Lar Road	19.56	19.58
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		08.52	08.54	Belthra Road	19.33	19.35
05008		09.19	09.21	Kiriharpur	19.17	19.18
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		09.40	09.42	Indara Jn.	19.03	19.05
05007		09.57	10.02	Mau Jn.	18.45	18.50
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		10.26	10.28	Dullahpur	18.21	18.23
05008		10.43	10.45	Jakhania	18.09	18.11
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		11.06	11.08	Sadat	17.53	17.55
05007		11.35	11.37	Aurihar Jn.	17.33	17.35
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		12.04	12.06	Sarnath	17.10	17.12
05008		12.35	---	Varanasi City	---	17.00
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		Rake Composition—SLR—02, General Second Class—07, Sleeper—08, AC III—02, AC II—02, AC I—01 = 22 Coach				
05004		00.15	00.20	Bhatni	04.20	04.25
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		00.31	00.33	Salemput	03.48	03.50
05007		00.59	01.01	Belthra Road	03.04	03.06
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		01.25	01.27	Indara Jn.	---	---
05008		01.40	01.50	Mau Jn.	02.20	02.25
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		02.31	02.33	Dullahpur	---	---
05007		04.16	04.18	Varanasi City	00.43	00.45
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		04.30	04.35	Varanasi	00.25	00.35
05008		04.58	05.00	Manduadih	00.06	00.08
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		05.04	05.05	Bhullanpur	23.58	23.59
05007		05.50	05.52	Madhosingh	22.58	23.00
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		06.08	06.10	Gyanpur	22.39	22.40
05008		06.57	06.59	Handiakhas	22.08	22.10
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		08.20	08.22	Prayagraj Rambagh	21.18	21.20
05007		08.40	08.45	Prayagraj Jn.	21.00	21.10
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		09.19	09.20	Bharwari	19.23	19.25
05008		09.36	09.38	Sirathu	19.03	19.05
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		09.58	10.00	Khaga	18.40	18.42
05007		10.28	10.30	Fatehpur	18.13	18.15
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		10.53	10.54	Bindki Road	17.44	17.45
05008		11.50	11.55	Kanpur Central	16.50	17.00
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		13.20	---	Kanpur Anwarganj	---	16.40
05007		07.15	07.17	Khalilabad	14.09	14.11
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		07.41	07.44	Basti	13.44	13.47
05008		08.28	08.30	Mankapur	12.49	12.51
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		09.00	09.05	Gonda	12.20	12.25
05007		10.27	10.29	Barabanki	11.03	11.05
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		11.01	11.04	Badshahnagar	10.20	10.23
05008		11.35	11.50	Aishbag	09.48	10.03
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		12.40	12.42	Unnao Jn.	08.43	08.44
05007		Rake Composition—SLR—02, General Second Class—08, Sleeper—06, AC II—01, AC III—03, Pantry Car—01 = 21 Coach				
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		Note: Passengers travelling by these trains have to observed guidelines issued by government regarding prevention of COVID-19.				
05008		CPROT-06 Dy. Chief Oper. Manager/CHG, Gorakhpur				
Arr. Dep. STATION Arr. Dep.		About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794849595				
05007		"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"				

MACRO International Ltd.

Registered Office: 'Plaza Kalpana', Ground Floor, 24/147, Birhana Road, Kanpur-01 (U.P.), [CIN- L74120UP1993PLC015605], Tel: (0141) 2373164; Fax: (0141) 2373676 Email: miel1@rediffmail.com, website: www.miel.co.in

NOTICE OF THE 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, INFORMATION ON E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of MACRO INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (the 'Company') will be held on Wednesday, the 30th September, 2020 at 10.00 A.M. at the Registered Office of the Company at 'Plaza Kalpana', Ground Floor, 24/147, Birhana Road, Kanpur - 208001 (U.P.) to transact the business set out in the Notice of AGM which together with the Annual Report of the Company for the Financial year ended 31st March, 2020 has been sent electronically to the Members who have registered their E-mail ID with the Depository Participants / Company and to other Members in physical mode.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013, the provisions of Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2015 and the provisions of Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company shall be providing remote e-voting facilities to the Members through Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL), in respect of the businesses to be transacted at the AGM. The process and manner of remote e-voting have been mentioned in the Notes to the Notice of the AGM.

The remote e-voting will commence on Sunday, 27th September, 2020, 10.00 A.M. IST and will conclude on Tuesday, 29th September, 2020, 05.00 P.M. IST.

Members of the Company, holding shares either in physical or dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2020, may cast their votes by remote e-voting.

Any person who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a Member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice of the AGM and holds shares as on the cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2020 may obtain the login ID and password for remote e-voting by sending a request at helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or at miel1@rediffmail.com

The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL at 5.00 P.M on 29th September, 2020.

The facility for voting through poll paper shall be made available at the AGM and the Members attending the AGM who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting, shall be eligible to exercise their voting rights at the AGM through poll paper.

Only a person, whose name appears in the Register of members or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories, as on the cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2020 shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or voting at the AGM through poll paper.

Grievances, if any, regarding e-voting or the e-voting procedure should be addressed to Shri Sudhir Parasrampria Managing Director at e-mail: miel1@rediffmail.com (Contact No. 0141-2373676) or at helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com.

A copy of Notice of the AGM is available at the Registered office of the Company and on the Website of CDSL at www.cdslindia.com.

Book Closure

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books will remain closed from Thursday, 24th September, 2020 to Wednesday, 30th September, 2020 (both days inclusive), for the purpose of the aforesaid AGM.

For Macro International Ltd. (RAKESH PANWAR) (COMPANY SECRETARY) ACS: 39235

Place : Jaipur Date : 08.09.2020

92% attendance in 2nd semester AKTU exams

There was 92 per cent attendance in the second semester PG examinations of MTEch, MPharm and MArch conducted by AKTU. Spokesperson Asheesh Mishra said the exams were conducted at 20 centres across the city. Across the state too, the attendance was 92 per cent with approximately 37,000 students appearing for the exams. He said there were no cases of students using unfair means. The students reported at least an hour prior to the start of the exams, as mentioned in their admit cards. "The students stood in queues adhering to social distancing norms. Body temperature of the student was checked and none of the isolation rooms were used. "The exam centres provided disposable masks to those who were not wearing the

proper ones," Mishra said. The centres were sanitised daily before start of exams. All desks and chairs were disinfected and all door handles, staircase railings, lift buttons etc were disinfected. Markings were made on the floor to ensure social distancing. Meanwhile, the online semester exams of Information and Library Science department of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU) commenced on Tuesday. BBAU spokesperson said the question papers were sent to the students via email and WhatsApp. "A unique email ID has been created by the department for all the papers so that correct record of answersheets can be main-

tained. The students sent scanned answersheets in PDF format. The students were given two hours to complete the exam and 45 minutes to scan and email their answersheets. In case of any difficulty, the students have also been provided the facility to send their answersheets to teachers concerned through WhatsApp. MLIS second semester Information Technology Application and BLIS second semester Information Sources and Services exams were held on Tuesday," she added. The next online exam for both MLIS and BLIS students will be held on September 10. "Practical exams and dissertation viva-voce will also be conducted online. The students who are unable to offer online viva due to low bandwidth will have telephonic viva.

Deputy CM stresses on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'

Lucknow (PNS): The responsibility of professional institutes is not only to provide education but also provide employment opportunities and in order to create an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', youths have to be encouraged to take up self-employment. These views were expressed by Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma at the 25th Foundation Day of Jaipuria Institute of Management celebrated online on Tuesday. About the New Education Policy, he said: "It is perhaps the biggest step taken after independence to bring about a social change and to do away with the Macaulay effect. We have to ensure that the benefit of same reaches even to the common man living in villages." He urged the institute to promote and take maximum advantage of the New Education Policy. Founder-Director of the institute NK Dhoopar said he was immensely happy and satisfied to witness success of the institute in Lucknow and the seed sown in 1995 became a fully-grown tree. He said he was approached by Dr Raja Ram Jaipuria in the year 1994 for setting up a B-School in Lucknow. In his keynote address, chairman of Manipal Global Education Mohandas Pai said the next 30 years would be marked by immense growth for countries like India. While the US and China would try to prove their domination, India would also grow and become a bigger economy, he added. "This pandemic has exposed the dependence of various countries on China and this probably is the best time to become self-reliant. The next decade will be that of technology and only the institutions making the best use of technology will excel," he said. The programme started with the address of Jaipuria Institute of Management director Kavita Pathak and chairman Sharad Jaipuria.

Widening, reinforcement of 500-km of roads underway

With World Bank assistance, the Uttar Pradesh government is in the process of widening and reinforcing about 500-km of roads at a cost of Rs 3,269 crore and is expected to spend Rs 630 crore on road safety works. A meeting of the Governing Board of World Bank reviewed the UP Core Road Network Development Project in Lucknow on Tuesday. The meeting was chaired by Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari. Sources said that among issues discussed were four road widening and reinforcement works of 258.355 km with an estimated cost of Rs 1,415.02 crore. All these projects are in various stages of implementation. Almost 99 per cent work on 49.145 km Garoutha-Chirgaon Road (Jhansi) has been completed. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 227.17

crore and it is expected to be completed by September 30, 2020. Besides, about 70 per cent of work on 72.785 km Hamirpur-Rath road (Hamirpur) would be completed by November 15, 2020, while the project will be completed by July 2021. The total cost of the project is around Rs. 349.46 crore. Work on 57.30 km Gola-Shahjahanpur road, (Shahjahanpur and Lakhipur), costing Rs. 418.48 crore, would be completed by November, 2021. Apart from this, work on 79.125 km Budaun-Bilsi-Amroha-Sambhal road is likely to be completed by November 2021 at a project cost of Rs 419.91 crore. Besides, six new works of road widening and reinforcement totalling 260.10 km have also been identified and they are expected to cost around Rs 1952.90 crore. The detailed project reports (DPRs) of these works are being prepared. About 35 km of

Hamirpur-Rath-Gursarai-Jhansi road will be completed at a cost Rs 250 crore; 36 km Moradabad-Haridwar-Dehradun road will be completed at a cost of Rs 356.40 crore; 49.50 km Garh-Sayana-Bulandshahr road will be completed at a cost of Rs 499.20 crore; 60.10 km Bahraich-Gonda-Ayodhya road will be completed at a cost of Rs 365 crore; 47.50 km Hamirpur-Khuchsar road will be completed at a cost of Rs 289.20 crore and 32 km Bansi-Mehandawal-Khalilabad road will be completed at a cost of Rs 193.10 crore. The chief secretary directed the officials to complete all works within the timeline by intensive supervision and quality testing of all works. He said the DPRs of the six new works should also be submitted in time. Senior officers from departments of Finance, Public Works Department, Home, Transport etc. were present in the meeting.

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड विद्युत 400 केबीवी उपकेन्द्र खण्ड, कसारा मऊ। निम्नलिखित ई-निविदाएं अधिकृत एवं अनुमोदित संस्थाओं/फर्मों से जो जीओएसटीडी में पंजीकृत तथा सरकारी/अर्धसरकारी प्रविष्टान में क्रय/कार्य को संचालन रूप से पूर्ण करने का अनुभव रखती हों, ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। ई-निविदा हेतु ब्रोकर धराराशि/निविदा शुल्क अधिकांश अग्रिमता विद्युत 400केबीवी उपकेन्द्र खण्ड कसारा, मऊ, के पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, संकटक पावर हाउस के पास शाखा, के खाता सं. 0316002100027406, IFSC Code-PUNB0031600 में आरटीजीएस/ईआईएफटी के माध्यम से जमा कराई जाये तथा बैंक में जमा किए जाने का साक्ष्य यथा योज्य सुटीदार संस्था, खाते का नाम, निर्गत निविदा बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं लिखित दाता द्वारा प्रविष्टित/प्रतिष्ठित थे-इन रिकवरी की स्कैन कॉपी, जारी को बैंक के कम्प्यूटेशन मेल की प्रिंट ई-टेंडर प्रपत्रों के साथ ऑन लाइन अपलोड की जायेगी। निविदाओं को ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड किया जायेगा। नियत तिथि एवं समय पर ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की वेबसाइट पर खोला जायेगा। ई-निविदा माग-2 (प्रारंभ पाटी) को ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट पर खोले हेतु तयनुसार वेबसाइट पर ही सुविधि किया जायेगा। विस्तृत विवरण प्रतिष्ठित समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन के साथ-साथ ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in एवं निविदा की वेबसाइट www.upptcl.org पर उपलब्ध रहेगा। ई-निविदा संस्था, कार्य का विवरण खोलने का दिनांक, ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट पर अपलोड किए जाने खोलने का समय ब्रोकर राशि एवं निविदा का मूल्य क्रमनुसार निम्न-तः 1. अल्प कालिक ई-निविदा सं-06 010400010(मऊ)/2020-21- विद्युत 400 केबीवी उपकेन्द्र खण्ड कसारा, मऊ के अन्तर्गत 400 केबीवी उपकेन्द्र खण्ड, कसारा-मऊ में नैन वायर एवं टीओ एण्ड पीओ में एबीवीडी सर्विस इंजीनियर की सहायता के लिये जो कि 132 केबीवी सिचवाईड में स्थापित 3 नग एसीएफके सिलिंडर ब्रेकर के मरम्मत एवं ओवरहालिंग का कार्य करया जाय। दिनांक-22.09.2020 12.00 बजे प्रातः 15.00 बजे तककी माग-पाटी-1 खोलने हेतु) रू 2000.00 रू 236.00 (जीओएसटीडी सहित) नोट-उपरोक्त तिथि को अपरोहतासारी के अग्रिमतासारी को खोली जायेगी। (राजेन्द्र प्रसाद) अधिकांश अग्रिमता विद्युत 400केबीवी उपकेन्द्र कसारा-मऊ पंजाब-690 दिनांक- 5.9.2020 "सफ़र हित में बिजली बचायें"

PPP policy required for intelligent traffic to reduce road accidents: Gadkari

The Centre on Tuesday announced a public private partnership (PPP) model for an intelligent traffic system to reduce road accidents. Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said there is a need for a policy and a reputed private consultant will be appointed to come out with the model. Gadkari asserted that post implementation of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, road accidents and related deaths have come down. On an average, India witnesses about 5 lakh road accidents per annum in which about 1.5 lakh people die and about 3 lakh are crippled. This is the time we should go for PPP (public private partnership) model in transportation... We will appoint a private consultant, a good reputed company to study how we can make PPP model in transport system particularly in Intelligent Transport System (ITS) at state level, municipal corporation level and the National Highways level," the minister said while addressing a webinar on road safety. He announced a tender will be released soon in this regard. An ITS comprises centralised control centres, closed tolling systems which also include components like CCTV, weather monitoring,

variable message signs, advanced communication system, traffic management, simulation, digital services driven by AI among others to streamline traffic. The minister also expressed confidence that road accidents and related 1.5 lakh deaths per annum would be reduced by 50% by 2025 against the target of 2030. "We are working on fast track mode to achieve the goal with the cooperation of all stakeholders especially the state governments," he said. The minister said he has taken lot of initiatives to reduce road accidents including correcting black spots or spots witnessing a high number of accidents due to bad road designing or other road engineering or related flaws. He said the World Bank and the ADB are providing ₹7,000 crore each for removing black spots from national highways. "We have already identified black spots on national highways. India has already spent ₹20,000 crore on removing the black spots," Gadkari further said. He lauded the Tamil Nadu government's efforts to brought down road fatalities by 25 percent by implementing a project with the World Bank's assistance. Gadkari also called upon Members of Parliament who are chairing District Road Committees to identify black spots and pursue their redressal.



'Hunar Haat' to boost desi toy industry's prospects

Taking a cue from the Modi Government's recent policy to replace imported toys, including those largely from China, with the ones locally produced, Union Minority Affairs Minister will resume 'Hunar Haat' from Wednesday to encourage indigenous toy industry. After a gap of about 6 months due to the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, "Hunar Haat" will restart on October 9 at Prayagraj (Allahabad) with the theme of "Local to Global" and focus on indigenous exquisite Indian toys. Announcing this, Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Tuesday said here that every corner of the country has a traditional and ancestral legacy of indigenous toys. "This legacy, which was on the verge of extinction, has got a boon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi pitched for Swadeshi Toys," he said. Naqvi said that every corner of the country is endowed with diversity of indigenous toys

made with wood, brass, bamboo, glass, cloth, paper, clay etc. "Hunar Haat" will be an enormous platform providing market and opportunities to master artisans who prepare these indigenous exquisite toys. More than 30 per cent stalls will be for artisans who prepare indigenous toys, they will also be extended help through various institutions for attractive packaging of "Swadeshi Toys". In the coming days, "Hunar Haat" will be organized at Jaipur (23 Oct -1 November), Chandigarh (7- 15 November), Indore (21 to 29 November), Mumbai (22 to 31 December), Hyderabad (8 to 17 January 2021), Lucknow (23 to 31 January 2021), India Gate, New Delhi (13 to 21 February 2021), Ranchi (20 to 28 February 2021), Kota (5 to 14 March 2021), Surat/Ahmedabad (20 to 27 March 2021) etc. Naqvi said that this time, people will also be able to buy "Hunar Haat" products digital and online also. Union Minority Affairs Ministry is registering these artisans and their indigenous products on "GeM" (Government e Marketplace).

Friends-turned-foes spar over puppy 'abduction'

Lucknow (PNS): A man accused his erstwhile friend of 'abducting' his pet pooch from his house in Thakurganj on Tuesday. According to Thakurganj SHO, Rahul of Thakurganj had given a puppy to his friend Prashant, who is an advocate by profession. However, in due course of time, their friendship fell apart. Rahul asked Prashant to return his puppy but the latter refused. "Rahul reached Prashant's house and took the puppy with him. He made one mistake that that he did it without informing police about the dispute. He showed us the receipt of purchase," the SHO said. He added that the police were yet to register a case in this connection. In another case, wife of a farmer went missing under mysterious circumstances after she left her house to bring back her son from her parents' house in Maal police station area on Monday. Reports said the woman, identified as Anjali (30) of Maal, left for her parents' house in Unnao on August 31 to take back her son Vansh, who was staying there. Her husband Putan said Anjali was wearing ornaments worth about Rs 4 lakh and also carrying Rs 1.65 lakh in cash. "I called my in-laws and was told that she never reached there," he said.

SCHOOLSCAN

ABACUS CONTEST Omash Sharma, a class V student of City Mentorship School, Anand Nagar Campus, won the gold medal in an abacus competition, organised online at zonal level. The contest was organised under the aegis of 'Brainbrain'.

IT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ITDA) Department of Information Technology Government of Uttarakhand. Tender Notice No. 16/e-ITDA-PRJ/DEPT/IT/2020-PROJECT. Date: 08 Sept. 2020

VARIOUS WORKS AT KATHIAR DIVISION E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KIR/Engg/18 of 2020; dated: 04-09-2020. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: 1. Brief Description of Work: BG CTR (P) of the existing 52 Kg rail on PSC sleeper (M-7) density by 60 Kg/90UTS rail on PSC-6 sleeper with (M-8) density from Km. 132.2 to 132.9, 142.4 to 144.0, 144.3 to 145.0, 146.6 to 147.9, 148.0 to 148.2, 192.1 to 192.6, 212.0 to 214.0 (Dn line), from Km. 171.2 to 171.9 (Kumedpur LUB), from Km. 159.3 to 164.0, 164.0 to 164.7, 188.1 to 189.1, 192.1 to 192.6, 197.6 to 200.2, 207.4 to 208.4, 208.9 to 209.4, 210.4 to 214.0 (Up line), 198.9 to 200.1 (Samsi L/3) between New Jalpaiguri - Malda Town section under the jurisdiction of DENI/Kathiar. (Grand Total = 23.50 Km). Tender Value: ₹3,55,94,501.36; Earnest Money: ₹3,28,000.00. Tender No. 1. Brief Description of Work: Track maintenance and other ancillary work for a period of 02 years under the jurisdiction of SSE/P/Way/Buniyadpur. Tender Value: ₹60,52,254.45; Earnest Money: ₹1,21,200.00. Tender No. 2. Brief Description of Work: BG TBTR of existing steel channel sleeper by H beam sleeper Bridge No. 120 UP (40 sleeper), Bridge No. 131 UP (11 sleeper), Bridge No. 133 UP (60 sleeper), Bridge No. 13 UP (112 sleeper), Bridge No. 14 UP (115 sleeper), Bridge No. 42 UP (125 sleeper), Bridge No. 32 UP (265 sleeper), Bridge No. 3 UP (626 sleeper) between Malda Town - New Jalpaiguri, Bridge No. 129 DN (40 sleeper), Bridge No. 131 DN (110 sleeper), Bridge No. 133 DN (60 sleeper) between New Jalpaiguri - Malda Town section under the jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/Kathiar (Total = 1663 Nos. sleeper). Tender Value: ₹4,60,56,250.67; Earnest Money: ₹3,80,000.00. Tender No. 4. Brief Description of Work: Construction of relay room at Harishchandrapur, (Samsi, Bhaluka Road, Kumarganj) & Old Malda stations for Electronic Interlocking. (Civil Engineering). Tender Value: ₹42,00,408.38; Earnest Money: ₹4,000.00. Tender No. 5. Brief Description of Work: Reconditioning of worn out 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 crossing body, switches etc. under the jurisdiction of DENI/Kathiar. Tender Value: ₹45,35,400.00; Earnest Money: ₹50,700.00. Tender No. 6. Brief Description of Work: Reconditioning of worn out 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 crossing body, switches etc. under the jurisdiction of DENI/Kathiar. Tender Value: ₹22,49,850.00. Tender No. 11. Brief Description of Work: Supply of drinking/portable water by Motor Truck at Darjeeling (ORH, Holiday Home, Station Building, Running Room, Loco Shed & Railway Colony & Craigmount Rest House) and at Ghum & Sonada (Station building and DIR/DHR's Office) for the period of 12 months. Tender Value: ₹68,03,037.00; Earnest Money: ₹1,36,000.00. Tender No. 12. Brief Description of Work: Provision of 5 Nos. lift at Kathiar, 2 at Barsoi & 2 at Purnima. Tender No. 5. Brief Description of Work: Tender Value: ₹61,05,007.52; Earnest Money: ₹1,22,100.00. Tender No. 13. Brief Description of Work: Provision of 2 Nos. lift at Joghani Station. Civil Engineering works only. Tender Value: ₹24,42,003.01; Earnest Money: ₹48,800.00. Tender No. 14. Brief Description of Work: At Forbesganj, Provision of diversion for connectivity to Saharsa. Tender Value: ₹1,96,55,006.61; Earnest Money: ₹2,48,300.00. Tender No. 15. Brief Description of Work: Provision of 1 Nos. lift at New Jalpaiguri Station, Civil Engineering works. Tender Value: ₹12,21,001.50; Earnest Money: ₹24,400.00. All above E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 05-10-2020 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 05-10-2020. The complete information with the tender document to above e-tenders will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 05-10-2020 in website www.treps.gov.in.

Centre orders attachment of properties of SFJ handlers

The Centre on Tuesday ordered attachment of immovable properties in Punjab of designated terrorists Gurpatwant Singh Pannu and Hardeep Singh Nijjar under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The duo is being probed by the NIA in connection with a case relating to a concerted campaign launched by secessionist organisation 'Sikhs for Justice' under the banner of 'Sikh Referendum 2020' for creation of so called 'Khalistan'. "Government of India in exercise of powers conferred under Section 51A of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, has ordered for attachment of the immovable properties of designated terrorists - Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in District Amritsar, Punjab and Hardeep Singh Nijjar in District

Jalandhar, Punjab, the NIA said in a statement. During the course of investigation, the NIA had identified immovable properties belonging to Pannun in Amritsar, and those of Nijjar in Jalandhar, and moved the Government for attachment of these assets properties under the provisions of the UA(P)Act, 1967. The attached properties Pannu include 46 Kanal at village Khankot, Amritsar,Punjab and 11 Kanal 13.5 Marlas Sultanwind Suburban Bhainiwal, Amritsar, Punjab. Nijjar's attached asset is 11 Kanal 13 Marlas in area at village Bhar, Singhpura, Pillaur, Jalandhar (Punjab). Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), headed by USA-based terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, is presently making efforts to propagate 'Sikh Referendum-2020' on social media.

लखनऊ नगर निगम टी.एन. रोड, लाखाबाग, लखनऊ, फोन-फैक्स 0522-2612639 ई-टेंडर पोर्टल- http://etender.up.nic.in ई-निविदा सं. 44/मऊ/2020-21 दिनांक: 08.09.2020 ई-निविदा प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत निविदा सूचना

Table with 5 columns: क्र. सं., वाहन संख्या, वाहन का विवरण, इंजन नम्बर, बैरेसिड नम्बर, प्रारंभ तिथि (EARNEST MONEY). Row 1: 1, MH48AG4745, TRUCK (OPEN BODY), 400922P0012007, MEC0784CHGP016336/ रू 115388-0

Bhadohi court rejects bail plea of MLA Vijay Mishra

Bhadohi (PTI): A court here on Tuesday rejected the bail plea of Bhadohi's Gyanpur MLA Vijay Mishra in connection with a case of criminal intimidation and wrongful confinement. The Nishad Party MLA is currently lodged in a Chitrakoot jail. Government counsel Dinesh Pandey said District and Sessions Judge Anil Kumar rejected his bail plea. Mishra was arrested from Madhya Pradesh after a relative of his lodged a case of criminal intimidation and wrongful confinement against him, his wife Ramlali, a member of the state legislative council, and son Vishnu.

नीलामी सूचना कार्यालय असिस्टेंट कमिश्नर, वाणिज्य कर, सचल दल प्रथम इकाई, लखनऊ सी.जी.एस.टी./एस.जी.एस.टी. अधिनियम-2017 की धारा 79(1)(B) के अन्तर्गत वाहन की नीलामी की सूचना

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers with a smile! DRM (Works), Kathiar

173 new COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The number of patients who have been recovered from home isolation has crossed 5K-mark in the district here on Tuesday, giving a major boost to the fight against coronavirus pandemic. As many as 173 new COVID-19 cases have been detected during the day. With this, the total number of cases has reached 9,359. Besides, the district also saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 162. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 115 patients. Out of them, 114 patients recovered from home isolation and the total number of patients cured at home has increased to 5,096. Besides, one recovered from the hospital and the number of patients who have been discharged from the hospitals has reached 2,402. The total number of cured patients is now 7,498, leaving 1,699 active



Hotspot in DLW premises in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

patients. The recovery rate has improved to 80.11 per cent but mortality rate to 1.73 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that by the first of the day at 11 am, 131 positive patients were detected out of 1,566 reports received. Till

then, the total test reports received were 1,30,741 and the results of 3,979 are awaited. Out of these 1,21,424 were negative while 9,317 positive. The total number of samples collected was 1,44,740. Earlier, a female (67) from Ram Janaki Tower died at Apex Hospital, while a

female (55) from Chitrassenpur, Kachhwa Road succumbed to COVID-19 at SSH BHU.

Besides, with the addition of 23 new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 1,659 including 369 red zones. Three green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 1,290 green zones including 12 new ones.

In this belt of Purvanchal comprising 10 districts of three divisions, 466 new cases were found on Monday, increasing the total number to 33,813 with maximum 123 cases in Varanasi, followed by 77 in Ballia, 64 in Sonbhadra, 43 in Chandauli. 36 in Jaunpur, 35 in Azamgarh, 35 in Ghazipur, 22 in Mau, 19 in Mirzapur and 12 in Bhadohi. Apart from this, the day saw eight deaths including two each in Varanasi, Azamgarh and Chandauli and one each in Jaunpur and Ghazipur.

353 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The figure of corona infected has surged to 12,000 mark on Monday night. The total number increased to 12,069 with 353 new patients being detected within 24 hours. Although 334 people were also discharged on the same day. A total of 8,562 patients have been cured so far. This was confirmed by CMO Dr GS Bajpai. He said that four people have also died from corona.

According to the CMO, 48 patients were discharged on Monday. With this, the total number of those discharged from hospitals has increased to 3428. On Monday, 10 people were discharged from Kalindipuram, seven from Railway Hospital, four from Unani, 10 from Beli, two from private hospital, 10 from Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital. Apart from this, 45 are admitted in Railway Hospital, 67 from Kalindipuram, 12 in Unani, 70 in two private hospitals, 36 in Beli and 130 in SRN Hospital in Prayagraj and 15 from other districts.

Apart from this, home isolation was completed on 286 people on Monday, taking the total number of people discharged from home isolation to 5134. At present, the number of active cases has reached 3,327. The recovery rate has come down to 71 per cent from earlier. It is down by three per cent. On Monday, a swab sample of 2,790 sus-



District Magistrate Bhanu Chandra Goswami, inspecting SRN Hospital in Prayagraj

Pioneer

pects was taken, while the report of 2,074 people has come negative.

Till last month, the situation was that active cases were more and the number of healthy people was less but the trend changed from the last week of August. Now the number of patients recovering is more while the active patients are less. There are currently 3,327 active patients admitted to Covid hospitals in home isolation. SRN is the L3 Covid Hospital, so most of the serious patients are being

brought here, in which some serious patients are put on a ventilator and some patients are given oxygen as necessary.

Four corona-infected patients died during treatment in the last 24 hours. It also includes an 80-year-old elderly who lived near Mary Lucas School. He was admitted to SRN on August 4 and he breathed his last on August 7. Apart from this, an infected patient hailing from Hanumanganj lost his life. He was brought to Covid Hospital in critical condition but could

not escape. Similarly, a 62-year-old patient of Ghurpur also died in SRN Hospital. He was on dialysis.

Dr. Rishi Sahai, the nodal officer for COVID-19, said that these days the testing of corona has been expedited across the district. This is why 2,500 to 3,000 patients are sampled every day. On Monday, the testing report of 2,074 samples came negative. He said that 2,790 suspect patients have been sampled from different testing centres.

BJP workers file complaint against Raut

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Women workers of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi filed a complaint against Shiv Sena MP from Rajya Sabha Sanjay Raut at Sriga police station here on Tuesday. They demanded that an FIR should be lodged against the Maharashtra leader for his insulting and threatening statement against Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut. However, according to the Sriga police, they had received the complaint but only after going through the same they would decide whether an FIR would be



BJP workers filing complaint against Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

lodge or not.

State convener of BJP (Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Cell) Dr Rachna Agrawal said that

Maharashtra Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut had used derogatory and insulting remarks against Kangana apart from

threatening her life. 'The insult of a person, especially a woman, by someone holding a constitutional post is against the Constitution. It is also against the Indian culture and dignity of great Maratha personality Chatrapati Shivaji', she said.

In this direction, BJP's cell workers reached Sriga police station and filed their complaint, demanding to lodge an FIR against Raut. They also demanded strict action against Shiv Sena MP.

Among those who were also present on the occasion were Lata Agrawal, Priti Purohit, Ratna Verma, Priti Jaiswal and Reshma Sathwani.

Efforts going on to clean Ganga ghat stairs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Hectic efforts are going on at some main ghats of river Ganga in this holy city to remove the huge quantity of soil deposited there due to recent rise in water level. For the last couple of days, the water level is falling sharply making the ghat stairs slippery and posing a lot of inconveniences to many reaching there to offer pind-daan to their forefathers during ongoing Pitrapaksh. After reaching 68.63 metres against the warning level of 70.26 metres, the river had started receding but prior to this, it had forced the river Varuna to flow reverse to some extent upto Saiputri area.



A worker removing soil deposited at ghat stairs of river Ganga in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

However, it was a great relief to thousands of residents living in several localities situated on both the banks of Varuna. Meanwhile, the cleaning the slippery ghat stairs drive received a disruption as rain hit the city in afternoon.

Though its duration was short it has caused water-logging in many areas. The river was recorded at 66.72 metres at 8 am on Tuesday as per the report of local office of Central Water Commission (CWC) which indicates that during the last two days the water level was

fallen sharply by 1.91 metres and it continued receding right from upstream Phaphamau to Ballia including Allahabad, Mirzapur, Varanasi and Ghazipur. As the river Gomti also started receding, the residents of several villages in Daab

area, surrounded by rivers Ganga and Gomti near their confluence about 25 kms from here, heaved a sigh of relief. In downstream Ballia where the river caused flood flowing above the red mark for a couple of days has come down to 57.27 metres against a danger level of 57.61 metres but it is still flowing above the warning level of 56.61 metres. It is expected that by Wednesday morning level would fall further to 56.90 metres and if the trend continues by evening it would come down below the warning level.

Due to this sharp falling in flood water, it has started causing soil erosion at many places in Ballia and low-lying areas of other districts.

Recently, river Sarju caused flood havoc in Ballia, surrounded by three major rivers while river Ghagara in Mau and Azamgarh districts in this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP).

Tripathi new SSP of Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Senior Superintendent of Police, Prayagraj, Abhishek Dixit has been placed under suspension on serious charges of corruption and dereliction of duty. He has been attached to the office of the DGO during the suspension period.

According to reports the Chief Minister had received several complaints against the Prayagraj SSP, this action has been taken on his instructions.

The official communique reads that the Prayagraj SSP adopted corrupt means in transfer-posting besides turning a blind eye towards the instructions from the Police Head Quarters. He has also been found guilty of dereliction of duty, failure in crime control, and not maintaining law and order properly, especially during corona period. The SSP was also reluctant towards pending investigations.

People in Prayagraj were waiting eagerly for the name of the IPS officer who will replace Abhishek Dixit. As per the



Sarvashreshtha Tripathi

press communique Sarvashreshtha Tripathi will be the new SSP of Prayagraj.

Sarvashreshtha Tripathi hails from Gorakhpur and is an IPS of 2006 batch from Andhra Pradesh cadre.

He is in Uttar Pradesh on deputation since November 2019, and was DCP North, Lucknow till date.

LAWYER SHOT AT, INJURED: An advocate by profession and former student leader of Allahabad University Akram Faisal was shot at and injured in Beli area of the city on Tuesday. He has been rushed to hospital in police presence. Police Circle Officer reached the spot.

It is learnt that some persons, known to Faisal, gave him a call and fixed a meeting for the payment of some dues.

The miscreants reached the spot in a car. On the issue of payment some altercation took place and the criminals fired aiming Faisal who injured his leg.

The criminals escaped from the scene immediately, and in haste they left the pistol there only.

As the criminals were known to Faisal, the police hopes that they will be nabbed soon.

Power junior engineers go on 48-hr 'cooperative satyagrah'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the phasewise agitation, the junior engineers and promoted engineers of Electricity department on Tuesday went on 48-hours 'cooperative satyagrah' while discharging their duties in protest against the decision taken by the state government to privatise the Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited (PVVNL). At the same time, they threatened to intensify the agitation in the next phase if the government and management of UP Power Corporation Limited fail in paying serious consideration to their demand to withdraw the decision.

The Raja Vidyut Parishad Junior Engineer Sangthan, UP has announced to go on 48-hours 'cooperative satyagrah' under its second phase of agitation to draw the attention of the government towards its decision to hand over the PVVNL into private hand despite it is making profit and providing the better service to consumers.

They decided to raise the protest against the decision of government to make privatisation of PVVNL while discharging their duty and will remain available at power houses, power sub-stations and offices continuously for 48

hours during the 'cooperative satyagrah', the district president of organisation Sanjay Bharti said adding, the aim behind the 'cooperative satyagrah' is to put up their protest while making cooperation with the government and Power Corporation's management.

The engineers, junior engineers and employees of the department are discharging their duty even in the present crisis of COVID-19 pandemic without caring for their lives and contrary to this, the private institutions engage with electricity service did nothing, the district secretary of organisation Neeraj Bind said blaming, despite this the government is making efforts to hand over it into private hand which is very unfortunate.

The privatisation of PVVNL will affect the service condition of power engineers and employees and at same time, it will also increase electricity tariff manifolds, he said adding, the decision will impose additional financial burden on consumers besides to face the exploitation of private companies. The privatisation system has virtually proved fiasco in states where the Electricity department was handed over into private companies, he said further. The organisation had given

some suggestions to reduce line loss but the management paid no attention and the government seems rigid on its privatisation instead of taking initiatives to provide better service to consumers by materialising the suggestions, Indrapal Singh blamed. The organisation has also some demands such as the promotion period from junior engineer to assistant engineer should be made for seven years, the authority letter of payment of promoted assistant engineers should be released at the earliest, the order for two increment of promoted engineers on their basic pay scale should be issued at the earliest, etc, he added.

The agitation will be intensified in the next phase if the government and management of power corporations fail in paying serious attention towards the demands of organisation and reconsidering its decision of the privatisation of PVVNL and the management will be responsible for the inconvenience of consumers, they threatened.

NO JEEVAPUTRIKA PUJA AT SURYA SAROVAR: In the wake of restrictions imposed by district administration on the organisation of any social or religious programme due to global COVID-19 pan-

dem, no Maa Jeevaputrika Vrat Puja will be organised at famous Surya Sarovar Kund in Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) premises this time. The festival will be celebrated on September 10 and it is very popular in this belt when married women observe fast for the welfare of their sons. In view of district administration orders, Maa Jeeviputrika Vrat Puja Committee of DLW has decided that no programme would be organised at Surya Sarovar this year and seeks cooperation of all the residents to prevent the spread of pandemic.

Earlier, a technical seminar on 'Windows 10 and e-Office' was organised through the Microsoft team during the ongoing Rajbhasha (official language) fortnight under the aegis of DLW Rajbhasha department.

Highlighting the fortnightly events, Senior Rajbhasha Officer Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh, in his address, apprised the officers, supervisors and employees of the importance of 'Windows 10 and e-Office' in official work. In the organisation of the technical conference, there was a large discussion with the participants on the difficulties faced in computer-generated work and measures were also suggested to solve it.

NCR GM reviews safety in train operations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

General Manager North Central Railway Rajiv Chaudhry reviewed position of safety in train operations, freight loading, works for long-term infrastructure improvement in goods sheds and other important items through video conferencing with PHODs of North Central Railway and Divisional Railway Managers Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra on Tuesday.

For safe passage of trains; distance of fixed objects from track like OHE masts, signals, structure on platforms, FOBs are stipulated under schedule of dimensions (SOD) which is minimum prescribed distance for each item and followed on Railways for various installations along the track.

While reviewing safety in train operations; GM Chaudhry directed divisions to launch a safety drive to check actual distance of critical installation w.r.t stipulated SOD. Railways follow a very stringent process of procurement and testing of safety critical items required for operation and maintenance.

General Manager stressed that it is utmost important that procuring as well as user departments keep proper record on performance of these materials and advised that any pre-mature failure, warranty failure cases etc. need to be reported regularly and taken to logical conclusion to ensure that only

proven quality materials are used in operation and maintenance activities.

Loading performance of Platform, provision of high mast light and merchant room facilities for loading/unloading at Ramgarh station ₹ 247.4 lakh. Prayagraj Provision of Goods siding platform at Kurastikalan for loading & unloading of misc. materials. ₹ 244.7 lakh. Prayagraj Improvement of loading and unloading area of goods shed at Panki Dham. ₹ 236.0 lakh. Prayagraj Converting line no 14 into additional DD line and Improvement of PF surface of goods shed area by released PSC sleeper ₹ 248.5 lakh. Prayagraj Raising and Improvement to Aligarh Goods shed. ₹ 236.2 lakh. Prayagraj Raising and Improvement of Shikohabad goods shed. ₹ 249.2 lakh. Prayagraj Raising and Improvement of CPC goods shed by using unserviceable sleepers and other works. ₹ 220.0 lakh. Prayagraj Raising and Improvement of goods shed surface etc. at Prayagraj Chheoki goods shed. ₹ 248.5 lakh. Prayagraj Improvement of PF Surface of Mainpuri goods shed area by released PSC sleepers ₹ 85.0 lakh. Jhansi Ancillary work at Tikamgarh to facilitate goods loading/unloading ₹ 38.0 lakh. Total Goods sheds infrastructure work sanctioned in 2020-21 of ₹ 2053.5 lakh. North Central Railway is

working in mission mode to complete these works within next one year time.

RJYS REGISTER 10 PC JUMP IN FREIGHT LOADING: Railways registers more than 10 per cent jump in freight loading compared to last year for same corresponding period.

Freight loading for the month of September 2020 till September 6, 2020 over took last year's figure for the same period in both Financial and Loading terms.

Loading crosses last year's loading for the same period by more than 10 per cent while earning from freight is also ₹. 129.68 crore higher as compared to last year's earnings for the same period.

In the month of September 2020 till September 6, 2020 Indian Railways loading was 19.19 million tonnes which is 10.41 per cent (1.81 million tonnes) higher compared to last year's loading for the same period.

Number of concessions/discounts are also being given in Indian Railways to make Railways Freight movement very attractive.

It may be noted that improvements in freight movements will be institutionalised and incorporated in the upcoming zero based time table. COVID-19 has been used by Indian Railways an opportunity to improve all round efficiencies and performances.

Covid test mandatory before admitting any patient: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari said it was mandatory for all private hospitals which were treating COVID-19 patients had to carry out Covid tests even of non-Covid patients before admitting them to the hospital.

He said during a raid carried out on Tuesday at one private hospital, Paramount Hospital, it was found that before admitting the patients the hospital did not carry out Covid test although in the admission records symptoms of COVID-19 were clearly mentioned.

He said an FIR had been lodged against the hospital for violating the laws relating to pandemic.

The district magistrate said that any patient coming to a hospital for treatment of any disease would be admitted only after Covid test and violation of this requirement would lead to legal action.

He said admitting patients without test was a big threat to the other patients and doctors and paramedical team of that particular hospital and thus it was punishable.

He said with the UP government concerned over the failure of Kanpur Nagar medical and district officials in bringing down the COVID-19 death rate and even controlling the spread of novel coronavirus, it had been decided to take stern action against those violating the pandemic protocol.

The district magistrate later made a surprise visit to the Zeus Hospital and took feedback of the treatment, facilities and if the norms were being followed in the right earnest. He even interacted with the patients in the ICU through video conferencing and enquired if the doctors visited them or not.

Tiwari said failure of doctors to visit the patients in the ICU would be a serious offence and would not be tolerated.

Meanwhile, holding a late night meeting at the collectorate on Monday, the district magistrate directed the police to take stern action against any



District Magistrate, City, Alok Tiwari, DIG Pramender Singh and other officials holding a meeting at the Collectorate on Tuesday

459 more test +ve

KANPUR (PNS): Kanpur Nagar reported 459 more coronavirus positive cases on Tuesday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said with 459 more people testing positive between Monday evening and Tuesday evening, the tally of the confirmed coronavirus cases in the city had surged to 18,042.

He said with 66 COVID-19 patients being discharged in the last 24 hours, 5,146 infected people had been cured in the city.

The CMO said five COVID-19 deaths were reported till Tuesday evening, taking the death toll to 494. He informed at present 4,208 active cases were undergoing treatment in the city. The CMO said 5,010 samples were collected in the district for testing.

violation of Covid norms in the containment areas.

He said people seen on roads even on foot without masks should be fined or taken to task and this responsibility had been assigned to the police officials concerned.

The district magistrate said people had to understand that it was a must to wear mask outside their houses. He said the police had also been asked to stop car drivers and motorcycle riders and slap heavy fine if they were found not to be wearing face mask.

He said all shopkeepers and salesperson had to wear face mask, preferably a double-layered one.

Tiwari said Kanpur Nagar Nigam should immediately

provide a list of contractors for containment areas to all police stations so that the moment the list of positive persons was provided to them they could swing into action and ensure that the house or the area was immediately sealed.

He said if there were constant cases of COVID-19 from the same area, then the containment period be increased accordingly.

He said the list should have the name of affected person, his or her family members and their close contacts and samples be taken on priority.

The district magistrate said in areas which were containment zones, a special committee of residents should be constituted to maintain a vigil so that there was no violation

of norms. He said such committees be supported by home guards and police personnel so that there was no violation.

Tiwari said the officials should also ensure that in all the containment areas, the assigned stores made door to door delivery of essential commodities and other provisions.

He said in containment areas the people should not be found loitering. He said in case of multistoried building, the whole area should not be contained and instead only that particular building should be contained.

The district magistrate said there were large number of complaints that since March 2020-end till date, the KNN had not carried out sanitisation in many localities. He directed the KNN to ensure sanitisation was carried out in a transparent manner. He directed the city magistrates to carry out surprise visits in non-Covid hospitals to find if there was Flu OPD and holding areas. He said they would also have to get all the people with cold and flu symptoms tested and information of such people should be immediately sent to the Control Room.

DIG Pramender Singh, COs, ACMS, SPs and additional municipal commissioner and zonal officials took part in the meeting.

Gang duping people busted; six held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Panki police and the SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team have busted a gang duping people on the pretext of given them loan through fake finance companies, late Monday night. The police arrested six members of the gang and sent them to jail.

For the past around two weeks, the police were getting information about the operation of two finance company agents (Fino Finance & RO One Finance) in the city who, after duping people of Rs 500 to Rs 2,000 on the pretext of giving them loan, would disappear and switch off their mobile phones.

During investigations, the SWAT team

came to know that these self-styled agents were not affiliated to any finance company and that no office of any finance company in Rawatpur.

Meanwhile, when the victims of these agents lodged reports with Babupurwa, Rail Bazaar, Bajaria and Anwarjan police stations, SSP Pritinder Singh set up a joint team of SOG (Special Operation Group) and Panki police.

On a tip-off, the police team raided a spot on Bhaunsi highway late Monday night and arrested six persons when they were planning to leave the city. The police recovered Rs 42,000 in cash, fake ID cards, fake forms of Fino Finance Company, SIM, mobile phones and ATM cards from them.

On being quizzed, they disclosed that Satyam Pandey and Alok Mishra were employed in RO One Finance Company and after being sacked by the employer, they had formed a separate team and started duping gullible people. Those arrested were identified as Satyam Pandey of Amhat Golabari, Sultanpur; Alok Mishra of Gangarampur, Mallawan (North), Hardoi; Sachin Dubey of Kudwar Bhandara, Sultanpur; Rajvir Singh of Mangalpur (Kanpur Dehat); Nitesh of Tuli Nagar, Rasoolabad (Kanpur Dehat) and Karan Singh of Khanpur, Phaphund (Auraiya).

Panki Station Officer Atul Kumar Singh said raiders were on to nab other members of the gang.

2 DIE IN MISHAP

A youth and his sister were killed while their elder sister sustained serious injuries when their motorcycle collided with a Roadways bus on national highway between Bhowan and Nayapurwa villages late Monday evening. According to reports, Ricky (22) and Anuradha (19), both daughters of a farmer, Sonel of Rudapur village in Sheoli (Kanpur Dehat), were sick for a long time and were under the treatment of a doctor of Dibiaypur (Auraiya).

On Monday, Ricky and Anuradha went to Dibiaypur with their cousin Vijay Pratap (25) on a bike.

While returning late in the evening, a Roadways bus going to Vidhuna from Kanpur knocked down the motorcycle, killing Vijay Pratap and Anuradha on the spot.

DM reviews projects

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM Sushil Kumar Patel has warned the working agencies to complete the work within the deadline otherwise remain prepared to face the music during the review of projects worth ₹10 crore to ₹50 crores at his collectorate office on Monday. Reviewing the projects he made it clear that the projects in which the fund had been released timely revised estimate with increased cost would not be allowed at all. He said that in such cases the responsibility would be fixed for delay as well as the excessive increase in cost. Reviewing each point under the priority of the government he said that works should be carried out as per the norms along with quality.

During the review the DM was apprised by the officers concerned about the progress under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna rural as well as urban, strengthening of roads, community toilet, MPLAD funds, Vidhayak nidhi, Anganbadi centres, personal toilets etc. The meeting was attended by CDO Avinash Singh, DPRO, PO DUDA along with working agencies.

Meanwhile District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel at a 'god bharaai' function



organised under the aegis of ICDS at Anganbadi centre in Nauhaan village under city block opined that the breast feeding was the best way to keep the baby healthy. Emphasising over breast feeding he was of the view that it was a fit diet for the babies and for that fit health of pregnant women was equally necessary. He said under that very spirit the government made the plan to ensure that pregnant women remained healthy for the birth of a healthy baby. He directed to officers concerned to take care of pregnant women as well as new born babies regarding the availability of nutritional food items and use fund in proper way. Under the 'God Bharaai' and 'Annaprashan' programme the DM provided the health kits to some pregnant women and nutritional food to the babies. Addressing the function, CDO Avinash Singh said that a healthy baby was an asset for the nation so we

should take care of pregnant women and adopt all the possible ways to keep the new born baby healthy. On the occasion he gave tips about nutritional diet and urged the people to take care of family for their bright future. Project Officer ICDS PK Singh proposed the vote of thanks and thanked the gathering for maintaining social distancing on the occasion.

MRF CENTRE: Chairman Nagar Palika Parishad (NPP) Manoj Jaiswal during his visit to the site of material recovery facility (MRF) centre at Barkachha eight kilometres away from the city said that it was the way through which the palika could earn along with making the city cleaner. He said that work would be completed without inordinate delay and as per the facility of the project things like manure material, plastic and others would be separated from garbage. During his visit a team of the experts also accompanied him.

NCL bid to provide better health facilities to needy

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a Miniratna company, is providing financial assistance of ₹5 crore to Uttar Pradesh government under its CSR programme for purchasing 50 ambulances. In this direction its General Manager (GM-CSR) Atmashwar Pathak and additional chief executive officer (ACEO) of UP State Disaster Management Authority Mahendra Singh signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) recently. This contribution of NCL will play an important role in strengthening the emergency

medical facility in the state and provide better health facilities to the needy people. During the pandemic period, NCL had also provided 25,000 sanitisers, 10 infrared thermometers, 1,000 PPE kits, 5,000 masks, 1,000 sanitiser bottles containing 500 ml alcohol, 200 litres of hypo chloride and 500 kgs bleaching powder to Sonbhadra district administration.

Meanwhile in the Jayant project area of NCL a sanitisation drive was conducted at Central Hospital, Singrauli, with the support of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel to prevent the spread of coronavirus. During



this pandemic period, CISF firefighters are continuously engaged in such works. It may be pointed out here that the Jayant area is constantly getting sanitisation work done in its work and public places besides residential premises and nearby rural areas.

Postage stamp issued

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUAN

The head post office, Sagar branch, MP, has issued a postage stamp with the picture of social worker and president JDC Bank, Uday Singh Pindari, under 'My Stamp' scheme. A brief programme of 'My Stamp' illustration cover was held at the District Cooperative Bank (DCB) located on Karamer Road on Monday. On the occasion for the commendable national, social and political works done by Uday Singh Pindari a memento of 'My Stamp' (own postage stamp) was presented to him by Malkhan Singh Rai of head post office, Sagar, MP, and by

Gaurishankar, editor of the monthly 'Jan Arshiwad' published from Bhopal. The programme was presided over by Ramendra Singh, district president, BJP. On the occasion Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) district spokesperson Shakti Ghoi, Rajkumar Rai, retired post master, Ramnarayan Rai, Ravindra Parihar, Murat Singh Rai, Rakesh Kumar Rai, Kashiram Rai, Subhash Pindari, Rampyare Tiwari, Brij Bhushan Singh Munnua, Shyam Prakash Dimesh Chandra, Devendra Kumar Singh, Saurabh Agnihotri, Abhimanyu Singh, Dimple and other dignitaries were present.

Three arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The Shahpur police arrested three accused along with ganja and charas from an area under the Mohddipur over-bridge. The arrested accused were later identified as Amar Singh, a resident of Tevar under the Chholapur police station in Varanasi, Praveen Pandey, a resident of Chhapra, Bihar, and Rajkumar Chauhan, a resident of Mohripur under the Chhluatal police station.

Shahpur Station House Officer (SHO) Sudhir Singh said that one kilogram of charas and ganja each have been recovered from the possession of the arrested accused. All three of them were produced in court, from where they were sent to jail, he added.

Humsafar spl to run from Gorakhpur to AV Terminus

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The previously notified Gorakhpur-Delhi Humsafar special train from September 12 on every Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Friday till further notice after departing from Gorakhpur and stopping at Anandnagar, Naugarh (Siddharthnagar), Badhni, Balrampur, Gonda, Lucknow (NR) and Kanpur Central stations will go to Anand Vihar Terminus in place of Delhi, CPRO PK Singh said. During the return journey the 02572 Delhi-Gorakhpur Humsafar special from September 13 every Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday will leave from Anand Vihar Terminus instead of Delhi and reach Gorakhpur after stopping at Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda, Balrampur, Barhni, Naugarh and Anandnagar stations. The 02571/02572 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminus-Gorakhpur Humsafar special train will 20 coaches. Meanwhile as per the instructions issued by the Railway Board the movement of following special trains will be done from NER from September 12. The 02669 MGR Chennai Central-Chhapra bi-weekly superfast special from September 12 will depart from MGR Chennai Central at 17:40 hours on every Monday and Saturday, and after stopping at Ongole, the next day at Vijayawada Jn, Khammam Warangal, Sirpur Kagaznagar, Balharshah, Chandrapur, Balharshah, Sirpur Kagajinagar, the third day at Warangal, Khammam, Vijayawada Jn, Ongole and reach MGR Chennai Central at 14:25 hours. The 09051 Valsad-Muzaffarpur weekly special will depart from Valsad from September 12 (Saturday) and after stopping at Udhna Jn, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Bhusawal Jn, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Prayagraj Chheoki, Varanasi Jn., Ballia, Chapra, Sonpur and Hajipur Junction will reach Muzaffarpur. The 09052 Muzaffarpur-Valsad weekly special on return journey after departing from Muzaffarpur from on September 14 (Monday) and after stopping at Hajipur Jn, Sonpur, Chhapra, Ballia, Varanasi Jn, Prayagraj Chheoki, Satna, Katni, Jabalpur, Itarsi, Bhusawal Jn, Jalgaon, Nandurbar and Udhna Jn will reach Valsad. The 01107 Gwalior-Manduadih daily special from September 12 will depart from Gwalior at 20:55 hours and after stopping at Dabra, Datia, Jhansi, Newari, Mau, Ranipur, Harpalpur, Belatal, Kulpahar, Mahoba, Atrara, Chitrakoot, Manikpur, Shankargarh Naini, Prayagraj, Prayag, Phulpur, Janghai, Suriyawan

Jn, Ghazipur City and Ballia will arrive at Chhapra at 11:45 hours. During the return journey 02670 Chhapra-MGR Chennai Central bi-weekly special train will from September 14 depart from Chhapra at 21:00 hours on every Monday and Wednesday and after stopping at Ballia, Ghazipur City, the second day at Varanasi Jn, Bhadohi, Prayagraj Jn, Satna, Katni, Jabalpur, Pipariya, Itarsi, Betul, Nagpur, Sevagram, Chandrapur, Balharshah, Sirpur Kagajinagar, the third day at Warangal, Khammam, Vijayawada Jn, Ongole and reach MGR Chennai Central at 14:25 hours. The 09051 Valsad-Muzaffarpur weekly special will depart from Valsad from September 12 (Saturday) and after stopping at Udhna Jn, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Bhusawal Jn, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Prayagraj Chheoki, Varanasi Jn., Ballia, Chapra, Sonpur and Hajipur Junction will reach Muzaffarpur. The 09052 Muzaffarpur-Valsad weekly special on return journey after departing from Muzaffarpur from on September 14 (Monday) and after stopping at Hajipur Jn, Sonpur, Chhapra, Ballia, Varanasi Jn, Prayagraj Chheoki, Satna, Katni, Jabalpur, Itarsi, Bhusawal Jn, Jalgaon, Nandurbar and Udhna Jn will reach Valsad. The 01107 Gwalior-Manduadih daily special from September 12 will depart from Gwalior at 20:55 hours and after stopping at Dabra, Datia, Jhansi, Newari, Mau, Ranipur, Harpalpur, Belatal, Kulpahar, Mahoba, Atrara, Chitrakoot, Manikpur, Shankargarh Naini, Prayagraj, Prayag, Phulpur, Janghai, Suriyawan

and Bhadohi and reach Manduadih at 11:05 hours. During the return journey, 01108 Manduadih-Gwalior daily special will leave Manduadih at 16:30 hours from September 13 and after stopping at Chakhandi, Bhadohi, Suriyawan, Janghai, Phulpur, Prayag, Prayagraj Naini, Shankargarh, Manikpur, Chitrakoot Dham, Atrara, Banda, Mahoba, Kulpahar, Belatal, Harpalpur, Mau Ranipur, Niwari, Jhansi, Datia Dabra and reach Gwalior at 08:40 hours. The 02004 New Delhi-Lucknow Jn daily Shatabdi special train from September 12 will depart from New Delhi at 6:10 hours and after stopping at Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn, Tundla, Etawah and Kanpur Central will arrive at Lucknow Jn at 12:45 hours. The 02003 Lucknow Jn-New Delhi Jn daily Shatabdi special from September 12 will depart from Lucknow at 15:35 hours and after stopping at Kanpur Central, Etawah, Tundla, Aligarh Jn and Ghaziabad reach New Delhi at 22:15 hrs. The 04724 Bhiwani Jn - Kanpur Central daily special train from September 12 till further notice leave Bhiwani Jn at 18:35 hours and after stopping at Kharak, Kalanaur Kalan, Lahli, Rohtak Jn, Sampla, Bahadurgarh, Shakurbasti, Delhi Kishanganj, Delhi Jn, Delhi Shahadra, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Tundla Jn, Firozabad, Shikohabad Jn, Mainpuri, Bhongoa, Farrukhabad, Fatehgarh, Kamalganj, Gursahaiganj, Kannauj, Bilhaur, Barrajpur, Kalyanpur, Kanpur Anwarjan and reach Kanpur Central at 11:35 hours.

UBI organises loan camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Under the aegis of the Government of India's Atmanirbhar package, the regional office of Kanpur Union Bank of India organised a camp for sanction of loans under the PM SVANidhi, MUDRA, PMEGP and other MSME related schemes on Tuesday.

On this occasion, Member of Parliament Devendra Singh Bhole, Mayor Pramila Pandey, MLC Arun Pathak, KNN Deputy Commissioner AK Roy, AK Varma, lead district manager, Rajiv Mishra, field general manager, Union Bank of India, Lucknow, addressed the gathering.

The programme was



organised by the Union Bank of India through AKS Chauhan, DGM, Regional Head, UBI, Kanpur and his team.

The function was attended

by over 90 beneficiaries of various schemes of Union Bank of India along with Vazir Sultan, Deputy Regional Head, RO Kanpur, Randheer Kumar, AGM, SARAL and Pyareal

AGM-Mid Corporate Branch, Kanpur.

The total sanctioned A/c was 404 and total sanctioned amount 6,304.80 in ten parameters.

Kanpur Metro construction progressing fast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The civil construction of the Kanpur Metro Project is progressing at a remarkable pace. First of all, the 9-km-long priority corridor is being constructed between IIT, Kanpur and Motijheel. The construction work for the base of the concourse level of the IIT Metro Station has been completed. A total of 50 double T-girders have been used for creating the base of the concourse level of the IIT station.

Significantly, the Kanpur Metro is the first metro project in the country where double T-girders are being used to prepare the concourse of the metro stations to speed up civil construction work. Due to this innovation of UP Metro Rail Corporation, the concourse of IIT Metro station could be completed in such a short time. The erection of the double T-girders was commenced on July 25, 2020 and so far 50 double T-girders have been erected. These double T-girders are



The construction work for the base of the concourse level of the IIT Metro Station completed in record time.

pre-cast — they are constructed in the Casting Yard and then placed at the designated location in the corridor. Implementation of such a process for construction enhances the aesthetic beauty of the Metro structure and

helps in providing pace to civil construction.

Besides these double T-girders, 36 U-girders have also been erected. The casting of both the girders is been done at quite a pace at the Casting Yard located in Lakhanpur.

In addition to this, all the 22 piers of the Kalyanpur metro station have also been constructed and now, double T-girders will be erected on these pillars for constructing the concourse level of the Kalyanpur metro station.

Praising the dedication of the Metro engineers, UPMRC Managing Director Kumar Keshav said the hard work and devotion of the whole team had helped in achieving a milestones even in the difficult times of pandemic.

Russia seeks India's help on Covid vaccine, study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday said that Russia has sought India's help in the manufacturing of its Covid vaccine by Indian companies and conduct of Phase-III studies here.

"Also, India attaches high importance to the request from a special friend and on both fronts, there has been considerable progress.

"We are working with this vaccine candidate for manufacture as well as trial and regulatory facilitation, in the spirit of partnership and science for humanity. The outreach has been extended to the vaccine manufacturers in India," said V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog at a press briefing here.

"About four of them have already come forward, the others are in talks with the Russian counterparts and the Government is facilitating that process of creating a connect. There may be specific outcomes very soon in that regard. India can manufacture that vaccine in large and significant quantities. On the regulatory front, Indian scientists have looked at the data. There would be a need for Phase III trials in normal course of things," he said.

Sputnik V, an adenovirus vector-based vaccine, was developed by the Gamaleya Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology and

Govt urges citizens to come forward for Covid-testing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Alarmed at the spike in Covid-19 cases each passing day, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday exhorted the citizens to come forward to get themselves tested for the infection and warned that their irresponsible behaviour like failure to follow distancing norms and not using masks could lead to a damaging situation as far as the pandemic is concerned in India.

After breaching single-day records of highest Covid cases in the world going past 90,000, India on Tuesday registered 75,809 fresh cases in 24 hours, while marking the largest spike in deaths in a day with 1,133 new fatalities.

Fearing that States too were not serious about the pandemic, the Government also took exception that some of them were not conducting gold-standard reverse transcription-polymerase chain



reaction (RT-PCR) tests on symptomatic people who tested negative for the rapid-antigen test (RAT).

Addressing a press briefing, NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul, who also heads Covid-19 national task force, stressed on the importance of testing in containing the pandemic. Highlighting repeated complaints from states that people are becoming lax in taking precautions against Covid-19, he said following public health measures like social distancing and wearing masks remains key to slowing the pandemic.

"People should not be afraid of getting tested. They should come forward to get themselves tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms," he

said. At a time when coronavirus cases are on the rise, Paul said there have been repeated complaints from states about people becoming lax in taking safety precautions.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan took note of the States failing to conduct the RTPCR tests. "There are many states where people testing negative for rapid-antigen test (RAT) are not subjected to RT-PCR. You need to catch that missing person. The people who are not caught are spreading the infection."

"You can chase the virus only if you catch the missing person. This is both Ministry and ICMR guidelines that a person who is symptomatic negative in a rapid-antigen test should be compelled to RT-PCR. If 100 such people are left, they can spread it to a lot of people, and this is worrisome," he added.

Microbiology, along with the Russian Direct Investment Fund and was registered on August 11.

On its part, in India, three vaccines are in

advanced stages. There are two indigenous vaccines being developed by Zydus Cadila and Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research.

The Serum Institute of India has also partnered with AstraZeneca for manufacturing the COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by the University of Oxford.

14 States/UTs log less than 5K active Covid-19 cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

If five States—Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh are contributing almost 70 per cent of the Covid caseload in the country, then there are at least 14 States/UTs which seems to be comparatively safe places having less than 5,000 active Coronavirus cases while Lakshadweep has no active cases.

There are also 20 States and UTs where the number of active cases are between 2,000-5,000, said Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan at a press briefing here.

"Maharashtra's share is around 27 per cent of the total

active cases, which in terms of absolute numbers is 2.37 lakhs. This apart, nearly 70 per cent of the COVID-19 related deaths are also being reported from five States—Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The States where active cases are mostly concentrated are also, more or less, accounting for most of the deaths," he said.

Hence, from the perspective of public health, it is important to take targeted actions in these States, both by the State and Central Governments. This apart, 28 States & UTs have a Case Fatality Rate which is lower than the national average, Bhushan said.

Dr. V.K. Paul, Member

(Health), NITI Aayog tried to allay fears that cases are spiraling at a faster pace and said that our Covid-19 case numbers are looking big since we are testing in a very liberal manner, which has in turn helped us to reduce mortality rate.

In the last 24 hours, Andhra Pradesh recorded the highest COVID-recoveries with 11,915 recovered cases. Karnataka and Maharashtra followed with 9,575 and 7,826 recoveries respectively while Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh registered 5,820 and 4,779 recoveries, a release from the Union Health Ministry said. These 5 States together contributed 57 per cent of the recoveries in the last 24 hours.

The officer also said that more than 5 crore tests have been conducted so far, which take India to the second highest position in terms of testing with more than 10 lakh tests conducted daily in this week. At the same time, the number of recovered patients is more than 33 lakhs now, and, the highest single day recovery of 73,642 patients has also been recorded in the last 24 hours.

Although the cases are on the rise in terms of absolute numbers, India still has 3,102 cases per million, which is one of the lowest in the world. Also, India's death per million is 53, which falls amongst the lowest in the world, the official pointed out.

22 bamboo clusters launched in nine States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to increase the export of bamboo products and improve farmers' income, the Ministry of Agriculture on Tuesday launched 22 bamboo clusters in nine States. The bamboo clusters will be set up in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka. These will be engaged in raising nurseries and plantations and/or product development like furniture, agarbatti, venetian blinds, chopsticks, toothbrush, lifestyle products, jewellery, bottles, yoga mat and charcoal.

India is the world's second largest cultivator of bamboo after China, with 136 species and 23 genera spread over 13.96 million hectares. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, India's annual bamboo production is estimated at 3.23 million tonnes. However, despite all this, the country's share in the global bamboo trade and commerce is only 4 per cent.



Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday launched these bamboo clusters. In a virtual event, Tomar also released the logo for National Bamboo Mission (NBM), the ministry of agriculture added.

"Bamboo cultivation can enhance farm income to a good extent and achieve the desired objective of the Union Government of transforming the rural economy by doubling farmers' income. This will help increase income of farmers and at the same reduce dependency on imports of some raw material. With the wealth of bamboo in India and growing industry, India should aim to establish herself in global markets for both engineered and handcrafted products," he said.

According to the ministry, bamboo can be used in 1,500 different ways including as



food, a substitute for wood, building and construction material, for handicrafts and paper. "The Government's goal in the bamboo sector is being achieved with the concerted efforts of all stakeholders of the Bamboo Mission. Keeping in consideration the importance of bamboo, the Indian Forest Act 1927 was amended in the year 2017 to remove bamboo for the category of trees, as a result now anyone can undertake cultivation and business in bamboo and its products," Tomar added. According to the ministry, the bamboo ecosystem

has been energized with 23 states being assisted, including all eight North Eastern states.

In October 2006, the Government had launched the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) on the basis of the National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development Report, 2003. The NBM's key objective was to address issues relating to the development of the bamboo industry in the country, provide a new impetus and direction and enable the realisation of India's considerable potential in bamboo production.

Khadi's e-market portal gains traction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Khadi and Village Industry Commission's (KVIC) venture into the online marketing segment has quickly established a pan-India reach enabling the artisans sell their products to the remotest parts of India through the KVIC E-Portal - www.kviconline.gov.in/khadi-mask/.

The online sale that was launched with just Khadi face masks on July 7 this year has

evolved into a full-fledged E-market platform with 180 products as on today and many more in the pipeline.

The product range includes hand-spun and hand-woven fine fabric like Muslin, Silk, Denim and Cotton, Unisex Vichar Vastra by Ritu Beri, Khadi's Signature Wrist Watch, a variety of honey, Herbal and Green Tea, Herbal Medicines and Soaps, Papad, Kacchi Ghani Mustard Oil and a range of herbal cosmetics

among many others. KVIC is adding at least 10 new products to its online inventory on a daily basis and it has set a target of adding at least 1,000 products by October 2 this year. In less than two months' time, KVIC has served nearly 4000 customers.

KVIC Chairman, V.K. Saxena said the online sale of Khadi products is a big push to "Swadeshi" and aims at empowering the local artisans. "Khadi's E-market portal is providing our artisans

an additional platform to sell their goods. This is a concrete step towards building of Aatmanirbhar Bharat," Saxena said, adding the product range is priced from Rs 50 to Rs 5000, keeping in view the choice and affordability of all sections of buyers," he said. KVIC has fixed the minimum order value at ₹599 for free delivery of goods. It has entered into an agreement with the Postal Department for delivery of consignments via Speed Post.



बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES
"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable/Movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/ Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/ Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

Sr./ Lot No.	Name & address of Borrower/s/ Guarantor / Mortgagors	Give short description of the Immovable/Movable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price EMD and Bid Increase Amount.	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
1	M/s Satish & Co. (Through its Partners) Shop No. 1, Mandi Samiti Roza, Shahjahanpur, UP, 242306 Partner: 1-Mr. Satish Kumar Sharma S/o Late Darshan Kumar Sharma, 135, Balliya, Adarsh nagar Colony roza, Shahjahanpur, UP, 242306 2-Mr. Vinod Kumar Sharma S/o Late Darshan Kumar Sharma, 135, Balliya, Adarsh nagar Colony roza, Shahjahanpur, UP, 242306 3-Smt. Santosh Rani Sharma W/o Shri Satish Kumar Sharma, Adarsh Nagar Colony, Roza, Shahjahanpur UP-242306 Guarantor: 1-Smt. Anita Verma W/o Late Pramod Kumar Verma, Vill Hathoda Bujurg Shahjahanpur 242001, (Legal Heir of Late Mr. Pramod Kumar Verma) 2-Ku. Manish Verma D/o Late Pramod Kumar Verma, Vill Hathoda Bujurg Shahjahanpur 242001 (Legal Heir of Late. Mr. Pramod Kumar Verma) 3-Ku. Ambika Verma D/o Late Pramod Kumar Verma Vill Hathoda Bujurg Shahjahanpur 242001 (Legal Heir of Late. Mr. Pramod Kumar Verma) 4-Ku. Ankita Verma D/o Late Pramod Kumar Verma, Vill Hathoda Bujurg Shahjahanpur 242001 (Legal Heir of Late. Mr. Pramod Kumar Verma) 5- Ku. Anshika Verma D/o Late Pramod Kumar Verma, Vill Hathoda Bujurg Shahjahanpur 242001 (Legal Heir of Late. Mr. Pramod Kumar Verma)	1. Equitable mortgage of all the part and parcel of the properties consisting of Khata no 479 rakba 0.623 hectare, khasra no. 492 min rakba 0.522 hectare and ¼ of Khasra No 489 rakba 2.213 hectare, total rakba 3.358 Hectare Village Rajhua Khurd pargana and Tehsil Sadar Distt: Shahjahanpur in the name of Smt Santosh Rani Sharma W/o Satish Kumar Sharma regd on 26-03-2009. Book No 1, Volume 5632, Page No 279-324, Serial No 3144, Bounded by: On the North by Khet Choley Lal On the South by Khet Hari Ram On the East by Khet Bandha Lal On the West by Khet Bij Lal 2. Equitable Mortgage of all that part and parcel of the properties consisting of ¼ of Khasra No 489 rakba 2.213 hectare, situated in Village Rajhua Khurd Pargana and Tehsil Sadar Distt. Shahjahanpur in the name of Smt Santosh Rani W/o Shri Satish Kumar Sharma regd on 18-04-2009, Book No -1, Volume No 5665, Page No 159-180 Serial No 3788 Bounded by: On the North by Khet Purchaser On the South by Khet On the East by Khet Purchaser On the West by Khet Both above properties are adjacent to each other.	Rs. 30,44,740/- + Unapplied Interest wef 29.06.2016 & Charges	28-09-2020 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM	Reserve Price: Rs. 89,20,000/- EMD Price: Rs. 8,92,000/- Bid Increase Amount: 10,000/-	Physical / Symbolic	11-09-2020 to 25-09-2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
2	M/s Maa Purnagiri Rice Mill through its partners Vill Mirjanpur kalia Tehsil Jalalabad, Distt: Shahjahanpur Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta S/o Mr. Rati Ram Gupta Vill-Rafiabad Kalia Tehsil Jalalabad Distt: Shahjahanpur Mr. Ajai Kumar Gupta S/o Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta Vill Rafiabad kalia Tehsil Jalalabad, Distt: Shahjahanpur Guarantor: 1-Smt. Pushpa Devi W/o Ashok Kumar Gupta R/o Vill rafabad Kalia, Tehsil Jalalabad, Distt: Shahjahanpur 2-Shri Swadesh Kumar Gupta S/o Ram Krishna Gupta R/o Vill rafabad Kalia, Tehsil Jalalabad, Distt: Shahjahanpur 3-Smt. Shanti Devi W/o Ram Krishna Gupta R/o Vill rafabad Kalia, Tehsil Jalalabad, Distt: Shahjahanpur 4-Shri Adesh Kumar Gupta S/o Ram Kishan Gupta R/o Vill Rafiabad Kalia, Tehsil Jalalabad, Distt: Shahjahanpur	1. Property Mortgaged Gata no 327, Total Area 0.3040 Hectare vide Sale Deed no 2395 Dt. 30.03.2013 Situated at Mirjanpur Kalya Pargana, Tehsil Jalalabad, Dist. Shahjahanpur Owner:- Ashok Kumar Gupta & Pushpa Devi Boundaries: East-Khet Jangpal West-Khet Jaipal, North-Kalan- Usavan Road, South-Khet of Raj Pal Singh 2. Residential Plot : Total Area 20.00 Sq. Mtr. Vide Sale Deed 7261 Dt. 31.12.2008 Situated at Village Naugawan Mubarkpur Pargana & Tehsil Jalalabad, Dist. Shahjahanpur Owner: Pushpa Devi W/o Ashok Kr Gupta Boundaries: East-Plot of Suman Gupta, West - Plot of Alok Pratap Singh, North - Farrukhabad Badaun Road, South - Primary School.	Rs. 3,05,58,702/- + Unapp-ied Interest wef 16-01-2016 & Charges	28-09-2020 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM	Reserve Price: Rs. 60,00,000/- EMD Price: Rs. 6,00,000/- Bid Increase Amount: 10,000/-	Physical / Symbolic	11-09-2020 to 25-09-2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
3	M/s R S Mills , Village Azizpur Taluka Khurd, Tehsil Sadar, Shahjahanpur, 242001 Mr. Satish Kumar Sharma S/o Mr. Late Darshan Kumar Sharma (Prop of M/s R S Mills) R/o Adarsh Colony Roza Tehsil Sadar, Shahjahanpur, 242001 Guarantor: 1-Mrs. Santosh Rani W/o Mr. Satish Sharma, R/o Adarsh Colony Roza Tehsil Sadar, Shahjahanpur, 242001 2-Mr. Pramod Kumar Verma S/o Mr. Leeladhar R/o Gram Hathaura Buzurg, Tehsil Sadar Shahjahanpur, 242001 3-Mr. Vinod Kumar Sharma S/o Late Darshan Kumar Sharma R/o Adarsh Colony Roza Tehsil Sadar, Shahjahanpur, 242001	Industrial Land & Building Property being ¼ share i.e. 0.8142 Hectare out of Gata No 17, 196, 286, 0.478 Hectare out of Gata No 194 mi, 0.3359 Hectare out of Gata No 94 and 1.523 Hectare out of Gata No 1 mi, 15 mi thus total area measuring 3.1511 Hectares owned by Shri Satish Kumar S/o Late Shri Darshan Kumar situated at village Azeezpur, Tehsil Rajhua Khurd, Tehsil Sadar, Distt Shahjahanpur	Rs. 86,35,625/- + Unapplied Interest wef 30.09.2012 & Charges	28-09-2020 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM	Reserve Price : Rs. 1,23,00,000/- EMD Price: Rs. 12,30,000/- Bid Increase Amount: 10,000/-	Physical	11-09-2020 to 25-09-2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
4	M/S Awasthi Bardana Store Purnapur Road, Banda, Shahjahanpur, U.P. Mr. Ram Chandra Awasthi S/o Chotte Lal (Prop. M/s Awasthi Bardana Store) R/o Purnapur Road, Banda, Shahjahanpur, U.P. Guarantor: Mrs. Kamlesh Awasthi W/o Ram Chandra Awasthi R/o Purnapur Road, Banda, Shahjahanpur, U.P.	1. Equitable Mortgage of the plot measuring 148.50 sq meter being part of Gata No 1079 situated at Village Dharampur, Banda, Tehsil Powaya, Distt. Shahjahanpur, standing in the name of Mr. Ram Chandra Awasthi S/o Chotte Lal, bounded as hereunder: North: Plot of Seller South: Plot of Seller East: Rasta Kachha West: Plot Chetram 2. Equitable Mortgage of the plot measuring 74.40 sq meter being part of Gata No 1085 situated at Village Dharampur, Banda, Tehsil Powaya, Distt. Shahjahanpur, standing in the name of Mr. Ram Chandra Awasthi S/o Chotte Lal, bounded as hereunder: North: Rasta Kachha South: Rajendra Bansal Plot East: Ramautar House West: Prathivi Lal House 3. Equitable Mortgage of the plot measuring 96.72 sq meter being part of Gata No 1079 situated at Village Dharampur, Banda, Tehsil Powaya, Distt. Shahjahanpur, standing in the name of Mrs. Kamlesh Awasthi W/o Ram Chandra Awasthi, bounded as hereunder: North: Plot Ramchandra Awasthi South: Rasta and Nikas East: Rasta and Nikas West: Plot Deepa Shukla	Rs. 15,70,395/- + Unapplied Interest wef 01.07.2017 & Charges	28-09-2020 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM	Reserve Price: Rs. 7,60,000/- EMD Price: Rs. 41,000/- Bid Increase Amount: 1,000/-	Symbolic	11-09-2020 to 25-09-2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
5	Sher Ali S/o Ferooz Ali , 147, Khajanchi Tola, Hardoi Guarantor: Mr. Avinash Mishra S/o Lt. Chandra Dhar Mishra 328/2 Gupta Building, Ashraf Tola, Hardoi	Equitable Mortgage of all that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot (Part of Bhookhand No 1312) measuring 38.49 sq mtr situated at Moh- Krishna Nagariya, Hardoi (Andar Nagar Palika), Parg- Bangar, Teh & Distt- Hardoi, standing in the name of Mr. Sher Ali Bounded: On the East by: Land of Dinesh Kumar Dixit On the West by: Rasta Kachcha 14ft wide On the North by: Land of Dinesh Kumar Dixit On the South by: Sold land of Seller	Rs. 4,99,347/- + Unapplied Interest wef 30.07.2014 & Charges	28-09-2020 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM	Reserve Price: Rs. 5,09,000/- EMD Price: Rs. 50,900/- Bid Increase Amount: 10,000/-	Physical	11-09-2020 to 25-09-2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
6	1-M/s Shashi Kanta Beverages and Food Pvt. Ltd. , Village Utharanpur, Pargana and Tehsil - Sahabad, Distt Hardoi 2-Mr. Bal Govind Dixit Director- M/s Shashi Kanta Beverages and Food Pvt Ltd, 176 Mohalla - Bibijai Haddaf Avas Vikas Tiraha, Shahjahanpur 242001 3-Smt Vineta Awasthi W/o Dinesh Awasthi Director - M/s Shashi Kanta Beverages and Food Pvt Ltd Lala Teli ki Bajariya Shahjahanpur, 242001 Guarantor: 1-Mr. Krishana Govind Dixit S/o Late Shri S.N. Dixit R/o South City, Shahjahanpur, 242001 2-Mr. Abhishek Dixit S/o Bal Govind Dixit R/o 176, mohalla bibijai Haddaf Avas Vikas Tiraha, Shahjahanpur 242001	1. All the part and parcel of the property consisting of factory land and building in the name of Mr. Bal Govind Dixit and Mr. Krishna Govind Dixit. Gata No. 932 measuring total area 0.4005 Hectare having sale deed no 3836 dated 05.11.2001 in the village utharanpur pargana and tehsil Sahabad Distt Hardoi Boundaries of the property are as hereunder: East: Chak Road, West: Khet Sabadi North: Khet Ram Kripal South: Khet Radhey Shyam 2. Machinery consisting RO Plant, Glass Packing Machine, Pouch Machine, SS Piping, Ozoniser & Tank, Filling Machine, Blowing Machine, Lab Equipments, Stamping Machine, all of which situated at M/s Shashikanta Beverages Pvt. Ltd., Uderanpur, Sahabad, Distt. Hardoi	Rs. 99,28,567/- + Unapplied Interest wef 29-11-2015 & Charges	28-09-2020 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM	Reserve Price: Rs. 63,65,000/- EMD Price: Rs. 6,36,500/- Bid Increase Amount: 10,000/-	Physical	11-09-2020 to 25-09-2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and <https://ibapi.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile 8477009770

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFESI ACT 2002

The borrowers/guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 09.09.2020
Place: SHAHJAHANPUR

Name **SURESH CHANDRA**
Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda.

Agent provocateur

Within days of its Defence Minister meeting Rajnath Singh, China violates talks spirit by pushing troops in Ladakh, again



That the current talks diplomacy on Ladakh is just a meaningless charade was more than evident from the Chinese mouthpiece, *Global Times*, which warned India against doing “a handstand on the edge of a cliff” or underestimate Beijing’s hitback capabilities. This came soon after its troops fired in the air unprovoked at Pangong Tso, claiming the push came from India. It looks alarming because this comes days within Defence Minister Rajnath Singh’s meeting with his counterpart Wei Fenghe in Moscow on the sidelines of this year’s edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Alarming because China had initiated that meeting. But used to tradeoffs on the talks table following intimidation and salami-slicing on the ground, it had not bargained for India’s toughness on status quo ante. Or that it would resolutely hold ground. And though India has emphasised that it would like to settle the border issue within the framework of diplomacy and dialogue, the fact that Chinese troops are still stationed within our artillery range in the south of Pangong Tso should remind us that it will never back down on that count. And till we address the historicity of a fluidic Line of Actual Control (LAC) and insist that perceptual differences over it be replaced by marking it on the ground, we will be back to square one. Till we establish the centrality of the boundary issue in negotiations, the eyeball-to-eyeball conflicts will only escalate. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was right when he indicated that talks would be needed at a deeper level of political engagement but it is unlikely that China would bend in those discussions, too. Unless it gets something in return. As the Doklam standoff near the trijunction with Bhutan has showed us, the summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping ensured just a temporary withdrawal of troops and within a year, the Chinese ramped up their positions, encircling claim lines so tightly that they could heave down militarily. And while Beijing realises that it needs to keep a transactional engagement with India to protect its strategic interests, it will never reconcile to losing the strategic advantage in Ladakh because of the DSDBO road that allows India troop parity in this sector. Besides, China wouldn’t want the Indian shadow over the Karakoram, particularly between Gilgit-Baltistan in the west (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir), where China is heavily invested in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and Aksai Chin in the east. It certainly doesn’t want Indian troops in the higher ridges and won’t let go of the spurs it has wrested post-Galwan. Besides, it sees India as the proxy of the US and will continue to be offensive on that count. The combined US-India strategy to counter it along maritime routes and halt its digital monopoly by denying technological access in both markets has already aggravated its anxieties. And while President Donald Trump may not be overtly confrontational with China given trade dependencies and instead try to claim credit as a mediator between the two Asian powers, India has to be prepared to bear the brunt of Xi’s belligerence and hegemonic ambitions.

In fact, China intends to stretch India along the Himalayan border as just a day before, it announced how it never recognised the “so-called ‘Arunachal Pradesh’”, and reiterated its claim it was actually “south Tibet” and part of its territory. The statement came in response to the Indian Army’s question asking if five civilians who went missing from Arunachal Pradesh days ago were in the custody of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA). This “abduction” could lead to a potential flashpoint and over time there could be more of maximalist rhetoric and territorial imperialism. China has been consistent in its expansionist designs in the northeastern State, issuing stapled visas to its residents in 2009, implying they were not Indian citizens. Incursions have been consistent over the decade with some even claiming it had built temporary bridges. And these, too, it has justified with the old argument of “a differing perception of the alignment of the LAC, as in many other areas.” In March 2019, China destroyed 30,000 world maps printed for export for not mentioning Arunachal Pradesh and Taiwan as part of Chinese territory. And in April 2020, Beijing’s Sky Map showed parts of Arunachal Pradesh within its international borders. India has got to be more than just vigilant, it now needs to be proactive. It is watching the Malacca Straits, a key strategic and economic transit corridor for China, it has upgraded the Quad initiative with US and Japan, and begun talking to Central Asian and southeast Asian nations debt-trapped by China’s Belt and Road Initiative. But apart from these, it should now drive a hard bargain with China over an Asian split costing the latter its greater ambitions vis-à-vis the US. And yes, we should get vocal about joining the chorus on Tibet.

Of security & demons

Kangana has become Bollywood’s *bete noire* but the Y-plus security makes her a pawn in a larger political game



Several years ago, the fiery Kangana Ranaut appeared on the cult Bollywood talk show called *Koffee with Karan* hosted by producer Karan Johar. To paraphrase from that outing of hers, she said that if a film was ever to be made about her life, Johar would be the antagonist. Over the past few years, we have seen how that has played out. First, there was the story about nepotism and how Bollywood promotes its own, and while the Indian film industry epitomises nepotism, it really is not very unique in that regard. Anywhere in the world or in India, nepotism is a byword in politics and industry.

So when popular Bihari actor Sushant Singh Rajput allegedly committed suicide, Kangana was one of the first to climb onto the bandwagon to accuse the nepotism of Bollywood of pushing a young actor over the edge before quickly jumping on to the murder conspiracy theory. And then from a crusader, she appeared more and more like a headline-grabber. She has written utterly shameful tweets against mental health, questioning the very concepts of psychology, and taken on the Shiv Sena, a partner in the Maharashtra alliance government, with several party spokespersons attacking her. There is no doubt that with little to no formal media training and reverting to type, Shiv Sena leaders come across as uncouth, sexist goons while attacking Kangana, who is playing her pro-BJP card well and using it to give ammunition to the Central party’s relentless attack on its one-time ally. So she has been given Y plus category security by the Central Government to make a point, never mind the costs this will involve or the purpose it will serve. That possibly will not save her office from being demolished by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) which is controlled by the Shiv Sena, an act that, if the Sena goes ahead with, will allow the once-plucky Kangana to play the victim yet again.

While the actor is entitled to her opinions, it would be prudent for her to remember that the past can come back to haunt you. Her actions today, that make her look like a pawn, will be judged by many in the future and while she has in the past raised some very valid points against the extreme nepotism in the film industry, where a talentless child of a superstar gets breaks that others would not, that model itself is being broken by new streaming platforms and more choices. Bollywood itself will not survive the Coronavirus pandemic in any recognisable shape or form. The actions of the television media in amplifying some of the wilder allegations raised by Kangana and others of her ilk have also been shameful and must be questioned. This entire affair will leave India, the Indian media and Bollywood scarred for years to come.

High stakes for Jaishankar

The Minister’s understanding is sharp and realistic. He is convinced that since diplomacy worked to get China to withdraw from Doklam, it can work again



ASHOK K MEHTA

Even as China accused Indian troops of intimidatory firing on Monday, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar will meet his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi face to face in Moscow for the first time after the standoff. The meeting will take place on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers’ conclave, hot on the heels of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh’s conversation with his counterpart, Gen Wei Fenghe, at the same platform. Pessimism surrounds the outcome of the Wang-Jaishankar meeting though Jaishankar has been signalling to Chinese leaders the big picture of India-China relations and India’s terms for a reset. His emphasis on the need for India to be more proactive and take risks are reflected in some recent Indian military, diplomatic and economic activities that connote capabilities and confidence. Diplomacy is the path India has chosen to secure its objective of restoration of status quo ante. Jaishankar, who says he knows Wang for a long time, acknowledges the situation on the LAC is very serious and requires “deep conversations” at the political level.

India launched a blitzkrieg of events along the LAC prior to Singh meeting his counterpart. CDS Gen Rawat was exceptionally vocal over the military option, including a two-front war if diplomacy failed and the utility of Quad. COAS Gen Naravane, on his third visit to Ladakh, was in Chushul at the scene of recent action. Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Bhaduria, inspected air bases in the east and Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla, in his first public address, highlighted the Galwan clash resulting in casualties for the first time in 42 years of peace and tranquility on the border. Indian forces carried out their first proactive military operation on their own side of LAC on the south bank of Pangong Lake by occupying heights that gave them domination in the Chushul area. A battalion of Vikas regiment, comprising exiled Tibetans, was employed in the pre-emptive operation, messaging to China the dormant Tibet issue. A company commander of this special force was killed due to an old mine and his funeral was attended by Ram Madhav, general secretary of the BJP. About the proactive operation, there is confusion over location and control of contested heights at Helmet



and Black Top. The Army just said it occupied ground to improve its defences.

After the meeting of Defence Ministers on expected lines, China accused India of crossing LAC at Chushul and demanded Indian troops be withdrawn. India blamed China for multiple intrusions and urged the restoration of status quo ante. But both sides stressed the determination to continue talks. Central to China’s complaint is Indian violation of Chinese LAC at Galwan and Chushul without admitting it is the original sinner of multiple intrusions by violating border protocols and unilaterally altering status quo. Stung by the banning of 117 more apps (now aggregate of 224 banned apps), for the first time China accused India of colluding with the US against Chinese companies. It formally charged US with meddling in the border dispute.

While US officials have been accusing China of bullying India, President Donald Trump himself has been non-committal by calling the standoff “very nasty” and wanting to do something to help both countries. He did not think that China was bullying India though he noted that China was certainly “going for it.” After the partisanship Prime Minister Narendra Modi displayed in endorsing Trump at Houston (and Ahmedabad) for the next President, a video of which is the Trump vote-catcher among Indian Americans, Trump’s clean hit to China is problematic.

The use of Tibetan troops in operations, when high altitude Ladakh Scouts regiments are available, is by design India’s belated psy war. It has the poten-

“EIGHTEEN WEEKS AFTER THE INITIAL INTRUSIONS, THE INDIAN ARMY CARRIED OUT ITS MAIDEN PROACTIVE OPERATION AT CHUSHUL HEIGHTS AND UNNERVED THE PLA. DOMINATING GROUND IN OTHER SECTORS SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN UP MUCH EARLIER”

tial to reignite India’s Tibet policy, which in 1950 ignored China’s illegal occupation of Tibet. India’s much-touted abandonment of the One China policy has nothing to do with Tibet but more with Taiwan and Hong Kong. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said: “We firmly oppose any country providing convenience for the Tibetan secessionist forces’ separatist activities.” The *Global Times* accused India of playing the Tibet card and noted that China’s national strength, including its military strength, is much stronger than India’s and that when it comes to ultimate combat capability, the Indian side will lose. Eighteen weeks after the initial intrusions, the Indian Army carried out its maiden proactive operation at Chushul heights and unnerved the PLA. Dominating ground in other sectors should have been taken up much earlier. Many officers are demanding that the military option be utilised to impose costs on China now that the force build-up is being completed. Three additional divisions, tanks and artillery are amassed along LAC with reserves in depth. China has made matching deployment, including locating its J20 frontline fighter, at Hotan. IAF is ideally suited for deterrence by punishment in case military force is used to evict intrusions.

The one intrusion that PLA covets most is Depsang which was not covered by the failed “disengagement” dialogue. In September 2013, it had occupied the same area and withdrew after talks and India’s counter-intrusion at Chumar. The PLA at

Depsang poses a direct challenge to the strategic Daulat Beg Oldie military garrison and air base, which it views as a threat to G 219, the Aksai Chin highway to Lhasa. While a counter-intrusion along the 1,590 km LAC in Ladakh will be feasible and not be escalatory like military action to push back at Depsang or any other intrusion, neither is advisable as long as the door to diplomacy is open. The military option must remain the last resort notwithstanding the last public pronouncement of the former acting US Undersecretary of State for South Asia and Central Asia, Alice Wells: “India’s broadening strategic horizons over the past two decades have resulted in a shift away from a passive foreign policy to one that advances its interests more vigorously.”

Jaishankar had a long stint at Beijing and then as Foreign Secretary. He enjoys the full confidence of his Prime Minister. His understanding of China under President Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party is sharp and realistic. He is convinced that since diplomacy worked to get China to withdraw from Depsang, Chumar and Doklam, it can work again. Given the escalatory firing by PLA and occupation of positions close to India’s —creating a new friction point —coupled with rash statements by *Global Times*, the Chinese have raised the stakes for Jaishankar.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander IPKF South, Sri Lanka and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff.)

SOUNDBITE

It (Jacob Blakes’) is an incredible family. And what they’ve endured, and they just do it with such dignity and grace.

California Senator
—Kamala Harris



India has a strong presence on every international platform. In such a situation, the Indian media also needs to go global.

Prime Minister
—Narendra Modi



The environment is filled with a quiet acceptance of the prevailing circumstances and conditioning but there is sincerity of moving ahead despite the spirit, to strive for a beginning.

Actor
—Amitabh Bachchan



There is no Star Trek like control room in the film industry where everybody is sitting, doping and and conspiring against people.

Author
—Chetan Bhagat



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fulfil GST promise

Sir — This is with reference to the article, “*The GST quagmire*”, published on September 8. In a rare covenant of faith, the Centre and States arduously evolved a consensus over the Goods and Services Tax (GST) spread over a decade and more. The then chairperson of the GST Council and Union Finance Minister had assured the States that in case of a gap in the GST compensation fund, the Council shall decide the mode of raising additional resources, including borrowing from the market. The GST compensation to States was already rearing up as an issue because of an ailing economy and the pandemic ensured that revenues from the imposition of cess started dwindling from August 2019. The Centre had to dive into the excess cess collected during 2017-18 and 2018-19.

It is sad that at the very first sign of distress, the Centre has resorted to “babuspeak” and reneged on its guarantee. It would rather let the States fend for themselves. The GST, being more than mere maths, is a quintessence of federal architecture. Any negation thereof weakens the radial ties in

Regulate crypto currencies soon

The crypto currency was first launched in 2008 when the Bitcoin hit the markets as the first internet-based currency. It is issued by private firms and individuals and is neither backed by any security nor any Government guarantee. Crypto currency is traded through exchanges and the price depends only on demand as supply is constant. Consequently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has continuously warned crypto currency users and traders about the risks associated with this new system. In fact, the Central Bank issued a circular in April 2018 stating that it did not recognise the currency as a legal tender and it would not provide any services, financial or otherwise, to entities engaged in crypto trading.

However, on March 4, the Supreme Court struck down the RBI’s circular and final directions are awaited from the Central Bank and the Government in the matter. Though there are about 20 exchanges in India which do business in crypto currency, the trading is still cloudy pending the RBI’s final announcement on the matter.

The issues that need examination are many. First, is crypto currency a legal tender? If so, how will the transactions using crypto currency be monitored and brought under the tax ambit? Second, can an internet currency be treated on par with sovereign currency? Third, if crypto currencies are not recognised as legal tender and they are just commodities, then rules on com-



modity reading should apply. So, who will control and monitor the exchanges? Fourth, their value is demand driven and there is no mechanism to protect investors. Fifth, as cross-border transactions using crypto currency as a medium of exchange are possible, how will India plug anti-national activities?

Sixth, there is scope for money laundering using crypto currency, considering the fact that developed nations like the US and UK have already recognised the currency. So it may not be possible for India to do away with it totally. However, if crypto currency is to be used in the mainstream economy, either as a currency or a commodity, then the Government/RBI should first bring in regulatory measures before these digital products make further inroads into the system and become a parallel black economy.

M Raghuraman
Mumbai

the wheel of governance. A throwback to the post-Raj days, when payment of privy purses was opposed by many members, Sardar Patel in the Constituent

Assembly on October 12, 1949, reminded them that this was a small price to pay for the integration of India. When GST is being touted by the Government as a

crowning achievement, the Centre ought to walk the extra mile to uphold the federal spirit.

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

Salute to DRDO

Sir — Let us salute the Ministry of Defence and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for successfully test-firing the first Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), making India the fourth country in the world after the US, China and Russia to develop and test the technology that will pave the way for missiles that will have the capacity to travel at six times the speed of sound. The DRDO has demonstrated its capabilities for use of the highly-complex technology that will serve as the building block for the next-generation hypersonic vehicles in partnership with the industry. The HSTDV is an unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft for hypersonic speed flight. The most significant part of this dream mission is that apart from being used as a vehicle for hypersonic and long-range cruise missiles, the HSTDV can also be used for civilian applications, including the launch of satellites at a low cost.

M Pradyu
Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

An unusual election

The Bihar poll will be the first digital one held amid the pandemic and will be fought through virtual rallies and on social media



KALYANI SHANKAR

The forthcoming Bihar elections are unique in many ways. This will be the first digital poll held amid the pandemic and this time, the elections will be fought through virtual rallies and door-to-door campaigns as well as on social media. The BJP is far ahead of the others because of its experience in the virtual mode. It will indeed be a big achievement if the digital experiment succeeds in a backward State like Bihar. There are many other firsts in the November polls. The absence of former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad is a big loss for the Opposition alliance, as they lack a charismatic leader. His rustic charm and jokes that kept the crowds at his rallies in splits will be missed. He made the poor and oppressed believe that they were the real rulers with him at the helm. It was he who created the Muslim-Yadav (MY) vote bank. Unfortunately for his allies, Lalu is in jail serving his sentence in the fodder scam. In 2015, Lalu played a big role by stitching up the grand alliance, which won big. Though his son and political heir, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav is quite mobile and articulate but he is yet to establish himself as a leader.

In the absence of any tall leaders in the alliance, he is the chief ministerial face. The RJD's social media accounts are now full of images of Tejashwi meeting people in flood-hit areas. The RJD has its own problems, as the ongoing sibling rivalry is a hindrance to unity in the party. Moreover, senior leaders like Raghuvansh Pratap Singh are unhappy and thinking of moving to other parties.

Another first is the migrant labour issue. They have become the new vote bank. The Opposition believes that the Nitish Kumar Government has not done enough for them. The whole country saw the plight of millions of migrant labourers walking back to their villages because of the mishandling of the lockdown and the issues associated with it by both the Central and State Governments. It is estimated that at least two million migrant labourers have returned to their homes in Bihar. The unemployment rate in Bihar is 46.6 per cent, the highest in the country.

The third is the impact of Covid. This will be the first Assembly poll in the midst of the pandemic. Bihar has recorded over 1.2 lakh Coronavirus cases so far. The Government claims that around one-lakh tests are being done daily after a slow start, and the number of positive cases has declined. The Opposition parties dispute this and have alleged that the State Government is tampering with data.

Fourth, it will be the first time that the CPI(M) has made an electoral pact with the RJD. Both the CPI and CPI(M) have in the past contested elections either with the RJD or the Janata Dal and this time they will be part of the Opposition alliance. Given the demography of Bihar, backward caste voters hold the key to power. Other Backward Classes (OBC) constitute 45 per cent to 50 per cent of the population in Bihar, whereas the upper castes, Muslim and Scheduled Castes account for around 15 per cent each. Bihar votes on caste lines.

Fifth, the recent death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR) has become a poll issue. Politicians will not even hesitate to use the untimely death of a young actor for their benefit and the SSR case is a shining example.

Meanwhile, the election fervour is at a fever pitch with major parties beginning their virtual campaigns since Monday. The NDA and the Grand Alliance are the two major groupings. The BJP, JD(U) and the RJD are the major triangular forces of Bihar politics today but no political party is in a situation to form a Government on its own.

The Congress has decided to hold 100 virtual rallies. However, it has not developed a strong State-level leadership. Party workers and leaders in Bihar squarely blame the State leadership for the Congress' poor prospects.

The JD(U) is strengthening itself by inducting several party hoppers and so is the other camp. Jitan Ram Manjhi, former Bihar Chief Minister and the chief of Hindustani Awam Morcha Secular (HAM-S) had recently joined the NDA. Sharad Yadav, who was expelled by the party for anti-party activities, is likely to return to the JD(U). Even though, the BJP president JP Nadda had recently asserted that the NDA would contest the forthcoming poll in Bihar unitedly, the LJP president Chirag Paswan, the son of Ram Vilas Paswan has been attacking Nitish.

The voters, too, are going to follow new the guidelines of the Government. These include the use of masks, gloves, sanitisers, thermal scanners and adhering to social distancing norms. The Election Commission proposes to implement strictly all these regulations. Bihar is important for political parties as it has 40 Lok Sabha seats. It is too early to predict poll results, as there could always be election upsets but for now it is advantage BJP-JD(U) alliance because of a weak and splintered Opposition and lack of charismatic leaders.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

CONTRARY TO ALL OF THE LIES, JOE BIDEN WANTS TO SURRENDER OUR COUNTRY TO THE VIRUS? —US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



IF I COULD GET A VACCINE TOMORROW, I'D DO IT. IF IT COST ME THE ELECTION, I'D DO IT. WE NEED A VACCINE AND WE NEED IT NOW. —FORMER US VICE-PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

An *uttam* future for UP

It is just a matter of time before this State becomes one of the best in India not only on the issue of governance but also on imparting education and health services



VIJAY BAHADUR PATHAK

From being called an *Utt Pradesh* (upside down State), Uttar Pradesh is making a quantum leap towards becoming an *Uttam Pradesh* (good State). And in this endeavour, it is being helped by the fact that UP ranked number two in the *State Business Reform Action Plan 2019: Ease of Doing Business (EODB)*. This is up from the 12th rank UP got in 2019, testifying that it has emerged as the second-best State in India where investors are happy to contribute.

This was made possible because the BJP Government was able to do away with red tapism. It also signifies the fact that the UP Government is making great strides towards fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of an *Aatma Nirbhar Bharat* and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is implementing all schemes meant to achieve this goal efficiently.

This 10-place jump in one year in the *EODB* rankings released by the Union Government is a big achievement indeed as UP has left several leading States like Gujarat, Telangana, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra behind. UP has implemented 186 out of the 187 reforms in the *State Business Reform Action Plan* that were suggested by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). What makes this achievement even more special is the fact that this year's exercise was completely based on user feedback. The jump in ranking indicates that entrepreneurs have been receiving the true benefits of the reforms introduced by the UP Government. These reforms were spread across several areas such as labour regulation, online, single window, access to information and transparency, land administration, construction permit, commercial disputes, inspection enablers and so on.

More than 20 departments such as Invest UP (Udyog Bandhu), the Labour Department, the Pollution Control Board, Commercial Tax, Power, Stamp and Registration, Excise, Food Safety and Drug and many others were part of this journey. Successful implementation of the "Nivesh Mitra" in UP, too, has been instrumental in UP achieving this EODB. In a period of two years, "Nivesh Mitra" received around 2,29,936 No-Objection Certificate (NoC) applications, out of which it disposed of over 94 per cent of them. The Nivesh Mitra Portal received 18,120 grievances from entrepreneurs, of which 17,752 have been successfully resolved at an outstanding resolution rate of 98 per cent.

The success in the UP Government's working lies in its efforts to impart transparency and the use of technology for Business-to-Government (B2G) interactive procedures. The Yogi Government has been successful in improving the EODB by introducing various Information Technology-driven modules and Nivesh Mitra is one such. Its success lies in the fact that it has now become an integral and efficient part in bridging the gap between industrial demands and expectations and Government machinery.

Maximum approval of the *State Business Reform Action Plan* and higher user feedback satisfaction record on the Nivesh Mitra portal played a critical role in achieving the EODB. In order to make Government working more efficient and competitive, the EODB system has been implemented at the district level. Initiatives like the monthly ranking of all 75 districts on the EODB parameters shall further result in creating a conducive business environment.

Where UP stands today was not achieved in

THIS 10-PLACE JUMP IN ONE YEAR IN THE EODB RANKINGS RELEASED BY THE UNION GOVERNMENT IS A BIG ACHIEVEMENT INDEED AS UP HAS LEFT SEVERAL LEADING STATES LIKE GUJARAT, TELANGANA, RAJASTHAN, TAMIL NADU AND MAHARASHTRA BEHIND. UP HAS IMPLEMENTED 186 OUT OF THE 187 REFORMS IN THE STATE BUSINESS REFORM ACTION PLAN THAT WERE SUGGESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE. WHAT MAKES THIS ACHIEVEMENT EVEN MORE SPECIAL IS THE FACT THAT THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE WAS COMPLETELY BASED ON USER FEEDBACK



one day and efforts in this direction are on since Yogi Adityanath took charge as the Chief Minister of the State. The big push came in February 2018 when the UP Government organised an Investors' Summit in which memoranda of understanding (MoUs) worth ₹4.68 lakh crore were signed. The contours of the simplified norms of investment took shape then, which were reflected in two ground-breaking ceremonies through which 371 projects with an investment of about ₹2 lakh crore were made. These projects are likely to generate over five lakh jobs.

The foundation of the Defence Industrial Manufacturing Corridor in Bundelkhand is another aspect of increased industrial development in the State. This corridor will be built with an investment of ₹50,000 crore and will create employment for five lakh people. The project got a fillip when the UP Government, in collaboration with the Defence Ministry, organised the country's largest Defence Expo 2020 in Lucknow. More than 100 agreements were inked, which included 71 MoUs, 13 product launches, 18 technology transfer agreements and six important announcements. Besides, over 100 pacts were made.

UP's own Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) signed 23 MoUs with various enterprises, inviting investment for the UP Defence Industrial Corridor. In all, over 200 MoUs were signed during the Defence Expo 2020.

That the Government wants to give impetus to industrial development is reflected in the Government's One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, under which the Government disbursed loans of more than ₹8,875

crore. Apart from this, training and free tool kits were distributed to 6,000 artisans/handicrafts men. This indirectly has given employment to more than five lakh people.

The ODOP scheme was launched in 2018 by Adityanath to promote the local artisans and local products. The scheme has now been adopted by the Union Government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls it the "Vocal for Local" scheme. The primary objective of this is to focus on a particular product and raise its quality to compete in the international market.

Investment in any State depends on three parameters — power supply, communication and transport. UP has made a quantum jump in all three. The power supply across the State has improved considerably while a network of roads has been laid connecting the western part of the State with the eastern region. The construction of the Purvanchal Expressway is a testimony of the Government's resolve to improve connectivity. Construction of this six-lane, 341 km-long Purvanchal Expressway is in progress and will be opened for public use by early next year.

The expressway would have become functional by November but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the launch has been rescheduled. There would be 11 interchanges for entry/exit on the expressway and in order to connect it to Gorakhpur, the construction of the around 92 km-long Gorakhpur Link Expressway is in progress.

Even the rugged Bundelkhand is getting its share of highways. The construction of the 297 km-long Bundelkhand Expressway at a cost of ₹14,849 crore is under way, which will connect the Bundelkhand region with

Delhi via the Agra-Lucknow Expressway. This is not all. The Government has even started a project to construct a Ganga Expressway that will connect Meerut with Prayagraj.

If there is a network of roads across UP, can air connectivity be far behind? Till 2017, only two cities of UP were connected by air but now this number has gone up to 12. Besides, construction of Asia's largest Jewar International Green Field Airport in Noida is going at a fast pace in collaboration with Zurich Airport International AG.

Any industrial exercise always leads to job creation. This is evident in UP as with an investment of about ₹3 lakh crore through the first and second ground-breaking ceremonies and other means, more than 33 lakh people have got direct and indirect employment. Besides this, the BJP Government has given Government jobs to three lakh youths in three years. Of this 1.5 lakh personnel were recruited in the police force. After the registration of over 10 lakh youth for skill development training, more than 8.48 lakh youth have been trained and more than three lakh youth have been employed so far. In fact, UP was awarded a gold medal by ASSOCHAM for being the best State in skill development.

The efforts put in by Adityanath under the guidance of Modi have started showing results. It is just a matter of time before this State will become one of the best States of India not only on the issue of governance but also on imparting education, health services and providing jobs to the people.

(The writer is Member, Legislative Council, and vice-president, UP unit of the BJP).

The challenges of online pedagogy and skills

India, as an industrialising nation, cannot afford to have an engineer with bookish knowledge of an engine without the skill to design it



SWAPNIL SONI

India went into lockdown mode in March and people in almost all sections of society have been facing socio-economic difficulties since then. The almost insurmountable challenge in front of policymakers has been to balance lives and livelihoods. The uncertainties of the lockdown entwined with health and safety concerns disrupted the market that faced a supply and demand shock. These issues resulted in a historically low Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of -23.9 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year, with industrial growth shrinking by 40 per cent. However, it is expected to pick up in the subsequent quarters as stated by the Reserve Bank

of India (RBI) and the World Bank. The economic consequences of the pandemic and local lockdowns have been well-discussed and are surfacing in the GDP and industrial production numbers.

However, there is another side of the issue which is quietly creeping up and that is the social consequences arising out of the lack of skill training. Certainly, this social and educational consequence will translate into economic adversity over a period. According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), India's gross enrolment ratio was 27.4 per cent for 2017-18. This is not a great figure as compared to the other developing countries. This is further battered by the possible decline in enrolment this year owing to constrained access to educational institutions and infrastructure for many unprivileged students, particularly in rural India. Given the contagion, the Indian education regime had to shift gear to the online mode. Thanks to the internet that, at least, served an option

for continuing education. But the question is: Is this viable on the ground? Will our students contribute to the human capital and participate in the herculean task of reviving the Indian economy? The presence of internet and digital infrastructure along with their significant (about 50 per cent) penetration in the country have come today as a boon for education and for imparting training to aspirants. In this backdrop, the Pradhan Mantri e-Vidya Programme was launched, which unifies all efforts related to digital, online and on-air education. Furthermore, top 100 universities were permitted to start online courses from May 30 without any fresh approval from education regulators. States, such as Karnataka, too, announced policies for online education.

However, there exist certain unprecedented challenges for moving towards online education, which is the need of the hour. It has not only changed the way students from KG to post-graduation learn, but also has sig-

nificantly altered the methods and materials of teaching for educators and parents. The fundamental constituent to enable online education is digital infrastructure, including high-speed internet and supporting devices (desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile phone). These prerequisites of online education have further expanded the gap between the upper and middle class and urban and rural populations of the country in terms of access to education even after promulgation of the Right to Education.

Education and skill training have always been a two-way communication and feedback process that may not be done in the online mode as effectively as it can be done in classrooms and laboratories. It is difficult to imagine students learning biology, physics and chemistry without actually experimenting in laboratories. It is quite important to differentiate knowledge and skill in this context. Knowledge can be delivered and learned from literature. However, skill-imparting needs experiment and experience that may not be

feasible in the online mode of learning. India, as an industrialising nation, cannot afford to have an engineer with bookish knowledge of a combustion engine without having the skill to design and operate it. Historically, the industry-academia gap has always existed in India. A McKinsey report had flagged the issue, a decade ago, that just a quarter of engineers in India were actually employable. Now, the online education model producing graduates with lack of skills may aggravate the employability issue further. This may lead to a deteriorated human capital and underemployment in the economy due to the fact that a large pool of the present unskilled human capital coming out of the online pedagogy will join the workforce in the future, face employability challenges and take a longer period to be skillful and join the productive workforce of the nation.

Given the necessity of the online education system, at present, we must acknowledge and address these issues, challenges and the consequences asso-

ciated with it. The lack of digital infrastructure in rural and unprivileged sections has posed implementation challenges on the ground, leading to social inequalities. However, the major worry lies in the outcome of this new regime of online education system in terms of skill and lack of employability of the human capital that will have the great responsibility of putting the Indian economy back on its growth trajectory with equitable development.

It is high time we think about bridging the gap between rural and urban digital infrastructure for online education and imparting employable skills. The National Education Policy (NEP) aims to reform the education system by 2030 in a push towards an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. One hopes that the NEP bridges the gap between the industry and the academia in terms of employable skills and gives an equal learning and growth opportunity to all.

(The writer is a Senior Research Scholar, Department of Management Studies, IIS, Bengaluru)



FOREIGN EYE



A TOUGH CHANGE

COVID-19 gave us a glimpse of a less work-driven society, but it will take determination to avoid a return to the old normal. It will need an alternative politics of prosperity: One that gives priority to well-being over economic growth and is willing to challenge the consumerist vision of the good life.

(The Guardian editorial)

SHARADA AND ROSE VALLEY CASES

CBI readies chargesheet, TMC leaders on top list

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the Bengal Assembly elections little less than a year away the Central Bureau of Investigation has once dusted up its chit fund files in the multi-crore Sharada and Rose Valley cases.

Acting on expected lines the Central investigating agency is planning to submit the final chargesheet in the ponzi fund cases, sources said adding the charge-sheet would contain the names of a number of Trinamool Congress leaders and police officers.

The list would contain the name of at least one senior IPS officer for trying to hush up the case, insiders said. Besides the name of some lesser officers would also be there in the list. The names of a senior BJP leader and a retired IPS officer have been included as witnesses, sources said.

When asked to comment an official said that the charge-

sheet was likely to be submitted sometime in November though "no final decision has been taken about this." Incidentally investigating officers involved in the probe were changed in last month with an equal number of Additional SP rank officers from the neighbouring State Bihar joining the investigation.

When asked to comment on the preparations to file the final charge sheet the TMC leaders said they were prepared for the "BJP Government's pre-election onslaught which will gradually diminish after the elections and after Mamata Banerjee roars back to power for the third time in the State."

The 2,000 crore Sharada chit fund case was busted in 2013 leading to the arrests of its CEO Sudipto Sen and other senior functionaries. Subsequently following allegations of senior Trinamool Congress leaders' involvement

in the case a petition was filed by Congress leader Abdul Mannan in the Supreme Court seeking CBI investigation which was granted in 2014 amid allegations that in the intervening time the State police had tampered with the allegations.

As the investigation peaked senior TMC MPs and Ministers like Sudip Bandopadhyay, late Tapas Paul, Kunal Ghosh and Madan Mitra were jailed. While a retired ADG Police was taken into custody, former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajiv Kumar was grilled for several hours and on repeated occasions for his alleged complicity in hushing up the case.

This even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee cried victimisation by the BJP. In the meantime TMC's number two man Mukul Roy left his party and joined the BJP months after he too was grilled in the Sharada case.

Andhra to persuade Covid survivors to donate plasma

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh health department will personally contact and persuade people who recovered from Covid-19 to donate plasma to save lives.

"The health department call centre will call the recovered patients and tell them about the plasma donation programme and convince them to donate plasma to save other people's lives," said Health Commissioner Katamneni Bhaskar.

The department has readied a list of 37,000 people who beat the disease, making them eligible to donate plasma for critical Covid patients.

"The database of eligible donors has been prepared and is currently being shared with the blood banks which have the facility to collect and store plasma," said Bhaskar.

The move is aimed at treating Covid patients more effectively and the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government will launch a plasma donation campaign soon.

As part of the campaign, the state government will reward each donor with a token amount of Rs 5,000.

According to the Health Commissioner, the southern state is spending an amount of Rs 15 crore per day in overall coronavirus arrangements, including treatment, patients' food, accommodation, tests and medicines, among others.

On an average, Andhra Pradesh is testing 65,000 to 70,000 samples per day.

The state on Monday reported 8,368 new coronavirus cases, taking the Andhra Pradesh's tally to 5.06 lakh.

Tamil Nadu people prefer to learn Hindi language

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

If the data provided by Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha is any indication, the AIADMK, the DMK and other Dravidian outfits in Tamil Nadu may have to re-work their policy towards Hindi.

The Dravidian parties are known for their strong Opposition to Hindi and Sanskrit. Schools and Colleges in Tamil Nadu which follow State syllabus do not allow Hindi in the curriculum as both AIADMK and DMK are united in their Opposition towards Hindi.

Both the political parties have made it public that Hindi was not welcome in Tamil Nadu and the State would follow only the two-language policy. But people belonging to economically forward segments send their children to private schools that follow CBSE and ICSE curriculum where Hindi is compulsory.

Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha was launched in 1918 by none other than Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, with the aim of propagating Hindi in South India. The importance given by Mahatma to the mission could be understood from the fact that he himself was the President of the organisation till he breathed his last.

"The passion among the students and youth in Tamil Nadu could be understood from the fact that 4,58,000 students appeared for the various Hindi examinations held by the Sabha in 2019. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, it is certain to see more students taking up the examinations of the Sabha in 2020," S R Jeyaraj, secretary, DBHPS told The Pioneer. There are no unemployed Hindi scholars in the State.

He said in 2018, the State saw 4,35,000 students appearing for the examinations held by the Sabha. "Of all the South Indian States, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Hindi learners registered with the Sabha," said Jayaraj. He said despite Hindi being denied its rightful place in government-run schools and colleges in the State, students are firm in their decision to learn the language.

Kerala records 3,026 fresh cases, 13 deaths

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala diagnosed 3,026 new persons with Covid-19 on Tuesday while 13 persons died during the last 24 hours, according to a release issued by the State Health Department. With Tuesday's 13 death, the fatalities in the State reached 372.

By Tuesday evening, the number of Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment in the State rose to 23,217. Nearly two lakh persons across the State are under observation across Kerala. Out of the 3,026 persons diagnosed with the pandemic on Tuesday, 2,723 developed the infection through local contact.

While 237 persons who were tested positive could not furnish how, why and when they were infected, the State saw 89 health workers contracting the pandemic across the State. On Tuesday, a total of 2,076 persons were hospitalised.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had said on Friday that the testing to diagnose the pandemic was way ahead of others. On Tuesday 37,264 samples were sent for testing.

Barring the High Range districts of Idukki (63) and Wayanadu (21) the remaining 12 districts tested high numbers on Tuesday. Vijayan had told on last Friday that the two weeks would be critical and crucial for the State and there was every possibility of the number of cases shooting to 10,000 and more per day.

Kerala: Rajasekharan fasts to protest against scam, falling law & order

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Former Governor of Mizoram, Kummanam Rajasekharan, who is also a former president of the Kerala BJP observed a day's fast on Tuesday at Pathanamthitta in protest against rapes, gold smuggling scams, corruption charges and breakdown of law and order in the State.

"Kerala hangs its head in shame. Covid-19 patients are raped by ambulance drivers and health workers who are supposed to save them. There is no guarantee for the lives of sincere officials who wage war against corruption and nepotism. The State is no more the God's Own Land as it has been described earlier," said Rajasekharan while launching his fast in company of hundreds of party workers.

Even as Rajasekharan was addressing the party cadre at Pathanamthitta, a heavy posse of policemen charged into the residence of Muslim League MLA M C Kamarudin in Kasaragod district in northern Kerala in connection with a series of cheating cases filed against

the law maker.

The case is that Fashion Jewellery of which Kamarudin is the chairman cheated investors to the tune of Rs 136 crore. The managing director of the showroom is absconding.

Adding to the woes of the State administration, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has found that gold smuggling syndicate operating from Kozhikode Airport has succeeded in getting their own henchmen employed as contract workers inside the airport.

This is being done to make it easy for them to bring out the smuggled gold reaching the airport via international flights, said the DRI report.

On Sunday, two staff members of the DRI had come under attack from gold couriers when the former tried to take into custody a group of people engaged in smuggling.

Meanwhile investigation agencies including the Narcotics Control Bureau are on their way to Kerala to nab politically influential people into custody in connection with the recent drug seizure at Bangalore.

5,684 afflicted in Tamil Nadu

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Covid-19 pandemic is subsiding in Tamil Nadu, though not in a big way. According to a bulletin issued on Tuesday evening by the Department of Health, barring the districts of Chengalpatt, Chennai, Coimbatore and Cuddalore (the 4C districts), the coronavirus induced pandemic is showing signs of stabilizing and subsiding.

While the entire State diagnosed 5,684 new patients on Tuesday after testing 81,066 persons, 6,599 patients were discharged on a single day after it was confirmed that they were cured of the disease.

The day also saw 87 persons succumbing to the pandemic taking the death toll to 8,012.

Chennai registered 988 new patients while Chengalpatt (364), Coimbatore (446) and Cuddalore (407) had considerably low number of new cases.

Thiruvallur (277) and Thiruvannamalai (242) were the other districts with high number of cases.

The bulletin said as on Tuesday, there were 50,213 active patients in the State. Tamil Nadu is returning to normalcy with intra district buses and metro resuming services, though with reduced numbers.

Migrant laborers who had left for their hometowns following the lockdown are returning to Chennai and other commercial hubs in small batches.

1,355 test Covid +ve, 14 die in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Fourteen patients of Covid-19 died in Jammu & Kashmir while 1,355 fresh cases of coronavirus were detected taking the total tally of cases close to 46,000 on Tuesday.

Out of these the active positive cases stood at 11,859 while a total number of 815 patients have died so far.

Out of all the districts, Jammu district continues to report more than 450 cases on a daily basis. Several employees working in different government offices, bank employees, traffic cops, Jammu university employees and other service providers were found infected during Rapid Antigen Testing going on across the district since August 26.

Out of 11859 active positive cases, Jammu district alone accounted for 3844 cases while active positive cases in Srinagar stood at 1435. According to the media bulletin, out of 1355 new positive cases, 785 were reported from Jammu division and 570 from Kashmir division.

In addition, 14 COVID-19 deaths have been reported; 08 from Jammu division and 06 from Kashmir Division.

On a recovery front, 491 more COVID-19 patients were fully recovered and discharged from various hospitals, 74 from Jammu Division and 417 from Kashmir Division.

According to the media bulletin, out of 45925 positive cases, 11859 are Active Positive, 33251 have recovered and 815 have died; 113 in Jammu division and 702 in Kashmir division.

NIA arrests 3 more in Bhima Koregaon Elgar Parishad Case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA has arrested three more accused persons in the Bhima Koregaon Elgar Parishad Case.

The arrested accused are Sagar Gorkhe, Ramesh Gaichor and Jyoti Jagtap, all from Pune. Gorkhe and Gaichor were arrested on Monday while Jagtap was nabbed on Tuesday.

These three arrested persons are FIR-named accused persons.

The accused persons are members of Kabir Kala Manch a frontal organization of banned terrorist organization CPI (Maoist), the NIA said.

The case arose out of Vishram Baug police station, Pune regarding inciting people and giving provocative speeches during Elgar Parishad organized at Shaniwarwada, Pune by the activists of Kabir Kala Manch on December 31, 2017, which promoted enmity between various

caste groups and led to violence resulting in loss of life and property and state-wide agitation in Maharashtra, the NIA said.

During investigation, it was revealed that senior leaders of CPI (Maoist), an organisation banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, were in contact with the organizers of Elgar Parishad as well as the accused arrested in the case so as to spread the ideology of Maoism/Naxalism and encourage unlawful activities, it said.

The Pune Police filed charge-sheet and a supplementary charge-sheet in this case on November 15, 2018 and February 21, 2019 respectively.

NIA took up the investigation of the case on January 24 this year and arrested accused Anand Teltumbde and Gautam Navlakha on April 14. Further, accused Hanybabu Musaliyavirtil Tarayil was arrested on July 28.

FROM PAGE 1

PLA'S BID TO DENT INDIA'S POSITION FOILED

The statement by the Western Theatre Command is an attempt to mislead their domestic and international audience, the statement said.

The Army issued the statement after the Chinese Government late on Monday night claimed that India violated the LAC and fired shots.

The Army statement also said while India is committed to disengagement and de-escalating the situation on the LAC, China continues to undertake provocative activities to escalate. At no stage has the Indian Army transgressed across the LAC or resorted to use of any aggressive means, including firing. It is the PLA that has been blatantly violating agreements and carrying out aggressive manoeuvres, while engagement at military, diplomatic and political level is in progress, the statement said.

This categorical rebuttal came after the PLA alleged that the Indian troops crossed the LAC and "outrageously fired" warning shots near the Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh.

Senior Colonel Zhang Shuili, a spokesperson of PLA's Western Theater Command, in a statement claimed the Indian troops again illegally crossed the LAC and "outrageously fired" warning shots on Chinese border patrol soldiers who were about to negotiate.

Chinese troops were forced to take countermeasures to stabilise the situation, he said without elaborating. The Indian troops crossed the LAC at the west section of the China-India border into the Shempao mountain region near the south bank of Pangong lake, he alleged.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said India's behaviour violated agreements. "It is a serious military provocation. We've made representations through diplomatic and military channels asking them to immediately stop dangerous moves, withdraw people who crossed the line and discipline frontline troops," it said.

Separately, the Ministry of External Affairs here termed as false reports in Chinese media attributing some comments to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. "We have seen reports in Chinese state media, including in China Daily and Huanqiu Shibao (Global Times), which had attributed some comments to NSA Ajit Doval. These reports are completely false and are not based on facts. We urge the media to refrain from such speculative reporting," it said in a release.

5 ABDUCTED MEN FROM ARUNACHAL LOCATED IN CHINA, CONFIRMS PLA

They were part of a seven-member group which went hunting in a jungle and were reported missing by their families through social media last Friday.

On Monday, China had brushed off concerns over the whereabouts of the five missing youths and claimed it has never recognised the Northeastern State which it claims to be part of south Tibet, a claim consistently denied by India.

"China's position on the east sector of the China-India boundary, or Zangnan (the southern part of China's Xizang (Tibet)), is consistent and clear," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a media briefing in Beijing on Monday.

"I'm not aware of the situation you mentioned," the spokesperson said when asked about any updates about the missing Indian nationals.

RHEA HELD FOR DRUG DEAL

Rhea is said to be arrested for purchase, possession and use of drugs, under Section 8(c), 20(b), 27(a), 28 and 29 of NDPS Act.

Rhea is understood to have been booked under Section 8(c), 20(b), 27(a), 28 and 29 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 on charges of purchase, possession and use of drugs.

In a related development, the Bandra Police converted Rhea's complaint registered on Monday against the later actor's sisters Priyanka Singh, Meetu Singh and a New Delhi-based doctor Dr Tarun Kumar of Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital for alleged forgery and violation of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and Tele Medicine Practice Guidelines, 2020, into an FIR on Tuesday. The Bandra police immediately transferred the case to the CBI for investigations along with the probe into the FIR filed by Sushant's father with the Patna police.

"In line with the complaint of Rhea Chakraborty, a case has been registered at Bandra Police Station, Mumbai Cr. No. 576/2020 under sections 420, 464, 465, 466, 468, 474, 306, 120B, 34 IPC and read with sections 8(c), 21, 22(A), 29 of NDPS Act.

In line with orders of the Supreme Court of India, the case is duly transferred to CBI for further investigation," a senior officer attached to the Bandra police said.

Dubbing client Rhea's arrest as a "travesty of justice", her lawyer Satish Maneshinde expressed his outrage saying that the Central investigating agencies were "hounding a single woman just because she was in love with a drug addict who was suffering from mental health issues."

"Travesty of Justice! Three Central agencies are hounding a single Woman, just because she was in love with a drug addict and was suffering from mental health issues for several years under the care of five leading psychiatrists in Mumbai, who ended up committing suicide due to consumption of illegally administered medicines and used drugs," Maneshinde said.

The NCB's case is based on 59 grams of curated marijuana seized from alleged drug peddlers Abbas Lakhani and Karan Arora who were arrested earlier, and have now been granted bail.

SONIA FOR JOINT OPP CANDIDATE FOR RS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN POST

In the Monsoon Session strategy meeting, the grand old party has firmed up its opinion to oppose on a number of ordinances issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced corona pandemic lockdown.

The ordinances the Congress will oppose include the one on PM Cares fund, but the party will support the overall taxation ordinance, sources said. Pay cuts for MPs will be supported, but the executive decision of stopping the MPLAD funds for two years will be opposed since it stops the ongoing works.

Sources said the party will also oppose the "one nation one market for farmers" as it feels that the farmers will be short-changed when they sell their produce. The closure of mandis will leave many jobless, especially the poor who work as porters, weigh men and others. Such a law will also infringe on the States' rights, the party contends.

DEATH-ROW RULING PARTY LEADER TAKES OATH AS LANKA MP

Jayasekera had filed a writ petition before the Court of Appeal asking for a relief. The appeal court order had come

after the Attorney-General Dappula de Livera's ruling last week that Jayasekera is "unsuitable to either sit in parliament or vote in the house".

The Attorney General had said that as per section 91 (1) (a) of the Constitution of Sri Lanka, no person shall be qualified to be elected as a Member of Parliament or to sit and vote in Parliament if he is or becomes subject to any of the disqualifications specified in Article 89.

Jayasekera and two others were sentenced to death by the Ratnapura High Court for the 2015 murder of a political activist in the run up to the January 2015 presidential election.

Jayasekera was not able to attend the parliament's inaugural session on August 20 after the SLPP's landslide win.

MAHA ORDERS PROBE INTO ALLEGED DRUG USE BY KANGANA

Ahead of the actress' arrival in the city, Maharashtra's State capital and neighbouring Thane witnessed several Kangana-specific developments.

First, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) served a notice on the actress for carrying out alleged illegal extensions to her office premises at Bandra in north-west Mumbai.

Confirming that a notice had been issued to Kangana, BMC's H-West Assistant Municipal Commissioner Vinayak Vispute said: "We have issued a notice to Kangana Ranaut. We have asked her to file a reply within 24 hours. Once the deadline is over, we will take appropriate action after going through her reply in the matter."

Tuesday's is the second notice that has been issued to her by the BMC. Two years ago, the BMC had issued her a notice relating to a different structure belonging to her.

A combative Kangana responded to the BMC's notice through a tweet that read: "Because of the criticism that received from my friends on social media, they didn't come with a bulldozer today instead stuck a notice to stop leakage work that is going on in the office, friends I may have risked a lot but I find immense love and support from you all."

On its part, the BMC has filed its reply in Dindoshi Sessions Court to vacate a stay order on its demolition notice issued in 2018 in a previous matter, to Kangana under the MRTIP Act for carrying out illegal constructions in her Khar home.

In a related development,

Maharashtra's Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said on Wednesday that he had asked police to look into Kangana's alleged statements that she consumed drugs.

Talking to mediapersons at the Vidhan Bhavan complex, Deshmukh said: "In an interview, Adhyayan Suman, the son of Shekhar Suman, who had a relationship with her, had made certain statements that Kangana Ranaut used to take drugs. The Mumbai Police will investigate this matter."

Earlier, Deshmukh had made a similar statement in the Maharashtra Assembly responding to questions by two Shiv Sena MLAs Pratap Sarnaik and Sunil Prabhu.

"In the Assembly I have replied that she had relations with Adhyayan Suman, who said in an interview that she (Kangana) took drugs and also forced him to do so... Mumbai Police will look into all this in detail," Deshmukh said.

On her part, Kangana responded swiftly. "I am more than happy to oblige @MumbaiPolice@AnilDeshmukhNCP please do my drug tests, investigate my call records if you find any links to drug peddlers ever I will accept my mistake and leave Mumbai forever, looking forward to meet you," she tweeted.

PRAYAGRAJ SSP SUSPENDED

Anti-Corruption (DVAC) of Tamil Nadu had raided his official residence along with that of Sub-Inspector P Ramchandran in July 2012 and seized two kilograms of gold ornaments, 15 kg of silver articles while land-related documents were found in the sub-inspector's home.

On Tuesday, a Home department official said that the suspended officer was found involved in several corruption cases and was found to be engaged in malpractices in posting of officers. "The SSP had little interest in regular patrols and did nothing for security of banks. Besides, cases pending for the past three months in the district had also piled up," the official said.

Besides, Dikshit also did not properly function in containing the coronavirus pandemic in the district due to which the Allahabad High Court had expressed its displeasure.

Meanwhile, the state government also shifted six IPS officers. DCP (West) in Lucknow, Sarvshresta Tripathi was made the new SSP of Prayagraj, SP (Railways) at Gorakhpur, Pushpanjali, was promoted and shifted as DIG (Railways) in Lucknow. Interestingly, the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) probing the Unnao rape case in which former Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengha is an accused, had written to the chief secretary, seeking action against her for her dubious role in the case.

ADB TO GIVE \$500 MN LOAN TO SPEED UP DELHI-MEERUT RRTS

The project, being implemented by the NCR Transport Corporation under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, will finance the construction of railway tracks, station buildings, maintenance facilities, and traction and power supply.

"The project will provide better connectivity to allow other towns in the NCR to develop as urban economic centers surrounded by residential areas while easing the concentration pressure on Delhi," said Khare after signing the loan agreement.

While Yokoyama said the project is expected to have a transformational impact on the development trajectory of the national capital region by introducing high-level technologies for RRTS, signalling, and station designs.

With a design speed of 180 km per hour and high-frequency operations of every five to ten minutes, the corridor connecting Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi to Modipuram at Meerut in Uttar Pradesh is expected to reduce the journey time to about one hour from the present three to four hours. The first tranche of the loan will support construction of the first of three priority rail corridors planned under the NCR Regional Plan 2021 to connect Delhi to other cities in adjoining states.

The transit system project aims to help decongest the city and improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options through the densely populated sections of the NCR connecting Delhi to Meerut in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The RRTS will have multimodal hubs to ensure smooth interchange with other transport modes. The first tranche financing will be used for constructing electrified tracks, signalling systems, multimodal hubs and stations with design features that are friendly to elderly, women, children and the disabled.

It will also support the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) in drafting action plans on TOD, VCF instruments and public-private partnership (PPP) initiatives, setting up a smart-technology based platform, and formulating a gender-friendly workplace policy.

If Biden wins, China will own America: Trump

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Monday said that his Democratic counterpart supported China's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) along with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), terming the two as the "most disastrous trade deals" in history.



"Biden supported NAFTA and he supported China's entry into the World Trade Organisation--the two most disastrous deals in history. We are looking at the World Trade Organisation, they have been very nice to us and they are talking to us differently than they do because if they don't shape up, we will ship out," Trump told reporters.

they were a developing nation. They had such a lower standard," he added.

He further slammed Biden saying, "If Biden wins, China will own this country." He also claimed that under his administration, the US would become a manufacturing superpower "ending the reliance" with China.

"If Biden wins, China will own this country. Under my administration, we will make America a manufacturing superpower of the world and will end our reliance on China. Whether it is decoupling or putting in massive tariffs, we are going to end our reliance on China," Trump said further. AGENCY

He further went on to slam China for "not playing by the rules" in the WTO.

"The reason why the World Trade Organisation is so bad is that China didn't play by the rules. We did but their rules were easier considering that

Hongkongers arrested at sea will be dealt with by mainland China

Hong Kong: Twelve people from Hong Kong arrested as they reportedly sailed to Taiwan for political asylum will "have to be dealt with" by mainland China, but the city Government would try to provide assistance, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said on Tuesday.



Chinese authorities arrested the 12 people on Aug. 23 after intercepting a boat off the coast of the southern mainland province of Guangdong. Local media have reported they were headed to Taiwan to apply for political asylum.

provide that assistance and liaise with mainland authorities.

"The question is not a question of simply getting (them) back," Lam told a regular weekly press conference.

"If these Hong Kong residents were arrested for breaching mainland offences then they have to be dealt with according to the mainland laws and in accordance to the jurisdiction before any other things could happen."

Lam added that her government had "a duty to render assistance" to Hong Kong residents "caught in all sorts of situations" abroad and the government's representative office in Guangzhou, Guangdong's capital, will look into ways to

News agency AFP reported on Monday lawyers representing some of those captured have been denied access to their clients. Lam did not address that particular aspect when asked.

Neither mainland nor Hong Kong authorities have publicly confirmed who has been arrested, but local media have identified some of them as facing prosecution for involvement in pro-democracy protests last year.

One man, Andy Li, was recently arrested under a sweeping national security law imposed by Beijing on the semiautonomous Asian finan-

UN urges Russia for independent probe of Navalny poisoning

AFP ■ GENEVA

The UN rights chief called Tuesday on Moscow to conduct or cooperate with a "thorough, transparent, independent and impartial investigation" into the alleged nerve agent attack on Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Michelle Bachelet stressed the need to get to the bottom of the poisoning, after German specialists said they had "unequivocal proof" that the weapons-grade nerve agent Novichok was used in the attack.

"It is incumbent on the Russian authorities to fully investigate who was responsible for this crime, a very serious crime that was committed on Russian soil," she said in a statement.

The 44-year-old anti-corruption campaigner and one of President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics, fell ill on a domestic flight last month and was treated in a Siberian hospital before being evacuated to Berlin. The attack marked the latest in a long line of assassination attempts against Putin's critics.

Missing Belarus Opp leader detained at Ukraine border

AFP ■ MINSK

One of Belarus's leading opposition figures Maria Kolesnikova has been detained while trying to cross into Ukraine, border officials said Tuesday.

Kolesnikova was detained while attempting to cross overnight with two other members of the opposition's Coordination Council who were able to pass through to Ukraine, Anton Bychkovsky, a spokesman for the State Border Committee, told AFP.

She and the two other council members, press secretary Anton Rodnenkov and executive secretary Ivan Kravtsov, had disappeared on Monday.

Bychkovsky said Rodnenkov and Kravtsov were able to cross into Ukraine, and the Ukrainian embassy in Minsk confirmed to AFP they were in the country.

Kolesnikova was being held and "an investigation is under way to legally assess the situation," Bychkovsky said.

State news agency Belta quoted border officials as say-

ing the three had tried to cross the border in a BMW car around 4:00 am Tuesday.

The Coordination Council was set up to ensure a peaceful transfer of power after President Alexander Lukashenko's main rival Svetlana Tikhonovskaya rejected his claim to have won an August 9 presidential election with 80 per cent of the vote.

The disputed election has sparked widespread protests and a harsh police crackdown that has seen several thousand people arrested.

Germany and Britain had on Monday demanded answers after Kolesnikova went missing and allies said she had been snatched off the streets by unidentified men in black.

Kolesnikova, 38, is the only one of the trio of women who fronted Tikhonovskaya's campaign to remain in Belarus.

Tikhonovskaya left the country under pressure from the authorities and was granted refuge in EU member state Lithuania, while her other campaign partner, Veronika Tsepalko, is now in Ukraine.

US accuses China of threatening, harassing foreign journalists

Beijing: The United States on Tuesday accused China of "threatening" and "harassing" foreign journalists after it refused to renew press credentials for several employees of American media organisations.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry recently informed the US embassy in Beijing of new curbs on foreign reporters "by denying them press card renewals and refusing to process pending visa applications for journalists who were expelled earlier this year," she said. The Foreign Correspondents' Club of China (FCCC) on Monday confirmed the action, saying at least five journalists at four media groups — including the Wall Street Journal, CNN and Bloomberg — had been denied new press cards.

China's record of "threatening, harassing, and expelling US and other foreign journalists goes back decades", US State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortogus said in a statement provided by the US Embassy in Beijing.

More are expected to receive similar treatment in coming weeks, placing further pressure on the already diminished foreign press corps. AFP

Khashoggi trial fell short on transparency, accountability: UN Human Rights Office

Geneva: The Saudi trial into the killing of critic Jamal Khashoggi has lacked transparency and fallen short on assigning accountability for the crime, the UN human rights office said on Tuesday.



A Saudi Arabian court on Monday jailed eight people for between seven and 20 years for the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, state media reported, four months after his family forgave his killers and enabled death sentences to be set aside.

UN spokesman Rupert Colville, noting that the United Nations opposes the death penalty, told a Geneva briefing: "This is a case where there has not been proper transparency in the justice

process, those responsible should be prosecuted and given sentences commensurate with the crime."

"There is a whole issue of transparency and accountability in the case," he said. AGENCY

Prophet cartoons unforgivable: Iran's Supreme Leader

Tehran: Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Tuesday that cartoons of the prophet Mohammed that were republished by a French satirical magazine last week were "unforgivable".

"The grave and unforgivable sin committed by a French weekly in insulting the luminous and holy personality of (the) Prophet revealed, once more, the hostility and malicious grudge harboured by political and cultural organisations in the West against Islam and the Muslim community," Khamenei said in an English-language statement.

"The excuse of 'freedom of expression' made by some French politicians in order not to condemn this grave crime of insulting the Holy Prophet is completely unacceptable, wrong and demagogic." AFP

Julian Assange told to stop interrupting witnesses at hearing

London: A British judge told WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on Tuesday that his extradition hearing will proceed without him if he continues to speak from the dock and interrupt witnesses.

Vanessa Baraitser briefly adjourned the hearing at London's Central Criminal Court after Assange interrupted defense witness Clive Stafford Smith, who was giving evidence. Assange's outburst couldn't be heard by journalists following proceedings by video link.

Assange is fighting an attempt by American prosecutors to extradite him to the US to stand trial on spying charges. US prosecutors have indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 18 espionage and computer misuse charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret US military

documents a decade ago. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.

Assange's lawyers say the prosecution is a politically motivated abuse of power that will stifle media freedom and put journalists at risk around the world.

Addressing Assange, the judge said: "You will hear things, no doubt many things, you disagree with during these proceedings."

"If you interrupt proceedings it is open to me to proceed in your absence," she added.

On Monday, when the hearing opened, Baraitser rejected requests by Assange's lawyers to delay his extradition hearing until next year so they can have more time to respond to U.S. Allegations that he conspired with hackers to obtain classified information. AP

China detains 23 in crackdown on Inner Mongolia protests

PTI ■ TAIPEI

Police in China's Inner Mongolia region have detained at least 23 people following protests last week against a new policy that replaces Mongolian-language textbooks with Chinese ones in classrooms.

The push to use the new textbooks, which started in other ethnic minority regions such as Xinjiang and Tibet in 2017, has prompted demonstrations and school boycotts by ethnic Mongolians in at least five cities and counties in Inner Mongolia. The 23 detentions were across eight banners, the regional word for counties, according to an Associated Press tally of nine local police reports over the past several days.

Swiss official airs concerns about data privacy in US

Geneva (AP): A Swiss federal commissioner announced Tuesday that a US-Swiss programme aimed to protect personal information exchanged between the two countries doesn't go far enough, and has downgraded the United States to rank it as a country deemed to have inadequate data protection.

the 27-member bloc that all but surrounds the wealthy Alpine country.

In July, the EU's top court ruled that the bloc's own Privacy Shield program with the US was invalid because the American government can snoop on people's data.

Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner Adrian Lobsiger, in a new policy paper, recommends that Swiss companies or government should disclose personal data to the US only if safeguards are put in place to protect people from spying US authorities.

The ruling complicated business decisions for some 5,000 companies including tech giants and financial firms.

The EU court ruling followed a case brought by Austrian activist Max Schrems, who complained about the handling of his Facebook data.

Lobsiger's paper follows a regular review of the three-year-old US-Swiss programme known as Privacy Shield, and his recommendations follow similar concerns expressed by EU authorities about an alleged lack of privacy protections in the United States.

In his paper, Lobsiger determined the United States should be categorised as providing inadequate data protection, a downgrade from its earlier classification of the US as adequate in certain conditions. "The US is now placed alongside countries like Russia, China, Cuba, Japan and most African and Latin American states. Most European countries are deemed to have adequate protections.

The recommendations do

British-Iranian national faces new charge

Tehran (AP): Iran's state television, citing an unnamed official, announced Tuesday that a British-Iranian dual national is facing a new charge, raising fears she could be forced to return to prison following her temporary release.

The report did not elaborate beyond saying that Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe appeared Tuesday morning before a branch of the country's Revolutionary Court in Tehran, where she was first sentenced to prison on murky espionage charges in 2017.

He said safeguards were lacking in the United States, and said hoped for improvements in the US didn't come about.

The Privacy Shield program focuses on data exchange between businesses and guarantees provided by US authorities on protecting personal data transferred between the countries, notably involving the mass collection of non-US citizens' data for the purposes of anti-terrorism measures and national security, the paper said.

Calls to Zaghari-Ratcliffe's attorney and the court were not immediately returned.

The new indictment comes as Britain and Iran negotiate the release of some 400 million pounds (USD 530 million) held by London, a payment the late Iranian Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi made for Chieflain tanks that were never delivered. The shah abandoned the throne in 1979 and the Islamic Revolution soon installed the clerically overseen system that endures today.

Rights group: Myanmar Army deserters confirmed atrocities

Bangkok: Two soldiers who deserted from Myanmar's army have testified on video that they were instructed by commanding officers to "shoot all that you see and that you hear" in villages where minority Rohingya lived, a human rights group said Tuesday.

army-directed massacres, rape and other crimes against Rohingya Muslims in the Buddhist-majority country.

More than 700,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh since August 2017 to escape what Myanmar's military called a clearance campaign following an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group in Rakhine state.

Myanmar's government has denied accusations that security forces committed mass rapes and killings and burned thousands of homes. The group said the two army privates fled the country last month and are believed to be in the custody of the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands, which is examining the violence against the Rohingya. AP

Asked about the two soldiers, an ICC spokesman said Tuesday that "We have no new persons under arrest." The two men "separately claimed to be acting on orders from senior commanders to 'exterminate all (Rohingya),' to 'shoot all that you see and that you hear,' and to 'kill all' Rohingya in specific areas," Fortify Rights said in a statement.

SA ruling party rejects Trump comment

Johannesburg (AP): The report that US President Donald Trump made crude, disparaging remarks about Nelson Mandela, South Africa's Nobel Peace Prize-winning former leader, has drawn an angry response from South Africa's ruling party and others.

de Klerk, is widely revered by all racial groups in South Africa. Internationally, he generally has a glowing reputation as a skilled statesman who avoided a nationwide bloodbath as the country abandoned apartheid.

According to a book written by Michael Cohen, Trump's former personal lawyer, Trump said that Mandela, who guided South Africa in its politically fraught transition from a racist apartheid government to a democracy, was a terrible leader.

The report about Trump's comments could also impact the US presidential election in November in which Trump is seeking a second term in office, angering not only Black Americans but white voters who see Mandela as a peace icon.

Mandela, who won the Peace Prize in 1993 along with apartheid leader Frederik Willem

South Africa's ruling African National Congress party said Tuesday that Trump is not fit to comment on Mandela's accom-

plishments.

All freedom-loving people of the world are appalled by these insults, which come from a person who himself is not a model of competent leadership, said the ANC statement, adding that Trump is the most divisive, misogynistic and disrespectful person ever to be president of the United States.

Mandela's dedication to peace and a just society stands in stark contrast to Trump's policies, said the ANC.

The mark of a true leader is not how many enemies you create but how many friendships you cultivate, even where strong

differences of opinion exist, said the ANC, adding that if Mandela were alive today, he would reach out to Trump to discuss international issues.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation also criticized Trump for the insulting remarks about Mandela attributed to him by Cohen, who has been convicted of fraud and perjury.

We do not believe that leaders who conduct themselves in the way Mr Trump does are in a position to offer authoritative commentary on the life and work of Madiba (Mandela's clan name), the foundation said in a statement.

Crunch Brexit talks begin amid row over divorce agreement

London (PTI): Crunch Brexit talks to thrash out a trade agreement between the UK and European Union (EU) got underway on Tuesday amid a brewing row over the so-called divorce deal struck earlier this year, ahead of Britain's formal exit from the economic bloc on January 31.

agreement with Britain's negotiator, David Frost.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has set an October 15 timeframe to reach a mutually agreed plan for the future of UK-EU relations. However, the talks have been overshadowed by a brewing row over Johnson's plan to override parts of the Withdrawal Agreement, or divorce bill, signed on January 24.

The current transition period after that exit ends at the end of December before which both sides must agree the terms of their future relationship or end up with a no-deal Brexit.

The government plans to table proposals in Parliament on Wednesday to give UK ministers unilateral legal powers to oversee elements of the Northern Ireland Protocol, the UK territory which shares a border with the EU member-

state of Ireland.

Amid anger from Brussels and Dublin, Downing Street insists that the measures are limited and reasonable and would remain compliant with the Northern Ireland Protocol.

However, Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis admitted to MPs in the House of Commons on Tuesday that it would have an impact on international law but insisted the legal breach would be in a "very specific and limited way".

The minister explained it was because the government was trying to "disapply" EU law and added there are "clear precedents for the UK and other countries needing to

Downing Street has indicated that Johnson did not believe the Withdrawal Agreement originally negotiated by his predecessor, Theresa May made sense, as the UK internal market and the peace process would be "compromised by unintended consequences" if it was not amended.

consider their international obligations as circumstances change". His statement came as it

would undermine parts of the Withdrawal Agreement. Jones' resignation means Johnson's six top civil servants have now stood down this year, including the heads of several departments.

"This resignation indicates that senior government lawyers think that the government are about to break the law, said Lord Charlie Falconer, Opposition Labour's Shadow Attorney General.

"The government is trashing the best of the UK; we are a law abiding country and the government have some serious questions to answer," he said. On the Brussels side, Barnier said honouring the

emerged that Jonathan Jones resigned as one of most senior legal advisers and civil servants amid concerns that the plans

existing agreement was a "pre-condition" for progress to be made in trade deal negotiations this week.

But Downing Street has indicated that Johnson did not believe the Withdrawal Agreement originally negotiated by his predecessor, Theresa May made sense, as the UK internal market and the peace process would be "compromised by unintended consequences" if it was not amended.

Johnson had renegotiated the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol, removing the so-called Irish "backstop", before signing off on the terms of Britain's exit from the 27-

nation bloc in October last year.

The current legal default position, without a new trade deal, is that after December 31 all goods passing from mainland Britain to Northern Ireland would be subject to customs checks and tariffs, that businesses in Northern Ireland would have to fill in customs declarations for goods being sold to the mainland, and that EU rules on state aid could be applied to mainland companies selling goods in Northern Ireland. But it is feared that parts of the protocol may be contradictory in favour of the EU single market, which the UK wants to exit completely.

A career in the real estate sector is not only about being real estate agents. There are many opportunities for a person who is willing to challenge himself to have a career in the dynamic sector like this, says RAJAT GOEL



Build a budding career

Before selecting the real estate sector as a career option, it is a must to understand that a career in this sector would be exciting, demanding, and monetarily rewarding. On the other hand, it must be clear in the mind that the career in the real estate sector is not only about being real estate agents. There are many opportunities for a person who is willing to challenge himself to have a career in the dynamic sector like real estate. The main thing is the hard work which is required for the profession.

While being a residential realty consultant/associate is one of the known career options in this sector, it is by no means the only one. There is no denying that most of the high-profile career options in this sector comprise buying and selling residential projects, but the sector has depth, and there are various jobs available here.

Being a real estate investor is one of the opportunities in the Indian realty sector. Investor in real estate is one who buys and modernises a property either for selling or renting pur-

poses. Active and passive are the two ways to be a realty investor. One can decide to be an active investor as your classic "house flipper." A passive investor is one who invests in a real estate project without interfering in the daily management of a project. Even if one doesn't have much money to invest, then he/she can still become an investor in crowd-funded real estate investing.

The second opportunity is a property manager. A major role is to maintain property rentals by advertising & filling vacancies, settling, and imposing leases, and securing the premises. Besides, a project manager has certain other roles including rent responsibilities, attracting tenants, screening tenants, good knowledge of landlord-tenant Laws, maintenance & repair of the property, and managing the budget & maintaining financial records. Some brands outsource the project managers depending on the size of the property and their requirements.

Another opportunity in the real estate sector is leasing consultants whose responsibility is to present

Being a real estate investor is one of the opportunities in the Indian realty sector. Investor in real estate is the one who buys and modernises a property either for selling or renting purposes. Active and passive are the two ways to be a realty investor

residential property including flats, apartments, villas, etc to the potential clients in an effective manner. Another role is to assist residential landlords in finding out suitable and reliable tenants. Encouraging unoccupied properties through different tools including media and advertising is also a key role of a leasing consultant.

Commercial leasing managers are often assigned to office space or storefronts and are also considered as one of the career options in the real estate sector. He is responsible to keep an eye and study changes in the marketplace that can have an impact on the budgets that a particular business has for various property needs.

A foreclosure professional can be appointed either by a bank or private lender for handling the required documentation and processes. The foreclosure professional is responsible to review the client's financial statements and process foreclosure cases so the property can be resold as quickly as possible. Such consultants must be organised and capable to finish the work in a fixed time frame.

A Real estate attorney is also an opportunity in this sector. An experienced real estate attorney prepares and carefully checks the documents including purchase agreements, mortgage documents, and transfer documents.

Many organisations appoint corporate real estate managers for handling and executing daily operational activities of commercial properties. Their major role is to respond to customer service queries, process customer work orders, needs, and requirements.

Maximum companies hire corporate communication professionals to handle operational activities related to public relations, advertising, social media, content development, and crisis management.

The Indian real estate sector is so much more than residential real estate. It is surrounded with great career opportunities that require different strengths.

The writer is Joint Managing Director, MRG World

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.

— Plato

Medical Microbiology course

The University of Sheffield, UK is inviting applications for Medical Microbiology BSc course starting in September 2021.

This course will give a broad understanding of microbiology with an emphasis on topics of medical relevance, allowing students to understand how microbes live, as well as ways to disrupt disease processes, before putting their skills and knowledge into practice in the lab. Students will study the importance of bacteria, viruses and other microbes in the environment and as pathogens. Students will also learn about how we can manipulate their genetic makeup to

put microbes to good use in biotechnology, allowing us to better understand and tackle the global threat of antimicrobial-resistant infections.

Eligibility: Applicants with a minimum aggregate of 75 per cent and 75-80 per cent in key subjects (including two science subjects) at Standard XII will typically be considered for direct admission to this course. IELTS grade of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component; or an alternative acceptable English language qualification.

How to apply: Log on to <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/prospectus/courseDetails.do?id=C5212021>.

Live workshop

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's premier cultural institution, the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in collaboration with HSBC will be hosting a workshop on "The Convergence of Digitisation and the Arts" on September 12, 2020 from 3:30 pm as part of their initiative on ancillary skill development for the artists community.

Considering the COVID-19 has impacted this community largely with no live performances, the workshop will introduce artists to platforms, processes and means to be able to enhance their engagement online.

Supported by HSBC, renowned Kathak dancer Keerthi Kumar will be taking a

live audience through touchpoints that enable performers to conduct virtual classrooms, online performances, conferences & seminars using a mix of household equipment, handy tools and subscription-based software.

This live dialogue will cover variety of subjects that make it imperative for an artist to re-look at monetisation in the new normal. From home acoustics & lighting system settings to re-modelling teaching methodologies for the digital medium, the workshop will cover a number of significant aspects. All of these are aimed at elevating the digital medium to thereby helping content creators' brand & promote themselves to audiences across the globe.

Organisations will now be looking to hire candidates who can bring distinct skills as well as fresh ideas and innovation onboard. Hence, the demand for job candidates with niche specialisations will soar, says SHAILAJA PATIL

FIND YOUR NICHE

COVID-19 has completely transformed the market dynamics. On the brighter side, it has given birth to new business opportunities and revenue models. Organisations will now be looking to hire candidates who can bring distinct skills as well as fresh ideas and innovation onboard. Hence, the demand for job candidates with niche specialisations will soar. Colleges and universities can meet post-pandemic demand of industries and groom their students in this direction by integrating niche specialisations into their regular programs.

Some of the niche specialisations that are touted to gain momentum in the new normal scenario are:

Banking and Microfinance
The penetration of technology and awareness about digital transactions have increased in rural pockets. Tapping into this development, the government, NGOs and even corporates will tie-up with

microfinance institutions for last-mile reach to villages and remote locations to transfer monetary benefits of social/CSR schemes. The operations of the microfinance sector differ significantly from traditional banking. A niche specialisation in this field can easily bridge the skill and knowledge gap between students and the microfinance industry.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)

Almost every industry is incorporating AI and ML technologies in their business processes to gain a competitive advantage. AI and ML will continue to break ground and find new applications in the future. Currently, there are barely a few higher education institutes which offer MBA or PGP in AI and ML as a blended specialisation. A huge surge in demand of people with AI and ML skills is expected, and hence, there is a dire need for niche specialisation courses in this domain.

Healthcare and Hospital Management

The pandemic has put a major burden on healthcare and hospital system. Even the countries with the best healthcare facilities are struggling to manage their capacity optimally, run their operations smoothly and maintain the quality of their services. As key learning from COVID-19, hospitals and healthcare institutes will now focus on addressing all these concerns and improving their processes. The number of hospitals and medical facilities will also rise to meet the shortfall in capacity. Students who have niche specialisation in healthcare and hospital management can pursue rewarding careers in operations, administration, customer service, public relations, audits, invoicing and other managerial roles.

Construction and Real Estate Management

Currently, the Indian construction and real estate industry

primarily operates as an unorganised sector. The construction and real estate companies/brokers by and large have an upper hand over customers. There is also a lack of professionalism, transparency and ethics. As a result, most projects get delayed, resulting in customer grievances. However, highly-skilled and suave professionals can bring much-needed reforms in this industry. A niche specialisation in construction and real estate industry can empower students to explore careers in project management, estimation and costs and contracts and vendor management. Sustainable construction, sales and marketing and customer services are other areas where niche specialisation in this industry can fast-track career growth.

Digital Marketing

Digital marketing has established its firm foothold in the past five years, but it emerged as a lifeline during the pandemic. Organisations have realised that digital marketing can ensure business continuity even in the toughest times. While the number of online and offline digital marketing courses have witnessed a sharp rise in the past few years, the current supply is less than demand. There is an urgent need to offer more digital marketing specialisations. At the same time, these courses should be customised to suit the business requirements so that students can apply their learning in the real-world scenario without hiccups.

Niche specialisations are gaining momentum and here to stay. It's high time that higher education institutes incorporate them into their curriculum to expand their offerings, benefit the students and meet industry expectations.

The writer is Executive Director ADITUS — Motion Institute of Management Studies

Make way for super parents

It is time for parents to upgrade themselves and transform into career gurus for their children, says PRAVEEN PARAMESWAR

The current outbreak has created a state of uncertainty across the globe and has been seen impacting various sectors as well as career paths. The future of careers is undetermined, as even the top-notch analysts fail to predict it right. Buzz words such as Genome Technology, Neurobiology, Drones, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Big data, Internet of Things, Astrophysics and similar areas of research are revolutionising the world of career.

In this scenario, the children in their teenage would not be able to analyse the changes around the world or understand the trends in education, take right decisions related to career and navigate to the most appropriate future all by themselves. They need external help which should ideally be learned support from parents.

The popular notion of "their career, their life; let them decide, do not interfere" does not work well with a lot of students and might even be tagged as a redundant thought in the 21st century. Instead, the modern times demand every parent to incarnate as new-age career gurus, who get self-ready to make children ready for the future. This is the time to upgrade themselves and transform into career gurus from ordinary parents.

Here is how the guardians can upgrade themselves smoothly and guide their children to select the right future.

Learn about various career options, courses and universities

Parents should learn about the changes happening around the world of career. They should focus on being aware of the diverse opportunities that



The writer is Chief Executive Officer, Lifology

any job' scenario would not be the best solution or continue for long. Instead, the need of the hour demands parents to use scientific tools to understand the strengths, competencies and aptitude of children and guide them with the careers accordingly.

Interact with senior experts in various industries

In the past, people often used to take children to meet veterans from various walks of life and make them listen to the experiences of their elders. Today, it is important to get back to similar roots but with a fresher perspective and productive approach. It's not about taking the child to the seniors, but instead, the parents should connect with acclaimed mentors to understand the pulse of the changes scenarios worldwide so that they can guide their children aptly. This will help them become aware of the diversity of professions and thus enable them to mentor kids better.

The new world is no more about passive parenting, but active involvement in the education and career decisions of children. This is fundamentally different from parents imposing their dreams on children. Instead of being a parent that imposes their thoughts on the child, this approach helps them in becoming the most trusted advisors of their children. This will further make students look up to their guardians and seek their guidance.

It is time for parents to question themselves and ask if they're capable of providing the right kind of support to their children. This will further help them evolve into super parents and mentor their children rightly.

The writer is Chief Executive Officer, Lifology

New high for KIIT

In yet another landmark, KIIT School of Management has been ranked second in the Times BBA Education Ranking Survey 2020. The Times Survey report was published today. The survey was conducted on the top BBA colleges offering full time BBA courses in India.

The research had three major modules including Desk Research, Factual survey & Perceptual Rating survey. Post collection of data a methodical analysis was done to rate the various BBA colleges that participated in the study and rank them accordingly. The survey was executed during the first week of July to third week of August 2020.

The ranking process in the current year, imbibed a holistic research module involving an objective study and a perceptual study. While the objective study is done to capture a true reflection of what exists, the perceptual study on the other hand is deemed important to comprehend how the different actors and the stakeholders perceive the institutes. Thus, these two modules in tandem help to make the ranking process more robust.

KSOM is one of the oldest private B-schools of the country with a glorious past, with 80 per cent faculty from corporate and half of them from IIMs, IITs, XLRI, MDI and other top B Schools of the country.

SRMIST adopts eight villages

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), the flagship programme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur has adopted eight villages.

The aim of this programme is to transform rural India. Based on the guidelines layout by MHRD, SRMIST has adopted the villages of Anjur, Pattaravakkam, Thenmelpakkam, Orathur, Nattarasampattu, Chettipunniam, Kalivandapattu, and Kolathur.

and Kolathur.

Out of 59 project proposals submitted by SRMIST for the upliftment of rural people in these adopted villages, three projects were funded by UBA during the academic year 2018-19. They are — End-To-End Integrated Rationing System for Distribution of Provisions have been completed at Anjur village, Reverse osmosis plant, and RO water plant installed at Government School of Orathur village and Versatile Anaerobic Reactor for Households to Yield Biogas by Utilising waste (Kisan Vahyu) at Orathur village.

Apart from these, various development projects such as Swachh Bharat Summer Internship, Student Solar Ambassador Initiative, Ban on Single-use Plastic Awareness Programs, RO Water Plant Project, School Improvement by providing furniture and electrical appliances, Smart Classroom, Medical Camp and Distribution of Educational Learning Kits for Science Lab and Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign.

Apart from this SRMIST has also donated furniture worth ₹2 lakhs to a Govt. Middle School, Thenmelpakkam vil-

lage, Kattankulathur Panchayat union.

For all these commendable efforts, SRMIST was awarded Rank 1 for Swachh Campus Ranking 2019 by MHRD, Rank 1 for "One Student One Tree" project and Rank 3 for "Clean and Smart Campus" by AICTE.

The institution has undertaken umpteen projects in the form of its Corporate Social responsibility schemes, Swachh Bharat Summer Internship, awareness campaigns to make the villages ODF, and to ban single-use plastics and tree plantation.

Top honours for Amrita

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a boost to the quest for sustainable development in the country, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (Amrita) has been awarded a UNESCO Chair for "Experiential Learning for Sustainable Innovation & Development."

Through this Chair, the university will develop a comprehensive framework for academic engagement to build sustainable communities by designing a curriculum based on experiential learning. This curriculum will enable the academic community to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to implement sustainable solutions among vulnerable and rural communities.

The Chair will be held by the university for the next four years under the leadership of Dr Maneesha Sudheer.

The trend of choosing the right specialisation had begun a few years back. But the candidates have now realised the importance of acquiring the specific skills to get their dream jobs, says ARJUN JAGANNATHAN



Manage your path

In India, about 3.6 lakh MBA candidates graduate every year. But due to the Coronavirus situation, the business schools (B-schools) have had to make changes to their traditional manner of teaching, and these changes will have an impact on the students.

Most MBA programmes have announced that they are planning to go digital by providing online classes to their students. A lot of institutions have pushed their MBA application deadlines. They have also announced that they will reopen the campuses when it is safe for students to start attending classes in colleges. It means that the MBA candidates will have to attend classes online and probably even in classrooms.

Classrooms provide a space for the students to attend classes with their peers, to discuss topics and to clear their doubts immediately. When they take up online sessions, they will miss out on the campus experience and also the face-to-face interaction with other students and faculty members.

But they will learn a lot when it comes to situation management, and they will also be able to attend webinars and other online

sessions provided by the institutions.

Given how the MBA programmes are changing, the courses will test more than just the academic potential of a candidate. They will now be a test of the candidate's ability to manage crises.

If a candidate attends the MBA programme on campus, they will have to work on projects and case studies in teams. When they are with the teams in college, it is easy to have discussions, share ideas and complete projects when they are with the team. But the current situation does not permit that.

In this situation, it comes down to who takes up the leadership role, who brings the team together and who manages the work. The impact of the Coronavirus on the job market has made MBA aspirants think twice before they choose their MBA programme. When an aspirant decides to do an MBA, they can choose to specialise in the field of their choice.

The trend of choosing the right specialisation had begun a few years ago. But the candidates have now realised the importance

The impact of the Coronavirus on the job market has made MBA aspirants think twice before they choose their programme. When an aspirant decides to do an MBA, they can choose to specialise in the field of their choice

of acquiring the specific skills to get their dream job roles.

MBA in General Management, which gives a broad sense of management and business, was an MBA programme which was in demand. But now, MBA aspirants choose specific MBA courses. They are now keen to explore the options available to them that include STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programmes as well.

For someone interested in understanding the challenges and importance of sustainable development, B-schools offer an MBA in Sustainable Development. Students learn the techniques and methods to bring about sustainable development, be it within a corporate environment or in other businesses.

Candidates can choose to pursue an MBA in Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Blockchain Management and Innovation Management, to state a few. B-schools across the world, including Harvard Business School, Indian Institute of Management, EU Business School and Wharton Business School offer different MBA specialisations

options to its candidates. Due to this, there is an increased chance for students to get admitted into the course of their choice.

Every MBA programme will have a unique offering, and every B-school has their way of teaching their students. It is up to the candidate to go through the details provided by the B-schools, do their research and find out which programme and which B-school suits them the most.

To make this decision, the candidate has to know themselves first. They have to know their strengths and weaknesses to choose the MBA programme that suits their personality and aspirations. But it is also necessary to understand the scope of the programme the B-school offers.

Understanding the scope of the programme will help them understand the job roles and pay packages that they will receive after they graduate. A point that all graduates have to remember is that an MBA is an investment, both in terms of money and time. It is important to make the right decision and give it the best during a crisis time like this.

The writer is Co-founder-CEO, CrackVerbal

Tips to crack banking exams

The career in the banking sector has lucrative options but to get there, one has to take the exam conducted in two stages. TARANNUM N RAZA gives tips on how to ace it

The banking sector has emerged as the sunrise sector in the Indian economy. It provides many avenues for employment. The IBPS PO exam is conducted in two stages — Preliminary exam and the Mains exam. There are sectional cut-offs and overall cut-offs. You should aim for a high score to make it to the final merit list. The difficulty level of the exam has been increasing, so a strong understanding of the fundamentals along with a sound strategy is required.

Mastering the ABC of the English language section

This section has seen the introduction of new types of questions as well as variants of standard questions. Practice all types of questions that have come in the Prelims and Mains in the last five years. Make grammar and vocabulary your forte. Questions based on these can be answered with good accuracy in less time.

A good strategy in the exam is to start with the questions that require less time to attempt — Cloze test, Fill in the blanks, Synonyms/Antonyms, Spotting errors, vocabulary based questions. Para-based questions and reading comprehension (except the vocabulary questions if any) should be attempted in the end — if time permits. Complex variants of parajumbles which are time-consuming have appeared in the Mains in the last few years.

Making the numbers count in the Quantitative Ability section

Score high in this section by judiciously choosing the questions to attempt. Learn the multiplication tables till 20, reciprocals till 12, and squares and cubes of numbers 1 to 30. Make sure that you grasp the basic concepts well.

A good strategy in the exam is not to attempt the questions in the order given, but to pick the easy questions in the first round. Pick the doable questions which require more time to solve in the second round.

It will be better if one started with Simplification/Approximation, missing series, Quadratic equations. Follow up with Data Interpretation (Ratio & Average based questions) — important



Tarannum N Raza
Senior Knowledge Expert, T.I.M.E. Delhi

for the Mains. The data from a set may look complicated but the questions can be simple. Look for easy questions even in the difficult sets. Revise chapters on Arithmetic, Probability (basic level), P&C. Use approximations wherever possible.

Tackling the Reasoning Ability section

Solve the questions in the following order: Inequality, Syllogisms, Coding-Decoding, Blood-relations and some other miscellaneous questions. After these, you can solve puzzles/seating arrangement questions. Pay attention to the weightage of questions. Attempt Critical Reasoning questions later.

Keeping yourself up-to-date

Regular reading of newspapers along with any monthly magazine on current affairs is a must. Keep yourself abreast with the last six months of news. Focus on economy, budget, politics, and banking awareness. Learn capitals of countries, books and authors, latest computer terminology.

Avoid guesswork in all sections as it can fetch negative marks. Time management, full dedication and proper guidance will lead to success in the exams.

According to Kids Under COVID, a research study and survey by SP Robotic Works, 78% of Indian parents are unwilling to send their wards to school immediately post lockdown, even if that entails repeating an academic year.

Safety of their wards the topmost priority for parents: Parents from Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad and mini-metros are skeptical about sending their children to school, even if it is declared safe, with 82-86% unwilling to take any risk with the children. However, Chennai and Kolkata are the only exceptions among the major cities where the ratio of parents that are willing to take chances with sending their children to school is higher than the national average.

Among the cohort, the salaried guardians are the most protective, with only 17% willing to send their children to school as soon as the schools reopen as against 30% of self-employed and 56% of freelance workers.

Parents and students reject the current way of online schooling: While most schools have successfully transitioned to online, the model is found to be less effective with over two-third of children preferring to learn in the classroom. Interestingly, children, as well as the parents in smaller cities and non-metros, seem to prefer online learning compared to those in metros, except Bengaluru.

The era of women entrepreneurship beckons: Amongst the choices for dream

MINDIT

jobs, 15% of girls aspire to become entrepreneurs when they grow up, a higher percentage than boys. Entrepreneurship is second only to the fancy of becoming a doctor. According to a 2015 study by McKinsey Global Institute, India's GDP could rise by between 16-60% by 2025 if women participated equally with men in the economy. Projections show that this could mean a whopping \$2.9 trillion added to the economy. If we can nurture this dream of school-going girls, India surely has a chance of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.

10% of children aged between 7-10 seem to have been bitten by the entrepreneurship bug and the number goes up to 17% in the 16-17 age group. From the data available, mini-metros and non-metros are more likely to produce entrepreneurs than metros. Amongst other dream jobs, STEM continues to dominate the aspirations of young India with 52.5% kids wanting to either be a scientist, technologist, data scientist, or doctors. However, the desire to become a scientist declines as the child ages, owing to the strict and theoretical

approach to STEM at present.

Toys pave way for coding and robotics:

Realising the burgeoning potential of STEM subjects for a lucrative future, 23% of parents have engaged their children in an online robotics class during the lockdown period, while 32% have engaged them in an online coding class. Surprisingly, Mumbai tops the charts with 42% of children being engaged in Robotics/Coding classes while children in tech-hub Bengaluru and Kolkata prefer spending time on traditional favourites like reading or practising a musical instrument.

YouTube remains a preferred platform for learning new things for children in smaller metros but 26% children also spend

time on video, and app games.

Are we being oblivious to the mental health of our children? The sleeping pattern of nearly 50% of the kids has been disturbed with 13% of kids having no regular pattern of sleeping. While children with siblings have managed to stay less impacted, however, the older child still is exposed to raptures in the pattern, teenagers acquiring the lion's share. Understandably, 67% of parents think that their child's screen time has gone up by at least 50% during the lockdown, thereby further impacting their concentration levels and leading to sleep disorders. The fear of pandemic has affected 40% of the children surveyed, causing unaddressed anxiety issues.



The Lane Community College invites applications for the New International Student Scholarships in the US. The stipend is intended to compensate residents of any nationality who exhibit the most elevated academic greatness and potential.

Eligibility: Require recipients to be a full-time F-1 international student on Lane's I-20; Are awarded through a competitive process. Require recipients to volunteer 25 hours of service. Are applied to the recipients' tuition after students are fully enrolled at Lane. Recipients are advised to upload a copy of the most recent transcript and a copy of a student's permanent academic record.

Admission requirement: Candidates are needed to hold a high school certificate. **Language requirements:** Aspirants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the higher level required by the University.

How to apply: Applicants are required to be enrolled in the university undergraduate course. After taking the affirmation, students are allowed to submit

their application for this grant. **Application deadline:** It is October 30, 2020.

The Brigham Young University invites applications for its academic programs for international students. Prospective new freshmen are eligible to apply for undergraduate scholarships in the USA.

Eligibility: All nationalities can apply. **Entrance requirements:** Prospective new freshmen are eligible to apply for undergraduate financial aid beginning with the term/semester they are admitted. Freshmen must submit all admissions materials to the Admissions Office by the programme deadline in order to be considered for programmes.

All international applicants for whom English is not the native tongue must provide proof of competence in the English language. The BYU anticipates awarding approximately one-fourth of the new incoming freshmen students.

How to apply: Applicants should complete the BYU Scholarship online application form. The University encourages all students to complete the online application, regardless of their circumstances. **Application deadline:** It is December 15, 2020.

SUCCESS AT PRINTROVE PRODUCTS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹12,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5309718
Deadline: September 17, 2020

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT (ACADEMICS) AT ACADECRAFT

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5309721
Deadline: September 17, 2020

HTML/CSS DEVELOPMENT AT UNIVERSITY LIVING

Location: Delhi, Noida
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5309724
Application deadline: September 17, 2020

MASS COMM AT HTC SPORTS

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5309725
Application deadline: September 17, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT MYGATE

Location: Lucknow, Chandigarh
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5309726
Application deadline: September 16, 2020

PRODCUCT PHOTOGRAPHY/PRODUCT SHOOT AT VIRATEL

Location: Chandigarh, Haryana, Mohali, Delhi
Stipend: ₹9,000-₹15,000 per month
Link - internshala.com/i/5309727
Application deadline: September 17, 2020

ARCHITECTURE AT ARCHITECTURE PLUS DESIGN LAB

Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5309728
Application deadline: September 17, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

42% Indian students embrace blended learning

The worldwide lockdown has shown that many international universities are willing to adopt a blended learning model

The Edvoy, an education consultancy platform surveyed 4,000 Indian students on four study destinations namely UK, US, Canada and Ireland. The study indicated that 35 per cent of the students desire to go to Canada for higher education in September 2020, and 33 per cent voted for Ireland.

It also revealed that for the January 2021 intake, the US has been voted as the most preferred study abroad destination by the students followed by Canada. The survey highlights 43 per cent of the students have planned to go ahead with their education in the US and 35 per cent to Canada. The imposition of worldwide lockdown, several international universities showed willingness to adopt a blended learning model. It showed that 42 per cent of the students, aspiring to study in the UK universities embrace the idea of blended learning, a mix of face-to-face and online learning.

Last month, the UK Home Office also announced that international students can start their course online and join on campus by April 2021 to be eligible for the graduate route eligibility. Several international universities are willing to adopt a blended learning approach, until the situation improves. Sadiq Basha, CEO-founder, Edvoy said: "We are trying to do what's best for students seeking to study abroad. The survey conducted was primarily to understand how the coronavirus pandemic has altered the decision of students planning to study in international universities. We want to reiterate that we are with the student and the higher education community as it becomes demanding necessary to help them in this time of crisis. We are taking measures to mentor and guide students to take the right decision for their future."



IN BRIEF

50% UNI TEACHERS UNCOMFORTABLE TEACHING ONLINE

Schoolguru Eduserve, launched a study — The use of Technology in Teaching & Learning in Indian Higher Education Institutes. The survey, which was conducted with over 1200 teachers' pan India, further deep dives into the current trends in the higher education ecosystem, especially analysing the acceptability of digital learning among educators. According to the survey, nearly 50% of university teachers are uncomfortable with online teaching.

Shantanu Rooj, founder-CEO, Schoolguru Eduserve, said: "We are all aware that in India, the shift to digital learning has not been driven by choice, but rather by coerced need. Hence educators were not completely prepared - 89.92% of teachers had never used technology at all before and 83% of

teachers had never delivered a virtual lecture. This reiterates their discomfort with digital learning methods."

As per the finding, it is not only the lack of teaching exposure amongst educator community that is challenging, most of the Indian higher education Institutions have never tried their hand at preparing online courseware. While more than 92% believe that online teaching is different from physical classroom teaching, they have never created or have had an exposure towards creating courseware for online teaching. Only 3% of the respondents have had the experience of preparing online teaching content. Further, a detailed drill down on the eco-system, as per the survey, more than 69% teachers have never used online platforms for assessments.

ONLINE TALENT SEARCH EXAM FOR UG ASPIRANTS

Test-prep institute is conducting the T.I.M.E. Talent Search Examination (TTSE) for CLAT/IPM/BBA 2021/22 aspirants on September 2020. Due to the current pandemic outbreak,

students can take the test from the safety of their homes. They can write the test in any one of the slots — 10 am or 6 pm. TIME has also taken the initiative to provide fee waiver on CLAT/IPM/BBA/

HM 21/22 classroom courses, which will be available based on their performance in test. The link to register: <https://www.time4education.com/local/articles/page.php?id=4621>.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME FREE

Mumbai-based edtech company LEAD School announced the launch of LEAD Teachers Academy on September 5, 2020. The programme and certification under this initiative will be free for all teachers.

The school has already trained over 10,000 teachers across its

partner-schools. The programme is free and open to over 25 lakh teachers across India. The teachers will be trained in batches during the three-part certification programme that will help improve their teaching skills, bring them to date on the best teaching methodologies, and encourage them to deliver

better results. It aims to empower teachers through certification, resources and community. The programme focuses on three main areas of teacher training — Being the cause and growth mindset, Teaching skills in the online environment and providing emotional and social support.

Dominant win

No 3 Thiem cruises into last eight, Medvedev sets up all-Russian QF tie



Dominic Thiem pumps his fist after defeating Felix Auger-Aliassime in 4th round AP

AP ■ NEW YORK

Don't tell Dominic Thiem the US Open is diminished in any way just because it's the first Grand Slam tournament since the 2004 French Open without at least one of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal or Novak Djokovic in the quarterfinals.

"It doesn't matter at all if the Big Three are here or not," the No 2-seeded Thiem said on Monday after beating No 15 Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-6 (4), 6-1, 6-1 in the fourth round at Flushing Meadows.

"Everybody wants their hands on the trophy," said Thiem, who won almost half of Auger-Aliassime's service points, 46 of 88.

"It doesn't really matter who they're going to beat."

Djokovic — seeded No 1, unbeaten this season and the overwhelming favorite — was disqualified on Sunday after unintentionally hitting a line judge in the throat with a ball after dropping

a game in the first set against Pablo Carreno Busta.

Nadal (pandemic concerns) and Federer (two knee operations) did not enter the tournament at all.

This ends a run of 13 consecutive major championships won by a member of the Big Three.

"It's been getting pretty boring," said Denis Shapovalov, the first Canadian man to reach the US Open quarterfinals, "with these three guys winning every tournament."

None of the men left has ever earned so much as one Slam trophy yet.

The quarterfinals on the bottom half of the draw will be Thiem against No 21 Alex de Minaur; and No 10 Andrey Rublev against No 3 Daniil Medvedev. On the top half, where Djokovic used to loom: No 12 Shapovalov vs No 20 Carreno Busta; No 5 Alexander Zverev vs No 27 Borna Coric.

Medvedev was runner-up

to Nadal last year, losing in five sets. He hasn't dropped a set while advancing to the quarterfinals and he's dropped serve only three times.

"I'm playing better every match," Medvedev said. "I hope this can continue. I'm pleased, actually, with the fact I've won all the sets."

Thiem is the only remaining man who has contested multiple major finals. He is 0-3, losing twice to Nadal at the French Open and to Djokovic at the Australian Open this February.

"I am probably one of the oldest players left in the field," said the 27-year-old Thiem, "which is surreal to me."

Second oldest, actually: Carreno Busta is 29.

It's the first US Open since 2010 without at least one male quarterfinalist who is 30 or older.

Next up for Thiem is the 21-year-old de Minaur, who reached his first major quarterfinal by saving four set points in the opening tiebreaker and going on to a 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-2 victory over Vasek Pospisil.

Pospisil led 6-2 in the tiebreaker when it all fell apart. "The momentum definitely

Serena survives scare

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Serena Williams had to summon up every last ounce of strength to depose 15th seed Maria Sakkari in three hard-fought sets on Monday.

The 38-year-old American needed almost two and a half hours to dislodge her 25-year-old Greek opponent 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 inside an empty Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York.

"She's such a good competitor. It was a really intense match," said Williams, who had been dumped out of a US Open tuneup tournament by the same opponent last month.

"I felt like she almost played better today. I was a little fatigued last time and had some cramps. Just felt like I was able to compete longer," Williams added.

Williams rallied from two games down in the deciding set, pumping herself up with loud screams that echoed around the spectator-free arena as she broke Sakkari twice to clinch the last-eight spot.

"I'm super passionate. This is my job. This is what I wake up to do. This is what I train to do 365 days of the year," Williams said afterwards.



The American will play Tsvetana Pironkova for a place in the semi-finals after the Bulgarian ousted Alize Cornet in another draining three-setter.

PIRONKOVA ROLLS ON

Pironkova, who is playing her first tournament in three years after a lengthy break during which she gave birth to her son, prevailed 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 at the Louis Armstrong Stadium.

"It's absolutely unreal, I really can't believe it," said Pironkova, whose last tournament appearance before this year's US Open was the 2017 Wimbledon championships when she exited in the

second round.

Also, unseeded Victoria Azarenka came from a set down to oust 20th seed Karolina Muchova 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 in 2hr 30min.

However, second seed Sofia Kenin was sent crashing out of the tournament, beaten in straight sets by Elise Mertens.

Kenin, the highest seeded player left in the fray and winner of the 2020 Australian Open, was bundled out of the last 16 6-3, 6-3, in 1hr 14 mins by Mertens.

Mertens, the 16th seed, will now play Victoria Azarenka in the quarter-finals.

changed after that," de Minaur said. Pospisil, who is 30, praised his younger opponent's court coverage, saying he thinks de Minaur might be the second-fastest player on tour.

"What's most impressive is he never breathes. He runs side to side and he's never out of breath," Pospisil said. "He defies the laws of biology, I guess. He's a freak of nature."

Rohan Bopanna-Shapovalov lose

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The Indian challenge came to an end at the US Open with the quarterfinal loss of Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov in the men's doubles event.

Bopanna and Shapovalov lost 5-7, 5-7 to Dutch Jean-Julien Rojer and Romania's Horea Tecau in the last-eight match which lasted one hour and 26 minutes on Monday.

Bopanna and Shapovalov lost their serve once in each set and could not convert the only break chance that came their way in the second set.

It was Bopanna's best performance at a Slam since he made the quarterfinals at both the US Open and the French Open in 2018.

Divij Sharan and Sumit Nagal have already exited from the tournament following defeats in their respective events.

Barty opts out of French Open title defence

AP ■ BRISBANE

Top-ranked Ash Barty will not defend her French Open title because of concerns over travelling during the Covid-19 pandemic.

After skipping the US Open, Barty has also decided against traveling to Europe for an event in Rome starting Sept 14 and the Sept 27-Oct 10 French Open.

"Last year's French Open was the most special tournament of my career so this is not a decision I have made lightly," Barty, who won her first major title on the clay courts of Roland



Garros, said in a statement on Tuesday.

"I wish the players and the French Federation all the best for a successful tournament."

Barty announced her withdrawal hours after French Open organizers said spectators would be allowed at the tournament despite a growing number of coronavirus cases in the country.

The 24-year-old Australian cited the health risks associated with Covid-19 and her interrupted preparation as the main reasons for pulling out of the tournaments. She hasn't been able to work with her coach recently because of domestic state border closures in Australia.

150-160 score will be good on UAE tracks: Hesson

PTI ■ DUBAI

A score of 150 to 160 will be a competitive one in Dubai or Abu Dhabi track, reckons RCB coach Mike Hesson, who is happy to have identified his team's designated death bowlers, an area that has let them down during earlier IPL seasons.

The length of side boundaries are bigger in grounds like Abu Dhabi and that will bring down the average team total.

"Here 150-160 will be good scores in some grounds and it will be different. Chinnaswamy (in Bengaluru) is a great batting wicket,

smaller boundaries and scores (team totals) are (on) higher (side)," Hesson told RCB's YouTube channel.

He said that on certain grounds, spinners will come in handy, especially when the surface is a bit skiddy.

"On certain grounds yes. It depends, like Abu Dhabi, seamers had played a big role there and probably (the pitch) doesn't (offer) spin as much as the other two grounds (Dubai and Sharjah). It does skid. We need the ability to adjust to conditions on

the day as well," Hesson said.

Bowling at the death in grounds like Abu Dhabi will be completely different from Chinnaswamy.

"Bowling at the death in Abu Dhabi will be quite different from bowling at Chinnaswamy. The lengths you bowl and we have identified our death bowlers," Hesson said.

Although he didn't name Chris Morris but Hesson hinted that the South African's inclusion certainly provided RCB with a potent death overs bowling option.

"I think there's been a lot of talk about finishing the innings with the ball in the past and we have got some experienced players in that space. Also we can improve on players we already have.... Make them a year wise.. A year smarter," Hesson added.

Delhi Capitals can challenge & win IPL-13: Rabada

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals' pacer Kagiso Rabada feels that the team has the wherewithal to challenge all comers for the Indian Premier League title this season.

Always seen as an under-performing side for much of their 12-year history, Delhi entered the playoffs last year for the first time in seven years and beat SunRisers Hyderabad before losing to Chennai Super Kings.

"We had a really good season, so I know that we can challenge and win this competition because we came really close last season. So, mentally I guess that helps," Rabada said. "But, also, it is a new tournament so we have to start again and we've got a nice group put together, nice team."

A good start as usual will be key, the bowler reckoned.

"We have to start again and start the whole process, so hopefully we can get off to a good start but win at the end of the season — we want to be the most consistent team and win at times when we really, really need to win," he added.

Rabada, who has 31 wickets in his IPL career, trained for the first time with the rest of the team on Monday after completing his quarantine.

"It feels good to be running in, and to be with some teammates as well," he said.

"This (situation) is quite unique, not a lot of people get to do this. We're in the middle of a desert, playing cricket — it's something that I didn't think I would ever be able to do. So it's a lot of fun also."

Rabada said that the break he has got due to the Covid-enforced freeze on

Workload management will be key for pacers in hot UAE: Shami

Kolkata: Keeping in mind the hot and humid conditions in the United Arab Emirates, it will be vital for fast bowlers to manage their workload properly as the task at hand wouldn't be easy when the IPL gets underway on September 19, feels Kings XI Punjab pacer Mohammad Shami.

The cities of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah — which will host the league this time — are expected to experience temperatures of around 35-40 degree celsius during the tournament.

"Temperature is much higher compared to India. There are chances of getting dehydrated. There will be chances of cramps. So we will have to keep those things in mind," Shami said.

"It will be difficult as the wickets here are also different. So workload management is important. But it is not that difficult that it can't be managed. It depends on us how we manage our workload," added the 30-year-old, rated as one of the best pacers in the world at the moment.

the cricket calendar has helped him recharge his batteries.

"It's been a high volume of cricket in the past five years for me, but I really enjoyed the break at home," he said. "I feel

quite strong. I think I just need to bowl more, and make sure I haven't forgotten how to bowl. I need to keep up with the bowling practice, but otherwise I feel healthy."

Yuvi eyeing stint in BBL

Melbourne: Former Indian all-rounder Yuvraj Singh is eyeing a stint in the Big Bash League and Cricket Australia is trying to help him find a team.

No Indian player has ever featured in the BBL as BCCI doesn't allow active players to take part in overseas league.

The 38-year-old Yuvraj had retired from international and domestic cricket last year, clearing the decks to ply his trade in foreign leagues across the globe.

According to a report in Sydney Morning Herald, Yuvraj's manager Jason Warne of W Sports & Media has confirmed that Cricket Australia is trying to find a franchise that would be interested in the former Indian all-rounder.

"We're working with CA to try to find him a home," Warne said on Monday.

However, as per the report, "interest in Yuvraj from BBL clubs had been modest to date."

Indian players will miss energy due to empty stands: Styris



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former New Zealand all-rounder Scott Styris feels foreign players won't be much affected, but the Indian cricketers will definitely miss the energy while playing in front of empty stands in the upcoming IPL.

"I don't think there will be too much of an adjustment for the overseas players. A lot of the overseas players play in front of small crowds or even empty grounds on a

regular basis, so they will be used to that," Styris said in Star Sport's show Cricket Connected.

"But you are right, Indian players, I can't remember. I mean (Virat) Kohli, 10 years ago, most of those players have been around long enough now. They won't struggle, but they will just wonder where they are and look for that energy in other ways," he added.

Former India pacer Ajit Agarkar said it will be odd initially to play in empty stadiums as in India the crowd can act as a 12th man for the home team.

"It might be little odd at the start, but like Scotty (Scott Styris) said, that energy sometimes you get from crowds, particularly in India, the IPL has moved to the UAE, but in India, it can sometimes act like a 12th man for the home team," he said.

Warne wants Boxing Day Test at MCG

Melbourne: Spin legend Shane Warne has urged Cricket Australia to keep the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground as the venue for the Boxing Day Test against India later this year despite growing Covid-19 cases in Victoria.

The governing body is set to announce the schedule for India's tour of Australia this week which will include four Tests and there are fears that MCG may lose the Boxing Day Test.

"Cricket is the 2nd biggest sport in the world behind soccer (fact) & the biggest day on the Aust sporting calendar is the Boxing Day test. We must try & do everything possible to keep it at the MCG this year. FYI- The Melb Cup & the AFL GF are the next biggest events in Aust !," Warne wrote on his Twitter handle.

India's tour is likely to start with limited-overs matches (T20 series) before the action shifts to the four-Test series. PTI

Italy continue unbeaten run



AFP ■ AMSTERDAM

Nicolo Barella extended Italy's two-year unbeaten run as he scored the winner in Monday's 1-0 victory away to the Netherlands in the UEFA Nations League while Erling Haaland netted twice for Norway in a 5-1 thrashing of Northern Ireland.

Italy's win was slightly spoiled by news of rising star Nicolo Zaniolo injury, who will undergo another serious knee operation on Wednesday after

tearing an anterior cruciate ligament for the second time in eight months.

Barella's bullet header in first half stoppage time was enough for Roberto Mancini's side to take all three points in Amsterdam and top spot in League A, Group 1.

The Azzurri's are a point ahead of the Dutch, who are playing under interim coach Dwight Lodeweges following Ronald Koeman's appointment at Barcelona, and third-placed Poland following their 2-1 away

win over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

HAALAND ON SONG

In other matches, Romania came out on top against Austria in Klagenfurt, with Denis Alibec, Dragos Grigore and Alexandru Maxim on target in a 3-2 victory.

Norway shook off their opening loss to Austria as Borussia Dortmund striker Haaland helped tear apart Northern Ireland in Belfast.

Paddy McNair cancelled out Mohamed Elyounoussi's fine finish but Haaland, who struck his first international goal in Friday's defeat, thumped in from the edge of the area to restore Norway's lead.

Alexander Sorloth scored twice, the second via an assist from Haaland who completed the scoring on the hour with another superb finish.

Scotland scraped past an inexperienced Czech Republic 2-1 in Olomouc to go top of League B, Group 2.

James Rodríguez joins Everton

AP ■ LONDON

James Rodríguez joined English Premier League club Everton in an attempt to revive a career that faltered at Real Madrid.

Signed by the Spanish giant after rising to prominence with a stunning goal for Colombia at the 2014 World Cup, the attacking midfielder couldn't match those highs in Madrid.

"I've come here to try to improve, to get better," the 29-year-old James said.

"I've also come here to help the team to win, to play good football — entertaining football."

At Everton, he is being reunited with manager Carlo Ancelotti who not only signed him for Madrid but also at Bayern Munich

on loan in 2017.

Everton said James joined on a two-year deal with an option for an additional season. The reported fee was 20 million pounds (\$26 million).

"James, as everyone knows, is a fantastic player with a lot of quality and a lot of ability to make assists for the strikers," said Ancelotti, who left Bayern later in 2017 and was hired by Everton last year.

"He's really excited about the project of the club and the fact we want to improve. He was really excited to sign and I didn't spend time to convince him — he was already convinced."

James won the league title twice at Madrid and Bayern but Everton has not won the English championship since 1987.

"I'm a winner, I'm a real winner," James said.

