

OPINION 8
PLA'S 'PEACE
DISEASE'**WORLD 11**NAVALNY POSTS HOSPITAL PHOTO
OF HIMSELF, PLANS RUSSIA RETURN**AVENUES 12**DETAILED ANALYSIS
OF NEET 2020

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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Ready for any eventuality: India

In LS, Rajnath raps China for violating established rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

invited counter-measures from Indian side".

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

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

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

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

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



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

Cong questions absence of PM from LS, demands LAC reality

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 4



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

Modi inaugurates ₹540 crore projects for poll-bound Bihar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

₹940 crore in the poll bound State.

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

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

and has a rich heritage of thousands of years.

Continued on Page 4

Cabinet approves AIIMS in Darbhanga

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



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

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

"As on September 11, 223

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

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

India's Covid-19 cases cross 5 million mark

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

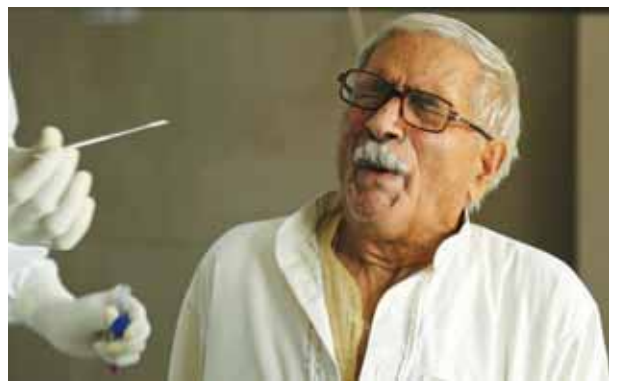
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

Pradesh (6,841 cases), Delhi (4,261 cases) and West Bengal (3,237 cases) showed no sign of

any weakening in the spread of the pandemic.

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113 Covid deaths in UP; 604 test +ve in city

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh registered its highest single-day spike of 113 COVID-19 fatalities as the death toll mounted to 4,604, even as 904 more people tested positive for coronavirus infection in the state capital.

As many as 6,895 more people tested positive across the state, taking the cumulative count of confirmed cases to 3,24,036.

Besides the state capital,

Kanpur Nagar, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Ghaziabad, Varanasi, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bareilly, Moradabad, Meerut, Aligarh, Saharanpur, Jhansi, Barabanki, Agra, Maharajganj and Muzaffarnagar reported coronavirus positive cases in three digits.

However, as many as 2,52,097 COVID-19 patients have recovered across the state so far, including 6,680 who were discharged from hospitals

during the past 24 hours.

At present 67,335 active coronavirus cases are undergoing treatment in the state.

Meanwhile, with 904 more people testing positive in Lucknow, the tally of confirmed cases in the city to rose to 41,091 on Tuesday evening.

The city also reported 15 more COVID-19 deaths, taking the toll to 539.

The condition of former chief minister of UP, Kalyan Singh, who tested positive

for coronavirus infection on Monday, was said to be stable.

A health bulletin released by Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences said, "The condition of Singh is stable. He is afebrile and maintaining 100 per cent oxygen saturation on room air. He is not having fever and his BP is also normal. He has been shifted to a private room and is under observation due to comorbidities."

SC's interim stay on Bidas Bol for vilifying Muslims

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Continued on Page 4

No J&K leader under house arrest, says Govt

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

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

sharply labeling it a "blatant lie".

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

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

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

Russia calls Pak action 'provocative'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Chair of the SCO (Russia), the Pakistani NSA deliberately projected a fictitious map that Pakistan has recently been propagating.

The Ministry in a statement said, "This was in blatant disregard to the advisory by the host against it and in violation of the norms of the meeting. After consultation with the host, the Indian side left the meeting in protest at that juncture. Pakistan then went on to present a misleading view of this meeting."

India was represented by NSA Ajit Doval.

Sources said Russia termed Pakistan's act as "provocative" and clarified that it did not support such an action.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

DRUGS CASE: 2 KANNADA ACTORS SUMMONED

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

SC BREATHES FOR PUNJAB EX-DGP IN MURDER CASE

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



NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mo Faiz to MOHD FAIZ S/o Zaifullah R/o 20/69A Chatai Mohal, Lari Park, Patkapur, Kanpur.

NOTICE

I Rintu Devi spouse of Uma Shankar Mishra resident of Shivpur Diar Nai Basti Beyasi Ballia have changed my name from Rintu Devi to Rintu Mishra vide Affidavit dated 08/09/2020 before Lucknow Uttar Pradesh.

NOTICE

I No. JC-774359H Rank Nb Sub / MTEC BVEH Name Ram Sewak presently residing at Kharela-Vill+Post-Charkhari -TK, Mahoba - Dist. U.P. - State, Pin - 210425 and have changed my son name as Bhoopendra instead of Bhupendra vide affidavit date 11.09.2020 before Mahoba.

NOTICE

I No. JC-774359H Rank Nb Sub / MTEC BVEH Name Ram Sewak presently residing at Kharela-Vill+Post-Charkhari -TK, Mahoba - Dist. U.P. - State, Pin - 210425 and have changed my son name as Chhatrapal instead of Chaitrapal vide affidavit date 11.09.2020 before Mahoba.

NOTICE

I No. JC-774359H Rank Nb Sub/MTEC BVEH Name Ram Sewak presently residing at Kharela-Vill+Post-Charkhari -TK, Mahoba - Dist. U.P. - State, Pin - 210425 and have changed my son date of birth as 04 Dec. 2001 instead of 04 Dec 2002 vide affidavit dated - 11.09.2020 before Mahoba.

NOTICE

I No. JC-774359H Rank Nb Sub/MTEC BVEH Name Ram Sewak presently residing at Kharela-Vill+Post-Charkhari -TK, Mahoba - Dist. U.P. - State, Pin - 210425 and have changed my son date of birth as 05 Dec. 2000 instead of 22 Dec 2000 vide affidavit dated - 11.09.2020 before Mahoba.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that in my PAN Card No. DIGPS3574C my father name wrongly mentioned as Raju Verma whereas his correct name is Triloki Nath Verma My father correct name should be mentioned in my PAN Card - Ayush Kumar S/o Triloki Nath Verma R/o - 416/191 Dila Ram, Baradari Chaupatiya Chowk, Lucknow.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that name of my son in school is entered as Tejas, whereas his actual name is Tejas Singh Rawat. Therefore, in all documents and records his original name should be written/entered as Tejas Singh Rawat S/o Yashpal Singh Rawat R/o 8A/244, Vrindavan Yojana, Raebareli Road, Lucknow.

NOTICE

Notice is here by given that the sale deed dated 04-07-2008 executed by Tapeshtri Devi w/o Jagarnath infavour of Vinod Kumar Yadav S/o Luxman Ram Yadav R/o Bhagwanpur, Pargana-Dehat Amanat, Tehsil & Distt.-Varanasi regarding the sale of S.M. Plot No. 186, area 750 sqft. of Mauza-Bhagwanpur, Pargana- Dehat Amanat, Tehsil-Sadar, Distt.-Varanasi duly registered with Sub Registrar Office Varanasi in book no. 1, Vol. No. 2360 on pages 347/370 as document no. 3423 dated 04-07-2008 has been last away. If any person of institution have any objection or any information regarding this sale deed. Please inform within 15 days on 9451525826 Harischandra Rai, Advocate, Chamber No. 110, Banaras Bar, New Building, IInd Floor, Civil Court, Varanasi.

NOTICE

Notice is here by given that the sale deed dated 29-04-2009 executed by Ramjug S/o Reemal R/o Domari, Vastt.-Varanasi infavour of Urmila Devi W/o Mahendra Kharwar R/o Sethu, Post-Jamoali, P.S.-Raipur, Distt.-Buxar, Bihar regarding the sale of S.M. Plot No. 54/2, area 1360 sqft. situated at Mauza-Doman, Pargana-Ralupur, Tehsil-Sadar, Distt.-Varanasi duly registered with Sub Registrar Office, Ramnagar, Varanasi in book no. 1, Vol. No. 407 on pages 273/290 as document no. 387 has been last away. If any person/institution have any objection or information regarding this sale deed. Please inform within 15 days on 9451525826 Harischandra Rai, Advocate, Chamber No. 110, Banaras Bar, New Building, IInd Floor, Civil Court, Varanasi.

Yogi's directive to further strengthen health services

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Underlining the importance of testing in COVID-19 control, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the testings should continue and there should be sufficient backup of testing kits in hospitals, medical colleges and medical institutes.

Presiding over the Unlock review meeting at Lok Bhawan here on Tuesday, the chief minister directed Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad to further strengthen the health services at the district hospitals, community health centres and primary health centres.

He also asked Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Rajnesh Dube to strengthen the services in the medical colleges and medical institutes.

The chief minister asked officials to pay extra attention on Lucknow, Meerut, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Saharanpur and Muzaffarnagar. He said that the treatment facilities in these districts should be strengthened and contact tracing should be expedited.

He also directed officials to ensure availability of oxygen in all hospitals and medical colleges. "Oxygen should be available at the prescribed rate. Guard against its black-marketing," he said and added that the chief secretary's office should maintain a dialogue with the district administrations to monitor treatment and other health services.

Laying emphasis on protection and safety from COVID-19, the chief minister said that various modes of communication should be used to create mass awareness in this regard.

He said the Transport, Health and Police departments should work in tan-

...claims reduction in vector-borne diseases

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath claimed that COVID-19 preventive measures like use of face mask, hand washing and social distancing had helped in reducing vector-borne diseases in the state during this monsoon.

"The officials should not be lax against diseases like Japanese encephalitis, Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and other communicable diseases. The officials of various departments should coordinate and effectively control the spread of these diseases," he said during a meeting here on Tuesday.

The chief minister said that the state government was already carrying out a massive campaign against vector-borne diseases and had announced that the coming month of October would be totally devoted to it. He said the communicable diseases control pro-

gramme would start from October 1 and continue till October 31 while a fortnight-long Dastak Programme would also start from October 1.

He said that the cleanliness drive and the preventive measures against COVID-19 had helped the government in controlling the vector-borne diseases also. "The period from September to November is very crucial for the vector-borne diseases but this time it has been under full control," he said.

Giving the figures, Yogi said from January 1 to September 14 last year, there were 92 cases of Japanese encephalitis (JE) and four of these patients had died but this year during the same period there were 38 cases of JE and with only two deaths.

Similarly, he said, in the case of AES, there were 1,241 cases and 44 deaths last year while this year there were 7,09 cases and 22 deaths.

financial assistance in case of loss of human lives in natural disaster as per the government sanction.

Those present in the meeting included Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh, Chief Secretary RK Tiwari, Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner Alok Tandon, Agriculture Production Commissioner Alok Sinha, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) Sanjeev Mittal, Additional Chief Secretary (Home and Information) Awanish Kumar Awasthi, Director General of Police HC Awasthi, Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Renuka Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (Health)

As for dengue, during the period last year there were 693 cases but this year there were just 80 cases and in the case of kala azar, last year there were 72 cases but this year there have been just 38 cases.

In the cases of malaria too, last year there were 39,987 cases during the period but this year there have been just 11,233 cases.

Besides the number of H1N1 (swine flu) cases last year was 2,009 but this year it has been just 252.

The chief minister also stressed on imparting training to the medical staff in controlling communicable diseases. He said the government was committed to controlling the spread of these diseases. "We have the resources and the manpower. There is no scarcity of money. The government is ready to pump in any amount of money to protect the lives of the people," he said.

Amit Mohan Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Rajnesh Dube, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister SP Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary (MSME) Navneet Sehgal, Additional Chief Secretary (Rural Development and Panchayati Raj) Manoj Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Devesh Chaturvedi, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sanjay Prasad, Principal Secretary (Animal Husbandry) Bhuvnesh Kumar, Principal Secretary (Health) Alok Kumar, Secretary to Chief Minister Alok Kumar, Director of Information Shishir and other senior officers.

CM warns against delays, graft in development works

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday made it clear that unnecessary delays and corruption in development works would invite strict action from the government. He, however, assured the officials that there was no shortage of funds for development works. "The proposals from the districts should be sent to the government on a time-bound manner," he said. The chief minister expressed displeasure at the slow progress of tourism development projects under Bharat Swadesh Yojana in Kapilvastu, one of the focal points of Buddhist circuit. He ordered immediate shifting of the project manager of UPRNN, the agency working on the projects.

The chief minister was reviewing projects worth over Rs 10 crore and other mega development projects of Basti division comprising Basti, Siddharthnagar and Sant Kabir Nagar districts. He also sounded unhappy over the inordinate delay in the construction of the Basti collectorate building despite it having received the sanction 11 years ago.

The chief minister also said the progress of the construction of community toilets and village

secretariat buildings in Basti division had not been up to the mark. He asked the officials to sit with the people's representatives to expedite it.

The chief minister, however, praised the field staff for their hard work in COVID-19 control. He reiterated that now was the time when the fight against coronavirus and development works would go together. "We have to stick to the Covid protocol as protection is the only viable option before us till medicine or vaccine comes in the market," he pointed out.

He said that constructions under poor welfare schemes like PM Awas Yojana, CM Awas Yojana, toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission should be fast-tracked and geo-tagged after the construction was completed. The chief minister reiterated that farmers' welfare was a commitment of his government and there were many works which were to be done to improve the agricultural infrastructure under the PM Package. He said that the local officers should coordinate with the people's representatives and send proposals for Farm Producing Organisations (FPOs) and godowns at block level as this would create more employment as well.

NOTICE

It is Informed to General Parson that field No. 1905 situated in south Fatehpur Pargana & Tehsil & District Fatehpur. Purchaser Smt. Maya Singh Wife of Ramesh Chandra R/o Civil Lince, Fatehpur, L.I.C. H.F.L. Mandal office Jeevan Prakesh, Civil Lince Prayagraj is going to be mortgaged above field No. 1905 to Akhtar Begum through Masroor Ahmad saledeed Dated 12-02-2004 Document No. 1326, Bahi No. 1 and Zild No. 740, Page No. 117 to 134 is lost. After search it is not found for which F.I.R. Dated 14-09-2020 is lodged in Kotwali, Fatehpur.

Hence it is informed to everybody that within 15en days from Notification/ Publication anybody can move/file objection by Arvind Srivastava Advocate through area manager, L.I.C. H.L.F. Prayagraj. Mob. No. 790531221.

Panchayat electoral roll revision from Oct 1

Lucknow (PNS): Even as the panchayat polls in Uttar Pradesh are likely to be deferred for six months due to the coronavirus pandemic, the State Election Commission has announced to go for electoral roll revision from October 1. The panchayat polls are due in December this year.

Though there is no official word about the postponement of panchayat polls, the announcement of roll revision itself is ample indication that these polls will be deferred as the roll revision process will take more than three months.

The term of the Panchayati Raj bodies from the level of village pradhan to zila panchayat at head ends after December 25 and hence the government will have to appoint administrators in all these bodies before holding the elections sometime in February-March.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, State Election Commissioner Manoj Kumar announced the dates for the revision of panchayat election rolls starting from October 1 and final publication of the voters list on December 29. He, however, said that the state employees involved in the process would follow all the Covid guidelines like social distancing, use of face mask and carrying sanitisers. The booth level officers (BLOs) would not visit the containment areas.

According to the programme, from October 1 to November 12, the BLOs will visit every house in the rural areas to check the voter list and will add or delete the names, as required. Besides, during the same period, a new voter can apply online for inclusion of his/her name. Between November 6 and 12, the BLOs will verify and visit the houses of the people who have applied for inclusion of their names in the electoral rolls.

Computerisation of the draft electoral rolls would be done from November 13 to December 5 and on December 6 the draft publication of the electoral rolls would be made.

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There are over 52,000 village panchayats, 61,000 block members, 821 block pramukhs, 3,000 zila panchayat members and 75 zila panchayat chiefs. The election was to be held for nearly 8.50 lakh posts with a voter base of 10.50 crore, the highest in the country for rural local bodies.

In 2015, under Samajwadi Party government, the panchayat elections were also delayed by two months. But this time, the state government has hinted at the polls being deferred by six months, taking the poll process tentatively to May-June.

Akhilesh remaining in the shadows baffles pundits

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the last few months for the opposition in a long time due to the coronavirus pandemic leading to reverse migration of millions of workers, mismanagement in Covid hospitals and law and order, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has been conspicuous by his absence. Though he had been hyperactive on social media daily, taking on the UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the "lapses" of the government, for the political observer Akhilesh's actions were more like of am "internet troll" than an active politician like the UP Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu, who has made a record of sorts for being arrested by the UP police in last six months.

"There is no dearth of issues, from the ruling party only Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is the sole face while the rest of the leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party is missing in the districts, yet the Samajwadi Party was seen nowhere to fill the gap and making any overt projection of speaking up against its political rivals," said a political analyst.

A SP leader, now marginalised, said, "Where is the army of youth supporters of Akhilesh who vowed to sacrifice their lives for the party? If the party fails to galvanise the cadre and take to the streets, then it may have to pay a heavy price during the 2022 UP assembly elections."

He added, "The BJP has given crushing defeats to the SP in three consecutive elections in 2024, 2017 and 2019."

The SP leader maintained that the party should be aggressively visible as next assembly elections were less than two years away.

The laying of the foundation stone of the Ram temple at Ayodhya by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5 has added to the ideological woes of the SP and its president. The SP, in a knee-jerk

reaction, attempted to return to its favourite fort of identity politics. But that did not work.

"The fulcrum of politics has moved from identity to development politics and credit goes to the BJP for replacing the identity politics with inclusive politics. The core supporters of the Samajwadi Party — Yadavs and Muslims — are not enthused by the announcement of the Akhilesh Yadav that his party would erect the statue of Parashuram and Lord Vishnu. One SP leader in Ayodhya criticised the Ram temple saying he follows only Dr Ambedkar and Jyotiba Phule. He was immediately sacked from the post in the organisation," said Dr AK Verma, a political analyst, adding, "This shows the prevailing confusion over ideology and lack of political vision in politics and particularly for the 2022 UP assembly elections."

Dr Verma said, "Apart from the initial euphoria around Akhilesh Yadav, given his youth, nothing much has worked in his favour. He became too used to crutches — first his father Mulayam Singh Yadav and uncles, then the Congress and then the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and now without a pole, he seems rudderless. His remaining in the shadows at this crucial juncture is not quite helping matters."

"In present day competitive politics, working quietly and behind-the-scenes is no longer the norm for any ambitious leader. One has to be loudly heard and widely seen in this era of hyper-communicative, hyper-visible and hyper-connected politics, especially for someone like Akhilesh, who needs to put his not-so-glorious recent past behind, reinvent himself and project the image of being a strong challenger to the BJP," concluded Dr Verma.

Political observers feel that with the UP assembly election due early 2022, this is the time for Akhilesh Yadav to build his political acumen and reinvent himself and his party.

Maurya asks engrs to contribute their best for rapid development

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Tuesday called on the engineer to follow in the footsteps of Bharat Ratna Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya and work with full devotion and sincerity to contribute their maximum in the development of the country.

Maurya was speaking on occasion of Engineers' Day, celebrated across the country on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, a civil engineer whose contribution won him the country's highest honour Bharat Ratna.

Addressing to the engineers of the Public Works Department, Uttar Pradesh Rajkiya Nirman Nigam, Uttar

Pradesh Bridge Corporation etc, here on Tuesday, Maurya said that through their competency and expertise, they should not just contribute in the development but should bring new laurels for the entire department world-wide by procuring overseas tenders.

He said that roads, bridges and other basic infrastructures were key for any state as they contributed a lot in the all-round development besides facilitating foreign and other outside investment.

He said that the government had already worked in this direction but a lot of milestones were yet to be achieved so they all should contribute their best and complete the existing projects within time, maintaining the high standard

of work. He also praised the work of the engineers, saying that even in difficult times like coronavirus pandemic, they were working with full sincerity and he was proud to say that the development process was back in full swing in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, Maurya laid the foundation stones of the grand gate of the Visvesvaraya Bhawan involving a budget of Rs 1.09 crore. He also laid the foundation of multi-level parking to be constructed at a cost of Rs 19 crore. Both these projects will be completed by UPRNN. Maurya also released 'News Letter', the official book of the UP Engineers' Association. He also felicitated the engineers and employees for their outstanding contribution.

Opposition slams govt for renaming Agra museum

Lucknow (PNS): The opposition parties have slammed the Yogi Adityanath government for renaming the Mughal Museum in Agra after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

The Samajwadi Party said that the chief minister had been busy changing names for the past over three years instead of focusing on development work. The chief minister had on Monday announced to rename the under-construction museum dedicated to the Mughal empire in Agra after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. "I would like to ask the Bharatiya Janata Party, during the past three-and-a-half years of governance in Uttar Pradesh, what they have done for the development of the state, or will they do nothing except renaming cities and monuments. The BJP is adept in the politics of caste and religion and has done zero development in the state. They can't name even one hospital, university or employment that they have given to the people," SP spokesperson Anurag Bhadauria said here on Tuesday.


"The BJP might use the

name of Chhatrapati Shivaji for its narrow political ends but it cannot walk on the footsteps of the great Chhatrapati Shivaji. His legacy was taken forward by the Congress.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the mother organisation of the BJP, is known for colluding with the Britishers. Nationalism is certainly not the cup of tea for BJP, they are indulging in petty politics by changing names," said UP Congress spokesperson Anshu Awasthi. The Congress too criticised the BJP government for trying to take political mileage on the name of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja.

Awasthi said that Shivaji Maharaj's dream was of Swaraj and only Congress had worked towards fulfilling his dream.

Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Manish Shukla congratulated Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the move and said, "Shivaji was the first person to think in the direction of freeing Indian land from the hands of foreign invaders, his name is the synonym of nationalism."



लखनऊ नगर निगम, लखनऊ
लालबाग, टी०एन० रोड, लखनऊ - 226001 (उ०प्र०)
ई-मेल: nniko@up.nic.in, टेली फैक्स - 0522-2622440

पर सं०: 53/मु.अ/2020-21	दिनांक: 15.9.2020
शुद्धि पत्र	
नगर निगम लखनऊ की निविदा संख्या-44/मु०अ/20-21 दिनांक 08.09.2020 के अनर्गत निदांक 22.09.2020 को आमंत्रित ई-निविदाओं में क्रमांक-45,49,50,51,52 की निविदाएं अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त की जाती हैं।	
मुख्य अभियंता लखनऊ नगर निगम	

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Tender Notice No.:TMC/CPOH/PRY/J20-21/03
Executive Engineer/CPOH
North Central Railway, Prayagraj
Dated: 10.09.2020

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

CWM / CPOH/North Central Railway / Prayagraj, for and On behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following work upto 15:00 hrs. on 16.10.2020. The details of the Tender are as under :-

SN	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Form
1	TMC-CPOH-PRYJ-04-20-21	Repairing of Track machines by replacing hydraulic hoses, Hydraulic cylinders and subassemblies as per schedule of work at CPOH/PRYJ.	7082818.72	Rs. 141700/-	Rs. 5000/-

Completion Period: 24 Month **Date of Opening of tender:** 16.10.2020 **Eligibility Criteria for similar work:** Any repairing / replacement of hydraulic hoses, hydraulic cylinders work at shop floor on any type of Track Machine or Any work involving hydraulic commissioning of Track Machines. **Note:** (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> upto 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightaway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) The tenderers shall submit a notarized affidavit on a non judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100/- as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender will not be considered and may be rejected. (5) The supplier / contractor of goods and / or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. (6) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (7) This tender notice has also been uploaded on <http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in>. (8) Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / Tender Document Cos (TDC) in respect of E-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (9) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (10) Tender online can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs. on 16.10.2020. 96420 (P)

 www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 

Testing, surveillance to be beefed up

9 pvt company directors held for ₹60-crore fraud

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

There will be focus on more surveillance and testing for better containment of coronavirus infection in the district. Divisional Commissioner Mukesh Meshram said 60 per cent of the contacts of Covid-19 patients would be tested through RTPCR.

The surveillance teams consisting of ASHA workers, Aanganwadi workers and teachers will go from door to door looking for people with ILI & SARI to conduct antigen testing. If there are contacts of Covid-19 patients, RT-PCR tests will be done.

“These teams are moving in all parts of the city, including non-containment areas,” he said. He added that they were also managing Level-2 & Level-3 bed facilities for which KGMU and SGPGI were increasing ICU beds.

“SGPGI will have 300 beds and KGMU 200 more ICU beds. That is what they have promised,” he said.

Regarding the feedback which they are getting from Covid-19 patients who are under treatment, he said they were satisfied with the services and found the food quality good. “Earlier, there were complaints regarding senior doctors not attending to the patients but the same were resolved. CCTV cameras have been installed so that monitoring will be done through control room,” the commis-



sioner said.

A senior official at the Health department said that the recovery rate in the district was 74 per cent and the strength of rapid response teams had been doubled.

The number of patients in home isolation was more than 27,000 but over 20,000 recovered, leaving the active home isolation cases at nearly 7,400.

He said nothing could be said about the course of disease in winter season as the virus is not associated with seasons in any way. Regarding patients not receiving reports in time,

the official said: “It takes a minimum of 24 hours for testing but when the number of samples is large, it takes a maximum of 48 hours,” he said.

“There have also been reports that people do not receive any call from the Integrated Control and Command Centre even after they have tested positive for coronavirus, but it is not correct. People will only receive a call after the lab has updated it on the portal. Until the update is made, we cannot take any action,” he said.

“People get themselves

tested after five days of symptoms and then complain that they have not received a call from the control room. People should get themselves done at the earliest,” he added.

The official pointed out there have been instances when calls were made to patients but they did not respond.

About complaints regarding overcharging by private hospitals, he said the option was selected by patients themselves. “We do not send them to private hospitals but they can choose a private hospital if

they wish to. As far as overcharging is concerned, there is already a cap on the amount which can be charged by private hospitals. However, if there is any other treatment or surgery which they have undergone, they will have to pay for it,” the official said.

He added that most of the complaints they received were regarding overcharging and around 90 per cent were frivolous.

Meanwhile, Amita Jain from the Microbiology department of KGMU said they have completed the testing of over 4.5 lakh samples, which is the largest number of samples tested by any institute in the country. Regarding sero-surveillance, she said it would take them 2-3 weeks for the complete analysis.

The samples will give a projection of immunity levels in people in 12 districts of the state. In Lucknow, 1,440 samples have been collected for the purpose. Besides, director of Balrampur Hospital Dr Rajeev Lochan said that their testing capacity had increased and they could now test over 300 samples per day.

“We have asked the CMO to send us more samples as our testing capacity has increased. Also, we do not get more than 120 samples from our hospital. We have also increased the number of technicians in the BSL lab from four to six while there are two microbiologists in the lab,” he said.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Nine directors of a private company were arrested for defrauding gullible investors to the tune of Rs 60 crore, in Gosainganj on Tuesday. The hunt was on managing director Hariom Yadav and other accused.

Those arrested were identified as Subhash Yadav, Lalit Kumar Verma, Surendra Kumar Yadav, Gazal Singh Yadav, Faiz Ali, Ashish Kumar Verma, Om Singh Yadav (all of Gosainganj), Awadhesh Kumar Mishra of Barabanki, and Kaushalendra Yadav of Sushant Golf City area. All of them worked as directors in Alaska

Commodities and Alaska Real Estate and Developers Pvt Ltd.

DCP (East) Raees Akhtar said managing director of the company, Hariom Yadav of Gosainganj, started the venture in 2018. The company directors introduced a scheme of giving profit at the interest rate of 5 per cent in lieu of investment in the company and trapped several unsuspecting investors through agents.

Akhtar said Hariom opened and started distributing franchises of the company in other districts as well. “After collecting the cash, the company stopped giving profit to the investors. After chasing them for several months, the

investors lodged complaints against the MD and other accused at Gosainganj police station,” he said.

SHO DP Kushwaha said that as many as 111 persons had lodged complaints against MD Hariom Yadav and others. He said the police worked on the case and prepared detailed profiles of each accused before laying hands on them. He said a manhunt had been launched for the absconders. He added that the accused were planning to escape from the city. A huge number of people thronged Gosainganj police station soon after they came to know that the fraud racket had been busted.

LDA resolves to boost revenue

Lucknow (PNS): Lucknow Development Authority on Tuesday resolved to boost its revenue which has suffered a huge dent due to the coronavirus pandemic and consequent lockdown.

Presiding over the board meeting held on Tuesday, Divisional Commissioner Mukesh Meshram said there was a scope to boost the financial status by disposing of properties at the earliest. He said all major projects came to a halt due to the pandemic and sincere efforts were needed to generate funds. LDA resolved to dispose of 5 acres of land for construction of an inter-district bus stand on Sitapur road.

Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation has to pay 10 per cent of the total cost at the time of signing the agreement, while remaining will be paid in 15 installments for 15 years. Interest rate will increase by 10 per cent every second year. It was also decided to sell a 3-storeyed shopping complex near Saraswati Apartments in Gomti Nagar Extension. It is expected to get LDA more than Rs 7 crore.

The monthly rent for godowns allotted to shopkeepers will also be revised. The revision will be based on DM circle rate. The proposal to dispose of commercial properties on first-come-first-served basis was also approved. The list of commercial properties to be sold consists of 124 shops and two halls located in different areas. A sum of Rs 20 crore is expected from the sale.

Govt defends provision of security force with sweeping powers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The state government on Tuesday defended a controversial new security force with sweeping powers to arrest or detain suspects even as opposition alleged the force could be used to muzzle dissent.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi on Tuesday said that the work profile of Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force (UPSSF) would be similar to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) which guards airports and vital installations across India.

“We have not given the new force any extraordinary powers and most of the provisions are similar to the CISF Act,” he said on Tuesday.

The UPSSF was constituted to guard strategic and vital installations, courts, government premises, religious spots, transport hubs, industrial undertakings and private buildings, Awasthi said.

Section 10 of the UPSSF Act empowers the force to arrest any person without a warrant or order from a magistrate on suspicion that the suspect is connected to an offence or taking steps to commit one. Section 11 allows the force to detain, and search without a warrant.

In both the cases, the sus-

pect is to be handed over to a police officer “without delay”.

Section 13 says that the personnel of this force would be considered on duty round-the-clock and could be deployed for security anywhere in the state.

The legal foundation of this force is the UPSSF Act, 2020, which was passed by the state’s Assembly in its monsoon session and was given assent by the Governor on August 28.

The Act, which followed an ordinance, was passed after the Allahabad High Court in December 2019 took cognisance of a murder inside a court room in Bijoor and ordered the state government to strengthen security inside court campuses.

A senior state government official said the UPSSF’s powers were similar to those given to CISF and special forces in Odisha and Maharashtra.

“Such powers cannot be misused in any way,” the official said on condition of anonymity. But a CISF officer disagreed, saying the Central paramilitary force does not have arrest or search powers.

“It can detain people at the place of its duty like airports or metro stations but they are handed over to the police ultimately... We don’t know how SSF will work but we are a completely different force,” said the officer who did not wish to be named.

Woman tortured by husband, in-laws rescued

Lucknow (PNS): A woman saved the life of her daughter who was being thrashed allegedly by her in-laws at her house in Gomtinagar Extension. According to Asha Sharma of Gulistan Colony in Chinhat, her daughter Sarika is married to Ajay Sharma of Jaipal Kheda of Gomtinagar Extension. “After Sarika gave birth to baby girls, her relationship with Ajay and in-laws soured. They started torturing her and did not allow her to visit my house for four years. When I reached her house to bring her back, Ajay and his family refused to let me take her along. We moved court and a mediation centre allowed Sarika to celebrate her daughter’s birthday on September 14,” Asha said.

“Ajay and his parents thrashed Sarika mercilessly at their house and did not allow her to talk to me. They held Sarika hostage and did not even take her to any doctor. As I could not talk to her despite repeated attempts, I sought police help. When we reached the house, I found Sarika sick and injured,” she said. Asha said the police rescued her daughter. She lodged a complaint at the Gomti Nagar Extension police station. Police said they were carrying out further probe.

LU gets six new digital services

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University on Tuesday hosted a virtual inauguration event for six new digital services, including their indigenously developed learning management system called SLATE.

Strategic learning application for transformative education (SLATE) includes student instant messaging system (SIMS), online recruitment portal, integrated financial management system, computer centre at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, and University of Lucknow online counselling (UnLOC).

Governor Anandiben Patel was the chief guest of the event which was attended by several dignitaries. The Governor spoke on ‘National Education Policy 2020’ and expectations from higher educational institutions. She outlined the importance of NEP2020 and its defining characteristic of being something that is the result of consultation with lakhs of people around the country. She said that NEP is built on the fundamental pillars of easy access, equality, quality, affordability of education and accountability for all.

“This education policy aims to bring out creative thinking, reasoning ability and



Governor Anandiben Patel attending the event online

Pioneer

spirit of innovation in every student. The purpose of NEP2020 is to attract more attention to education and learning and to promote the use of technology for education, to remove linguistic constraints, to make education easier for disabled students, and women,” she said.

“The Higher Education Commission of India will be established as a single body for the higher education sector and universities for multidisciplinary education and multi-pronged research of global standards will be established,” she said. “The three-dimensional role of teaching, research and expansion of institutions of higher education and inter-complementarity of colleges and universities etc is underlined in the NEP. In fact,

NEP2020 encompasses elementary education and digital education, technology in education, promotion of Indian languages, internationalisation of education, vocational education, adult education and even financial education,” she added.

Expressing her expectations for Lucknow University to be an exemplary institute in the implementation of the objectives of NEP2020, she said higher educational institutions should work towards ensuring everyone’s access to high-quality and comprehensive education and at the global forums, leading economic and social development, and conserving equality, environment, scientific progress and culture. “A major path will be paved by the introduction of

several different modules in the education system under the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) in NEP2020, as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The educated youth will not only get opportunities across India but also be able to learn and use new skills,” she added.

LU Vice-Chancellor AK Rai said they have been constantly moving towards the incorporation of speed, accuracy and transparency in all its educational, research and administrative activities and in line with this motivation, the new portals were designed.

He also announced that the next advertisement for recruitments in the university would be published on September 17.

Maya concerned over oxygen shortage

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati on Tuesday expressed concern over reports of oxygen shortage in Covid hospitals in various states, including Uttar Pradesh, and asked the Centre to take immediate steps in this regard.

In a tweet, Mayawati said, “In the ongoing fight against corona pandemic in the coun-

try, after personal protection equipment (PPE) kits, now especially in hospitals of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra, the shortage of oxygen is a matter of extreme concern.

“In such a situation, the Centre should immediately take effective steps so that the rising cases of deaths from corona can be prevented,” she added.

Youth found hanging

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth was found hanging in room attached to a cowshed in Sarojininagar police station area on Tuesday. Police said the youth was depressed and he committed suicide. As per reports, Amit Kumar (23) of Natkur village had gone to feed his cows in a cowshed built by his family in one of the fields. Around 8 am, Amit left his house for the cowshed but did not return home. Around 10 am, Amit’s younger brother Lalit reached the cowshed and found the door bolted from inside. He called his family members who reached the scene. As Amit was not responding, they broke open the door, only to find him hanging.

Deceased’s mother Shivkanti said Amit was hanging from an iron rod with a rope tied around his neck. “Amit was stressed for last few days and may have ended his life due to that,” she said. Amit worked in a factory at Nadarganj and was a bachelor.

Meanwhile, body of an unidentified man was recovered from commercial tri-section in Sarojininagar on Tuesday. Police said the deceased was a beggar and used to loiter in the area.

Aminabad vendors beg for alms as mark of protest



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Amidst the ongoing tussle between roadside vendors and shopkeepers in Aminabad where the former are not being allowed to set up shops in the spaces allotted to them by LMC, they begged for alms to register their protest on Tuesday.

President of Vendors’ Welfare Society Munish Chaudhary said that in 2013-14, spaces were allotted and licences issued to the roadside vendors. “Unfortunately though, LMC has not been able to identify the vendors till date. The shops have reopened across the city after three months but Aminabad market is still closed. For the last two months, a survey was being

carried out by Nagar Nigam and we requested them to stick to our original points instead of creating new spaces. The trouble started when Nagar Nigam put numbers in front of proper shops for the vendors and it protested by the shopkeepers. There are 1,100 vendors in Aminabad and they are on the verge of penury. They have not been able to sell their summer wares even as winter is approaching,” he said. Municipal Commissioner Ajay Kumar Dwivedi said he held a meeting with both the vendors and shopkeepers and told them that vendors who have been traditionally putting up their kiosks would be allowed to do business and LMC would do the marking and numbering accordingly. He

said no new vending spaces would be created in the Aminabad market

“The roadside vendors will be allowed to have their kiosks at the traditional points. The Town Vending Committee had done some markings in front of shops which were not there earlier, to which the shopkeepers protested. Both the parties are creating pressure on each other. While the vendors are saying that they should be allotted spaces in new areas, shopkeepers say all the vendors should be removed and settled elsewhere. However, LMC will allow them to put up kiosks where they had been doing business. Another meeting will be held to resolve the issue this week,” he added.

ARYAVART BANK
(A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India)
Regional Office: Lucknow, Aryavart Bhawan, 569/20/K/1, Sneh Nagar, V.I.P. Road, Opp. Awadh Hospital, Alambagh, Lucknow

आर्यावर्त बैंक
(भारत सरकार, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार एवं बैंक ऑफ इंडिया का संयुक्त उपक्रम)
Regional Office: Lucknow, Aryavart Bhawan, 569/20/K/1, Sneh Nagar, V.I.P. Road, Opp. Awadh Hospital, Alambagh, Lucknow

Possession Notice Under Rule-8(1) (for Immovable Properties)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of **ARYAVART BANK**, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice in the account mentioned hereunder on the dates mentioned before the names calling upon the borrower and guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notices along with interest within 60 days from the date of receipts said notices. The borrower/legal heirs of borrower and guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the Borrower/ Legal Heirs of borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the properties described here below in exercise of power of conferred on him under sub-section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each property. The borrower/ legal heirs of borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with the under noted property will be subject to the charge of **ARYAVART BANK** for the amount with interest and other charges etc. thereon. **The Borrower's/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets**
Details of Properties whose possession has been taken are as follows:-

Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors/Branch	Description of the properties	Amt. due as per demand notice. Date Demand Notice Date of Possession
Borrower:- Mrs. Seema Verma W/o Mr. Rakesh Verma And Mr. Rakesh Verma S/o Mr. Kali Charan, R/o - 538/403, Triveni Nagar-III, Sitapur As Road, Distt. Lucknow	Residential House Property- Plot No.-8A, Khasra No.-39 Min, Village-Lohramau, Ward-Faizulaganj, Distt.-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated- 13.10.2016, Zild No. 14762, Page No.-211256, S.No. 14613, in the Name Mrs. Seema Verma W/o Rakesh Verma, Boundaries:-East- House on the Rest Part of Plot No.-8 (A), West- Plot No.-09, North- Road 20' Wide, South-Vacant Plot, Area - 41.821 Sq.mtr.	Rs. 11,03,738.20 + Interest & other Expenses 29.02.2020 14.09.2020

Date : 16.09.2020 **Place : Lucknow** **Authorised Officer**

इंडियन बैंक
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)

Indian Bank
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

इलाहाबाद **ALLAHABAD**

Mid Corporate Finance Branch - The Mall, M.G. Marg, Kanpur - 208001 Ph. No. 0512-2303282
Appendix-IV Under [RULE - 8 (1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) for Immovable Properties)
Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under 13 (12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a demand notice on the date against the borrower as mentioned hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property / ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank (**e-ALLAHABAD BANK**) for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned herein below.
The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name and address of the Borrowers/Mortgagees/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice outstanding Amt. Dt. of Possession Notice outstanding Amt.
1.	M/s Quality India Pvt. Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Classic Poly Tubes Pvt. Ltd.) Director: Sri Naveen Agarwal Smt. Nirmala Agarwal Address: H.No. 27 MG Marg, Cantt, Kanpur-04 Guarantors/Mortgagor: 1. Sri Naveen Agarwal S/o Sri Shyam Sunder Agarwal 2. Smt. Nirmala Agarwal W/o Sri Shyam Sunder Agarwal	land and building of Industrial Premises constructed over premises Gata No. 163A, situated at Village-Harsinghpur, Pargana & Tehsil-Bindki, Distt. Fatehpur Area: 13390 Sq. Mtr. Boundaries: East: Land of Prem Singh West: Land of Ram Bahadur Singh etc. North: Roll Tubes Ltd., Bindki Road South: Chak Road	25.06.2020 Rs. 2,16,73,710 as on 25.06.2020 + intt. & Charges w.e.f. 25.06.2020 10.09.2020 Rs. 2,12,65,460 as on 10.09.2020 + intt. & Charges w.e.f. 10.09.2020

Date : 15.09.2020 **Place: Kanpur** **Authorised Officer, Indian Bank**

State rocked by gang-rapes

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The state was rocked by a series of gang-rapes. In Meerut, a woman was gang-raped in a running car reportedly attached to some electronic channel.

The incident was reported from Medical police station in Meerut where a local woman working in a nursing home got friendly with a youth who on Monday took her in a car on a long drive. He was soon joined by two of his friends after which the three gang-raped the woman and also made a video of the act. They later pushed the woman out, threatening that if she lodged a report, they would upload the video and defame her. Later, the victim lodged a report and with the

help of the mobile phone location of one of the accused, the cops managed to nab two of the three rapists and also recovered the car in which the incident took place. The Meerut police claimed that the car had a sticker of an electronic channel and it's ID (mike having the logo of the channel) was also found lying inside. Further investigations are on.

In Sitapur, a minor girl was reportedly gang-raped by five men, who recorded the act on the mobile phone and later uploaded the video on social media. The police said the incident took place in Imalia Sultanpur village on September 7 when the girl was returning home from the market. Two youths, Sheebu and Nazim of a nearby village, dragged the

girl to a nearby cane field where three others were also present and they all gang-raped her, the police said. The girl told the police that the accused made a video of the offence on their mobile phones and threatened to kill her if she told anyone about the incident, the police added. A case was subsequently registered against the five accused and one of them, Sheebu, was arrested on Monday. Police teams are looking for the other accused. Sitapur's Superintendent of Police RP Singh and ASP (South) Rajiv Dixit, meanwhile, visited the village amid the tension over the gang-rape and deployed police force there as a precautionary measure.

In another incident, a hor-

rifying video of a minor girl being gang-raped by two youths in Ballia district went viral on the internet. As soon as the video of the rape went viral on the social media, the police immediately took cognisance and launched a man-hunt for the accused. Without getting into details of the case, it can be said that the video of the rape was filmed by some passer-by youths, a shocking revelation on the level of apathy towards horrific crimes.

The police have registered a case of rape and have also charged the youths who filmed the video under the IT Act. Search is on for the accused and the cops said that all resources had been deployed so that justice was realised soon.

Two escape from Rae Bareli jail

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two undertrials escaped from Rae Bareli district jail some time late Monday night. As per reports, during a counting of the jail inmates in Rae Bareli district jail on Tuesday morning, two were found less in number while the count was complete during the night counting. Later, it was found that rape accused Ranjit Kumar, a native of Salon, and theft accused Sharda Prasad, hailing from Shivgarh, had escaped from the jail. Both of them were lodged in the quarantine bar-rack of the jail from September 3 to 5.

A separate arrangement is present for quarantining coronavirus suspects and the afflicted inmates in the jail itself through an administrative order. The absconding inmates fled after breaking a toilet.

Upon receiving information, Superintendent of Police of Rae Bareli and other senior officials inspected the spot and gave necessary directions to the officials concerned.

After being informed about the incident, DIG Prison Range Lucknow, Sanjeev Kumar

Tripathi, also inspected the jail. Jail Superintendent Gyan Prakash Srivastava is probing the incident. He said that police teams had been formed to arrest the absconding undertrials.

Meanwhile in a bizarre incident in Jhansi, a youth's head was chopped off when he was hit by a toll barrier pole when he was spitting from the window of a private bus on Tuesday. According to police, the youth, a native of Barabanki, was going to Mumbai along with his cousin and had taken his head out of the bus window to spit gutka when his neck was cut by the sharp edge of the barrier pole of the Sameri toll plaza in Moth area of the district.

The head lay on the divider of the toll while the body was in the bus, creating panic among the bus passengers and the people at the toll plaza. The youth was identified as Sonu (22), a native of Tikaitnagar in Barabanki district. He along with his cousin, Lallan, was returning back to Mumbai where they worked in a hotel before returning to their village during lockdown. Police have seized the bus and are investigating the incident.

CITYBRIEFS

CAR GOES UP IN FLAMES

The occupants of a car had a providential escape after the vehicle caught fire near Ramabai Ambedkar Sthal in Ashiyana on Tuesday. No one was injured in the incident. Reports said Dharmendra Kumar Tripathi of Manak Nagar, along with his brother and a friend, was travelling in car via Shaheed Path. When they reached near Ramabai Ambedkar Sthal, the car caught fire. Tripathi and others hurriedly came out of the car to save their lives. The car soon went up in flames.

MACFAIR INTERNATIONAL FROM SEPT 21 TO 25

City Montessori School, Mahanagar Campus, is organising 5-day international mathematics and computer competition, 'Macfair International-2020' online from September 21 to 25. Students of different noted schools from across the world will be participating in it to showcase their scientific talent and knowledge. With their participation in various creative competitions, these participants will proclaim the need to establish world unity, world peace and world cordiality along with a message to utilise scientific experiments and inventions for the uplift of society. The virtual event will be challenging for the students, helping them boost their confidence. At this five-day virtual event, five competitions will be held for senior and junior category students.

WEBINAR

A national webinar was organised by the Mass Communication and Journalism department of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. The theme of the programme was Application of Hindi language in web journalism. The chief guest on the occasion was Vice-Chancellor of Central University, Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh. He said the arrival of new technology has changed the culture of journalism. Earlier, special attention was given to the correctness and selection of words in newspapers. "Now in web journalism, linguistic correctness is ignored and the news is not confirmed," he added. BBAU Vice-Chancellor Acharya Sanjay Singh, who was the patron of the programme, said that with the advent of web journalism, the use of Hindi news and Hindi language has gained momentum but there is a need to increase the use of Hindi in certain areas such as increasing its usefulness in science and technology.

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, निर्माण एवं परिकल्प सेवाएं, (वि./यां.) नलकूप विंग उ.प्र. जल निगम, 2/137, विवेक खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ

अलुकालीन निविदा सूचना

पत्रांक : 648/निविदा-3/20/160

दिनांक: 14.09.2020

उपरोक्त जल निगम द्वारा जनपद गोरख में 1 नग नलकूप का रिहोर निर्माण कार्य हेतु निविदाओं की निम्नी दिनांक 16.09.2020 से 21.09.2020 तक कार्यालय प्रोजेक्ट मैनेजर, निर्माण एवं परिकल्प सेवाएं, वि./यां., नलकूप विंग, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम 2/137, विवेक खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ एवं कार्यालय प्रोजेक्ट मैनेजर, निर्माण एवं परिकल्प सेवाएं, वि./यां., नलकूप विंग-द्वितीय, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम 4/308, निनीत खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ से की जायेगी। निविदा पत्र का मूल्य रु. 1000.00 + 18 % जी.एस.टी. (1000.00+180.00=1180.00) है। निविदा के कार्यों का विस्तृत विवरण जल निगम की वेबसाइट www.upjn.org से अथवा सम्बन्धित कार्यालय से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा सूचना :- निविदा विक्रय की तिथि - 16.09.2020 से 21.09.2020 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक। निविदा खालने की तिथि - 22.09.2020 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक। निविदा खोलने की तिथि - 23.09.2020 पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे।

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक (चतुर्थी), निर्माण इकाई (वि./यां.), उ० प्र० जल निगम, लखनऊ

पत्रांक 1729 / एम-18 / 67

दिनांक:- 14.09.2020

अलु कालीन निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम की ओर से Replacement/Repairing of damaged Solar based Pumping Plant & its accessories complete in all respect for various Water Supply Schemes in District Unnao under Jal Jeevan Mission Programme हेतु निविदाओं की निम्नी दिनांक 23.09.2020 से दिनांक 26.09.2020 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम में पंजीकृत फार्मों को की जायेगी तथा निविदा दिनांक 29.09.2020 को अपराह्न 3.30 बजे परियोजना प्रबन्धक (चतुर्थी), निर्माण इकाई (वि./यां.), उ०प्र० जल निगम, लखनऊ के कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। निविदा की निम्नी कार्यालय समय में परियोजना प्रबन्धक (चतुर्थी), निर्माण इकाई (वि./यां.), उ०प्र० जल निगम, लखनऊ एवं अधिशासी अभियंता त्रयोदश खण्ड, उ०प्र० जल निगम, लखनऊ से की जायेगी। निविदा पत्र का मूल्य क्रमशः रु० 1000.00+ 18% GST है। निविदा सूचना से सम्बन्धित विवरण जल निगम की वेब साइट www.jn.upscdc.gov.in से अथवा सम्बन्धित कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

NCB has no....

From Page 1

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

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

also."

Coming out in support of Jaya, actress Sonam Kapoor said she wants to be like the veteran actress when she grow up while producer-director Anubhav Sinha termed the three-time Rajya Sabha member from the SP as a person with spine. "I send my best regards to Jaya. Those who don't know, please see this is how the spinal cord looks," Anubhav tweeted.

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

"I stand with Jaya as Kangana put it Bollywood is

Modi...

From Page 1

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

The Prime Minister said when selfishness overtakes governance and the vote bank politics come into play then the already marginalised and deprived would be the most affected. He said people of Bihar have endured this pain

for decades when the basic needs like water and sewerage are not met. He said people contract diseases by drinking dirty water under compulsion and a large part of his earnings goes to treatment. Under these circumstances, a very large section in Bihar had accepted debt, disease, helplessness, illiteracy as their fate.

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

India walks out of SCO meet...

From Page 1

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

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

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

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

SC's interim stay on Bidas...

From Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cong questions...

From Page 1

Earlier, Congress members staged a walkout from the House soon after the Defence Minister's statement, alleging they were not allowed to raise certain issues related to the India-China border row. They later protested in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue in the Parliament House complex.

Addressing reporters outside Parliament, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said the Government should give an answer on whether China has encroached Indian territory at specific positions across the border.

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

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

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

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

"For the Congress party, the country is

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

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

In 1962, when India-China war took place, he said then Opposition leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee sought to know about the situation at the border. Then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru agreed to his demand and there was a discussion for two days in Parliament on the war and border situation, he recalled. Chowdhury said the Congress members staged a walkout from the Lok Sabha because they were not allowed to send their message to the country and the armed forces. Congress' deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi told reporters that Chowdhury and his other party colleagues wanted to send a message of solidarity with the armed forces and also issue a stern warning to China that they should not test India's patience. "Unfortunately, the Government feels as if only they can speak in support of the Army," he added.

"The Defence Minister exorciated China for transgressing the LAC, could the Government explain why the Prime Minister had issued an extraordinary statement claiming that China had not entered our territory? Presumably, the Government has changed the PM's stand?" Congress leader Shashi Tharoor tweeted.

India's Covid-19...

From Page 1

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

mounted from 29,894 to 30,409.

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


STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
29, IIE, SAHASTRADHARA ROAD (IT PARK), DEHRADUN
Phone No. 0135 - 2708100 Fax No. 0135 - 2708109 Web site : www.siidcul.com
NIT No :47 and 48/SIIDCUL/2020
Following two separate proposal are invited by MD SIIDCUL from eligible agencies (i) Proposal for undertaking the Operation and Maintenance of 12 seater Tipri Madan Negri 984.00 Meter Ropeway, Tehri Garhwal for 3 years. (ii) Supply, Installation with socketing, testing and commissioning of haulage rope at Tipri Madan Negri ropeway. The documents can be downloaded from website of SIIDCUL www.siidcul.com or www.uktenders.gov.in . Proposal can be submitted on www.uktenders.gov.in on/before 13-10-2020 time:- 02.00PM. Any corrigendum will be published only on www.siidcul.com.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

CONTINENTAL CHEMICALS LIMITED.					
CIN - L24123UP1984PLC014111					
REGISTERED OFFICE: A-7, SECTOR-VII, NOIDA-201301, U.P					
Tel : 91-120-2423316 Email: info@continentalsoft.com , nkc@continentalsoft.com					
web: www.continentalchemicalsltd.com					
Standalone Unaudited Financial results for the quarter and year ended 30 th June 2020					
(Rs. In Lakh except EPS)					
Sr. No.	Particulars	3 Month Ended 30.6.2020 (Unaudited)	3 Month Ended 30.6.2019 (Unaudited)	3 Month Ended 31.3.2020 (audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2020 (audited)
1	Income from operations	19.91	33.69	29.18	119.12
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	2.35	8.14	2.64	15.85
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	2.35	8.14	2.64	15.85
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1.20	3.11	1.38	7.80
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax))	1.01	3.12	1.58	8.13
6	Equity Share Capital	224.90	99.90	224.90	224.90
7	Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)				133.27
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/-each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)	0.05	0.31	(0.90)	0.49
	Basic:				
	Diluted :	0.05	0.31	(0.90)	0.49
Notes:-					
1. The above financial result are reviewed by audit committee and thereby have been taken on records by board of Director in their meeting held on 14.09.2020					
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarter / year ended Financial Results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the full format of the quarterly financial results are available on the Stock Exchange websites of BSE (www.bseindia.com) and also in our company website (www.continentalchemicalsltd.com).					
3. The Company has considered the possible effects that may arise out of the still unfolding COVID-19 pandemic on the carrying amounts of property, plant & equipment, , trade receivables, etc. For this purpose, the Company has considered internal and external sources of information up to the date of approval of the Financial Results including credit reports and related information, economic forecasts etc. Based on the current estimates, the Company does not expect any significant impact on such carrying values. The impact of COVID-19 on the Company's financial statements may differ from that estimated as at the date of approval of Financial Results.					
For and on behalf of the Board of					
Sd/-					
Nareesh Kumar Chhibba					
Managing Director					
Din: 00376963					
Place:- Noida					
Date: 14.09.2020					


GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
CENTRAL CIRCLE (R&B) NIRMAN
SOUDHA, PHASE-II, 2ND FLOOR, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail id: secbcbbs@gmail.com
e-Procurement Tender Call Notice No. 2 of 2020-21
No 2101 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 11th September 2020
The Superintending Engineer, Centra Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Government of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for two number of Composite Building work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in-<https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 5.00 PM of 24.09.2020 to 5.00 PM of 8.10.2020. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III.Bids received online shall be opened at 11:00 AM of 09.10.2020 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Addendum/Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

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

OIPR-34005/11/0004/2021


GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE: BALANGIR
e - Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION No: SE(R&B) BGR / 03/ 2020-21
No. 1564 // Dtd. 10.09.2020

1. The Superintending Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of works detailed in the table below from **B/A/ Special Class** Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

2. Nature of Work : Building work
3. No. of tender : Building : 05 Nos.
4. Tender Cost : Rs.10, 000/-
5. Class of Contractor : B/A/ Special Class.
6. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids : From Dt.21.09.2020, 10.00 A.M. to Dt.05 .10.2020 up to 05.00 P.M.
7. Date of opening Bid : Dt.07.10.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir

OIPR-34131/11/0003/2021

173 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Over 1.5 lakh persons have been tested so far in the district and out of them, about 6.91 per cent were found positive. During the day, as many as 173 new COVID-19 cases have been detected in the district here on Tuesday, increasing the total number of cases to 10,683. Besides, the district also saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 178. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 203 patients. Out of them, 187 patients recovered from home isolation and the total number of patients cured at home has increased to 6,281. Besides, 16 recovered from the hospital and the number of patients who have been discharged from the hospitals has reached 2,559. The total number of cured patients is now 8,840, leaving 1,665 active patients. The recovery rate has slightly improved to 82.74 per cent and mortality rate to 1.66 per cent.

Meanwhile, on the second day of ongoing Service Week programme, eye testing and spectacle distribution camps were organised at two places, Nivedita Shikshan Sansthan (Tulsipur) and Bhaskara Talab (Rohania). At Tulsipur, MLA Saurabh Srivastava and others were present and they presented spectacles to many. Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) has informed that on the instructions of Railway Ministry it would observe Cleanliness Fortnight from Wednesday to September 30 by maintaining all COVID-19 guidelines. Chief Medical Officer, Dr VB Singh said that special emphasis on tuberculosis active case finding (TB ACF) is being given under the National Tuberculosis Eradication Programme (NTEP) in Sewapuri block selected by NITI Aayog and this campaign will run till September 17. District TB officer Dr Rakesh Kumar Singh informed that the entire population of

Sewapuri is being covered under the campaign and on Monday, sputum of 54 persons was collected and sent for testing by the ACF team, visiting 4,179 houses. So far, 2.20 lakh (70%) population has been covered in the ongoing campaign during the seven days. The samples of 335 persons have been sent for testing and out of them, 11 have been found TB positive. They all have been put on treatment with immediate effect. As of now, 34,908 houses of the block have been visited by the ACF team.

CMO has informed that by the first of the day at 11 am, 105 positive patients were detected out of 1,935 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 1,51,289 and the results of 2,699 are awaited. Out of them, 1,40,674 were negative while 10,464 positive. The total number of samples collected was 1,64,539. Earlier, two males aged 50 and 75 from Kabirchaura and Bansphatak

respectively succumbed to COVID-19 at SSH BHU. Besides, with the addition of 18 new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 1,824 including 421 red zones. Two green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 1,403 green zones including eight new ones.

Earlier, this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) comprising 10 districts of three divisions saw 498 new cases were found on Monday, increasing the total number to 37,301 with maximum number of 147 cases in Varanasi (10,510), followed by 112 in Azamgarh (3,915), 52 in Ballia (4,701), 45 in Ghazipur (3,387), 37 in Chandauli (2,581), 34 in Jaunpur (4,451), 24 in Mirzapur (2,099), 21 in Bhadohi (1,411), 18 in Mau (1,993) and eight in Sonbhadra (2,253). The day also saw four more deaths including two each in Varanasi and Azamgarh, increasing the toll to 500.

379 new COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The corona infection prevailed again on Monday. A total of 379 new cases of COVID-19 were detected in the last 24 hours, while the number of cured people was 318. Of them, 23 people were discharged from hospital, while home isolation of 295 people has been completed. CMO Dr GS Bajpai confirmed this findings.

The CMO said that with 379 newly infected people on Monday, the total number of infected in the district has increased to 14,696, while 10,767 people have been cured. Because of this, the recovery rate remains around 73 per cent. The number of active cases is 3,718. As many as 362 patients are admitted in different hospitals. Most patients are admitted to SRN Hospital. According to the report, a total of 135 infected have been admitted to SRN Hospital.

Apart from this, 45 patients are admitted in Railways, 63 in Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram, six in Unani Medical College, 73 in two private hospitals, 40 in Beli Hospital. In addition, 3,356 people are in home isolation. At the same time, 23 people have been discharged from hospitals. Five were discharged from Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram, one from Railway Hospital, one from Unani Medical College, five from Beli, two from Private Hospital and nine from SRN Hospital.

Apart from this, samples



have been taken for testing of 3,020 suspects and reports of 2,696 people have come negative. Dr Rishi Sahai, the nodal officer for COVID-19, said that among those positive on Monday, 240 have been found to be infected with antigen test, 128 from RTPCR and 11 people in Trunot. In RTPCR, 49 people were tested in a private lab.

Four people died on Monday from Corona. Of them, a 22-year-old youth is also included. Apart from this, two elderly and one middle-aged also died. Two of them are city dwellers, while two are from rural areas. All of the deceased were cremated in Phaphamau. Dr. Rishi Sahai, the nodal officer for Corona confirmed this.

According to the report, the first death was of a 55-year-old man. He hails from Kotwa and went to Colvin for treat-

ment.

He was admitted to the SRN Hospital after coming positive on September 11. He died on Monday. The second death was of a 72-year-old elderly resident of Bhawapur in Kareli. He was admitted to SRN Hospital on September 13.

For a week, he was complaining of a fever, cough. He got his COVID test conducted on the advice of the doctor. The third death was of a 22-year-old youth. He was a resident of Gaharpur area of Handia. He was earlier admitted to a private hospital in Bai Ka Bagh. After coming positive through an antigen test, he was shifted to SRN Hospital. The fourth death was of a 66-year-old man. He was a resident of Bada Baghara Gayatrinagar. He was admitted to SRN Hospital's Covid ward after coming positive on September 13.

Corona on Monday hit a

number of health workers, including a senior High Court official, review officer, a professor at Allahabad University, Nodal Officer for Corona, Dr Rishi Sahai said that the names of all the people who came in contact with positive persons have been asked. They will be tested. Among those infected are ADJ, two officers of High Court, one employee, staff nurse of Phulpur CHC, lecturer of Polytechnic College, Counselor of Kamlia Nehru Hospital, driver of railway GM, computer operator of High Court Advocate General Office, a professor of AU, an Associate Professor, DLO Officer NMA, a jawan of RAF, TC of Railways, Manager of Allahabad Bank, lab technician of private hospital in Darbhanga, Manager of UCO Bank Katra, OT technician of a hospital located at Indian Press Crossing.

Om Prakash flays lathicharge on SP workers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Former UP Minister Om Prakash Singh and senior leaders of Samajwadi Party (SP) on Tuesday strongly flayed police lathicharge on party workers and took care of injured workers by visiting the divisional government hospital where they are being treated.

After taking welfare about the injured party workers including Rahul Rajbhar and Rahul Sonkar, who had sustained serious injuries and had to be admitted in government hospital in Kabirchaura, Singh strongly criticised the police lathicharge by terming it as brutality on workers who were going to submit a memorandum peacefully and in a democratic manner.

Another former state minister Manoj Rai Dhoochandani also inquired about injured workers and put the state government and district administration in dock charging, they made excess on party workers who were peacefully raising their voices against



Ex-UP minister Om Prakash Singh seeing injured SP worker at SSPG Hospital in Varanasi on Tuesday

the poor law and order situation and increasing unemployment in the state.

When the young fellows of party bravely raised their voices against unemployment and other serious problems prevailing in state, the police behaved with them like criminals that could not be justified at any cost, the SP MLC Shatrudra Prakash said adding, sticks and jail could

not overwhelm the courage of youths.

The other senior party leaders also criticised the lathicharge and demanded action against erring cops.

It may be pointed out, the frontal organisations of Samajwadi Party had on Monday staged a statewide protest against the poor law and order situation, rising unemployment, skyrocketed

deariness and other issues and in this order, the local activists of these organisations had reached the district headquarter to submit a memorandum to District Magistrate regarding their demands. When the police did not allow them to go to the office of DM, heated exchange of words had taken place between cops and agitated workers and the former had to resort to lathicharge to disperse them. More than a dozen workers had sustained injuries in lathicharge and out of them; two were critically injured and admitted to hospital.

The agitated workers had also pelted stones on cops in which a couple of cops had also sustained minor injuries. The police had lodged a complaint against some party leaders and about 150 unidentified persons under various sections including 7-CLA Act and 51-Disaster Management Act. The police had arrested 51 workers in this connection and out of them, 44 had been sent to temporary jail.

Make Varanasi div a vegetable hub: DC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal laid special emphasis on making the division a hub of vegetable production and exports, saying that for the same purpose, the office of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has also been opened in the city. Reviewing the developmental works here on Monday, he stressed the need for further increasing the production of green chillies and tomatoes in Ghazipur district. 'In every development block, with the help of APEDA, a framework for training of farmers has been made to help them produce quality vegetables.'

According to him, in 'ease of doing business' the division has done a good job and for

more better performance, he asked the officers to solve the problems of the entrepreneurs promptly and monitor the disposal of the applications submitted under 'one district one product' (ODOPO) and Prime Minister and Chief Minister employment schemes by conducting block level meetings. He also instructed the officers to ensure that the banks should sanction and disburse the loans quickly.

Agrawal said that the labour department is running 18 schemes for the workers and under the government's simplification policy, 40 categories of people fall in the category of labour. "The person doing the work of the soil is also placed in the category of labour. Now the registration fee of the labourers has also been reduced to Rs 20 and the contribution to Rs 20 by the government.

Even on the natural death of a labourer, financial assistance of ₹ 2 lakh and in case of accidental death ₹ 5 lakh is being given to his dependents. Besides, there are also schemes for education of children, assistance during sickness and marriage of daughters etc., he informed, adding that there is no shortage of funds. He insisted the officers to ensure registration of all eligible workers.

Reviewing the rural development works, he has instructed the district magistrates (DMs) to ensure physical verification of construction projects like toilets, Anganwadi and health centres, panchayat and school buildings, drainage etc. 'There are bright prospects of promoting fishery,' he said, emphasising on making the division a hub in this direction by giving all the ponds of gram sabhas on lease. According to

him, even the Prime Minister, in his message, has described fisheries as a very good means of self-employment and economic growth and asked the officers to make it meaningful.

Agrawal asked all the DMs to meet with the insurance companies and ensure payment of all the claims of the crop insurance to the farmers. He also instructed the DMs to ensure an early allotment of all vacant ration shops by giving priority to women self-help groups (SHGs).

He also reviewed progress made in Kisan Samman Nidhi, minority welfare, skill development, cooperation, education, child development and some others.

DMs Mangla Prasad Singh (Ghazipur), Navneet Singh Chahal (Chandauli) and officials of various departments were present.

UCO Bank organises Hindi Week

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Zonal office of UCO Bank organised Hindi Week and online competitions for bank staff were held as part of Hindi Week.

The closing function of Hindi Week and Hindi Diwas Samaroh was organised at the auditorium in the zonal office of the bank here on Monday last in which the zonal head Ghanshyam Parmar presided over. Many attended it including Sub-Zonal Head SK Sinha and Chief Manager Ved Prakash.

Speaking on the occasion, Parmar advised bank staff to discharge their cent per cent official works in Hindi and added, "We could promote Hindi by adopting it in our daily life, but at same time, we should also pay respect to other languages with Hindi.

The bank staff took a pledge of discharging their all works in Hindi. The winners of online competitions organised during Hindi Week were also rewarded during the closing



Zonal chief of UCO Bank Ghanshyam Parmar presenting certificate to a winner of Hindi Week contest in Varanasi on Monday

function. Senior Manager Poonam Kumar Prasad con-

ducted the proceedings and informed that the social dis-

tancing was maintained during the programme.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

units under Central Organisation for Railway Electrification.

On September 14, 2020, first time in the history of railway electrification of India, total 138 shots of catenary/contact wires equivalent to 90 track kilometers were laid collectively by nine project units. Maximum contribution came from Lucknow project unit ie. 107 shots (70 TKM). Remaining 07 projects contributed 31 shots 20 TKM. In the section Unnao-Balamau, 74 shots equivalent to 50 TKM wiring was done.

Previous Indian record of maximum wiring was achieved on February22, 2020 by CORE itself with 68 shots (88 RKM).

To achieve this marvelous feat, meticulous planning for round the clock working was done under the leadership of GM/CORE/PRYJ Yeshpal Singh. High capacity generators were installed on the wiring trains itself to facilitate adequate illumination on the run during the night time. Tools and plants were inspected and repaired beforehand to avoid any failure in between the task. 7 no. of self propelled tower cars along with 7 wiring trains were put on the job and mobilisation of necessary man power to continue in different shifts round-the-clock was done from the nearby base depots.

Arranging adequate traffic blocks was utmost important to provide team work at site for

movement and working of wiring trains. This could be achieved with the active participation of Northern Railway team. Execution was achieved under the leadership of Arun Kumar, Chief Administrative Officer, CORE/Prayagraj and Sudhanshu Krishna Dubey, Chief Project Director, Lucknow.

This stupendous effort has given a fillip to the statistics of railway electrification projects which has so far been average due to impact of COVID-19. It is pertinent to note that not much progress in railway electrification could be achieved in the first quarter of current financial year due to lockdown and resulting disruption of supply chain in the economy. Complete electrification of Indian Railways network is slated to be achieved by the year 2023.

PROTEST: The activists of the Yuva Berojgar wing came on the road on Monday in protest against the proposal of the state government for the first five-year contractual appointment in group 'B' and 'C' government jobs. While there was a fierce clash between NSUI activists and the police during the ongoing protests outside the Allahabad University Students' Union building, 10 youth activists were taken into custody by the police during protests at Balsan Crossing. However, in the late evening, all were released on

personal bond. Hundreds of youths led by president of Yuva Manch Anil Singh protested at Balsan Crossing on Monday morning to withdraw the proposal of contractual appointment for the first five years in government jobs and to complete recruitment on vacant posts. A large number of students were gathered there. As soon as the protest started, the police force became active and took Yuva Manch president Anil Singh, Amarendra Singh, Shashi Dhar Yadav, Arvind Singh, Rahul Kumar Patel, Balram Singh, Kuldeep Kumar, Shobhit Singh etc. involved in the protest into custody. All were taken to the Georgetown police station and released late in the evening by warning. Yuva Manch convener Rajesh Sachan strongly condemned the detention of students who were protesting peacefully. He said that the agitation will intensify if the government does not withdraw the proposal for contractual appointment. On the other hand, there was a fierce clash between NSUI activists and police when the former came to burn the effigy of the Chief Minister outside the AU Students Union Building. The police also had to use mild force to stop the students. Police snatched the effigy from the hands of the students. The students shouted slogans and protested against the state government.

DM asks hosps to maintain adequate stock of oxygen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari has directed all hospitals to maintain adequate stock of oxygen.

During a surprise visit to the Kanshiram Hospital on Tuesday, he directed the hospital administration to ensure that there was no shortage of oxygen and maintain an adequate stock of it.

The district magistrate said in view of the increased demand for oxygen, some hospitals were facing short supply of oxygen. He said it was the duty of the authorities and management of the private and government hospital to maintain enough stock of oxygen for emergency.

Tiwari asked the district officials to regularly check the supply of oxygen in all private hospitals. He said there should also be no excessive storage of oxygen cylinders so that government or private hospitals did not face any crisis.

The district magistrate also stressed on regular monitoring of private hospitals to see whether they were following all Covid guidelines. He said on slightest violation of norms the permission to treat COVID-19 patients should be withdrawn or the hospital should be sealed.

Tiwari said he would personally visit the hospitals regularly to ensure that Covid protocol was not violated.

He said all the private hospitals have been warned against over-billing and if a complaint was received in this regard, strict action would be taken against the erring private hospital.

He also said that every private hospital must have an anaesthetist on duty round-the-clock.

The chief medical superintendent of Kanshiram Hospital informed the district magistrate that doctors were being deployed as per roster. The district magistrate personally checked the working in ICU and wards. He interacted with the doctors inside the ICU through video calling. He also took feedback on the diagnosis of the patients and

the mode of treatment being offered to them.

Tiwari said it was the duty of the hospitals to provide quality treatment to the admitted patients.

He also took feedback on the working of the equipment in the ICU and cautioned that there should be no excuse in case a violation was detected.

He said the hospital software and hardware experts need to ensure that every equipment was working normally.

The district magistrate was accompanied by Chief Medical Officer Anil Mishra and the chief medical superintendent of Kanshiram Hospital

Rise in home isolation Covid cases spurs oxygen demand

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

With the rise in the number of COVID-19 patients in home isolation, the demand for oxygen cylinder has shot up. This has led to a crisis of oxygen in the city, putting private hospitals and those in home isolation in distress.

The medical stores selling small oxygen cylinders either deny its availability, or supply it from back doors in black. The oxygen cylinders of two, five and ten litre that were easily available at medical stores till August have suddenly vanished from the market. The dis-

trict administration has woken up to this crisis and has decided to launch a crackdown on hospital gas suppliers and retailers.

The owners of Murari Industrial Gases and Hariom Gases claimed that the demand for oxygen had suddenly tripled in the past one month and with delayed supply it was creating a gap between demand and supply.

Hariom Gases owner SS Srivastava said it was the duty of the district administration to ensure that there was no black-marketing of oxygen cylinders.

He said there was no doubt

that medical stores and suppliers were hoarding and selling oxygen cylinders in the black and the district administration should take action against the blackmarketeers.

Srivastava pointed out that a 2-litre oxygen cylinder that was earlier being supplied at the rate of Rs 34 was now being supplied at Rs 100/ per cylinder.

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra said there were reports of black-marketing of oxygen cylinders and thus the authorities had swung into action.

He warned that hoarding of oxygen cylinders and selling

them in black was a grave offence.

The CMO said that newspapers had reported backdoor sales of oxygen cylinders in black and thus every step would be taken to check black-marketing. He said there was no crisis of oxygen in the city.

Dr Mishra said keeping in view the acute crisis of manpower, the government had given a green signal to appoint doctors, paramedics and other necessary staff on contract basis.

He said 50 staff nurses, 50 wardboys and 50 safai karmacharis had been engaged on contract.

Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar (PNS): Kanpur Divisional, Commissioner Sudhir M Bobde, District Magistrate Alok Tiwari, DIG Praminder Singh and several other officials took part in the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas held at Phool Bagh on Tuesday.

It was organised at Bal Bhawan in Phool Bagh while strictly maintaining social distancing.

The district magistrate personally looked into the cases which had come up during the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas and directed officials to ensure that all the cases which were taken up on Tuesday were settled within the stipulated time frame.



Two local engineering graduates receive US\$ 1.4 million funding

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Two engineering graduates of the city, Ankit Agarwal and Prateek Kumar of Phool.co, an ITT, Kanpur backed biomaterial startup, have received a grant of Rs10.50 crore (US\$1.4 million) in a pre-Series A funding round led by IAN Fund and San Francisco-based Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation.

Founded in July, 2017, Phool.co is an innovative startup focused on circular economy which converts the floral waste into charcoal-free luxury incense products.

With deep-tech research, the startup has developed 'Fleather' leveraging their flower cycling technology. Fleather is a viable alternative to animal leather and was recently awarded the PETA's best innovation the Vegan World.

Phool.co has rapidly expanded its operations to Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. During the lockdown, the company ensured its supply chain by sourcing flower waste directly from the distressed horticulture farmers, bringing them critical income in the toughest of times.

Phool.co vision is based on sustainable development goals focused on creating a circular economy, promoting sustainable consumption, and bringing dignified livelihoods.



Ankit Agarwal and Prateek Kumar, Founders of Phool.co.

Pioneer.

Speaking on the latest development, Padmaja Ruparel, founding partner of IAN Fund, said, "Innovative solutions for the sustainable development of community are the need of the hour. Phool.co's circular economy model brings triple bottom benefits of environmental, social, and financial sustainability. Ankit and Prateek are passionate entrepreneurs with an innovative product for a sustainable world."

For its endeavours to make innovative and sustainable products, Phool.co has received several international recognitions, including the prestigious United Nations Young Leaders Award for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Momentum of Change Award at COP 2018, Asia

Sustainability Award 2020, Hong Kong, Alquity Transforming Lives Awards, London and Breaking the Wall of Science, Berlin.

IIT Kanpur has been Phool's backbone for technical research. Speaking on the latest development, IIT Kanpur Director Dr Abhay Karandikar said, "Innovation in product development aside, I am a huge fan of Phool.co because it is deeply committed to the uplift of marginal women in our society. Phool.co has given a life of dignity to dozens of women and they did this despite having an option of automating the process. For a young entrepreneur, this is a remarkable commitment towards nation building."

Founder Ankit Agarwal

said, "Phool.co is a sustainable solution to the monumental temple-waste problem in India. Through our efforts, we aim to build natural alternatives to synthetic chemical-based products by using deep-tech and research. We are perhaps India's first natural incense brand taking a digital-first approach and have a first-mover advantage as bio-leathers are barely available in India. We are delighted to get IAN on board as an investor and the funds raised will be used to advance the research and scale the operations of the company."

Earlier, Phool.co had raised Rs 3.38 crore in a seed round from Social Alpha (FISE) and DRK Foundation, and a few others such as IIT Kanpur and Balmer Lawrie.

416 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 416 fresh cases of coronavirus infection till Tuesday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra said 416 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Monday evening and Tuesday evening, taking the count of confirmed cases to 21005. He said 5672 COVID-19 patients had been cured in the city so far, and at present 4847 active coronavirus cases were undergoing treatment.

The CMO said seven COVID-19 deaths were reported in the city till Tuesday evening taking the toll to 543. He said a total of 6826 samples were sent for testing in the district.

FEE DEFAULT

Schools cannot stop students from attending online classes, says DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari said that schools could not stop students from attending online classes and also could not strike off their names from the school register for non-payment of fees.

He also said that reducing fees by 50 per cent was not in his jurisdiction and he could not do it on any grounds.

Addressing a meeting of DIOS, ICSE coordinator, and BSA and parents association office-bearers, he asked all parents and guardians associations resorting to dharnas and demonstrations to withdraw it immediately, saying that no student could be stopped from attending online classes for being fee defaulter. Besides, he added, the names of students could not be struck off the rolls.

The district magistrate said there were complaints regarding constant pressure from schools on guardians to pay pending fees and the names wards of those who were unable to pay the fee were being struck from the rolls.

He said the Parents and Guardians Association had demanded that 50 per cent of the fees be reduced and for this the DIOS had been directed that a proposal be put up at the earliest.

It may be mentioned here that from the time of lockdown on March 26, parents have not yet cleared the pending school dues of January to March quarter. After the lockdown, the parents have not paid fees till September 2020. This has caused immense hardship to the private schools who are dependent on school fees to pay the salaries of the teachers and non-teaching staff.

It is also true that the government school teachers and government employees are getting full salaries on time. Ironically, the private school teachers have not been paid salaries since May, 2020. Most of the private school have cut 50 per cent salaries of their teachers.

The district administration has to work out a solution to this imbroglio as well. Ironically, the government is silent on private school teachers' salary issue although every teacher is conducting online classes since March, 2020.

Truck driver hangs self

KANPUR (PNS): A truck driver committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree behind the power sub-station in Chaubepur police station area on Tuesday morning.

On the basis of Aadhaar card recovered on his person, the deceased was identified as Suraj (30), son of Ram Shanker and resident of Bisen in Chaubepur.

Police called his family members who identified the deceased. The kin said that Suraj had left for home from Transport Nagar on Monday evening but did not reach home.

Some morning walkers spotted the body hanging from the tree behind the power sub-station on Tuesday and informed the police about it.

DC reviews development works

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Divisional Commissioner Preeti Shukla during a divisional meeting held on Monday directed the officials concerned to complete the works within the deadline and ensure quality as per the norms. Expressing her satisfaction over the past performance of the officials which was praised by the CM during a review meeting recently she said that the momentum should be maintained. Reviewing the points as per the agenda of the meeting she directed the DMs to work with a more positive spirit on the issues of development as well as the recovery of government dues. Reviewing the development works whose cost was ₹50 lakh and above, the DC directed the DM to form a committee of technical experts and examine the work of medical college which was under construction in Mirzapur.



Regarding the laying down of foundation stone and inauguration of buildings of panchayat bhawans as well as the community toilets she said that they should be performed by people's representatives instead of government officials. In very that order she directed the Deputy Director, Panchayat, to contact DMs concerned where the land for panchayat bhawans could not be available and get the building constructed without inordinate delay. In order to speed up the development works the DC directed the working agencies to go to the sites and involve more labourers ensuring social distancing. The Industry department was

directed to achieve the target allotted by the government and hold the meeting of Udyog Bandhu regularly for redressing the grievances of entrepreneurs. Reviewing the points under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj and Finance Commission the DC made it clear that the fund should be spent timely and without any irregularities. Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), Ayushman Bharat were also discussed and the DC directed the Health department to see to it that medicines were available, do the vaccination work properly, strengthen ambulance service and ensure their availability within 20-30 minutes of the call. The meeting was attended by IG range Piyush Srivastava, DMs of the division, divisional officers and additional commissioner. The meeting was conducted by Joint Development Commissioner Navneet Kumar and assisted by Rahul Tiwari.

‘Dikshant Parade’ ceremony organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The 'Dikshant Parade' ceremony of 546 women constable trainees of Railway Protection Force (RPF) was organised at Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF), Second Battalion, Rajahi Camp here on Monday. During this period social distancing and the prescribed safety norms for protection from Covid-19 were followed, CPRO Pankaj Kumar Singh said. The chief guest at the ceremony, Principal Chief Security Commissioner (PSCS), Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway (NER), Atul Kumar Srivastava, inspected the parade of women constable trainees, took salute of the march past and honoured three of them by rewarding them for their outstanding performance in training. On the occasion principal, Training Centre, AK Singh, administered the oath of honesty, dedication, devotion to duty and service to nation to 546 women trainees. Principal Chief Security Commissioner-cum-Inspector General, Railway Protection Force (RPF), Atul Kumar Srivastava, on behalf of RPF and RPSF family while welcoming all the trainees greeted them and said that about 70 lakh people from all over the country had applied for this selection out of whom only 8,000 were selected, including them. This proves

that they had come by working hard and successfully completed this training despite limited resources under adverse circumstances like Covid-19 through their sheer hard work. In today's changing environment changes are also happening in Railway Security Force. "Even in this Force modernisation is happening in IT and other fields. We have to stay updated with these



changes," he said. "Do not do any such thing so that someone can point a finger at you. With true devotion, dutifulness and spirit of service towards the country they should be determined to protect passengers and railway properties," Srivastava added. He said under our slogan of 'Yasho Labhasva' we would discharge our role in increasing the fame of our country. The chief guest felicitated the trainee, Jaya Malaviya, for her outstanding performance in all fields, trainee Reena Dhosaria for her performance in indoor subjects while trainee Reena Devi Yadav for her performance in outdoor area by presenting them medals

and commendation letters. Earlier while thanking everyone, Commanding Officer, Second Battalion, RPSF, Anirudh Chaudhary, said that under the guidance of Principal Chief Security Commissioner Atul Kumar Srivastava during this difficult Covid-19 period they were able to give successful training to women trainees, the largest number in the history. He congratulated all the trainees on becoming the members of the railway family. In his address principal, Training Centre, AK Singh, said that it was a day of good luck as today 546 women trainees were included in the passing-out parade. As per the instructions given by the Railway Board they were given eight months of successful training. At the time of this adversity with limited resources quality training was completed successfully. These trainees were adept in military force and also capable of combating terrorism, Naxalism etc, he added. On the occasion principal Singh presented the training report. While giving full introduction about the Force Singh spoke about the responsibilities and objectives of trainees and wished them a bright future. On the occasion Chief Safety Commissioner Dr SK Saini, Senior Divisional Medical Officer Fahim Ahmed, senior officers, RPF and RPSF and members of their families were present.

Stress on maximum use of Hindi

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the aegis of North Eastern Railway Rajbhasha Department and under the Rajbhasha Saptah celebration-2020 the e-meeting of the Regional Railway Rajbhasha Implementation Committee



was organised in a virtual form under the presidency of G M N E R, Lalit Chandra Trivedi. While wishing everyone on Hindi Diwas, GM Trivedi said that the Constituent Assembly of India accepted Hindi as the official language of the Union of India on September 14, 1949. Since then this day was celebrated as Hindi Diwas. In order to realize what has been envisaged in the Constitution of India in relation to the implementation of Hindi

everyone in their areas of work making sincere efforts needs to make more and more use of Hindi, the GM said.

"It is the constitutional duty of all of us to make our active contribution in the development and prosperity of Hindi. Now all the work has to be done through e-office," he said. It is necessary that the employees for working in Hindi too in e-office should learn and implement it with full enthusiasm completely removing the hesitation from their minds. Hindi had contributed significantly in awakening the national consciousness even during the days of India's struggle for freedom. "Even today it is very necessary for maintaining unity, integrity and progress of the country", he said. He added that all materials/information related to general public should be made available in English as well as Hindi on websites in the rail-

way offices. The GM said that on this auspicious occasion of Hindi Diwas all should take a pledge in this meeting that they would show their loyalty and dedication towards the Indian Constitution by using Hindi more and more in their official works. The message of the Home Minister, Government of India, was read by Chief Rajbhasha Officer Arvind Kumar Pandey. On the occasion Chief Rajbhasha Officer Arvind Kumar Pandey gave a welcome address. Deputy Chief Rajbhasha Officer Omkar Singh read out the message of Union Minister for Railways, Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. In his message Goyal said that Hindi Diwas was a symbol of unity in diversity of Indian culture and also a day of mutual harmony of all Indian languages.

Besides the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed on the occasion, CPRO PK Singh said.

Hindi Diwas celebrated at DLW, NER

PNS ■ VARANASI

Hindi Diwas was celebrated at two local units of Indian Railways — Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) and Varanasi Division of North-Eastern Railway (NER) here on Monday. Both of these programmes were organised online through Microsoft Teams. In DLW the event also marked the conclusion of Rajbhasha Fortnight. Presiding over the function, GM Yashpal Singh said that in fact Hindi played an incomparable role in making our freedom movement a mass campaign. He also released the new issue of 'Dereka Darpan' through a virtual platform. The chief speaker was former professor of BHU, Dr Chandrakala Tripathi who said that literature and language were interlinked and the 3,000-year-old Sanskrit not only enriched our languages, but also left a mark on the languages of the world. Chief Rajbhasha Officer Pawan

Priya Raju welcomed the guests. Earlier, the programme was inaugurated with a 'Saraswati Vandana' recited by Dr Shashi Kant Sharma. The function was also participated by PCEE SK Kashyap, PCMM DS Jangpangi, principal financial adviser JN Pandey, PCME DK Mandal, PCPO PK Singh, PCE Rajesh Agarwal, CVO PK Chowdhury, CMM (Hqs) Trilok Kothari and CDE (DL) AK Singh. Senior Rajbhasha Officer Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh conducted the programme and read the messages of union home minister and railway minister. He also presented a vote of thanks in the end. At NER divisional office, DRM VK Panjari presided over the meeting of divisional Rajbhasha implementation committee which also marked the beginning of Rajbhasha Week. He said that the week was observed every year but in view of the coronavirus pandemic, this time it would be different as we have to adopt virtual plat-

forms. Praising the work of Rajbhasha, Panjari said, "it is a time of rapid change and technological development." Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Rajbhasha Officer/ADRM (Operations) Shiv Pratap Singh Yadav welcomed the participants and underlined the ever-increasing use of Hindi on social networking, mobile and Internet through the evolving technology of computer and information technology in the present era and called upon all officers and employees to enhance the quality of working in Hindi. SDS&TE Trimback Tiwari gave details about maintenance of signalling system and about new software. He said that this software could be used by station masters and signal maintainers without internet even from their mobile. Rajbhasha officer and assistant safety officer DS Meena conducted the programme and proposed the vote of thanks in the end.

LS passes Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

Another Bill cleared for 30% cut in MPs' salaries



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

House nod to Bill for statutory status to aviation regulators

Violators to pay penalty up to ₹1 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

sure to tackle Covid-19. ₹20 lakh crore had been allocated as Covid-19 package," said Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi justifying the

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

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

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

salary cuts.

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Ayurveda and allied disciplines.

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

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

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

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

BSF foils Pak bid to infiltrate terrorists

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

inside the Indian territory.

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

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

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

undulating terrain and thick wild growth".

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

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

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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

According to official sources, "CBI sleuths raided the residential premises of Lal Singh in Kathua and Jammu along with few other locations around 7.00 am early Tuesday.Two separate CBI teams carried out these raids in connection with a land grab case".

CBI had formally registered a case against RB Educational Trust, run by the family members of Lal Singh, and others including the then DC Kathua (J&K), the then Tehsildar, then Naib Tehsildar, the then Girdawar, the then Patwari



and other unknown persons on the allegations of having facilitated the trust to possess land much beyond the ceiling limit, and submitting false affidavits in support of the trust, causing losses to the State exchequer. The raids were going on during the day across nine different locations (three in Jammu and six at Kathua) including the office of RB Education Trust.

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

The PE alleged that false certificates of the land, which comes under exempted category of Jammu & Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976 were used by the educational trust in its alleged land-grabbing activities.

Bihar: 18 killed in lightning strikes

IANs ■ PATNA

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

Lightning detection centres have been established in Madhubani, Katihar, and Gaya.

Teams from the state disaster management authority have been asked to remain on standby.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

ATTACK ON NAVY MAN IN MUMBAI

7 activists re-arrested, released on bail

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Seven persons involved in Friday's assault on a retired petty Navy officer at Kandivli in north-Mumbai were re-arrested by the Samata Nagar police here on an added charge of trespass, but were released on bail against a personal bond of ₹15,000 each.

The seven Shiv Sainiks--Shiv Sena Shakha Pramukh Kamlesh Kadam and five of their associates Sanjay Manjre, Rakesh Belnekar, Pratap Sund Vera, Sunil Desai and Rakesh Mulik who had been arrested and later released on bail on Saturday in connection with the incident -- were re-arrested on Monday night, after the Samata Nagar police invoked section 452 (House trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful confinement of IPC.

The invocation of section 452 of IPC and subsequent arrests of the six Sainiks had come after wide-spread criticism of the Kandivli police for allegedly dealing with the ruling Sena activists with kid gloves.

The six arrested Shiv Sainiks were on Tuesday afternoon produced before a Borivali Magistrate's Court which remanded in judicial custody for 14 days. However, the lawyer for

the accused subsequently moved a bail pleas before the same court which released them on a bail against a personal bond for ₹15,000 each.

It may be recalled that 65-year-old Madan Sharma, who is a retired chief petty officer in the Navy, was attacked by a group of Shiv Sainiks, led by a party shakha pramukh on Friday last after he reportedly forwarded in his building group a cartoon that projected chief minister Uddhav Thackeray in a poor light. Sharma is a member of the housing society at Kandivli in north Mumbai. On Wednesday, Sharma had forwarded a cartoon showing Uddhav prostrating before pictures of NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Congress President Sonia Gandhi in a WhatsApp group of his housing society. He had seen that cartoon in another WhatsApp group earlier.

According to Sharma's daughter Dr Sheela Sharma, one of the members of their housing society group had alerted Kadam about the 'objectionable' cartoon.

On Friday, a group of eight to ten Shiv Sainiks came to his housing society and assaulted Sharma. Later, CCTV footage posted on Twitter by BJP MLA from Kandivli (east) Atul

Bhatkalkar showed a group of men chasing after Sharma and dragging him outside the society premises by his shirt collar. The footage, which went viral, also showed the men slapping Sharma and pulling at his shirt even as the society's security guards remained silent spectators. Later on Friday evening, Sharma lodged a complaint with the Samta Nagar police station against Kadam and other Shiv Sainiks.

Apart from demanding stern action against the Shiv Sainiks behind the incident, Sharma's daughter Dr Sheela Sharma has rooted for the imposition of President's Rule in Maharashtra, citing that nobody was safe in the state A day after the incident, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to the victim, made enquiries about his health and condemned the incident. Singh said that such attacks on ex-servicemen "were completely unacceptable and deplorable".

"Spoke to retired naval officer, Shri Madan Sharma who was attacked by hooligans in Mumbai and enquired about his health. Such attacks on Ex-Servicemen are completely unacceptable and deplorable. I wish Madanji a speedy recovery," Rajnath had tweeted.

Key accused in Vizag Espionage case in NIA net

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

413 earthquakes recorded from Mar 1 to Sept 8 in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

No dignity of labour

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



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

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

Equality in marriage

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



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

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

PLA's 'Peace Disease'

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



BHOPINDER SINGH

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUND BITE

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

Afghanistan Ambassador
—Adela Raz



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

Cricketer
—Kuldeep Yadav



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

Pakistan's Foreign Minister
—Shah Mahmood Qureshi



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

Footballer
—Neymar



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where is the logic?

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

Navneet Seth
Punjab

Fair play

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

Crime graph shoots up in Goa

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

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

Harivansh was re-elected as the Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha for the second consecutive term after defeating the Opposition's candidate, Rashtriya Janata Dal's Manoj Jha. It has been more than a year after the 17th Lok Sabha was constituted that the constitutionally mandated post has been filled.

NR Salam
Jammu



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

Pachu Menon
Goa

Abe's legacy

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

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

Minister Narendra Modi.
Sanjana Soni
Ujjain

A clarification

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

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letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

US showing ominous signs

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



GWYNNE DYER

Line of the world's biggest pharmaceutical companies have just promised not to apply for regulatory approval for any new COVID-19 vaccine before it has gone through all three phases of clinical study. Why would they do such a thing? You'd be surprised if brain surgeons got together and promised not to operate while drunk, or if the bus drivers' union publicly pledged that its members will not drive recklessly. They don't do that because operating sober and driving carefully are just part of the job. So is ensuring that new vaccines are safe and effective. Yet nine major players in the international pharmaceuticals market — AstraZeneca (UK-Sweden), BioNTech (Germany), GlaxoSmithKline (UK), Johnson & Johnson (US), Merck (Germany), Moderna (US), Novavax (US), Pfizer (US) and Sanofi (France) — all felt obliged to reassure the public that they won't cheat. What's up? Obviously, it's the perception that other players in the same market may indeed be cutting corners. We're not talking here about Russia and China, both of which have begun inoculating some key workers with vaccines that are still listed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as being in clinical trials. No surprise here: Everybody knows that those regimes break the rules whenever they feel like it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE PROBLEM OF DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ADDICTION IS INCREASING. DRUGS COME TO INDIA VIA CHINA AND PAKISTAN. OUR FILM INDUSTRY TOO IS AFFECTED.
—BJP MP AND ACTOR
RAVI KISHAN

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



YESTERDAY ONE OF OUR MEMBERS IN THE LOK SABHA, WHO IS FROM THE FILM INDUSTRY, SPOKE AGAINST IT. IT IS A SHAME. THE INDUSTRY NEEDS PROTECTION.
—SP MP AND ACTOR
JAYA BACHCHAN

Move the needle on cooling

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



SHANMUGANATHAN K

ASHISH SARASWAT

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

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

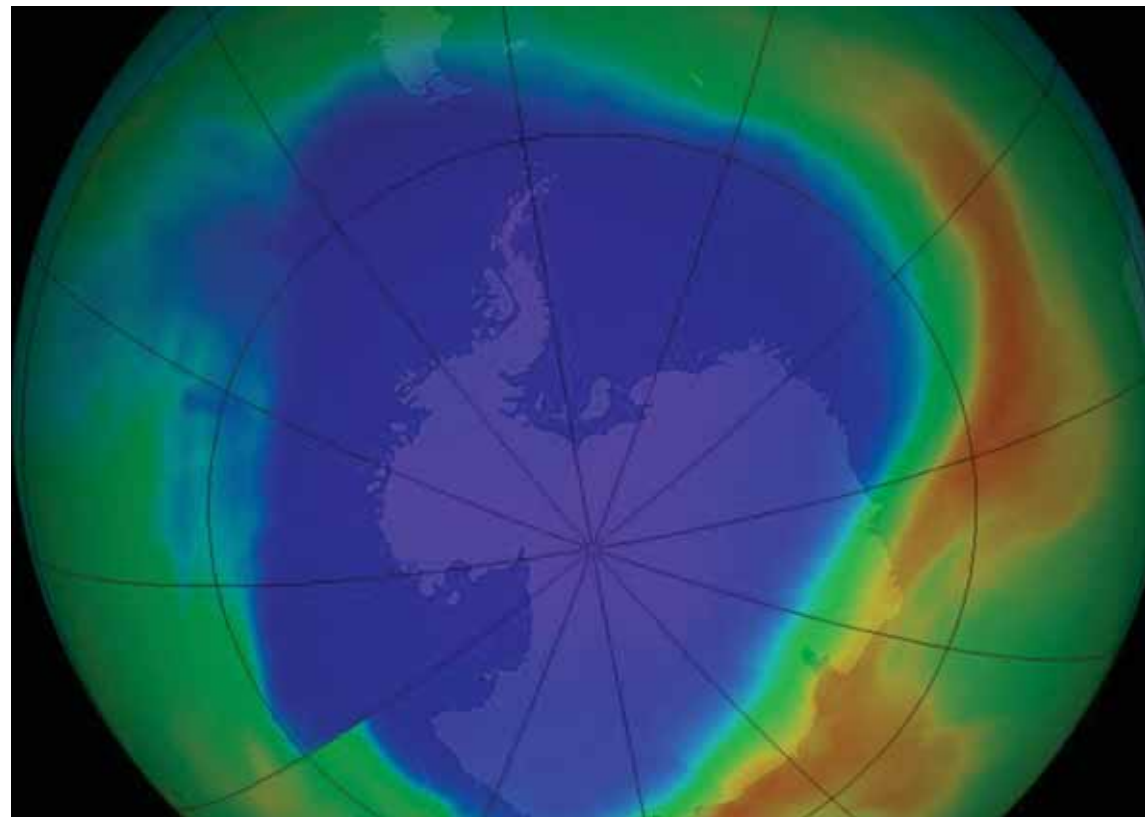
Beginning of the world's most successful environmental agreement: Eleven years after the findings of Professor Rowland and Professor Molina, a team of English scientists, too, learnt about the thinning of the ozone layer, which is popularly known as the "Ozone Hole." They realised that the CFCs had started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

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

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

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

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IN 1994, THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCLAIMED SEPTEMBER 16 AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER, COMMEMORATING THE DATE OF THE SIGNING, IN 1987, OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. TODAY, THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL HAVE PHASED OUT 98 PER CENT OF THEIR ODS, WHICH SAVED AN ESTIMATED TWO MILLION PEOPLE FROM SKIN CANCER ANNUALLY
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known as the vapour compression refrigerating system which later became the most successful commercial technology.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cooling: India harbours 16 per cent of the world's population but currently only around seven to nine per cent of its people have access to air-conditioners. Cooling is cross-sectoral, spanning wide thematic areas like space cooling, industry, transport, food security and so on. According to the 2018 International Energy Agency (IEA) report, India's cooling industry is expected to grow exponentially by 2050. Recognising the accelerated growth of cooling needs in the future, India proactively introduced its strategic document, *India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)* in March, 2019 to show its commitment to explore and adopt cutting-edge solutions for more sustainable cooling with less environmental impacts. To tackle this unprecedented growth, it is imperative for the Indian cooling industry to strategise accelerated methodologies by promoting indigenous research and development activities to practise the best energy-efficient technology options and adopt the next generation environmentally-friendly refrigerants in a business-as-usual scenario.

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

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

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

The death of a credible media with a backbone

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



SIDHARTH MISHRA

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

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

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

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

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

Then there is another issue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FOREIGN EYE



DO NOT ISOLATE THE ELDERLY

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

US import curbs on Chinese textile to benefit India: Icra

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rupee settles 16 paise lower at 73.64 against US dollar

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

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

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

US TARIFFS ON CHINA RULED TO BE ILLEGAL BY WORLD TRADE BODY

Geneva: The World Trade Organization said Tuesday that Trump administration tariffs on Chinese goods totaling more

than \$200 billion are illegal under the rules of the global trade body. The decision marks the first time the Geneva-based trade

body has ruled against a series of tariffs that President Donald Trump's government has imposed on a number of coun-

tries, allies and rivals alike. Trump has repeatedly criticized the WTO, which oversees international disputes on trade, for

allegedly treating the U.S. unfairly. The WTO ruled against the Trump administration's argument that China has engaged in

practices harmful to U.S. interests, on issues including intellectual property theft, technology transfer and innovation.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY50	11487.20	11535.95	11442.25	11521.80	81.75	
INDUSINDBK	629.35	639.00	620.20	637.85	28.50	
CIPLA	723.25	754.00	722.65	742.35	20.75	
UPL	518.00	532.25	516.05	530.10	14.20	
AXISBANK	441.05	451.90	435.90	450.85	10.30	
BHARTIARTL	475.15	487.65	470.05	485.05	10.95	
ICICIBANK	364.05	372.25	363.70	371.70	8.00	
SUNPHARMA	496.00	512.40	496.00	506.50	10.70	
BAJFINANCE	3475.00	3524.20	3455.00	3515.00	74.30	
DREDDY	4374.95	4549.00	4372.55	4439.80	75.70	
KOTAKBANK	1308.10	1328.85	1289.00	1327.00	22.30	
GRASIM	711.60	723.50	709.80	718.05	11.05	
HDFCBANK	1068.00	1076.15	1058.10	1073.70	15.75	
HDFC	1754.90	1777.00	1742.80	1763.00	25.00	
IT	910.00	915.20	900.00	915.00	12.90	
SREELAX	19779.00	20147.90	19600.00	20070.00	280.50	
POWERGRID	171.85	173.90	171.00	173.45	1.95	
RELIANCE	231.95	232.75	228.15	232.40	21.45	
SBIN	199.00	200.10	197.10	199.80	1.30	
HINDALCO	177.40	179.35	174.50	176.90	1.10	
BRITANNIA	3720.05	3766.50	3715.00	3742.00	22.50	
ZEEL	218.50	220.20	216.30	217.40	0.80	
INFY	979.50	990.00	971.65	981.00	3.00	
ULTRACEMO	3917.10	3954.95	3885.15	3924.50	10.40	
TATAMOTORS	149.40	149.40	146.55	148.90	0.35	
GAIL	92.00	92.75	91.10	92.15	0.20	
TATASTEEL	407.00	410.55	405.55	405.35	0.70	
HEROMOTOCO	3028.50	3051.70	3005.05	3033.00	4.50	
BAJAJFINSV	6130.00	6139.00	6027.45	6118.85	6.70	
ONGC	73.75	74.35	73.25	73.70	0.05	
HINDUNILVR	2136.90	2137.00	2109.00	2125.00	1.50	
JSWSTEEL	290.95	294.55	288.75	290.05	0.20	
ADANIPORTS	355.10	356.80	351.00	351.70	0.05	
NTPC	90.90	92.75	90.55	90.80	-0.05	
TECH	790.75	803.10	775.00	790.00	-0.75	
TCS	2491.40	2538.00	2464.60	2489.00	-2.40	
INFRATEL	204.25	204.75	200.35	202.35	-0.25	
M&M	619.25	624.00	611.95	614.35	-0.95	
WIPRO	302.30	311.25	302.75	306.60	-0.60	
NESTLEIND	16090.00	16165.90	16012.00	16040.00	-43.30	
HCLTECH	791.05	809.85	783.05	791.80	-3.15	
IOC	82.70	83.40	81.80	82.30	-0.40	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2957.40	2940.00	2921.05	2942.50	-15.20	
COALINDIA	125.65	127.55	123.80	124.15	-0.80	
ASIANPAINT	2045.00	2049.55	2009.05	2017.00	-14.20	
BPCL	147.50	147.55	142.45	143.80	-3.35	
ITC	184.00	184.20	180.80	181.85	-1.50	
EICHERMOT	2159.40	2170.30	2120.00	2141.00	-18.40	
HDFCLIFE	601.95	601.95	591.05	594.00	-5.45	
MARUTI	7164.00	7175.00	7005.00	7050.00	-78.85	
TITAN	1194.80	1220.00	1170.15	1172.00	-16.00	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27361.00	27562.55	27349.65	27515.80	259.80	
MOTHERSUMI	117.50	122.15	116.60	120.85	4.50	
LUPIN	972.85	1005.90	967.00	1004.00	36.00	
AUROPHARMA	800.40	840.95	798.10	821.05	24.90	
NAUKRI	3450.00	3559.20	3410.30	3538.30	104.20	
AMBUJACEM	210.95	217.85	213.55	217.25	6.15	
IGL	410.90	421.70	410.00	419.80	11.00	
SIRTRANSFIN	639.10	655.00	635.25	653.50	17.05	
GODREJCP	691.55	711.90	688.75	707.75	16.20	
BIOCON	430.40	445.00	429.00	439.85	9.85	
ABBOTINDIA	16620.00	17050.00	16466.15	16873.00	356.85	
TORNTPHARM	2800.00	2887.90	2800.00	2857.95	60.40	
PEL	1326.00	1359.85	1318.55	1348.00	25.20	
PETRONET	236.00	242.85	235.30	240.55	3.85	
BOSCHLTD	12898.00	13141.65	12829.85	13059.90	206.35	
CADILAHC	370.65	378.50	367.25	374.50	5.95	
INDIGO	1300.00	1355.00	1300.80	1341.60	20.45	
PGHH	10000.05	10150.00	10020.05	10139.95	142.45	
ACC	1368.00	1389.00	1350.75	1385.00	17.65	
PIDILITIND	1481.10	1515.00	1481.00	1499.00	18.30	
BAJAJHLING	2470.65	2517.05	2460.60	2496.00	25.40	
HINDPETRO	197.00	199.95	194.75	198.00	1.95	
CONCOR	385.00	390.65	381.30	388.00	3.80	
PEC	92.10	93.35	92.10	93.00	0.90	
MUTHOOTFIN	1128.00	1141.85	1116.00	1134.00	15.00	
SBILIFE	861.30	871.00	853.05	865.00	7.90	
BANKBARODA	46.25	46.70	45.65	46.55	0.40	
OFSS	3049.00	3071.90	2981.00	3013.75	25.55	
BANDHANBNK	302.00	305.00	296.40	303.70	2.30	
DIVISLAB	3175.00	3250.00	3166.25	3188.35	23.55	
BERGEPAINT	577.00	583.80	572.35	581.45	3.60	
ICICIIG	1325.00	1333.00	1295.20	1312.00	6.65	
DABUR	503.90	508.00	499.55	506.65	2.45	
NHPC	20.70	20.85	20.65	20.80	0.10	
DLF	156.60	159.00	153.15	155.50	3.60	
COPAL	1416.60	1423.20	1405.80	1420.00	3.40	
HAVELLS	675.55	677.00	665.25	670.00	0.95	
SIEMENS	1247.00	1311.80	1233.45	1237.00	1.50	
SBICARD	859.00	865.50	856.50	856.00	0.95	
ICICIPRULI	432.65	436.00	424.75	430.00	-0.35	
ANANDTRANS	269.80	275.25	267.80	267.85	-0.25	
NMDC	90.60	90.60	88.80	89.45	-0.20	
UBL	1052.50	1063.90	1040.00	1049.65	-2.75	
GICRE	134.15	135.00	133.00	133.50	-0.55	
MCOWELL-N	548.50	551.50	539.05	542.00	-4.65	
PNB	33.95	33.95	33.00	33.25	-0.35	
DMAT	2185.00	2185.00	2130.00	2139.95	-22.75	
HDFCAMC	2350.00	2364.00	2305.00	2314.10	-35.90	
PAGEIND	19199.90	19414.00	18820.00	18840.00	-308.75	
MARICO	370.55	370.55	363.15	364.00	-6.55	
HINDZINC	226.50	231.30	219.50	219.90	-4.05	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	APOLITYRE	125.95	130.35	124.45	127.75
IDEA	11.84	12.20	11.66	11.75	BAJAJFINSV	6125.00	6155.30	6031.25	6121.45
RELIANCE	2315.00	2326.50	2288.20	2317.90	GSPL	214.60	224.60	211.65	217.90
TCIS	2487.50	2538.00	2459.90	2490.25	FCONSUMER	9.55	10.11	9.55	9.97
SBIN	199.65	201.00	197.15	200.15	BALKRISIND	1377.25	1396.45	1350.75	1378.15
BHARTIARTL	474.65	487.50	470.05	485.70	DIXON	9860.00	10168.45	9845.00	10022.00
ASHOKLEY	74.85	78.45	73.90	77.85	TATACHEM	306.60	312.90	304.60	306.05
KOTAKBANK	1305.10	1329.00	1288.65	1324.30	M&M	615.65	624.00	612.10	613.60
CIPLA	720.00	753.25	720.00	742.30	M&MFIN	135.00	138.65	134.15	138.05
BAJFINANCE	3475.85	3524.30	3455.05	3514.45	JUSTDIAL	381.00	399.00	380.75	392.70
DREDDY	4384.05	4546.80	4380.80	4443.20	JKCEMENT	1560.00	1586.00	1543.95	1580.35
INDUSINDBK	608.50	638.75	601.95	633.50	COROMANDEL	792.00	815.00	771.10	809.30
TATAMOTORS	149.60	149.60	146.55	148.30	JUBLFOOD	2367.00	2393.10	2349.80	2361.35
ICICIBANK	363.65	372.00	363.65	371.45	MPHASIS	1260.15	1349.00	1260.15	1329.95
ICICI	99.70	100.25	96.90	100.00	EDELWEISS	75.00	76.20	73.35	74.10
LE	908.30	914.70	900.00	909.95	DMART	2196.95	2196.95	2130.50	2135.55
DEEPAKNI	80.10	87.00	79.10	85.70	VEDL	1296.95	132.80	128.70	131.30
PVR	1296.00	1328.00	1258.80	1264.25	IRCTC	1375.00	1380.00	1360.65	1369.35
SIEMENS	1296.00	1311.20	1230.40	1235.00	STAR	680.00	69.15	67.30	681.60
HCLTECH	787.00	809.85	783.00	792.40	INFIBEAM	83.00	83.55	82.30	83.25
WIPRO	307.00	311.15	302.75	307.00	HEROMOTOCO	3023.00	3053.75	3008.85	3037.50
INFY	979.95	994.00	972.00	981.90	BANKBARODA	46.40	46.70	45.65	46.55
HDFCBANK	1066.00	1076.00	1058.00	1070.90	HINDALCO	17.80	17.90	17.40	17.85
TITAN	1194.00	1220.50	1170.20	1174.45	CESC	659.00	687.30	653.60	670.00
HDFCMMC	234.95	2374.95	2304.20	2314.00	PIIND	159.85	2024.95	1930.80	2014.70
ALKEAM	2945.00	2945.00	2835.00	2851.60	MCX	1764.00	1768.30	1683.85	1700.00
EICHERMOT	2190.00	2190.00	2120.00	2141.70	CADILAHC	375.00	378.60	367.40	375.05
AUROPHARMA	801.15	841.00	798.60	818.00	TATAPOWER	57.20	58.70	57.15	57.75
ANDAGNREIN	657.00	670.65	648.00	670.65	INDIAEMEP	12.40	12.70	12.05	12.35
ASIXBANK	411.50	457.70	436.50	449.65	BOSCHLTD	12900.00	13134.85	12836.45	13116.65
BAJAJ-AUTO	2950.30	2915.15	2923.20	2944.65	LTI	2679.75	2779.95	2652.00	2711.65
HINDUNILVR	2132.00	2137.25	2109.50	2125.00	HAL	843.95	860.00	823.00	844.00
SAIL	39.55	39.90	38.25	39.40	DABUR	50.95	50.75	49.80	50.85
RRLBANK	182.60	189.50	179.60	185.35	FTC	54.70	54.70	53.00	53.85
GAIL	92.05	92.70	91.10	92.10	PSC	69.30	74.00	69.30	73.20
TATASTEEL	407.00	410.30	403.70	405.25	JUBLINTAL	769.50	806.47	767.35	797.50
SYNGENE	542.10	594.75	526.50	561.75	IFBIND	599.00	697.05	590.00	641.05
DLF	156.50	159.05	153.55	155.50	IGL	40.95	42.10	40.85	41.95
ITC	184.00	184.00	180.85	181.80	NAVINFLOUR	2083.00	2205.00	2105.00	2182.10
PIDILITIND	1482.05	1514.90	1482.05	1499.20	PERSISTENT	1163.50	1239.00	1140.00	1171.00
IBULHSGFIN	191.00	191.45	184.75	185.85	IPCALAB	2147.60	2185.30	2076.10	2157.60
ESCORTS	1245.95	1256.10	1200.00	1229.55	ADARPCORP	35.00	356.60	35.10	351.55
APOLLOHOSP	1606.80	1698.90	1605.05	1672.95	BIRLAARJUN	67.40	721.00	66.10	714.35
PEL	1334.90	1359.65	1320.00	1346.75	FINEORG	323.90	3258.25	309.50	311.85
AAVAS	138.50	1440.15	1374.30	1421.90	EXIDEIND	162.15	163.65	160.45	163.40
DEVILASB	313.70	3249.60	3170.00	3192.80	BEL	105.65	106.95	103.95	104.90
JBCEPHARM	898.40	965.00	891.00	896.65	COLPAL	1417.00	1422.80	1406.00	1419.10
SUNPHARMA*	496.20	512.65	496.20	506.05	TVSOMOTR	45.10	459.40	44.75	455.40
BIOCON	429.40	445.00	429.40	440.00	ADANIGAS	20.50	20.95	20.05	20.75
BANDHANBNK	301.50	305.00	296.55	303.55	SRF	4360.00	4383.95	4277.70	4290.00
NTPC	91.10	92.70	90.60	91.00	AFLE	310.05	3143.00	297.60	3017.55
MARUTI	7150.00	7172.70	7008.00	7051.00	DISHTV	15.45	15.74	15.55	15.55
AMBER	1979.40	2114.25	1969.85	2064.70	MAMAPPURAM	159.50	162.00	154.55	159.65
VINTAGEORGA	1091.00	1239.95	1084.85	1193.00	RECLTD	107.60	109.40	106.55	108.85
HDFC	1755.00	1777.00	1744.95	1764.00	ACC	1379.00	1389.00	1351.60	1386.70
MINDTREE	1243.00	1255.70	1218.60	1252.75	ZYDUSWELL	1665.00	1806.00	1643.50	1783.00
LAURUSLABS	134.90	1359.90	1321.15	1341.95	53400M	5683.00	5250.00	5658.00	5683.00
JINDALSTEEL	210.00	211.40	202.75	205.85	IOC	82.50	83.40	81.85	82.35
TECHM	791.00	802.80	775.10	791.15	LICHSGFIN	30.70	307.00	299.50	303.00
HEDGEWARE	428.00	455.80	420.75	451.25	TRENT	70.20	755.10	70.20	750.95
ZEEL	217.90	220.20	216.00	217.25	NESTLEIND	16199.95	16199.95	16000.00	16038.40
INDIGO	1334.90	1354.95	1321.00	1344.15	ATUL	6500.00	6840.25	6500.00	6819.95
ASIANPAINT	2045.00	2049.05	2009.95	2018.00	SUNTV	50.25	50.55	49.65	49.50
					INFRASTAR	203.15	203.85	200.35	201.95
					GOEDRCEP	693.30	711.50	689.35	706.00
					IRB	122.90	122.90	119.10	121.00
					BLUEDART	300.00	300.60	255.10	287.00
					TATACONSUM	555.00	555.00	540.30	542.10
					BHARTATGSR	480.00	481.25	462.95	475.85
					BLISSGVS	154.50	155.45	151.45	155.45
					ABBOTINDIA	16382.00	17049.00	16382.00	16850.00
					IEX	211.70	214.95	201.10	204.95
					VIPIND	323.70	323.70	310.00	313.95
					HDFCLIFE	600.05	600.75	591.10	594.50
					AMARAJABAT	76.90	78.50	76.55	77.80
					CENTURYPLY	370.10	376.75	358.80	364.00
					ATAPOLTEX	2701.00	2836.95	2701.00	2816.50
					TORNTPHARM	2820.35	2887.35	2819.50	2859.60
					FDC	338.30	363.50	338.50	348.90
					CEATLTD	915.30	968.20	915.30	941.00
					CENTURYPLY	179.35	191.80	176.10	183.15
					EIDAMPAR	317.50	325.40	309.40	315.00
					TATAMTRDVR	61.30	64.10	60.75	63.65
					GLAXO	1738.85	1805.10	1766.85	1778.25
					AGSISLO	228.40	250.20	226.15	247.70
					BSOF	183.85	183.85	171.00	178.65
					PFIZER	5000.00	5116.00	4929.05	4936.00
					LAOPALA	212.50	250.60	210.70	225.70
					QUESS	42.00	446.00	41.70	438.25
					APLTD	912.50	955.00	912.50	926.45
					MSFL	61.80	633.00	61.80	616.00
					HAVELLS	67.90	67.80	66.50	66.90
					SUDARSCHEM	46.00	48.75	45.50	47.70
					COFORGE	2150.20	2175.00	2124.85	2130.95
					INDOCO	24.00	272.00	24.80	265.00
					ULTRACEMCO	3927.00	3953.00	3888.00	3933.05
					ANTIPHARM	1496.20	1575.00	1496.20	1510.00
					NCC	33.30	34.45	33.25	34.05
					FORUMOT	1120.35	1179.00	1108.25	1142.40
					PNBHOUSING	329.75	330.95	312.35	323.70
					CANFINHOME	42.60	43.90	41.70	43.45
					MUTHOOTFIN	1138.00	1141.65	1115.50	1133.00
					CYIENT	40.00	41.50	40.60	41.00
					ICIGI	131.00	1332.00	129.50	1312.00
					JYOTHYLAB	15.50	156.50	14.70	153.55
					PHILIPCARB	120.40	127.70	119.50	126.75
					HINDPETRO	197.10	199.95	194.90	198.20
					VOLTAS	695.00	695.00	678.10	682.00
					ONGC	74.10	74.35	73.25	73.75

BSE Sensex					NSE Nifty				
39,044.35					11,521.80				
287.72					81.75				
TOP GAINERS					TOP GAINERS				
Bharti Airtel 2.33					Cipla 2.88				
Axis Bank 2.17					HDFCCLTD 0.91				
Bajaj Fin 2.15					Axis Bank 2.34				
ICICI Bank 2.14					Bharti Airtel 2.31				
GAIL					HDFCCLTD				
BHEL 36.55					PUNB 33.95				
PNB 33.95					UPNL 516.00				
BPCL 420.00					IDFCFIRSTB 31.05				
SBICARD 856.00					FEDERALBNK 54.00				
CAPPL 553.00					BATAINDIA 1337.15				
GLAXO 1243.00					GLAXO 1243.00				
IDFC 29.55					IDFC 29.55				
COALINDIA 126.00					MOTHERSUMI 117.90				
CUMMINSIND 471.80					L&T 63.90				
AVANTI 539.40					GRANULES 376.50				
PRESTIGE 263.80					BRITANNIA 372.00				
RADIO 414.70					FRETAL 98.35				
NAUKRI 3440.00					GRASIM 714.00				
JYOTSWEE 290.00					SKRTRANSFIN 690.00				
INDIAMART 5055.00					TATAELSI 1329.00				
ADIENT 296.00					ADIENT 296.00				
CHOLAFIN 232.35					CHOLAFIN 232.35				

IRAN PLANNING TO AVENGE SOLEIMANI KILLING

Trump: Retaliation will be 1,000 times greater

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iran has denied the allegations.

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

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

Iran warns US against strategic mistake after Trump threat

AFP ■ TEHRAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Navalny posts hospital photo of himself, plans Russia return

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

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

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

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



Picture from Navalny's Instagram account

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trump presides as Israel, 2 Arab states sign historic pacts

Washington (AP): Declaring the dawn of a new Middle East, President Donald Trump on Tuesday presided over the signing of historic diplomatic pacts between Israel and two Gulf Arab nations that he hopes will lead to a new order in the Mideast and cast him as a peacemaker at the height of his reelection campaign.

Hundreds of people amassed on the sun-washed South Lawn to witness the signing of agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. The bilateral agreements formalize the normalization of the Jewish state's already thawing relations with the two Arab nations in line with their common opposition to Iran and its aggression in the region.

“We're here this afternoon to change the course of history, Trump said from a balcony overlooking the South Lawn. After decades of division and conflict, we mark the dawn of a new Middle East.

The agreements do not address the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While the UAE, Bahrain and other Arab countries support the Palestinians, the Trump administration has persuaded the two countries not to let that conflict keep them from having normal relations with Israel.

Trump's political backers are looking for the agreements to boost his standing as a statesman with just seven weeks to go before Election Day. Until now, foreign policy has not had a major role in a campaign dominated by the coronavirus, racial issues and the economy. The pandemic was in the backdrop of the White House ceremony, where there was no social distancing and most guests didn't wear masks. The agreements won't end active wars, but supporters believe they could pave the way for a broader Arab-Israeli rapprochement after decades of enmity and only two previous peace deals. Skeptics, including

many longtime Mideast analysts and former officials, have expressed doubts about their impact and lamented that they ignore the Palestinians, who have rejected them as a stab in the back by fellow Arabs.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted that Israel has only suspended its plans to annex West Bank settlements.

Yet even the harshest critics have allowed that the agreements could usher in a major shift in the region should other Arab nations, particularly Saudi Arabia, follow suit, with implications for Iran, Syria and Lebanon. Other Arab countries believed to be close to recognizing Israel include Oman, Sudan and Morocco.

“We are very down the road with about five different countries, Trump told reporters before the ceremony.

In addition to the bilateral agreements signed by Israel, the UAE and Bahrain, all three are signing a document dubbed

the Abraham Accords after the patriarch of the world's three major monotheistic religions.

The Palestinians have not embraced the US vision. Palestinian activists held small demonstrations on Tuesday in the West Bank and in Gaza, where they trampled and set fire to pictures of Trump, Netanyahu and the leaders of the UAE and Bahrain.

A poll released on Tuesday found that 86 per cent of Palestinians believe the normalization agreement with the UAE serves only Israel's interests and not their own. The poll, carried out by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, was carried out Sept. 9-12 and surveyed 1,270 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Even in Israel, where the accords have received widespread acclaim, there is concern they might result in US sales of

sophisticated weaponry to the UAE and Bahrain, thus potentially upsetting Israel's qualitative military edge in the region.

They're very wealthy countries for the most part ... some are extraordinarily, like UAE, Trump told Fox & Friends in an interview before the ceremony. And they would like to buy some fighter jets and I personally would have no problem with it.

Meanwhile, a politically vulnerable Netanyahu is facing questions about appearing at such a large event just days after he announced a new nationwide lockdown to fight a surge in coronavirus cases that will impose severe restrictions on movement and gatherings.

And while the UAE and Bahrain have a history of suppressing dissent and critical public opinion, there have been indications that the agreements are not nearly as popular or well-received as in Israel. Neither country sent its head of state or government to sign the

deals with Netanyahu.

Bahrain's largest Shiite-dominated opposition group, Al-Wefaq, which the government ordered dissolved in 2016 amid a yearslong crackdown on dissent, said there is widespread rejection of normalization. Al-Wefaq said in a statement that it joins other Bahrainis who reject the agreement to normalize ties with the Zionist entity, and criticized the government for crushing the public's ability to express opinions to obscure the extent of discontent at normalization.

The ceremony follows months of intricate diplomacy headed by Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, and the president's envoy for international negotiations, Avi Berkowitz.

On August 13, the Israel-UAE deal was announced. That was followed by the first direct commercial flight between the countries, and then the Sept. 11 announcement of the Bahrain-Israel agreement.

Japan PM Abe, Cabinet set to resign today

Tokyo (AP): Outgoing Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Cabinet are set to resign Wednesday morning, clearing the way for his successor to take over after parliamentary confirmation later in the day.

Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister, announced last month that he was stepping down because of health problems.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, long seen as Abe's right-hand man, was chosen Monday as the new head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party, virtually guaranteeing his election as prime minister in a parliamentary vote Wednesday because of the party's majority.

Suga, a self-made politician

and the son of a strawberry grower in the northern prefecture of Akita, has stressed his background in promising to serve the interests of ordinary people and rural communities.

He has said he will pursue Abe's unfinished policies, and that his top priorities will be fighting the coronavirus and turning around an economy battered by the pandemic. He gained the support of party heavyweights and their followers early in the campaign on expectations he would continue Abe's line.

Suga has been a loyal supporter of Abe since Abe's first stint as prime minister from 2006 to 2007. Abe's tenure ended abruptly because of illness, and Suga helped him return as prime minister in 2012.

Suga has praised Abe's diplomacy and economic policies when asked about what he would like to accomplish as prime minister.

Suga, who does not belong to any wing within the party and opposes factionalism, says he is a reformer who will break down vested interests and rules that hamper reforms. He says he will set up a new government agency to speed up Japan's lagging digital transformation.

Suga said he will appoint reform-minded, hard-working people to the new Cabinet, to be launched later Wednesday. Media reports say some key ministers, including Finance Minister Taro Aso, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Olympic Minister Seiko Hashimoto, will stay.

Belarusian opposition condemns Russia for backing Lukashenko

Moscow (AP): The Kremlin said Tuesday that a 1.5 billion loan it offered to Belarus carried no political conditions, despite claims by the Belarusian opposition that Russia is trying to shore up the nation's authoritarian ruler amid post-election protests.

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the loan when he hosted his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko for more than four hours of talks Monday in Sochi on Russia's Black Sea coast.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the loan wasn't contingent on any political moves. Like any loan, it has commercial conditions but there was no talk about any other conditions, he told reporters during a conference call Tuesday.

Protesters in Belarus have dismissed Lukashenko's reelection for a sixth term in the Aug. 9 presidential vote as rigged, and massive demonstrations have entered their sixth week.

The United States and the European Union have both criticized the election as neither free nor fair and urged the Belarusian leader to engage in talks with the opposition, a demand he has rejected.

The Western pressure has left Lukashenko to rely exclusively on assistance from Russia, which has a union agreement with Belarus envisaging close political, economic and military ties. Putin quickly congratulated Lukashenko on his re-election and promised to send Russian police to Belarus if protests there turn violent.

Peskov said after Monday's talks that Russia would now pull back from the border a law enforcement contingent set aside for possible deployment to Belarus. Despite the close cooperation, the two neighbors often engaged in acrimonious disputes in the past, with Lukashenko denouncing what he described as Kremlin pressure on Belarus to abandon its independence.

In a shift of rhetoric,

Lukashenko on Monday showered Putin with praise for helping Belarus and emphasizing the need to counter what he described as hostile plans by NATO.

He offered to intensify joint military drills, noting that the recent developments have shown that we need to stand closer to our older brother.

Putin emphasized that Russian paratroopers sent to Belarus for joint drills will leave the country after the exercise. Peskov said the leaders did not discuss the possibility of basing Russian troops in Belarus.

The Coordination Council that the Belarusian opposition created after the vote to push for a new election criticized Russia for backing Lukashenko.

Support for the actions of Belarus law enforcement agencies, for the policy of repression instead of dialogue, will undoubtedly have a serious negative impact on bilateral relations, it said in a statement.

No info on reported detentions in Taiwan, says Hong Kong

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

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

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

US issues sweeping new travel warning for China, Hong Kong

AFP ■ BEIJING

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

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

The new advisory warned US citizens that China impos-

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

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

China successfully launches 9 satellites into orbit from ship

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

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

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

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

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

AFP ■ BERLIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

Johnson's controversial bill clears first hurdle

London (PTI): UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's controversial bill that aims to override parts of the Brexit divorce agreement struck with the European Union (EU) cleared its first parliamentary hurdle by winning the first House of Commons vote by 340 to 263 votes.

The Internal Market Bill, which has faced strong criticism from the Opposition parties and senior members of Johnson's own Conservative Party, is set for rebellions as it progresses through further stages in its parliamentary process despite Johnson's 80-seat majority in the Commons. The government says the bill contains vital safeguards to protect Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK if negotiations on a future trade deal with the EU break down.

But critics warn that it risks damaging the UK by breaching international law. Two ruling Tory party members of the parliament- Sir Roger Gale and Andrew Percy- voted against the bill on Monday night, while a further 30 abstained, which includes general absences from the House. During a five-hour debate ahead of the vote on Monday evening, Johnson claimed the EU's current approach could lead to excessive checks and even tariffs on

goods moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.

He said the bill would ensure the UK's “economic and political integrity,” accusing the EU of making unfair demands to “exert leverage” in the trade talks – including a threat to block food exports.

“Now that we have left the EU, and the transition period is about to elapse, we need the armature of our law once again to preserve the arrangements on which so many jobs and livelihoods depend. That is the fundamental purpose of this bill,” he told the MPs.

“I regret to have to tell the House that in recent months the EU has suggested that it is ready to go to extreme and unreasonable lengths using the Northern Ireland Protocol in a way that goes well beyond common sense, simply to exert leverage against the UK in our negotiations for a free trade agreement,” he claimed.

“I understand how some people will feel uneasy over the use of these powers. And I share that sentiment myself and I have absolutely no desire to use these measures. They are an insurance policy,” he added.

The prime minister also held a call with his Tory party members of the House of Lords on Monday night in anticipation of the bill eventually moving to the Lords.

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



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

Second NATA 2020 held

The second test of National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) for admission to first year of five year BArch degree Programme for the academic year 2020-2021 has been successfully conducted by the Council of Architecture (COA), all over India on September 12, 2020. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Aptitude Test was conducted in two modes i.e. Centre Based and Home Based and candidates were free to choose the mode convenient to them as a comprehensive online aptitude test with both components — Part-A (Cognitive skills for Drawing and Visual Composition Test) and Part-B (Test on Scientific Ability & General Aptitude) to be answered on PC/laptop. The HBT mode was introduced by the Council for the

first time as an online proctored examination using Artificial Intelligence technology. A total of 30999 aspiring candidates enrolled for second test out of which 22289 candidates appeared for the examination. 8202 candidates appeared from their homes and 14087 candidates appeared for online examination in 158 designated centres pan India and at one centre in Dubai in two shifts. The Centre-based Test was conducted duly observing all protocols/ SOPs mandated for the safety of Candidates at the test centres. The result will be declared on or before September 17, 2020. The best score obtained by the candidates out of the two tests shall be the final valid score for admission.

IT'S A NEET ANALYSIS

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

Here is a detailed analysis of the paper.

PHYSICS

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

CHEMISTRY

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

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

BOTANY

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

ZOOLOGY

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

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

Detailed analysis:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Upskilling is key

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

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

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

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

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



ensure their personal and professional growth.

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

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

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

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

The writer is the Founder & CEO of Speakin

Get ready to play

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



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

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

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

Opportunities galore

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

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

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

Pursuing a career in gaming

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

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

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

Analysing the future potential

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

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

The writer is Founder, Pacific Gaming

SRM MCHRS signs MoU with NIS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

New CSIA president appointed

Placement opportunities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

companies across the globe.

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

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

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

PRADEEP KUMAR PANDEY

TIPS TO ACE CAT

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

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

Type-I: Solo DI Sets:

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

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

Type-II: Solo LR Sets:

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

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

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

based upon complexity or number of variables in problem sets.

Type-III: Topic Based DILR Sets:

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

Type-IV: Mixture of DI and LR Sets:

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

Type-V: New Puzzle types:

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

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

The writer is Academic Head, TIME, Delhi

‘Fashion needs to reinvent now’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mithun Bhardwaj
Director, Zashed Fashiontech

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MIND IT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is Rakesh Kharwal, MD-India, Cyberbit



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

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

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

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

Application deadline: It is November 1, 2020.

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

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

Eligibility: An applicant must be a full-time participant and demonstrate aptitude, research skill, material and/or performance-related productions and activities. The participants need to upload unofficial transcripts, letter of intent, curriculum vitae, and language ability proof. **Admission requirements:** The participants must have an undergraduate degree in applying to a graduate degree programme. **Language requirement:** Overseas applicants are suggested to take the TOEFL or IELTS test for demonstrating their English language ability.

How to apply: There is no additional application for the grant. All eligible participants will be considered for the grant, after the enrollment in a master or a PhD degree program at the university.

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

WEB DESIGN AT THE DREAMER DESIGNS

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

SOFTWARE TESTING AT 361 DEGREE MINDS

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

FRONT END DEVELOPMENT AT MEINIGAR TECHNOLOGIES

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

PRODUCT DESIGN AT BOOKMARK PROJECTS TRUST

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

TELECALLING AT BEHIND THE SCREENS

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

CONTENT WRITING AT ACROSS CODE

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

CUSTOMER SERVICE AT OZIVA

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

STUDY ABROAD

New points-based immigration system opens

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

The UK Immigration Minister Kevin Foster MP has announced that a Student route and Child Student route will open on October 5, 2020 to the best and brightest Indian students as part of

the Government's commitment to introduce a new points-based immigration system.

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

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

The Minister reassured his

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

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

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

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

IN BRIEF

SURVEY: POSITIVE CHANGE WITH NEP 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TERM SYSTEM IN MBA PROGRAMME AT IIT ROORKEE

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

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

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

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

POWER OF 3

AP ■ BRIGHTON

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

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

James' was the most spectacular



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Murray gets French Open wildcard

AP ■ PARIS

Andy Murray received a wild card into the French Open.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DC has firepower to go all the way: Axar

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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



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

think we can become champions this time.

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

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

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

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

"Nevertheless, the positive thing

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

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

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

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

COVID-19 episode made me mentally stronger: Manpreet

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

His team will take on Sunrisers Hyderabad on September 21 in its opening match of the league, which begins on September 19 in the UAE.

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

The Karnataka left-hander is being talked about highly in the Indian cricket circles after top-scoring in both the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy. The 20-year-old enjoys an astonishing strike rate of 175 plus and an average of 64 in 12 games. He has a hundred and five fifties.

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



Fuming Paire shows little effort in 1st-round loss

AP ■ ROME

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It was a good training, I'm happy I played one hour. I even played one hour and four minutes. I'm happy I hung on for 1:04. I gave what I could. Jannik played very well."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Karen Khachanov 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; Borna Coric beat Cristian Garin 6-4, 6-4; Grigor Dimitrov eliminated wild card Gianluca

Mager 7-5, 6-1; and Filip Krajinovic beat Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 7-5.

Bumrah probably the best T20 bowler: Pattinson



IANS ■ ABU DHABI

While terming Jasprit Bumrah as the best T20 bowler in the world, Australia pacer James Pattinson has said he is looking forward to working with the India pacer and New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult, among others, in the Mumbai Indians' bowling unit during the Indian Premier League (IPL) starting on

September 19.

"Personally, it's just fantastic to work with some of the best bowlers in the world. Obviously, Bumrah is probably the best T20 bowler in the world. And Boult [Trent Boult] is up there as well. So, for me it will be a great experience to be around those guys," Pattinson said in a video shared on Mumbai Indians' official handle. "I have played a few One-day Internationals here in the UAE before, so I have got a bit of experience over here in UAE."

Reigning champions MI named Pattinson as a replacement for veteran fast bowler Lasith Malinga for this year's IPL.

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

Finally, Thomas & Uber Cup postponed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

"BWF is looking into possible



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

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

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

Among top players, India's Saina

Nehwal had on Sunday raised concerns about the timing of the event, asking whether it would be safe to go ahead with it in the middle of the pandemic.

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

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

by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vimal blames Asian nations withdrawal for postponement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

for the sport," Vimal told PTI.

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

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

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

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

"We are not as big as China but India stood positive, we wanted to participate but if big countries don't play, what can BWF do? How will they conduct events? I'll blame the Asian nation for this mess."

The international body, though, decided to proceed with the Denmark Open in Odense, a HSBC BWF World Tour Event, as originally planned from October 13-18, while cancelling the Denmark Masters that was slated for October 20-25.

The decision to go ahead with the Denmark Open has left a few Indian players, including P V Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap, confused.

"We are still confused what to do under the cir-

cumstances. Saina has got a visa for Denmark and I have applied for it but we are still undecided about participation," Kashyap said.

"There are many questions like what happens if I test positive? Will I be sent back home or I will have to stay there for 14 days? Who takes care of the expenses and responsibility?"

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Tuesday wrote to the players who have sent their entries for the Denmark Open, stating that they would be "travelling or participating at their own responsibility due to the current pandemic" and "have to send their consent within September 17".

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

The governing body admitted

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

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