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LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

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Opp begins Session boycott

Suspended MPs end sit-in; united Opp plans long-term protest against farm Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties led by the Congress on Tuesday began the boycott of the remaining part of the Monsoon Session to demand the revocation of the suspension of eight MPs and the introduction of a Bill to bar private players from buying farm produce below the minimum support price (MSP).

The battle-line drawn between the ruling BJP and the Opposition after the passing of two controversial farm Bills in the Rajya Sabha impacted the Lok Sabha, too, where Opposition members, including from the DMK, Congress, NCP and TMC, boycotted the proceedings demanding "withdrawal" of the Bills before they are sent to the President for his consent.

While the Opposition members staged a walkout in the Rajya Sabha and announced to boycott the entire ongoing session, the Opposition MPs in the Lok Sabha joined them to express solidarity with them.

The eight suspended members who were on a sit-in dharna overnight on Parliament premises called off their protest and joined the Lok Sabha MPs to strategise a broad-based boycott.

"Senior Opposition leaders,

including Congress Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad, appealed to all of us sitting at the dharna to finish it and join them in boycotting the rest of the session. That is how we have ended this dharna," said Congress Rajya Sabha member Syed Nasir Hussain.

"We not only want our suspension to be revoked but also want the farm Bills to be taken back and discussed further. There should be proper voting on it," Hussain said.

Hussain is among the eight MPs who were suspended for the remaining part of the Session over "gross disorderly conduct" during the passage of the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 on Sunday.

Trinamool Congress' Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen, Congress' Rajeev Satav, Ripun Bora, Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh, CPI(M)'s Elamaram Kareem and KK Ragesh are the other suspended MPs.

Soon after the Upper House resumed, the Opposition parties led by Congress staged a walkout after their demand for revocation of suspension of the eight

MPs fell on deaf ears. In order to pacify the members at dharna, the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh had offered them tea requesting them to call off their protest but in vain.

Congress Rajya Sabha member and Chief Whip Jairam Ramesh took to twitter to give seven reasons behind the decision to boycott the proceedings.

Several senior Opposition leaders, including Azad, Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav, Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and NCP Praful Patel, appealed to Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to revoke the suspension of the eight leaders.

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Congress MP Ghulam Nabi Azad and other Opposition MPs stage a walkout from the Rajya Sabha, demanding suspension of 8 lawmakers be revoked, during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament, at Parliament House in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

Harivansh observes fast to express anguish over MPs' unruly behaviour

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented act in the history of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh went on a one-day fast on Tuesday to express his anguish over the Opposition MPs' "unruly" behaviour during the vote on the farm Bills on Sunday.

He also wrote letter to President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu narrating the incident which had led him to announce the token fast in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Parliament.

Harivansh announced his fast shortly after he met eight Rajya Sabha members protesting on the lawns on the Parliament complex and offered them tea, a gesture that the MPs snubbed.

"After what happened on Sunday, I have been extremely anguished, distressed and in mental agony and have been unable to sleep for the past two days..." "In the name of democracy, Opposition members behaved in a violent manner and there were attempts to intimidate the Chair," Harivansh wrote in his letter.

Continued on Page 4



Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh offers tea to suspended MPs on the premises of Parliament on Tuesday morning

PTI

Sharad Pawar gets I-T notice on poll affidavits

Mumbai: NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday said the Income Tax department has served him a notice in connection with his poll affidavits submitted to the Election Commission. Talking to reporters here, Pawar said the Income Tax department has sought his "clarification and explanation" on some poll affidavits furnished by him.

"I got the notice yesterday...We are happy that they (the Centre) love us from among all the members...The notice was served by Income Tax after the Election Commission asked (it) to...We



will reply to the notice," he said.

He was responding to a query on reports that his daughter and Lok Sabha member Supriya Sule, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray had received similar notices from the I-T department.

LAC talks inconclusive but raises hopes

Both sides agree to stop sending more troops to frontline, to avoid misunderstandings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 14-hour military-diplomatic level talks between India and China on Monday to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) ended on a positive note.

The talks were held in a positive manner, and it is hoped that another two to three rounds of dialogues in the coming days may start the process of disengagement of troops.

India and China on Tuesday in a joint statement after the sixth round of Corps Commanders talks agreed to "stop sending more troops to

the frontline" and "refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground" while agreeing to hold more talks to resolve the standoff.

"They agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthen communication on the ground, avoid misunderstandings and misjudgements, stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any actions that may complicate the situation," the joint statement said on the senior military commander-level held



on Monday. The two sides had candid and in-depth exchanges of views on stabilising the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas, it stated.

Sources said while the disengagement is yet to be agreed

upon, the recent talks will ensure there will not be any further build up along the LAC. The two sides also agreed to hold the third round of military commander level talks as soon as possible, "take practical measures to properly solve problems on the ground, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquillity in the border area," the statement added.

Also, the two delegations reaffirmed their commitment to abide by the five-point plan outlined by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi for disengagement.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

RHEA CHAKRABORTY IN REMAND TILL OCT 6

Mumbai: A special court here on Tuesday extended till October 6 the judicial custody of actress Rhea Chakraborty, who was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) probing the drug angle in connection with actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

ACTRESS ASHALATA WABGAONKAR DIES

Satara: Veteran actress Ashalata Wabgaonkar, who had worked in a number of Marathi and Hindi films, died on early Tuesday morning at a private hospital here after battling Covid-19, hospital authorities said. She was 79. Wabgaonkar was also a noted Marathi theatre personality and had featured in several plays.

HSRP, COLOUR-CODED STICKERS CHECK IN DELHI

New Delhi: The transport dept of the Delhi Government on Tuesday asked owners of vehicles registered before April 2019 to affix them with high security registration plates and colour-coded stickers, saying a drive will be launched "soon" to check for the violation of the directive. Colour-coded stickers are meant for identifying vehicles on their fuel type.

UG, PG calendar out: Admission by Oct 31, Session from Nov 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday released the tentative calendar for the first year university students of undergraduate and postgraduate courses for the session 2020-21 which have been rescheduled due to the corona pandemic. The new academic session for freshers will now begin in November, and the delay will also impact the next academic session as well.

As per the schedule, the admission process has to be

completed by October 31, and session has to begin from November 1. The calendar has also suggested certain preparation breaks to be followed by the universities, colleges, institutions and the next session to begin on April 30, 2021.

The UGC had, in April, released an alternative academic calendar for colleges, with the plan to reopen colleges in September, but the delay in entrance exams and Covid infections surge has pushed the session by two months.

Continued on Page 4

Admission Process (To be completed)	31.10.2020
Commencement of Classes of above students Fresh batch (First Semester/Year)	01.11.2020
Preparation Break	01.03.2021 to 07.03.2021
Conduct of Examinations	08.03.2021 to 26.03.2021
Semester Break	27.03.2021 to 04.04.2021
Commencement of Classes for Even Semester	5.04.2021
Preparation Break	01.08.2021 to 08.08.2021
Conduct of Examinations	09.08.2021 to 21.08.2021
Semester Break	22.08.2021 to 29.08.2021
Commencement of Next Academic Session for this batch	30.08.2021

Yogi discusses Film City with B'wood fraternity

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Within two days of the announcement on setting up a Film City in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled an ambitious plan to set up a Dedicated Infotainment (Film City) Zone and rolled out an open offer to the film fraternity to shoot their films in the proposed zone.

Yogi also announced that 1,000 acres of land had been identified in Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida) by Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) where the Infotainment Zone would be set up with world-class civil, public and technological facilities.

The film personalities immediately lapped up the government's prompt action and said it was a "right step at the right time". They spoke with the chief minister, who chaired a meeting with them on the film industry in UP.

Yogi said that the proposed site was just an hour away from New Delhi and close to the upcoming Jewar international airport.

He also said that due to its proximity to the Taj City Agra and Lord Krishna's birthplace Mathura, the proposed zone



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath meeting with film personalities on the Film City project on Tuesday

had facilities of transport and movement.

The chief minister said that UP was surrounded by seven states and provided a mosaic of culture, dialects and religious, Vedic and mythological historicity unparalleled to any other state. He said the ethos and traditions amplified the vast natural and spiritual canvas of UP.

Yogi said that efforts would be made to make it the best Dedicated Infotainment Zone of the country.

"We are aware of the present trend of OTT and media-streaming platforms. Hence a high capacity, world class data centre along with pre-production and post-production infrastructure, processing labs, VFX and digital technology would be provided in the zone.

"We have locations, cultural diversity, man power and with the setting up of a state-of-the-art Film City with all facilities, UP would become a sought destination in this field," the chief minister said.

Yogi said that all industrial policies would be applicable for takers and a single window mechanism would be used to facilitate people wanting to come to UP to set up a studio.

"The state government's Film Policy-2018 already has some provisions. Some proposals have come from the film fraternity and they will be considered by the government," he said.

The film personalities, including Vijayendra Prasad, Ashok Pandit (director),

Kailash Kher (singer), Manoj Joshi, (producer-director), Shri Nitin Desai (producer-director), Vinod Bachchan, (producer-director), Pragna Kumar, Udit Narayan and Anup Jalota (singers) were present at the meeting.

Besides, Saundarya Rajnikant, Anupam Kher, Atul Agnihotri, Paresw Rawal (Chairman of Pune Film Institute), Manoj Muntashir (lyricist) and Satish Kaushik interacted with the chief minister on virtual platforms.

Recovery rising, Covid curve may soon flatten in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the number of patients recovering from COVID-19 infection continuing to top the infected persons, the recovery has gone up to 81 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, indicating that the curve could start flattening soon in the state.

As per reports, 5,722 fresh coronavirus positive cases were reported on Tuesday, while 6,589 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovery. The death toll touched the 5,212-mark with 77 fresh casualties on Tuesday.

“The recovery rate of COVID-19 patients is rising with each passing day and has touched 81.25 per cent,” Additional Chief Secretary, (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said in Lucknow on Tuesday.

He said that there were 63,148 active cases across the state while 2.96 lakh COVID-19 patients had recovered, including 6,589 discharged from hospitals on Tuesday.

The additional chief secretary said that 1.50 lakh samples were tested on Monday and there were 32,312 asymptomatic patients in home isolation.

“There are 3,864 patients in private hospitals, 219 in semi-paid hotels while the rest are in government-run Covid hospitals,” he said.

A total of 1.89 lakh COVID-19 patients have preferred home isolation and 1.57 lakh have recovered.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to go for strict contact tracing in Lucknow and Kanpur Nagar where the spread of novel coronavirus was higher than other parts of the state.

Yogi asked the Health department officials to strengthen SGPGI, KGMU and RML super-speciality hospitals in Lucknow and upgrade GSVN Medical College hospital in Kanpur Nagar.

He also said that RML Hospital in Lucknow be transformed into a dedicated Covid hospital.



NOTICE

I, Ayush Pal S/o Rajendra Kumar Pal, R/o Modern Academy Campus, Viram Khand-5, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow have lost my original ICSE and ISC Marksheets, UID Number-5903155, year 2015&2017.

NOTICE

This is to inform that the name of my son Tejes is misspelt/wrong in his school records. His correct name is Tejas. Anoop Kumar S/o Late Sarju Prasad Add-453/79 Ahmadganj Pajawa Thakurganj, Lko.

NOTICE

It is declare that due to some mistake there is some mistake in army record of my brother's Ajeet sing (Army No. 4588458L-SEP Ajeet Singh 17 Mahar regiment) date of birth. My brother died now and his actual date of birth is 05-09-2004 instead of 06-09-2005. Which must be correct in army record. Chandrabhan Singh S/o Amar Singh, R/o Vill - Sikandarpur, Tahseel Chhtramu, Dist. Kannauj.

आवश्यकता

आवश्यकता है

पुष्पा सिंह विधि महाविद्यालय बरेली बुनार मिर्जापुर उत्तर प्रदेश सम्बद्ध- महात्मा गांधी काशी विद्यापीठ वाराणसी।

स्ववित्तपोषित योजनान्तर्गत विधि संकाय में प्राचार्य एवं प्रवक्तृओं की आवश्यकता है योग्यता यू0जी0सी0 एवं बी0सी0आई0 परिनियमावली के अनुसार इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी 21 दिन के अंदर सभी शैक्षिक प्रमाण पत्रों एवं फोटो सहित महाविद्यालय के पते पर आवेदन करें

संपर्क सूत्र: प्रबंधक 9415085950, 7355365236

आवश्यकता

आवश्यकता है

मदरसा हेसामुल उलूम कशिया (पूर्व) कौशाम्बी में

आधुनिकरण योजनान्तर्गत भारत सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित मानदेय पर एक अभ्यापक की आवश्यकता है। परास्नातक /प्रशिक्षित स्नातक अथवा स्नातक जिनकी आयु 18 वर्ष से कम न हो। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी अपना आवेदन पत्र समस्त शैक्षिक योग्यताओं सहित विज्ञापन की तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर प्रबन्धक के पदनाम से सी0-379 कैरौली प्रयागराज के पते पर भेजें।

प्रबन्धक

मदरसा हेसामुल उलूम कशिया (पूर्व) कौशाम्बी

Film industry hails Yogi, UP govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Elated at the proposal to set up a Film City in Uttar Pradesh, members of the film fraternity said it could transform Indian film industry as majority of workforce came from the state.

Interacting with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, art director Nitin Desai offered to set up a Film City akin to the one in Mumbai. “Since 80 per cent of technicians and workforce in Mumbai film industry are from UP, manpower availability will not be a problem,” he said.

Meanwhile, Sandeep Singh of Singapore-based Vistas Media offered to set up a film academy with an initial investment of 10 million dollars.

Chairman of Film Producers Association, Ashok Pandit, welcomed the proactive government action and said that one should look beyond Hindi films.



“After all Bhojpuri films are already made here,” he said.

Veteran actor Anupam Kher said that the proposed Film City would have global recognition and emphasised on training, asking people to evolve training logistics.

Film producer and director Satish Kaushik, who recently shot ‘Kagaz’ in UP, said that the

state offered a great alternative to film professionals and aspirants.

“The vantage location of the Film City will serve a large geography and demography of the northern region,” he said.

Lyricist Manoj Muntashir hailed the state government for taking Hindi film industry to the Hindi-speaking belt.

“Local ethos and mosaic cul-

“Since 80 per cent of technicians and workforce in Mumbai film industry are from UP, manpower availability will not be a problem”

ture will be boosted if film institute and music academy are also built in UP” he said.

Tamil film-maker R Saundarya said that animation, digital technology and other facilities were the need of the hour which had been proposed in the Film City of UP.

Well-known singers Udit Narayan, Kailash Kher and Anup Jalota praised the UP government and the chief minister for making such a huge decision in a short time.

SP claims Film City was its dream project

Lucknow (PNS): With film personalities lauding the Yogi Adityanath government for promptly deciding to set up a Film City in the Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party claimed that the project was a dream project of former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav.

“The Bharatiya Janata Party government is making a false claim of setting up a Film City in Noida. The BJP is now ready to inaugurate the Film City earlier developed by the SP government. But this entire exercise will be a flop show,” commented SP chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday. While the UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA)

has hurriedly identified 1,000 acres of land for the proposed Film City in Sector 21 of Greater Noida, it was earlier earmarked for a night safari during the Mulayam Singh Yadav regime in 2005. During the Akhilesh regime too, the night safari proposal was approved by the cabinet in August 2013 and was slated to be set up under the PPP Model. The safari was slated to be developed on the lines of open zoos in China and Singapore. The project however failed to take off.

Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party announced on Twitter that it would not contest Bihar Assembly polls and would support

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) candidates.

Confirming the decision, SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said on Tuesday that the party decision would boost the unity of secular forces in Bihar and stop the BJP from coming to power again.

Party sources however claimed that there were two primary reasons for not contesting the Bihar polls. Firstly, the party would focus on UP Assembly polls slated for 2022 and to get support of other secular parties. Secondly, the SP does not have a strong base in Bihar and hence does not want to waste its energy and resources.

Mathura tense after lynching of Gujjar youth

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Tension prevailed after a Gujjar youth was lynched and his friend injured after being attacked by members of Thakur community in Mathura on Monday night.

One of the youths had come to the village to meet his lady love when the incident took place. A heavy police force was deployed in the area to defuse tension between the two communities and four persons were arrested and other absconding assailants were being searched.

As per reports, Saheb Singh (22) of Parkham Gujjar hamlet of Jait in Vrindavan Kotwali area and his friend Lakshman Singh went to meet Saheeb’s lady love in the neighbouring Bharatiya village on Monday night.

While the youths were Gujjars, the girl belongs to Thakur community.

Upon learning about their presence in the area, the girl’s kin, accompanied by some locals, cornered the youths and brutally assaulted them. While Saheb died on the spot, his friend was seriously

injured.

The police rushed to the area after being informed about the incident and took four of the girl’s kin into custody.

The cops also rescued the injured youth and admitted him to hospital.

Later, additional police force was deployed in there and the area was being patrolled to avert any clash.

Meanwhile in Kannauj, the bodies of teenage lovers were found hanging from a tree.

Abhay Kumar aka Bhura (21) of Balanpur hamlet of Sadar Kotwali area had an affair with his neighbour Upasana (19). However, their family members were opposed to the affair as both came from different communities.

On Monday evening, both went missing. Assuming that they had eloped, their kin did not report the incident to the police.

However, on Tuesday morning, some locals found their bodies hanging from a tree in a mango orchard on the outskirts of the village. Later their families and the local police were informed. The bodies

were sent for autopsy and a probe was underway.

In Jaunpur, the husband of a former district panchayat member was shot at on Tuesday morning.

Former district panchayat member Malta Devi’s husband Suresh Chandra Saroj along with Lallu Yadav of Bangaon Patti, Dr Rajkumar and Indradev Mishra of Kamalpur went for a darshan at Mahaveer temple at Bijethua area on Tuesday morning.

While they were coming out of the temple premises, youths on two motorcycles wearing helmets stopped near them and fired at Saroj, hitting him on his head. As he collapsed to the ground, the assailants sped off.

The injured was rushed to a community health centre from where he was referred to the district hospital in a critical condition.

The police have so far failed to identify any enmity that could lead to the bloody attack.

A case was registered and the incident was being investigated.

Lallu seeks package for Bundelkhand farmers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After attacking the Bharatiya Janata Party government over the passing of Farmers’ Bills in the last few days, UP Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu demanded a special package for farmers of Bundelkhand.

In a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Lallu highlighted the problems faced by farmers of Bundelkhand and asked him for their immediate redressal, citing recent suicides due to poverty and rising debts.

The UP Congress leader claimed that he visited Bundelkhand recently and met farmers’ families, including those who committed suicide. He said that the main reason forcing farmers to end their lives was pressure on repaying the loans of cooperative societies and private lenders despite being dogged by severe economic crunch caused by the

lockdown. Lallu claimed that insurance companies that collected premium against crop insurance did the vanishing act. “Besides, scarcity of water, abolition of government subsidy given to install tube wells, low quality seeds and urea sold through government outlets, no government help for crops and no job opportunities in the region were visibly palpable,” he wrote. The UP Congress leader charged that in this time of distress, no government agency or officials was ready to listen to farmers’ woes, leaving no option for farmers but to commit suicide. Lallu urged Yogi Adityanath to pay immediate attention to the backward region and alleviate the condition of the lower strata. He also requested the chief minister to extend immediate financial package for the farming community and put a stop to growing suicides by farmers in Bundelkhand.

BSP rejigs organisation

Lucknow (PNS): With the aim to galvanise party cadre and gear up for the 2022 Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati effected changes in responsibilities of divisional main sector representatives on Tuesday. The BSP had earlier announced to contest the bypolls to all the eight UP Assembly seats. Sources in the BSP said that Shamsuddin Raini was given the responsibility of major divisions of Uttar Pradesh as well as Uttarakhand.

BSP state chief Munquad Ali was shifted from western to eastern UP. Raini’s political stature in the BSP has been steadily growing since Naseemuddin Siddiqui quit the party. Raini was appointed coordinator of Uttarakhand along with the responsibility of being sector-in-charge of five divisions of UP. He will be in-charge of Sector-2 comprising Lucknow division along with Saharanpur, Meerut, Moradabad and Bareilly. The BSP chief entrusted Munquad Ali with the responsibility of Mirzapur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Azamgarh divisions. However, he will also oversee the state organisation. Besides, former MP Ghanshyam Kharwar was made in-charge of Gorakhpur, Basti, Faizabad and Deviptan divisions.

यू० पी० प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि०
(अंतर प्रदेश सरकार का सार्वजनिक उपक्रम) CIN U15209UP1978SGC004285
कालिंद महाप्रबन्धक, ज०-३, मोरारी बेराज, बी०ए०, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ-२२६०१०
संपर्क : ०९४५४४१९३१ ई-मेल : gm3uppc394@gmail.com, gm_3upprojects.org

पत्र सं० ११४ पी०सी०एल०/महाप्रब० ज०न-३/ लखनऊ/ई-रेवेयर दिनांक २२/०९/२०२०

अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

जनपद महराजगंज के विकास अण्ड- नौतनवा ग्राम बगनी सोलर लाइट, पिच रोड एवं पुलिया का निर्माण कार्य हेतु इस कार्यलय की निविदा सूचना ०७/२०२०-२१/PC/L/GM/Zone-3/Lucknow, दिनांक २२.०९.२०२० द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है। यह निविदा <https://www.etender.up.nic.in> के पोर्टल पर दिनांक २४.०९.२०२० से दिनांक ०८.१०.२०२० के अपराह्न ३:०० बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिसकी टेक्निकल बिड दिनांक ०८.१०.२०२० को अपराह्न ४:०० बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण व शर्तें कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर देखी जा सकती है। महाप्रबन्धक ज०न-३

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tendering Tender Notice Date: 18.09.2020

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), Prayagraj, North Central Railway, Prayagraj invites E-Tenders in prescribed forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work up to 15:00 Hrs of Date of opening of tender:-

E-Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Tender System
NCR-M-PRYJ-TMRS-15-20	Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of 04 Nos. Automatic Axle/Bearing Temperature Measurement & Recording System (HBD lite) and Prefabricated Porta Hut for 04 Nos. Automatic Axle/Bearing Temperature Measurement & Recording System (HBD lite) at rolling in Point in UP & DN line at Tundia Yard in Prayagraj division.	Single packet system

E.M.D.: ₹ 65300/- Tender Value: ₹ 3263664.28 Cost of E-tender Form: Free. Period of work: 06 months. Date of publishing on IREPS website: 24.09.2020. Date of opening of tender: 16.10.2020. Similar work definition for minimum Eligibility Criteria: NA. Note: 1. The complete information along with tender booklet of above E-Tenders will be available/uploaded since Date of publishing on IREPS website and shall be remained on Website www.ireps.gov.in up to 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 entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. This tender notice have also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 6. E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. 7. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 8. Any firm recognized by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) as 'Startups' shall be exempted from payment of earnest money deposit detailed above. 100% Govt. owned PSUs shall be exempt from payment of earnest money deposit detailed above. Labour Cooperative Societies shall deposit only 50% of above earnest money deposit detailed above. 9. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 10. Online E-Tender can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 987/20(D)

North central railways @CPRONCR

DELHI JAL BOARD
OFFICE OF THE EX.ENGINEER (NE)-II
R-POCKET DILSHAD GARDEN DELHI-95

PRESS NIT NO. 19 (2020-21)

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender to Tender	EMD Amount	Tender Fees	Date of release of tender in eprocurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through eprocurement solution
1.	Replacement of 250 mm dia old/deep and damaged water line from Khajoori Pusta Road to Tukmirpur Ext., Gali no-11 under Karawal Nagar, AC-70. Tender ID No. 2020. DJS 194737_1	37,18,794.00	75,000.00	500.00	19.09.2020	05.10.2020 upto 02:30 P.M.

All the terms and conditions including technical specification and special conditions is available on Delhi Govt. Website <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 159 (2020-21)

Sd/-
(Sukhpal Singh)
EX. ENGINEER (NE)-II

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender Notice No. 2920202021 E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE Dated 16.09.2020

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following work up to 13.30 hrs. on 14.10.2020. The details of the Tender are as under :-

S Tender N	Name of Work	Approx. Cost of work (₹)	Earnest Money
1 99	Turnout Renewal & Deep Screening of Turnout on Main Line in the section of ADEN/TTDL.	₹ 11845862.00	₹ 209200/-
2 100	Raising and Improvement to Aligarh Goods Shed in the section of SSE/Works/ALJN under ADEN/ALJN.	₹ 12645416.00	₹ 213200/-

Completion Period: (for S.No. 1) 12 months, (for S.No. 2) 06 months, **Eligibility Criteria for similar work:** (for S.No. 1) P Way Work, (for S.No. 2) Any Civil Engg. Work, **Date of Opening of all tender :** 14.10.2020. **Note:-** (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-TENDER is available on Website www.ireps.gov.in upto 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 14.10.2020. (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) The tenderers shall submit a copy of certificate as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. (4) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 980/2020 V

North Central Railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-TENDER NOTICE

No. 230-Elec-OP-ET Notice-64-2020 Date : 18.09.2020

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (OP), North Central Railway, Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender Two packet system (Packet : I Technical Bid and Packet : II Financial Bid) on prescribed form the details of the tenders are as under:

S Tender N	Name of Work	Approximate Cost (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Cost of Tender Document (in ₹)	Completion Period (in months)	Date of opening of tender
1 64	Messing arrangement in New Drivers running room at CNB for 02 years.	25394108.26	277000.00	10000.00	24	21.10.2020

Note-1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders Two packet system (Packet I : Technical Bid and Packet : II Financial Bid) will be available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 14:30 hrs. on 21.10.2020 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 entity in any other form/letter head if attached by Vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. This tender notice have also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 6. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost in respect of E-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 7. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 986/20 (SP)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

C-141

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
P.H. DIVISION, BALASORE
Phone : 9437086137, e-mail-oeophbs@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement (Online Mode)
Invitation for Bids (IFB) dt.21.09.2020

The Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Balasore on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Double cover system in ONLINE mode only.

Sl. N o.	Name of the Work	Bid-Identification No.	Value of Work (Rs.Lakh)	Period of Completion	Availability of bid documents for online bidding	Last date and time of seeking clarification	Date & Time of opening of technical bid
1	Improvement of Water Supply to Dahanimara Area in Ward No.11 of Nilagiri NAC	EEPHBLS-18 dt.21.09.2020	105.70	04 (Four) calendar month	11:00 Hrs. of dt.28.09.2020 to 17:00 Hrs. of dt.12.10.2020	17:00 Hrs. of 08.10.2020	11:00 Hrs. of 15.10.2020

The bidders shall have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Name and Address of the officer inviting bid :- The Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Balasore, At-Samalpur, Post-Baia, Dist-Balasore, Pin-756056, Odisha, Phone : 9437086137

Executive Engineer,
P.H. Division, Balasore.

OIPR-13053/11/0007/2021

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Fever desks, flu wards, triage areas to be set up in non-Covid hospitals

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With winter session just over a month away, non-Covid hospitals have been asked to set up fever desks to contain the spread of coronavirus. According to CMO Dr Rajendra Prasad Singh, as the cases of fever, cold and cough are likely to increase in winter, fever desks will come in handy for containment of the deadly virus.

Besides, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash has directed the non-Covid hospitals to carry out TruNat tests for all those complaining of cough and respiratory problems in OPDs. The DM also asked these hospitals to set up flu wards and triage areas for the purpose of containment.

“TruNat testing should be carried out immediately on patients having cold and cough,” he said. All the non-Covid hospitals were on Tuesday imparted online training by SGPGI experts on effective containment measures.

“Files of Covid deaths at hospitals have to be handed over to the district surveillance officer on a daily basis for proper audit. Monitoring of patients in home isolation has to be streamlined to keep track of their health condition. These patients have to be called thrice a day and data of their oxygen levels and temperature be collected. If the oxygen level of patients fall below 94, they should be hospitalised,” the DM said.

As per Health department figures, of total number of people having tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow till now, 34.9 per cent have been females while 65.1 per cent males.



District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash informed mediapersons late Tuesday evening that the historic Asafi (Bada) Imambara, Chhota Imambara and Picture Gallery will reopen on September 24 with complete adherence to Covid protocol

Pioneer

19-yr-old patient gets new lease of life at KGMU

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The department of Trauma Surgery, KGMU, scripted a success story with a post-surgical intervention, saving the life of a 19-year-old patient, Rinku Tewari, a resident of Balrampur. He was hospitalised on September 11 in the wake of a medical emergency caused by a severe throat injury. Rinku was referred to KGMU by the district hospital in Balrampur.

The team of specialist doctors — Sandeep Tewari, Samir Misra, Yadendra Dheer and Harshit Agarwal — demonstrated surgical skills by immediately attending to the patient, who was in a critical condition with severe respiratory distress and his oxygen saturation was also very low.

“His wind and food pipes were severely injured. Thus, all safety measures were taken because of unknown Covid status of the patient. He was examined thoroughly after which he underwent emergency life-saving tracheostomy, a procedure which is big threat to healthcare provider in pandemic times,” KGMU spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said. After completion of procedure in the holding area, the patient was shifted to operation theatre.

“The patient was first stabilised after which a major surgery was performed. His wind & food pipes, muscles and blood vessels were repaired. The surgery was a major success and now the patient is taking his normal meals. His vocal functions are intact and he was discharged on Tuesday morning. He is in a good condition now will be completely normal soon. Rinku and his attendants extended gratitude to the doctors,” Dr Singh said.

969 more test positive

Lucknow (PNS): As many as 969 persons tested positive for coronavirus in the city while 946 recovered. The death toll of Lucknow climbed to 618 while the number of active cases stands at 9,746. A senior official at the CMO office said those who tested positive in the city included 69 from Gontinagar, 57 from Indiranagar, 52 from Ashiyana, 48 from Alambagh, 47 from Chowk, 32 each from Cantt & Sarojininar, 31 from Rae Bareilly road, 29 from Hazratganj, 27 from Krishnanagar, 26 from Thakurganj, 25 each from Jankipuram & Hasanganj, 23 from Talkatora, 21 each from Madaon & Chinhat, 20 from Naka, 19 from Mahanagar, 18 from Bazaarkhala, 17 each from Aliganj, Vrindavan Yojana & Gontinagar Extension, 13 from Vikas Nagar, 12 each from Aminabad & Para, and 10 from Kakori.

There were 10 deaths in the city and four of the deceased were from Lucknow while six from other districts. There were three deaths in KGMU, including that of a 42-year-old patient from Unnao, a 36-year-old from Bahraich and a 32-year-old from Faizabad.

Meanwhile in the state, 5,722 persons tested positive, including 244 in Kanpur, 277 in Prayagraj, 193 in Gorakhpur and 170 in Ghaziabad, taking the tally to 3,64,543. There were 77 deaths across the state, including six each in Kanpur & Prayagraj, four each in Gorakhpur, Meerut & Jhansi, three each in Barabanki, Jaunpur & Auraiyya, two each in Rampur, Ghazipur, Muzaffarnagar, Mathura, Bulandshahr, Unnao, Bijnore & Farrukhabad, and one each in Varanasi, Gautam Buddhagar, Bareilly, Saharanpur, Deoria, Ayodhya, Gonda, Pilibhit, Sitapur, Sultanpur, Hapur, Sambhal and Mahoba.

Member of KGMU Covid Task Force Dr Surya Kant Tripathi, while commenting on the how the disease is likely to progress in future, said the number of cases would increase. “The cases will increase but we are fortunate that the mortality rate in Uttar Pradesh has been contained. In another two weeks, India will likely overtake the US in terms of the number of cases. However, UP’s mortality is less than the national average and the credit goes to medical facilities in the state,” he said.

He said the new normal would continue in 2021 as well as it would take quite some

time before the situation was back to normal. “I expect the effective vaccine to arrive after March next year and considering the population in India (23 crore in UP alone), mass vaccinations will take time as the suppliers will find it difficult to meet the huge demand. More than 200 countries are affected by the virus, so the supply part is going to be very challenging,” he said. He added that wearing masks, practising physical distancing and hand washing would continue throughout next year.

Meanwhile, in view of ongoing pandemic, KGMU authorities said the depart-

ment of Clinical Haematology is committed to taking care of patients with blood disorders. A senior faculty member said the department has continuously rendered its services during lockdown and thereafter to patients suffering from all types of haematological disorders, including blood cancer.

“These services include OPD three times a week, IPD, day care chemotherapy and haemophilia factor infusion therapy. During this period, not only these patients were attended to but also provided with state-of-the-art treatment for various diseases,” he said.

“From March 1 till September 21, the department has provided OPD services to 6,000 patients, IPD services to 850 patients, day care chemotherapy to 1,000 patients and factor infusion to 800 patients. Social distancing was ensured and sanitisation conducted rigorously in OPD as well as IPD,” he explained.

Meanwhile, an official from the Food Safety and Drug Administration said that the Medical Health and Education departments would keep them informed about the demand for oxygen supply to the state.

“We have to look into the oxygen supply aspect and a new plant starting in Ghaziabad will provide 148 tonnes of oxygen. We hope the situation to get better in the coming days,” he said. He added that discussions were on with the Health department on the demand and supply of oxygen. He pointed out that industrial units have been directed to divert the supply of oxygen to hospitals instead of commercial use since lives are more important.

Mayor meets kin of vendor who ended life

Lucknow (PNS): Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia on Tuesday met the family of an Aminabad vendor who committed suicide allegedly because of his inability to set up shops in view of the deadlock with shopkeepers.

The mayor met the family of Jeetu Rajput and promised them all help. She also called a meeting of vendors and shopowners to resolve the issue. Meanwhile, police stopped the Aminabad vendors paying tributes to Jeetu at the spot where he used to sell his wares. Munish Chowdhary from Aminabad Vendors’ Welfare Association said they were stopped from paying tributes to the departed soul because of the imposition of Section 144. “The mayor has called for a meeting to resolve the problem and it will also witness the presence of the Municipal Commissioner,” he said.

KGMU dept carrying out research on memory issues in older adults

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Head of KGMU’s Geriatric Mental Health department Dr Shrikant Srivastava is actively involved in understanding, researching and predicting memory problems among older adults. He said they are committed to the ageing population. He said that though many patients have come up with complaints pertaining to forgetfulness (like forgetting the shopping list, names of people, misplacing personal things etc), he said it should not be explained in the light of dementia, particularly Alzheimer’s dementia.

About the human brain, he said it develops throughout the childhood and adolescence till about mid 40s. “It then starts the process of aging where very slow decline in brain functions, not enough to impair thinking or memory, begins and continues for the rest of the life. Dementia, senility, Alzheimer’s are the terms used synonymously, but they have specific meanings,” he said. He added that senility is a normal aging process of the brain. “Dementia is where the whole brain or a part of it ceases to function. The two most common types of dementia seen in India are Alzheimer’s and vascular. In Alzheimer’s dementia, the normal aging process is greatly accelerated, with marked shrinking of the whole brain. In vascular dementia, a part of the brain is damaged, either due to bleeding in the brain or stoppage of blood supply to a part of it. Both these conditions are commonly known as brain stroke. Both these conditions together form about 70 per cent of all dementia patients,” he said. He added that fronto-temporal dementia is the third common cause of dementia.

“In contrast to Alzheimer’s dementia,

Woman living away from husband hangs self

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 28-year-old cook ended her life at her house in Sleeper Ground Colony under Manak Nagar police station area on Tuesday. Reports said the woman, identified as Pinki of Fateh Ali Ka Talab area, started living separately from her husband Sooraj three years ago due to some differences.

Pinki was staying all alone in Sleeper Ground Colony and worked as a cook at different houses to make ends meet. On Tuesday, she did not reach her workplaces and her employees inquired about her. It surfaced that Pinki had not come out of her house since morning and the doors were bolted from inside. A police team reached the scene and broke open the doors, only to find Pinki hanging from the ceiling with a rope tied around her neck. Police said deceased’s brother Nitish had been informed about the incident.

In another incident, a group of persons thrashed a tractor driver in Chinhat on Monday night and fled the scene unchallenged. Rinku Chauhan of Rehmanpur village in the area was going to Matiyari for some work and stopped near a shop to purchase something. He parked the tractor on the roadside and went to the shop. In the meantime, Vijay Yadav of Shiypuri rammed his motorcycle into the tractor. He took on Rinku for parking his tractor in an inappropriate way. When Rinku confronted Vijay, the latter called his brothers and aides and all of them beat up Rinku. They forcibly took him to a house and thrashed him again before fleeing the scene.

Rinku called police and a team took him to the CHC. As doctors were not present there, he was taken to Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences.

Crackdown: 48 police teams conduct raids at 42 places

11 arrested, 21 detained

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 48 teams of Lucknow police, led by officials of deputy commissioner rank, on Tuesday conducted raids at 42 places across the city in search of henchmen of mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, serial killers (brother trio Saleem, Rustam & Sohrab), Khan Mubarak, Anu Tripathi and others.

Giving details, Commissioner of Police Sujeet Pandey said different teams arrested 11 criminals and detained 21. “The police are interrogating the accused and preparing dossiers of their crime. The teams recovered a bullet-proof jacket, tiffin boxes, explosives and five mobile sets capable to catch the frequency

of police wireless sets,” Pandey said. He said Abhishek Singh Babu from Vibhuti Khand & Guddu Gaswala (both henchmen of Mukhtar Ansari), Akash belonging to the infamous gang run by serial killers Saleem, Rustam & Sohrab and Shahzade Qureshi were involved in a daring loot in New Delhi.

Pandey said Babu is one of the most feared criminals active in trans-Gomti locality and had unleashed a reign of terror among businessmen and contractors. “Babu used the name of Mukhtar Ansari in the area to give patronage to small-time criminals. The team raided his flat in Vibhuti Khand and recovered two pistols and several cartridges which he had hidden in the basement. The teams recovered tiffin boxes and material used in preparing explosives from his flat. He has had a history of lobbing bombs at his targets to terrorise them. He was also named in an

attempt to murder in the past,” Pandey said.

He said the police recovered huge boxes made of thermocol and injections from the house of another criminal, Akash. “It surfaced that Akash was in the business of illegal blood supply,” he said.

He added that the teams also recovered narcotics substances from the house of Akash. The Commissioner said the police teams collected details about the gang members while working for hours during the last few weeks before conducting raids.

He said the accused had unleashed terror among innocents, demanding extortion, indulged in land-related business and running rackets. He said a bullet-proof jacket was recovered from the house of Pradeep and the police were finding out from where he obtained it. Sources said Abhishek was staying in the flat which belongs to a policeman.

Job-seeker duped of over ₹5 lakh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A native of Bulandshahr accused three brokers of duping him of over Rs 5 lakh in the name of providing job in an oil company under Hussainganj police station on Tuesday.

The complainant, identified as Robin Singh of Bulandshahr, said he knew the accused — Lakshya, Nishant and Rohit — of New Delhi. The accused offered Robin a job in an oil company and asked him to pay Rs 5 lakh for the favour. Robin reached Lucknow and stayed in a hotel on Vidhan Sabha Marg where he gave the money to the accused.

He was later introduced to a man who the accused claimed was a senior official of the company. In due course of time as the accused did not fulfil their promise, Robin

asked them to return his money. The accused asked Robin to purchase a car worth Rs 12 lakh from them to adjust his Rs 5 lakh and promised to get a loan of Rs of 7 lakh bank loan approved. Robin said he decided to buy the car to get

back his money. “I deposited Rs 10,000 in the bank to apply for a loan. I was later told that the bank had approved only Rs 4 lakh. I verified the details and got to know that the loan approval documents were fake,” he alleged.



Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute Of Medical Sciences
Raebareilly Road, Lucknow-226014, U.P. (INDIA)
Phone Nos. 0522-2495535

Applications are invited for the post of **One Senior Laboratory Technician, One Laboratory Technician, One Lab. Attendant and One Data Entry Operator**, under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) in the project entitled "Diagnosis and Follow up of Multi Drug Resistant TB (MDR-TB) Patients" under the supervision of **Dr. Richa Mishra, PI, Dept. of Microbiology, SGPGI**.

The posts are temporary and the appointment will be only for project duration. Those interested should visit the following websites: **www.sgpgi.ac.in** and send CV with email & phone number to dricha1976@gmail.com. Online Interview will be held on **05.10.2020 at 11:00 AM**.

Dr. Richa Mishra
Principal Investigator

ADVT No. R-19/2020-21



मिल्कोमोर पशु आहार

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एकमात्र दूध

लंबी आयु

खुदरा विक्रेता की नयी स्कीम चालू है। कृपया डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर से अपना उपहार लेना सुनिश्चित करें।

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More than 1 cr migrants walked home during Mar-Jun: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than one crore migrant labourers returned to their home States on foot during March-June 2020, including those who travelled during the Covid-19 pandemic-induced lockdown, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Tuesday.

“Covid-19 has resulted in migration of large number of workers from destination states to the home States,” Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways VK Singh told Lok Sabha in a written reply. As per the data compiled by Ministry of Labour and Employment, more than 1.06 crore migrant

workers, including those who travelled on foot during the lockdown, returned to their home States, he said.

As per provisional available information, 81,385 accidents occurred on the roads (including national highways) during the period March-June 2020 with 29,415 fatalities, he informed Parliament.

However, he said that the Ministry does not maintain separate data in respect of migrants’ death in road accidents during the lockdown.

He said the MHA issued regular advisories to state/union territories to take all necessary measures to provide shelters, food, water, health facilities to migrant

workers. “This ministry had assisted the movement of migrant labourers walking on foot on the various NHs by providing them food, drinking water, basic medicines and foot wears, etc,” he said.

They were also provided with the resting places to take rest and assistance in terms of the arrangement of transport with the help of local administration to take them to the places nearest to their destinations, he said.

MHA vide orders dated April 29, 2020, and May 1, 2020, allowed movement of migrant workers to their native places by buses and Shramik special trains, respectively, the MoS said.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 56,39,106

DEATHS: 90,006

RECOVERED:

45,80,222

ACTIVE: 9,68,071



TN sees 5,337 new cases, 76 deaths on Tue

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu is on its way to bring down the Covid-19 cases in the State to a reasonable level if the figures released by the

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	12,42,770	33,407	9,36,554
Andhra Pradesh	6,39,302	5,461	5,62,376
Tamil Nadu	5,52,674	8,947	4,97,377
Karnataka	5,33,850	8,228	4,32,450
Uttar Pradesh	3,64,543	5,212	2,96,183
Delhi	2,53,075	5,051	2,16,401
West Bengal	2,31,484	4,483	2,02,030
Odisha	1,88,311	774	1,53,213
Telangana	1,74,774	1,052	1,44,073
Bihar	1,71,465	873	1,57,056
Assam	1,61,393	586	1,29,130
Kerala	1,42,758	573	1,01,727
Gujarat	1,26,169	3,353	1,06,512
Rajasthan	1,18,793	1,367	98,812
Haryana	1,14,870	1,206	93,776
Madhya Pradesh	1,10,711	2,035	86,030

Department of Health om Tuesday are any indication.

On Tuesday, 5,337 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 while 76 deaths were reported from various parts of the State.

FROM PAGE 1

OPP BEGINS SESSION BOYCOTT

“The Government should come to an understanding. Both the Opposition and the Government should sit together to help run the House. Democracy should work with cooperation,” Gowda said followed by an apology by Yadav on behalf of the eight suspended leaders. Azad then announced the Opposition will boycott the Parliament session until the Government accepts the demands - revocation of the MPs’ suspension, and Government bringing another Bill under which no private player can purchase from the farmers below the MSP.

However, Naidu didn’t relent and said the action was taken based on the conduct of the MPs. “I am not happy about the suspension of the members. The action has been taken on their conduct. We have nothing against any member,” he said. After the walkout, the Rajya Sabha continued with its pro-

ceedings.

The RS Chairman called its Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting on Tuesday but the Opposition boycotted that too.

After Rajya Sabha, Opposition parties led by the Congress boycotted Lok Sabha session in support of suspended Rajya Sabha members and the farm Bills issue. As the House met, Congress MPs raised banners with “Don’t kill the Farmers” slogans and “Kisanon par Tanashahi nahin chalegi”. Speaker Om Birla urged members to follow the Covid-19 protocols in the House and maintain physical distance. The Lok Sabha is likely to be adjourned sine die on Wednesday, eight days ahead of the scheduled end of the Monsoon Session, amid concerns of spread of coronavirus among lawmakers, sources said on Tuesday.

Birla later called on a meeting of Opposition members parties after they announced a boycott of the session in solidarity with suspended Rajya Sabha MPs and in Opposition of the farm Bills.

With protest from Opposition growing stronger, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said it will consider revoking the suspension of eight Rajya Sabha members only after they apologise for their behaviour in the Upper House.

Congress Leader of the Lower House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the Government should withdraw the two farm Bills which were passed by the Rajya Sabha on Sunday despite objection raised by the Opposition.

Chowdhury said the Opposition has no problem in participating in House proceedings if the Government is ready to withdraw the two farm Bills.

After Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar in his intervention described Congress stand on the farmers issue as “double-faced” and insisted that the Bills would “revolutionise agriculture”, the Congress MP said (before walking out) “we expected a lot from Mr Tomar but he is telling a white lie”.

Soon almost entire Opposition walked out of the Lok Sabha.

Tomar said the Congress did not implement Swaminathan Commission recommendations but “we raised MSP one and half times more the production cost”.

The Minister said when the Congress failed to implement the reforms for the welfare of the farmers while the Modi Government has managed to do it, they are now scared of losing farmers’ support and are spreading such rumours.

From Opposition side, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) also supported the Congress with leaders Kalyan Banerjee and Ritesh Pandey echoing on the subject. Banerjee said, “We are with Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury over the issue.”

The two controversial Bills --- the Farmer’s Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 -- passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, will now go to the President for his assent before they are notified as laws.

The third farm Bill - the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal of the Akali Dal, an ally of the BJP-led ruling National Democratic Alliance, resigned from the Modi Government to lodge her protest on the farm Bills.

CHINA’S RAPID MILITARY BUILD-UP

Many nations in that region have rejected Beijing’s claim that the area lies within its jurisdiction. In May this year, India, which champions the freedom of navigation in

international waterways along with the United States said, “The South China Sea is a part of the global commons and India has an abiding interest in peace and stability in the region,” remarks likely to irk Beijing which is wary of India’s close strategic partnership with Washington.

Practising the same strategy along its land frontier with India, “China aims to discourage Indian resistance or military action during future border disputes by ostentatiously demonstrating its ability and intent to engage in military confrontations.” China is focusing on improving its air power and “the Chinese military is currently building four similar air defence positions within existing air bases and other facilities. This includes additional runways, as well as aircraft shelters that will help obscure the true presence of combat aircraft at these bases from observation.”

LAC TALKS INCONCLUSIVE BUT RAISES HOPES

The two leaders held two-hour long bilateral meeting in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conclave.

While official version of the latest meeting between the Corps Commanders on Monday was yet to come, sources said the talks were positive, but there was no breakthrough yet on disengagement and de-escalation. The talks began at 9 am at Moldo, Chushul on the LAC and went on till 11pm, they added.

“The talks were held in line with the five-point plan agreed between the two Foreign Ministers in Moscow. There are differing positions and the issues are complex so it will take more rounds of talks to reach an understanding,” sources said. Details of the talks would be discussed within the Government and the future course of action decided, it has been learnt.

India insisted complete disengagement and de-induction of the Chinese troops from all friction points and along the LAC. The Chinese, however, asked Indian forces to vacate the heights on the south bank of the Pangong Tso (lake) in Ladakh as one of the conditions for withdrawal of their troops, sources said.

HARIVANSH OBSERVES FAST

AAP Member of Parliament Sanjay Singh, who spent the night under open sky on dharna in Parliament, said the Deputy Chairman arrived early in the morning with a posse of news cameras and was told by a senior MP to visit them without the cameras and sit with them.

In letters to President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, Harivansh wrote that he “will observe a one-day fast till tomorrow as he was anguished over Opposition attacks in the House”. The 64-year-old, who was recently appointed Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for the second time, said: “Whatever happened in front of me on September 20 has caused unimaginable loss to dignity of House... The rulebook was torn and thrown at me. Some MPs also stood on the table, used unparliamentary language against me. I kept recalling the entire incident and was unable to sleep.”

He referred to iconic Bihar leaders like Ram Manohar Lohia and Karpuri Thakur and added he hailed from Jayprakash Narayan’s village. “I learnt a lot from him, I took part in JP Movement and my political background is from Bihar where the Vaishali Republic is known for democracy,” he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also came out in support of Harivansh in his tweets, praising the “inspiring and statesmanlike conduct” of “MP from Bihar and Rajya

Sabha Deputy Chairperson Shri Harivansh Ji”. Describing the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairmans letter to the President as “inspiring and praiseworthy”, the PM - who tweeted the letter - urged “the people of the country to read it”. Naidu had on Monday rejected the Opposition’s no-confidence motion against his deputy.

Opposition parties accused Harivansh of helping the Government push farm Bills in the Rajya Sabha despite the lack of numbers. Harivansh had overruled Opposition demands to extend the debate on the farm Bills or even refer them to a select committee.

11 BILLS PASSED IN OPP ABSENCE

The other Bills passed by the RS are the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020; the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment of Certain Provisions) Bill, 2020; the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2020; the Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2020; the National Forensic Sciences University Bill, 2020 and the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill, 2020. The third farm sector Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday will remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, which was approved by the lower house on September 15, was approved by a voice vote in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill replaces an Ordinance promulgated in June. The Bill is also aimed at removing fears of private investors of excessive regulatory interference in their business operations.

Replying to a short debate, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Danve Raosaheb Dadarao said the stock limit conditions imposed through the law were hindering investment in the agriculture infrastructure.

The amendments to the six-and-half-decade law provides that stock holding limit on commodities will only be imposed under exceptional circumstances like national calamities, famine with a surge in prices, the Minister said.

Banking Regulation Bill intended to bring the co-operative banks engaged in banking operations under the RBI’s supervision. The amendment to the Companies Bill intended to decriminalise many provisions in the Act. Taxation amendments were related to the inclusion of giving tax concessions including the newly floated controversial PM Cares Fund.

UG, PG CALENDAR OUT

The Supreme Court too on Tuesday asked Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to declare results of compartment exams as soon as possible and coordinate with UGC to enable around 2 lakh students to apply in colleges in the current academic year. Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank announced the calendar approved by University Grants Commission (UGC). “In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commission has accepted the Report of the Committee and approved the @ugc_india Guidelines on Academic Calendar for the First Year of Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Students of the Universities for the Session 2020-21,” Pokhriyal tweeted.

Pokhriyal further added that a full refund for the admission cancellation will be made to students till November. “To avoid financial hardship being faced by the parents due to lockdown and related factors, a full refund of fees will be made on account of all cancellation of admissions/migration of students, up to 30.11.2020, for this very session as a special case,” he said.

90,000 LIVES LOST TO CORONAVIRUS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India’s Covid-19 death count crossed 90,000-mark on Tuesday as the country once again recorded more than 1,000 deaths with Maharashtra leading the tally followed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, UP and Delhi.

Maharashtra on Tuesday recorded 392 deaths which took it overall death count to 33,407. The State reported 18,390 new cases of coronavirus on Tuesday, and with that the tally has now climbed to 12,42,770. The number of active cases is now pitched at 2,72,410 as per the latest information shared by the state health department.

Tamil Nadu recorded 76

deaths and 5,337 new cases on Tuesday which took its death count to 5,406 and total caseload to 5.52 lakh.

With 83 more deaths reported on Tuesday, Karnataka has lost 8,223 lives to Covid-19 till Tuesday while its total caseload stands at 5.33 lakh.Andhra Pradesh reported 51 deaths and 7,553 new cases on Tuesday.

The overall death count in the state stands at 5,461 and total number of cases are pegged at 6.39 lakh.Uttar Pradesh saw 77 fatalities on Tuesday which took its overall death count to 5,212, while national capital Delhi saw 37 deaths during the last 24 hours. Delhi has a total of 5051 deaths so far from Covid-19.

Central Vista redevelopment project could become fulcrum of economic revival: Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Vista redevelopment project would generate large-scale direct and indirect employment which could become an “important fulcrum of economic revival”.

In his written reply to a question by All India Trinamool Congress MP Mala Roy, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri told Lok Sabha on Tuesday said, “In the current economic scenario, the project shall generate a large number of direct and indirect employment which could be an important fulcrum for economic revival.” The redevelopment project of Central Vista -- the nation’s power corridor -- envisages a new triangular parliamentary building, a common central secretariat and revamping of the 3-km-long Rajpath, from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.

Puri said that the estimated cost for construction of new Parliament building is Rs 971 crore. Estimated cost of other buildings and development and

redevelopment of Central Vista Avenue will be worked out after finalisation of plans, Puri said.

Explaining the rationale behind the need of the project, the Union housing and urban affairs minister said that the existing Parliament House building was started in 1921 and commissioned in 1927 and hence, the building is already 93 years old, adding that its facilities and amenities are “highly inadequate”.

“There is acute shortage of office space and there are no individual chambers for Members of Parliament. This building was not meant to be for bicameral Parliament and has been over-stressed through large scale retrofitting done over the years”, the minister said. He said that the other buildings such as Krishi Bhawan and Udyog Bhawan were built on the Central Vista after independence. “These buildings are more than 50 years old and there is a shortage of working space, parking, amenities and services in these buildings for efficient office atmosphere.”

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT CIRCLE, KANPUR
PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Letter NO-524 /RED/Bond Clerk/File No./CNB Circle/2020-21
Dated-17.09.2020

1. The **Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department Circle, Kanpur** on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Item rate bids in electronic tendering system for Renewal of roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the district of **Farrukhabad** for Groups No. **UP2403R & UP2404R**, including their after maintenance for five years. **The eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD / UP RES, in appropriate class (A, or B as per limit) or equivalent category in CPWD/ MES P&T/ Railways and other State Govt. and Central Govt. Departments,**

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement **25-09-2020**

3. **Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:**

a. The bid document shall be available online from **25/09/2020 to 16/10/2020** and should be submitted online in <http://pmgsytendersup.gov.in>

b. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

c. The bidders are required to submit,

- (1) Original demand draft towards the cost of bid document,
- (2) Original bid security in approved form and
- (3) Original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with **Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department Circle, Kanpur, on a date not later than a working day after the last date and time for receipt of bids through e-procurement** of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. Bidder shall write only the bid-id-number (generated through e-tendering web site on submission of bid on-line) on the envelope containing the documents mentioned above in para 4-c and the package number for which they have bid. Bidder **SHALL NOT WRITE** their own names or name of their firm on this envelop in order to ensure confidentiality of the bid.

d. **Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement : 16/10/2020 upto 12:00 Noon and the technical qualification part of the bid shall be opened the same day from 1:00 PM in the Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department Circle, Kanpur.**

For further details please log on to <http://pmgsytendersup.gov.in>

U.P.: 155193, Date : 19.09.2020
बिज्ञापन वेबसाईट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Superintending Engineer
Rural Engineering Department
Circle, Kanpur

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT CIRCLE, LUCKNOW
PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Letter NO-1940 /RED/Computer/ File-PMGSY(PM)/2020-21
Dated-17.09.2020

1. The **Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department Circle, Lucknow** on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for Renewal of roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the district of Raebareli for Groups No. UP5803R, UP5804R, UP5805R, UP5806R, UP5807R, UP5808R, UP5809R, UP5810R, UP5811R, UP5812R, UP5813R, UP5814R UP5815R, UP5816R, including theirafter maintenance for five years. The eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD / UP RES, in appropriate class (A, or B as per limit) or equivalent category in CPWD/ MES P&T/ Railways and other State Govt. and Central Govt. Departments,

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement **25-09-2020**

3. **Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:**

a. The bid document shall be available online from 25/09/2020 (dd/mm/yyyy) to 16/10/2020 (dd/mm/yyyy) and should be submitted online in <http://pmgsytendersup.gov.in>

b. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For sub-mission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

c. The bidders are required to submit,

- (1) Original demand draft towards the cost of bid document,
- (2) Original bid security in approved form and
- (3) Original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department Circle, Lucknow, on a date **not later than a working day after the last date and time for receipt of bids through e-procurement** of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. Bidder shall write only the bid-id-number (generated through e-tendering web site on submission of bid on-line) on the envelop containing the documents mentioned above in para 4-c and the package number for which they have bid. Bidder **SHALL NOT WRITE** their own names or name of their firm on this envelop in order to ensure confidentiality of the bid.

d. **Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement : 16/10/2020 (dd/mm/yyyy) upto 12:00 Noon and the technical qualification part of the bid shall be opened the same day from 1:00 PM in the Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department Circle, Lucknow.**

For further details please log on to <http://pmgsytendersup.gov.in>

U.P.: 155253, Date : 19.09.2020
बिज्ञापन वेबसाईट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Superintending Engineer
Rural Engineering Department
Circle-Lucknow

Varanasi inches close to 12K-mark; 207 new COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district has inched close to the 12K-mark as with the finding of 207 new Covid-19 patients, the total number of cases has increased to 11,978 but the satisfactory news is that the number of recovered patients has also crossed the 10K-mark. Besides, the district also saw three more deaths, increasing the toll to 194. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 178 patients and out of them, 177 recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 7,531 and just one patient has been discharged from the hospital and the number of cured patients from the hospitals reached 2,612. The total number of cured patients is now 10,143, leaving 1,641 active patients. The recovery rate has improved slightly to 84.68 per cent and mortality rate to 1.61 per cent.

Meanwhile, the mass-group antigen tests continued at various places on the instructions of District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma and a day ago 648 persons were tested at Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital



Antigen testing being done at SSPG Hospital in Varanasi

Pioneer

and all of them were negative. However, six persons were found positive out of 549 tests at Government Women's Hospital, two out of 216 at LBS Hospital Ramnagar, one out of 80 at Shivpur UPHC, four out of 118 at Swami Vivekanand Hospital Bhelupur and one out of 97 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH) in Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Besides, 25 were tested at Shiv Prasad Gupta Colony and 12 at Kayasth Tola (Prahlaad Ghat) and all of them were negative. In all 1,767 persons were test-

ed at 10 places and out of them, 14 were detected positive.

Besides, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that the Health department has distributed 6,928 ivermectin tablets to 866 persons. So far, 9,02 lakh tablets were distributed to 1.12 lakh persons and out of them, 7.12 lakh tablets to 89,055 persons were distributed only by the health department while rest of tablets by other departments including Supply and Education departments and Civil Defence so far.

CMO has also informed that in the first report of the day by 11 am, 136 positive patients were detected out of 2,717 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 1,73,847 and the results of 3,940 are awaited. Out of them, 1,61,940 were negative while 11,907 positive. The total number of samples collected was 1,88,051. Earlier, a male aged 40 from Ghurahapur (Sarnath) succumbed to COVID-19 at SSH BHU.

Earlier, on the occasion of World Alzheimer's Day, a public awareness signature campaign was launched in SSPG Hospital, Kabirchaura on Monday. The signature campaign was initiated by Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) Dr. Prasanna Srivastava who appealed to the people to be a part of this campaign and to make people aware of Alzheimer's in the community.

After this, orthopaedist Dr. Abhishek Rai, geriatrician Dr. RN Singh, medical officer incharge of mental health programme, Dr Ravindra Kumar Kushwaha, psychiatrist Dr Amandeep also signed and motivated people in this campaign.

335 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Coronavirus again spread its tentacles intensively on Monday night, with 335 more people affected by the pandemic during the 24 hours. On Sunday, 272 people were found infected, while 324 people beat Corona. 41 COVID-19 infected were discharged from various hospitals, while home isolation of 280 patients was completed.

According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, the total number of active patients has increased to 3,433 with 335 new Covid infected. So far 17,017 people have been infected in the district. On Monday, seven patients were discharged from Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram, two from Unani Medical College, five from Railway Hospital. Similarly, nine patients were discharged from Beli Hospital, three patients each from United Medicity and Sainath Vatsalya, AMA Hospital. Maximum 14 patients were discharged from SRN Hospital and sent home.

The district administration and CMO have postponed the system of providing information about how many suspected corona patients are



A worker sanitising shop in Prayagraj,

Pioneer

being tested in the district and how many reports are positive or negative. Whatever the reason behind this, but even those people who have got their Covid tested are not getting the report. The latest figures on the website are not being updated.

On Monday, the Principal of the Medical College, Dr. SP Singh reached with senior doctors wearing PPE kit to inspect the Covid ward of SRN Hospital. He also saw the cleanliness of the wards and toilets after getting information from doctors, employees about medicine, treatment. The Principal

sought information from several patients about his health. He also took feedback from most people regarding arrangements and food. Superintendent Dr Mohit Jain, SIC Dr AK Srivastava, incharge Covid Dr Mathur, Deputy Incharge Dr Sujit Verma, Dr Rakesh Yadav, Dr Rajeev Gautam, Dr Komal etc were also present during their two-and-a-half hour inspection.

On Monday, the CDA Pension Auditor and AG Office Welfare Officer tested positive for coronavirus. At the same

time, the report of Tehsil Sadar and Karchana's Lekhpal has been Covid positive. The infection has also been found in a professor at IIIT and a teacher at SJC.

According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, among the newly infected, two lawyers of the High Court, office assistant of Allahabad University, deputy secretary of Railways, a teacher from Pratappur along with Chief Manager of Indian Bank have become positive. Ward boy of SRN, an S-I of CRPF with a health worker, besides, the staff posted in several important departments including Chief Nursing Staff of Railway Hospital have also come under the grip of COVID-19.

The Seal Chief Office was sanitised on Monday after the municipal chief engineer was found to be corona infected. The team of the Health department inquired about their staff along with the engineers who came in contact with the chief engineer.

Most people remained isolated on Monday. They have been informed that in case of any problem, they must get their Covid test immediately done

NEP-20 aims at holistic, futuristic education, says Kalraj Mishra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Governor of Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra said that National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims at promoting 'holistic, multidisciplinary and futuristic education'. He was addressing a national webinar on 'NEP-20: Ancient Knowledge Systems and Modern Education' organised by Inter University Centre for Teacher Education (IUCTE), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) under Shikshak Parv here on Tuesday.

'India has had a long and illustrious history of holistic education. The aim of education in ancient India was not just the acquisition of knowledge, as preparation for life in this world or for life beyond schooling, but for complete realisation and liberation of the self. Education in India was only enriched through the mixing of cultures that arose from the very first invasions, till the arrival of the British,' he said, adding that the country has absorbed many of these influences and blended them into a unique culture of its own.

Culturally, India has been, and continues to be, a cradle of great diversity in all walks of life, with its myriad languages and dialects, with as many as seven classical dance forms and two classical music forms, many well-developed traditions of folk arts and music, pottery, sculptures and bronzes,



Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra addressing national webinar on NEP-20 at IUCTE in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

exquisite architecture, incredible cuisines, fabulous textiles of all kinds, and so much more. These rich legacies to world heritage must not only be nurtured and preserved for posterity, but also enhanced and put to new uses through our education system,' said Mishra, suggesting the IUCTE which is an Apex body in teacher education in higher education institutions (HELs) should aim at implementation of the recommendations of NEP-20. He also emphasised that after 185 years we have a policy which completely denies the 1835 Macaulay's Minute on Indian Education and promotes a system of education rooted in Indian ethos.

Director of IUCTE Prof BK Tripathi, in his presidential address, expressed that the role of the entire teaching fraternity is of utmost importance in

the implementation of the recommendations of NEP-20. In light of this, IUCTE may develop a 'National Framework for Quality Teachers and Teaching in Higher Education'. 'Such a framework would provide a broader guideline on very important concerns as recommended in NEP-20 such as continuous professional development of higher education faculty from pre-service to in-service to lifelong learning should be emphasised. Such a professional growth and development approach will assist faculty in charting their career pathway into multiple roles and increasing levels of responsibility,' said Prof Tripathi, adding that the required support to HELs through a model credit based courses for Ph.D. students to prepare them for future faculty roles may be developed by IUCTE.

Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Antarashtriy Hindi Vishwavidyalaya (Wardha) Prof Rajneesh Kumar Shukla said 'ancient India has immensely contributed to civilisation of human race by laying the foundation of many important disciplines.'

He also suggested that we need to develop a vision of integrating evidence based on ancient Indian knowledge in the present education system. Prof. Sachchidanand Joshi, member secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA, New Delhi), while delivering keynote address, focussed that the aim of ancient Indian knowledge systems was oriented towards liberation and not towards acquiring materialistic goals of life.

Prof RP Shukla (IUCTE) welcomed the guests and at last proposed the vote of thanks. The members of the organising committee including Dr GN Tiwari, Dr Anil Tiwari, Dr Yogesh Velankar, Amarjeet Singh, Dr Paromita Chaubey, Dr Himanshu Tripathi, Dr Anushree Tripathi, Dr Awadhesh Mishra, Anil Rai, Mohanlal, Ajay Kumar, Shringar Sood, Ashok Singh, Sanjeev Kumar Srivastava, Jai Shanker Chaurasia, Bijendra Sarkar, Faiz Ahmad, Satyendra Srivastava and Rajesh Srivastava also participated in the webinar.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

And on Tuesday the palatial residence of Atique Ahmed in Chakia Kasari Masari worth crores of rupees was demolished with the help of about half-a-dozen JCB and other alike machines. According to the officials of Prayagraj Development Authority, the house was not built as per the approved blue print.

Sensing some opposition and disturbance heavy police deployment was done in the area, still some Atique supporters reached there and opposed the move terming as arbitrary.

When the demolition team reached Atique's Chakia residence it found the gate locked. When the lock could not be removed, a JCB machine uprooted the gate to give way to the whole team to



JCB demolishing house of Atique Ahmed in Chakiya in Prayagraj

Pioneer

enter the premises, and then portion after portion was pulled down.

This was the 12th demolition of Atique's property in and

around the city besides about 10 properties which have been seized by the officials. These actions have been initiated against the properties of Atique

and his gangmen under the drive against mafia dons in the state on the initiative of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

GM reviews safety in trains operation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

On Tuesday General Manager North Central Railway Rajiv Chaudhry reviewed position of safety, freight loading and works related to 160 Kmph speed raising on New Delhi-Howrah and New Delhi-Mumbai trunk routes on NCR and other important items through video conferencing with PHODs of North Central Railway and Divisional Railway Managers Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra.

At the outset safety in train operation was reviewed. Safety examination of freight trains at wayside stations by Loco pilot and guard known as GDR check is an important tool to ensure that under gear fittings of freight trains are intact, doors are properly closed, wagons are free from any loose or hanging object and brake power of train is adequate for

safe and detention free operation. A certificate to this effect is issued jointly by crew after each GDR check.

GM instructed that a drive be launched by each crew lobby wherein crew during each sign-on and sign-off shall acknowledge the importance of GDR check and submitted GDR reports shall be cross verified by inspectors and officers to ensure full compliance on this important safety instruction. With more and more coaching trains getting converted to LHB stock; it is important that crew and station staff are properly trained on minor attention including procedure to detach LHB coach enroute. GM advised that regular training of station staff and crew on this be ensured.

Accident relief trains of North Central Railway are equipped with V-SAT based live video transmission system

for monitoring of relief and restorations measures in event of breakdowns, accidents from divisional and HQ control rooms. With advancement in technology many options are now available for live video transmission through mobile devices using cellular network.

Chaudhry directed Prayagraj division and IT cell of NCR HQ to work out alternatives available for live monitoring of different sites from control through a mobile device using cellular network. Requirement is to find a suitable device to cover varied railway applications and robust network for fast and seamless live transmission from all parts of North Central Railway. Best suited alternative suggested by these independent teams shall be adopted uniformly over entire NCR. Beside breakdown, accidents etc. this system will also be of immense help in

monitoring of different works being done on North Central Railway and will help in better resource mobilisation and forecasting.

Works related to speed raising to 160 kmph on New Delhi-Howrah and New Delhi-Mumbai trunk routes were also reviewed during video conference.

Work related to upgradation of track like provision of thick web switches to make track fit for 160 Kmph operation have already started and so far, 15 thick web switches have been provided. GM stressed that all works related to 160 Kmph speed raising specially those requiring traffic block must be expedited. With high-est share in route kilometres and traffic carried, NCR has been assigned the coordinating role for New Delhi-Howrah section targeted for completion in FY 2023-24.

CM reviews projects of Varanasi div

VARANASI (PNS): Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath reviewed the development works of Varanasi division through a marathon video conferencing meeting on Monday evening. 'The last 3.5 years, record development and social service works have been done in the entire state including Varanasi and under the priority projects of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the development of infrastructure was done at a large level with the joint efforts of central and state governments,' said the CM.

'Today Varanasi is becoming a hub for health, connectivity, agriculture, handloom products and tourism,' he said adding that the holy city attracts tourists from all over the world. According to him, after completion of project Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, it will become a unique, grand, well-equipped centre with modernity and newness, preserving the mythology, religiosity and spirituality of Kashi. 'This Dham as well as river Ganga, which are being developed on the initiatives of the PM will become the centres of attraction for the people across the world and boost tourism in the state further,' he added.

During the meeting the local officers had informed



CM Yogi Adityanath reviewing development projects of Varanasi division through video conferencing on Monday evening

Yogi that this year, a total of 28 projects costing more than ₹50 crore are in progress in Varanasi division which include 24 in Varanasi district, one in Chandauli, two in Jaunpur and one in Ghazipur. Their total cost is ₹8409.33 crore. In these ongoing projects, 11 will be completed by December this year while five by March and 10 projects by December next year and the remaining two are also expected to be completed by December next year.

The CM was also informed that the construction work on Convention Centre 'Rudraksh' is going on rapidly and it will be completed by December this year. In Varanasi district, eight road and bridge projects costing more than ₹50 crore are going on apart from a gas distribution project of ₹345 crore being looked after by

GAIL. Yogi was also informed that the work of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham will be completed by August 2021.

Local officials informed the CM that in Varanasi district, out of eight ongoing road and bridge projects with more than ₹50 crore costs, 21 per cent work on two ROB on Lahartara to Phulwaria road costing ₹307.77 crore, a bridge at Varuna and four-lane road has been completed while 90 per cent work of Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg (Chitipur-Jansa-Rameshwar-Kapil Dhara) has already been done. Ring Road project Phase-2 costing ₹1354.67 crore will be completed by December this year apart from widening work of Varanasi-Ghazipur four-lane while widening work of Ghaghra Bridge-Varanasi section four-lane widening the four-lane road in the Ghaghra

Bridge-Varanasi section costing ₹785 crore and Sultanpur-Varanasi section four-lane costing ₹806 crore will also be completed by March 2021. They also informed that the 3-lane ROB in Varanasi-Aunrihar section will be completed in February 2021 while work has already been started at ROB at Kazzakpura on Varanasi City-Sarnath rail route costing ₹62.78 crore and it is expected to be built in next two years.

The concerned district officers also apprised the CM that action is being taken to construct the medical college at Chandauli while 40 per cent construction work of medical college costing ₹554.17 crore at Jaunpur has already been done and 30 per cent work on medical college at Ghazipur costing ₹220.43 crore has been completed. The Ghazipur college's hospital will have 300 beds.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Preparations for the Magh Mela at the banks of Sangam have started amid transmission of COVID-19. The area of Mela sectors will be increased this time to ensure social distance. Camps of saints and Kalpavasis will be set up far and wide. Soon a high level meeting will be held in connection with how many sectors will the fair expand and what will be its form.

Officers are busy in deciding the look of Magh Mela at the Sangam ghat. According to sources, the number of sectors can be increased to maintain the distance, so that facilities can be set up in remote camps. Along with this, it is also being decided how many religious-cultured institutions should be set up in this Magh Mela.

Camps of four to five thousand institutions have been organised in the fair. In this

case, Kalpavasi can be given priority over institutions. Some saints will also be given space, so that the appearance of the fair remains. With this, the preparation of electricity, water and other arrangements is being drawn on the Ganga, besides the Pantoon bridges and the checkered plate routes.

The coronavirus infection is spreading its fear all over the country. Due to the infection of this pandemic, not even the least step could be taken towards the preparation of Magh Mela, due to which work has gone laggard. However, the officials are excited about the flood waters receding in time. They believe that as soon as the water dries, the work of leveling of sand will be started. Apart from Pantoon bridges, routes, poles related to electricity, water, sanitation and security have been prepared.

The officers are still waiting for the protocol from the

government. The tender process will be started as soon as the protocol arrives. It is noteworthy that the importance of Indian spiritual, cultural and social gathering has been presented on the table of the country and world through the Magh Mela, which has been settled on the banks of Ganga, Yamuna and the extinct Saraswati for centuries. For this, till August last year, the tender process for other resources including Pantoon bridge, road, electricity, drinking water was completed.

This time, the flood waters have been eroded. In such a situation, it will not take time to complete land leveling and other works. Tender and other works will be started as soon as the framework is decided by the government, this was said by Rajneesh Kumar Mishra, Officer-in-charge of the Mela Adhikari- Prayagraj.

YOUTH INJURED:

Despite the frequent accidents, the sale of Chinese thread is not being stopped. On Monday, a similar incident occurred on Bairahana Tikonia in which businessman's son Rishabh Shukla was injured. On coming to know about the incident, the relatives got him treated in a private hospital.

Rishabh (23) hails from Sulemasari, who deal in the business of selling puppies. His father Dilip Shukla works as a travel agent. Rishabh was returning from Naini on Monday. He had just reached the Bairahna Tikonia Crossing when a Chinese 'manjha' got stuck in his neck. Before he could do anything, his throat got injured and he was bruised due to being hit by it. Due to intense pain, he lost his balance and fell on the ground. The passers-by somehow handled him and then informed the family members over the phone.

Maurya lays foundation stones of development works in Ghatampur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said on Tuesday that the Uttar Pradesh government would soon start massive development works for the uplift of areas like Ghatampur, Kalyanpur, Maharajpur, Bithoor, Bilhaur, Kidwai Nagar and Govind Nagar.

Laying the foundation stones and dedicating completed projects at the Janata Degree College grounds in Ghatampur on Tuesday, the deputy chief minister said the objective of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was development for every section of society so that they could progress and the benefits of all government schemes could reach them as well.

Maurya said there had been acute crisis of electricity during the past regimes. He said the present Bharatiya Janata Party government was committed to improving the basic facilities and infrastructure and thus rapid development work was being carried out across the state.

He said it was an achievement of the government that despite the pandemic, it was not only saving lives by proper governance but also managing all the problems in the current times.

The deputy chief minister said that during lockdown, the migrant workers were given



The Deputy Chief Minister, Keshav Prasad Maurya lays foundation stones of 71 projects worth Rs 242 crore at Ghatampur on Tuesday

Pioneer

all possible help by the UP government.

He said under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, around 40 crore accounts for poor had been opened and the benefits of all major schemes was being directly transferred into their accounts. He said this system had brought in transparency. Besides, he said, the poor people had been provided the benefit of medical treatment up to Rs 5 lakh under the Ayushman Yojana

Maurya added that the farm bills brought by the Central government would benefit the farmers.

Paying homage to Kamal Rani Varun, Maurya said the Anuppur crossing (NH 86) to Paras Crossing (SH 46) measuring 20.12 km had been renamed after her. He said this was in fact the decision of the UP government in her honour.

Addressing the gathering, Minister for Higher Education

Nilima Katiyar said the pace of progress in UP had been excellent and to continue it this foundation stone laying ceremony had been arranged.

She said earlier the road from Ghatampur to Kanpur was full of potholes and craters but under the Yogi Adityanath government, the roads had been relaid, widened and beautified in phases and development of roads would continue.

She said in UP, 1.77 lakh families had been benefited by the Ujjawala Scheme and over 30,000 families were being extended the benefit of free ration. She said 13,000 families had been benefited from the prime minister's schemes and over 35,000 families had been benefited by Saubhagya Yojana.

Katiyar said massive development would be carried out in Ghatampur on a war footing.

Diabetes, hypertension behind most Covid deaths in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The COVID-19 death audit committee has in its report claimed that 60 per cent of the total deaths in Kanpur Nagar were mainly due to diabetes and high blood pressure while 10 per cent of the deaths were due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The committee has even expressed concern that out of the total 596+ COVID-19 deaths in Kanpur Nagar, 430 were reported from the Level-3 LLR Hospital alone.

It has said the remaining deaths were due to comorbid conditions and on account of delay in treatment that turned the patients' condition critical, resulting in death.

This was disclosed to the press persons by the death audit committee incharge, Dr SK Gautam, while giving details of the audit carried out recently in Kanpur Nagar.

He said the main reason for the high number of COVID-19 deaths in the city was comorbidity. He said the worst hit were senior citizens and those

Two nursing homes sealed

KANPUR (PNS): In the ongoing raids on hospitals and pathologies, the district administration sealed two prominent nursing homes in Kalyanpur for running Level-2 Covid care facilities without any prior sanction. The two nursing homes were also found to be running without any valid licence.

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra has set up a committee to probe into the charges and submit detailed report so that further action could be taken against the nursing homes.

Dr Mishra said the district administration had categorically said that no private hospital or nursing home would admit COVID-19 patients without the permission of the administration. He said the reason for this was that the administration had to first find out if a private hospital or nursing home had the basic infrastructure to handle COVID-19 cases.

The CMO said both Neelam Saroj Hospital and Pranjul Hospital had flouted the norms and thus strict action was taken against them. He said as per the directives of the district magistrate, raids were being carried out on private hospital and pathologies.

Dr Mishra warned that no private hospital would be run without sanction and without proper equipment no hospital would admit COVID-19 patient. He said all COVID-19 patients in home isolation should take full care that if their oxygen level falls below 95 per cent, they should immediately get admitted to a Covid hospital at the earliest. He said those in home isolation should also ensure that they possess pulse oximeter and thermal thermometer to constantly monitor their oxygen level and temperature.

also suffering from some chronic disease as well.

Dr Gautam said from the

time the symptoms developed in the patients who lost the fight to the novel coronavirus

and by the time they reached the hospital, their conditions had worsened and resulted in death. He said weak immunity was also a reason for the deaths.

The death audit committee incharge said the report had been forwarded to the district administration for remedial measures.

Dr Gautam said one more reason which had come to the fore in these deaths was that the deceased patients did not follow social distancing norms despite having comorbid conditions.

He said another factor was that most of the people took flu-like symptoms lightly and tried to manage it at their level and when the oxygen level fell they rushed to hospital where a big number of people could not survive although those with better immunity successfully got cured and returned home after treatment.

Dr Gautam said ignorance was a big reason for the spread of COVID-19 and the bigger the number of affected people, the bigger was the risk of increased deaths.

KDA VC orders quick disposal of grievances

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh directed the officers for quick and timely disposal of people's grievances.

Chairing a 'Janata Darshan' programme with all the departmental heads on Monday, Singh heard the grievances of allottees and other persons and issued necessary directives.

Of the total 50 applications received, most of them related to property, illegal possession, freehold, registry, mutation, refund etc.

The VC directed the officials to dispose of these applications and fixed time limit for each grievance keeping in view the nature and importance of the issue. On some of the applications, he fixed three days time for disposal and for some others, seven and 15 days.

He warned laxity would attract strict penal action against the officials concerned.

Docs protest against 'high-handedness' of district officials

KANPUR (PNS): The medical fraternity has raised a voice of concern over the "high-handedness" of the district officials and their "autocratic" style of functioning.

Launching an offensive against the district authorities, GSV Medical College Principal Prof RB Kamal said the district administration had during the raid exaggerated the facts.

He said that except for one junior doctor who were suffering from diarrhoea, the rest of the 10 doctors were present on duty.

Prof Kamal said a strong representation had been forwarded to the Director General Medical Education against the report which had been hyped in the media. He said that the allegation of six doctors being absent had been explained to the DGME.

The GSV Medical College principal said the next day when he personally carried out investigation, it was found that except for one doctor, the rest were on duty.

It may be mentioned here that the doctors have also strongly protested the "high-handedness" of the district magistrate for forcing them to come out of ICU and remove

the personal protective equipment (PPE) kits so that they could be identified.

The junior doctors had gheraoed the principal and demanded justice on the ground that despite risking their lives, aspersions were being cast on them which was not acceptable.

LLR Hospital Chief Medical Superintendent Dr Richa Giri has joined the protest bandwagon and claimed that because of constantly being put on Covid duty, the senior and junior residents were under great mental and physical stress and the attitude of the district administration was worsening the situation.

She said one senior resident's blood pressure shot up dangerously and there was cornea detachment resulting in his losing sight of one eye. She said this was a grave issue and could not be taken lying down. She said for better treatment, the doctor had been sent to AIIMS, New Delhi for further treatment.

The junior residents have alleged that the PPE which was being supplied was of sub-standard quality and in this humid weather it was causing skin problems and resulting in

excessive sweating.

They alleged that despite the visit of Additional Chief Secretary Rajneesh Dube, there had been no action against those who were supplying sub-standard PPE kits.

They pointed out that the additional chief secretary had taken the samples of sub-standard PPE kits and assured that action would be taken and good quality PPE kits would be supplied but till date nothing had happened.

236 MORE TEST POSITIVE

Kanpur Nagar reported 236 more coronavirus positive cases on Tuesday evening.

According to a report 236 more people testing positive between Monday evening and Tuesday evening, the tally of the confirmed coronavirus cases in the city had surged to 23382.

With 458 COVID-19 patients being discharged in the last 24 hours, 18311 infected people had been cured in the city.

Ten COVID-19 deaths were reported till Tuesday evening, taking the death toll to 613. At present 4458 active cases were undergoing treatment in the city.

Keshav reviews metro work



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (UPMRC) Managing Director Kumar Keshav reviewed the ongoing civil construction work on the Kanpur Metro's corridor. He visited Motijheel and reviewed the progress of civil construction at all nine metro stations up to IIT, Kanpur. He asked the engineers to pay full attention to the convenience of the residents and as the work of piles and pile caps on the site was completed, to narrow down the barricades on the road to increase space for smooth movement of traffic.

Expressing satisfaction over the rapid pace of civil construction. He said the team working on the priority corridor was setting small targets and moving ahead with speed. He said the focus was not on the achievements but on the goals completed.

Keshav said that various technical systems were to be installed for Metro operations in the priority corridor and once all these systems were commissioned, the work of Corridor-1 between IIT and Naubasta and Corridor-2 from CSA to Barra-8 would also be accelerated.

He expressed hope that the work would be completed within the stipulated time frame.

He also visited the casting yard at Lakhnagar.

Hydraulic excavator inaugurated

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) CMD PK Sinha inaugurated an hydraulic excavator during an e-ceremony organised on Monday due to the Covid-19 pandemic through video conferencing. Director (Personnel), NCL, Bimlendu Kumar, Director (Technical/Operations) Dr Anindya Sinha, and Director (Finance), Ram Narayan Dubey also joined the event. Speaking on the occasion, CMD NCL PK Sinha said the introduction of new machinery



will help them to meet the increasing production targets. Reiterating the contribution of employees during the Covid period, he said the company was expected to once again surpass its fiscal targets. He asked the employees to take due safety measures and remain healthy

in this difficult time of Covid-19. The newly-commissioned hydraulic excavator has a bucket capacity of 11 cubic metres and is equipped with the latest modern technology and safety features. NCL operates with its 10 opencast coal mines in Singrauli and Sonbhadra districts of MP and UP with a fleet of more than 1,200 HEMM. Production in NCL is highly dependent on heavy machines deployed in its coal mines. The introduction of this machine in the Kakri Project's fleet will not only ensure production targets but enhanced safety and productivity too.

Foot march conducted

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Foot march was conducted by the police in the city on Monday. With the aim of maintaining peace and law and order and warning the miscreants the foot march which was led by ASP City Sanjay Kumar was conducted at the district headquarters and it passed through the main thoroughfares of the city. During his march the ASP interacted with the people, appealed to them to adopt precautionary measures regarding Covid and assured full protection to the law-abiding people. During the march the ASP checked the vehicles too which were on the road and expected the people to follow the traffic rules. Interacting with the shopkeepers he



appealed to them to cooperate with the traffic personnel. He assured the traders to feel free to inform him about any type of exploitation whether it by any criminal or even by the cops. In the march which started from the police office the SHO City Kotwali, PAC and police office staff took part.

TWO ARRESTED: Vindhyachal police arrested two accused along with as many stolen motorcycles recently. As per reports,

Gaipura police outpost incharge Ajeet Kumar Srivastava was on patrolling duty when he spotted two suspects at Bajahaan turn, intercepted and interrogated them. During interrogation they confessed that they were trying to sell the stolen motorcycles. On clues provided by the accused the police recovered two motorcycles which were stolen from Kalanaa village under Vindhyachal police station and from Meja, Prayagraj. They were identified as Brijesh Banbasi, a resident of Aandhi village under Manda police station, Prayagraj, and Nitesh Patel, a resident of Garaithi village Manda police station in Prayagraj. After completing the legal formalities the police seized the motorcycles and sent the accused to jail.

Rajbhasha Week concludes

PNS ■ VARANASI

Prize distribution programme was organised at Bhartendu Hall in NER DRM office, Lahartara, on Monday maintaining physical distancing which marked the conclusion of Rajbhasha Week. Presiding over it DRM Vijay Kumar Panjari praised Rajbhasha department for conducting various online competitions during the week and appealed to employees to maximum use of Hindi in their office work. "To popularise Rajbhasha even in the era of technical development, Hindi should be used maximum during working on websites, e-mails and other information platforms as for this now the option is available in e-office," he said, expressing the hope that through these works the employees would add innovative dimensions towards the



use of Rajbhasha. During the week, various programmes were organised on different days, including the meeting of Divisional Rajbhasha Implementation Committee and a technical seminar in which the Signal department gave its presentation. Besides, a Hindi noting and format writing competition for employees was organised online in which 21 employees of the division participated and six of them were successful.

An online Hindi quiz competition was also organised for officers and employees in which four officers and seven employees were successful. All the winners got awards from the DRM at the function. On the occasion ADRM (Operations) and additional chief Rajbhasha officer Shiv Pratap Singh Yadav, SDOM Rohit Gupta, SDS&TE along with award winning officers and employees were present. Welcoming everyone on the occasion, SPS Yadav said apart from being the ancient, rich, simple and easy language of the world, as Hindi is our official language, so it is our national duty to show love and respect towards it. Senior translator Rahul Radheshyam Dongre made a special contribution to the successful conduct of Rajbhasha Week. The closing ceremony was conducted by Rajbhasha officer DS Meena.

Girls given books, school bags

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAIN

DM Mannan Akhtar's initiative Kishori Shiksha Samadhan Yojana was running successfully under the guidance by DIOS Bhagwat Patel. Public representatives and social workers had already taken initiative to facilitate education and education-related facilities to 240 girls under Kishori Shiksha Samadhan Yojana. A programme was held in Siddhpura village in which 40



girls got admission in class IX in GIC Siddhpura under Madhaugarh tehsil and 30 girls got admission in class IX in Janta Sanatan Dharm Inter

College, Kuthond, under Jalaun tehsil. Social workers gave two pairs of uniforms, shoes, socks, school bags and books to these girls and also paid their fees. Social worker Sanjay Singh gave items of daily use to all girls. Social worker Dr Nitin Mittal and Sanjay Singh gave six tablets to girls and social worker Ramraja Niranjani announced to give 40 bicycles to them. Madhaugarh MLA Moolchand Niranjani and Kalpi MLA Narendra Singh Jadaun were present on the occasion.

Railway personnel, passengers made aware about cleanliness

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Swachhta Pakhwada is being observed on the Sentire Indian Railways under the Swachh Bharat Mission from September 16 to 30. In the same sequence Swachhta Pakhwada under the Swachh Bharat Mission is also being observed on the North Eastern Railway (NER) under which at the NER headquarters and Izzatnagar, Lucknow, Varanasi divisions railwaymen have organised various programmes for cleanliness. In the same sequence on September 20 and 21 railway personnel, passengers and other railway users were given a message of cleanliness and made aware about it at the headquarters, Gorakhpur.



In railway stations, railway premises, railway hospitals and colonies, people were made aware about cleanliness and were advised to avoid using plastic, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. The railway officials and employees in their surrounding areas and other places disposed of garbage and carried out cleanliness. At Bareilly, Izzatnagar, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Kashipur, Kasganj, Lalkuan, Pilibhit and Kathgodam stations in Izzatnagar division of NER the railway personnel dispose of garbage and carried out cleanliness in railway stations, colonies and other places. Besides, some areas were sanitised too. Cleanliness was done in Gomitnagar, Lucknow City, Aishbagh, Sitapur, Bahraich, Biswan, Burhwal, Mahmudabad (Awadh) and other stations, railway colonies and railway premises of Lucknow Division of NER. Railway officers and employees worked with dedication while cleaning railway lines, platforms, railway circulating

areas, reservation centres and other places, with NER Varanasi division's Azamgarh, Belthara Road, Baitalpur, Bhatni, Ballia, Chapra Jn, Deoria Sadar, Diesel Lobby Chhapra, Gauri Bazar, Ghazipur City, Khorasan Road, Prayagraj Rambagh, Varanasi City, Manduadihi, Siwan Jn, and Ballia-situated running rooms, Varanasi City stations etc, railway premises and other public places were freed from garbage, weeds, dirt etc. Railway users were made aware by being given a message not to spread dirt around and to use designated places. In order to make this Swachhta Mission a success, the cleanliness works done by EnHM officers and employees were inspected. All sanitation works during this time were completed by following physical distancing in order to avoid Covid-19.

₹12.45 LAKH WORTH E-TICKETS SEIZED

As per the instructions of the Railway Board, on the direction of Principal Chief Security Commissioner, NER, Atul Kumar Srivastava, an intensive campaign was launched from September 1 to 20 against those who illegally traded reserved e-tickets from various places under the jurisdiction of NER. During this campaign 38 cases came to light, 44 persons were arrested and 608 illegal e-tickets worth ₹12.45 lakh were seized from them, CPRO PK Singh said. A case was registered against these persons under the relevant section of the Railway Act. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) for the convenience and comfort of the passengers is constantly monitoring the activities of those involved in illegal ticketing business and touts.

Daily recoveries surpass new Covid infections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With India recording the highest number of Covid-19 recoveries in the world, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday said for the past four consecutive days the number of daily recovered cases surpassed the new infections reported per day.

India has the highest number of recovered cases in the world at 44,97,867, Union Health Ministry Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, addressing a Press briefing here.

"India's Covid-19 cases share is 17.7 per cent of global infections, while those who have recuperated are 19.5 per cent of total recoveries in world. The daily recoveries from Covid-19 more than number of new infections reported per day since past four consecutive days," he said.

While the US' Covid-19 cases share is 22.4 per cent of global infections, those who have recuperated are 18.6 per cent of total recoveries in world, the data presented by him showed. Brazil's Covid-19 cases share is 14.5 per cent of global infections, those who have recuperated are 16.8 per cent of total recoveries in world, it showed.

So far, India has recorded over 55 lakh confirmed cases, including 87,882 deaths. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh



VACCINE EFFICACY IN INDIA LIKELY TO REMAIN BETWEEN 50 TO 100%: ICMR

New Delhi: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Dr Balram Bhargava on Tuesday said the efficacy of the Covid-19 vaccine in India is likely to remain between 50 to 100 per cent, however, they are trying for 100 per cent efficiency. "We are aiming for 100 per cent efficacy but may land between 50 to 100 per cent. However, it still would be an effective vaccine against the virus," he said.

PNS

and Tamil Nadu have reported the highest number of cases while infections are rising rapidly in States like Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Yet, India's recovery rate continues to rise and now stands at 80.1 per cent.

Bhushan said the number of active Covid-19 cases were less than one-fifth of the total

55,62,663 infections in India. "We get swayed by the narrative that India has over 50 lakh cases, but we forget that nearly 45 lakh people have already recovered," the health secretary said.

"India's Covid-19 deaths per million population is also amongst the lowest in the world. India has 64 deaths per million

PM to meet with 7 most affected States' CM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday will convene a meeting with most Covid-19 affected seven States' Chief Ministers to review the situation. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Punjab Chief Ministers and Health Ministers will attend the meeting.

"The PM will chair a high-level virtual meeting with the CMs and Health Ministers of seven Covid-19 high-burden States and Union Territories (UTs) on Wednesday to review the status and preparedness of the response and management of the viral outbreak," according to a Government statement.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary and senior officials will attend the meeting of Chief Ministers with the Prime Minister.

population, whereas world's average stands at 123," he said.

Bhushan added early detection, isolation and seamless hospitalisation of Covid-19 patients has been made possible due to an exponential increase in testing infrastructure in the country.

Covid-19 task force member VK Paul (NITI Aayog member) urged people to wear masks and follow all the social distancing norms, specially as the festival season is about to begin next month.

ED attaches Iqbal Mirchi family's 15 properties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday attached 15 properties in Dubai, including a Midwest Hotel apartment and 14 other residential and commercial assets, belonging to the family members of notorious drug baron and aide of global terrorist Dawood Ibrahim, Iqbal Mirchi.

Earlier, the ED had issued two attachment orders in December, 2019 attaching properties to the tune of ₹573 crore. Now the total attachment in this

case has reached to ₹776 crore.

The ED had registered a money laundering case against Iqbal Memon, alias Mirchi, and others on September 26, 2019, under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

In this case, five accused including Kapil Wadhawan, Dheeraj Wadhawan & Humayun Merchant were arrested.

A prosecution complaint (chargesheet in police parlance) was filed on December 9 last year before the Special PMLA

Court that has taken cognisance of the chargesheet.

Open ended Non-Bailable Warrants have been issued by the designated court against Asif Memon, Junaid Memon (both sons of Iqbal Mirchi) and Hajra Memon (wife of Iqbal Memon).

Further investigation is in progress, the agency added.

Mirchi died on August 14, 2013, and was considered the right-hand man of Dawood Ibrahim. Mirchi was often called the drug baron for his thriving narcotics business

across Asia, Africa and Europe, according to reports.

Memon's family originally owned shops selling chillies and spices that gave him the nickname 'Mirchi'.

Mirchi's fortunes soared after he began smuggling in banned meth tablets, heroin and Mandrax. He also owned a club The Fisherman's Wharf at Worli seafront in Mumbai which was a hotbed for narcotics.

Mirchi left India in late 80s, first to Dubai and later to London.

Lok Sabha members complain about assault on them during adjournment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha was adjourned for an hour soon after it assembled on Tuesday following an allegation of police assault by Congress MP from Ludhiana Ravneet Singh Bittu and a DMK MP also complaining that some people "barged" in his room asking about his party's "Parliamentary agenda."

The Congress MP charged that around 100 Delhi policemen charged at them at 'Vijay Chowk' when they were "marching in solidarity" with the farmers. He said police assaulted them thinking they were farmers.

Speaking in the house, Bittu alleged that police "brutally assaulted" him and his three MP colleagues from

Punjab Santokh Singh Choudhary, Jasbir Singh Gill and Gurjeet Singh Aujla, when they were all taking out a candle light march from Parliament House to Rashtrapati Bhavan on the issue of farm bills.

"We told them we are parliamentarians and sit with the Prime Minister but to no avail. Police didn't know we were MPs. They thought we were farmers and beat us up badly. I had a bad left knee fracture, which has gone worse after the assault and other MPs have also suffered injuries. This is horrifying," Bittu said in the LS.

The Congress MP also said he and other MPs sustained severe injuries in the process.

Speaker Om Birla assured the MP a full probe into the

incident and protection both inside and outside Parliament.

Bittu and Santokh Choudhary submitted written representations to the Speaker providing the sequence of events starting 7 pm on Monday.

Prior to this a DMK member in the House also alleged that some people barged in his room in Tamil Nadu Bhawan (where he is staying), describing themselves as "IB sleuths" and asked him about his party's programme and "interrogated" him on his party's Parliamentary agenda.

The Speaker asked the MP to give details in writing and cautioned him that the information should be "authentic". DMK leader TR Balu also backed his party MP on the issue.

NIA starts B'luru violence probe



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over probe in two cases related to large-scale violence at DJ Halli and KG Halli under Bengaluru city limits on the night of August 11 in which the house of an MLA and two police stations besides vehicles were torched by miscreants.

The anti-terror probe agency took over the investigation of the two cases of arson and violence wherein Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act had been invoked by State Police.

The NIA has now re-registered these two cases.

The first case has arisen out of an FIR registered at Devarajeewana Halli PS, Bengaluru on August 12. The second was registered on the basis of a case registered by Kadugondana Halli PS, Bengaluru on August 12.

On August 11, 2020, around 8 pm, more than 1,000 people gathered in front of the house of Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy (Pulakeshi Nagar constituency) at Kavalabyasandra, Bengaluru City. The mob was protesting against the alleged derogatory social media (Facebook) post about Prophet Mohammed made on August 11 at around 4 PM Naveen, nephew of the MLA allegedly insulting the religious sentiments of the Muslims.

"The State Secretary of SDPI, Muzamil Pasha had earlier called a meeting and directed the members of PFI/SDPI to instigate the mob and incite violence. The mob went on rampage in DJ Halli, KG Halli and Pulakeshi Nagar area under Bengaluru City. They attacked the two police stations namely DJ Halli PS and KG Halli PS and vandalised the property of police stations including Government and private vehicles parked in the Police Stations. The mob also attacked the house of Pulakeshi Nagar constituency MLA before attacking the police stations," the NIA said in a statement.

TMC hits streets against farm Bills

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Quick to milk a farmer-centric issue that once catapulted it to power post Singur and Nandigram movements the Trinamool Congress on Tuesday lapped up the alleged forced passage of farm bill in Rajya Sabha even as the party launched pan-Bengal demonstrations demanding an immediate rollback of the "black law".

Cleverly mixing the farm bill with the amendment in essential commodities laws that has declassified a plethora of eatables including potato, onion --- which are already selling for a premium in the State --- edible oil and other items raising apprehensions of burning bigger holes in consumers pockets, the TMC leadership said the party would reach door-to-door driving home the "side effects of the BJP Government's pro-rich reforms." This even as Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar queered the pitch with a no-holds-barred attack on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wondering why she stopped pro-farmer Kisan Sanman Nidhi, a central scheme that benefits the tillers from entering Bengal.

He accused the TMC supremo of blocking the pas-

sage of Rs 8,400 crore under Kisan Sanman Nidhi and was "shedding crocodile tears" on farm bill.

Senior TMC leaders including minister Chandrima Bhattacharya and MPs Saugato Roy and Kalyan Banerjee attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "hitting at the very base of the Indian economy".

Bhattacharya said "first he half-murdered the economy by imposing the demonetisation which was a tricky scheme to convert black money into white money but in actuality it ruined the middle and small sector industry and sucked out crores of jobs. Then there was another foolish scheme of GST which was hurriedly implemented and massacred the market... and finally these two bills. The farm bill will break the back bone of the Indian economy --- perhaps hitting the farmers more than the British East India Company did."

Bhattacharya was leading a sit-in protest in central Kolkata. Even as the BJP leadership desperately tried to reason out with the voters on the "good effects of the Bill" that will "free the farmers from the clutches of the middlemen," the TMC along with the Left and the

Congress roared back saying the bill was brought to compensate the business houses that fund the saffron outfit for the losses they suffered during the lockdown and sluggish market. Processions were taken out in most of the districts, particularly the rural areas even as the TMC leadership said the intensity of the movement would only gather steam in the days to come.

Meanwhile, the Governor attacked the Chief Minister for shedding crocodile's tears even as he tweeted "Urge CM - Crocodile Tears will not relieve pain of farmer,"

Subsequently in he told the media how Banerjee had denied the same farmers for whom she was crying now of benefits worth ? 8,400 crores which would go to 70 lakh Bengal farmers.

"So far every farmer has lost ? 12,000 that would have come to his bank account," he tweeted, adding that farmers in other parts of the country had "enormously benefited" from the scheme. He also wrote how "Due to the inaction of Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal farmers have been denied the benefit of ? 30,000 crore of ? 3.5 lakh crores package by central government during the COVID pandemic."

Farmers' bodies to organise Bharat Bandh on Sept 25

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After holding separate protests against agriculture Bills, now farmer organisations — Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), All India Farmers Union (AIFU), All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), All India Kisan Mahasangh (AIKM) — have come on a common platform and announced a nationwide shut down on September 25.

Farmers' organisations from southern states - Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have also called for bandh on September 25. Meanwhile, Ola Cab Drivers' association and lorry drivers' association members in Karnataka have decided to support the farmers and will not operate on Friday.

Besides, ten Central trade unions, including National Trades Union Congress, All India Trade Union Congress, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, All India United Trade Union Centre and Trade Union Coordination Centre, have extended their support for Bharat Bandh on September 25.

Not only farmers' organi-

sations but also arhatiya (commission agent or a link between farmer and procurement agencies) of both Punjab and Haryana will join the protest.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), an NDA ally, on Tuesday announced to undertake "chakka jam" for three hours across Punjab on September 25 to protest against the farm bills passed by the Parliament.

Former Punjab Minister and Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu would hold protests in his constituency Amritsar (East).

Many Punjabi singers including Harbhajan Mann have extended their support to the September 25 Punjab "bandh".

According to BKU president Rakesh Tikait, over 100 farmers and arhatiya unions (small and big) will participate in the protests on September 25.

"Farmers in Uttar Pradesh will jam their respective villages, towns and highways whereas in Haryana it is planned to be completely closed." "We are also trying to involve local shopkeepers in the protests. We will come out with the final strategy by September 23-24," he said.

Pak handlers using drones to drop weapons in Valley

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After failing to smuggle big consignments of arms and ammunition inside the Indian territory via the land route, the Pakistan based handlers of different terrorist outfits have frequently started using 'drones' to dump weapons and narcotics to maintain the supply of weapons to their cadre and newly recruited local terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir.

In the recent months at least half a dozen attempts to smuggle arms and ammunition using drones have come to light in Jammu region.

Initially drones were used to airdrop weapons from across the International border but last week the Indian Army also recovered a consignment of weapons and narcotics airdropped by a drone along the line of control in the forward areas of Rajouri district.

Interestingly, three LeT cadre from the South Kashmir area had trekked all the way from Kashmir via Mughal road to receive the consignment of weapons but were arrested by the security personnel while searches were going on in the forest area of Gurdanbala, four kilometers from Rajouri.

Senior security officers say, its a new 'challenge' for them. "We are working towards exposing the network of Over ground workers across Jammu region who are acting as couriers and ready to ferry these arms and ammunition consignment to the Kashmir valley".

Meanwhile, on Tuesday another consignment of weapons airdropped from a drone was recovered by the joint team of Jammu police and special forces of the Indian army from the border area

of Akhnoor. According to the official sources, the arms consignment was meant to be airdropped inside the Indian territory from where it was expected to be ferried to a hideout of terrorists with the help of a network of over ground workers in the region.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu Shridhar Patil said, "after receiving intelligence inputs a joint search operation was launched by the Jammu police along with special forces of the Indian army in the border belt of Akhnoor on Tuesday".

He said, during the search operations in village Sohal of Akhnoor, two consignments were recovered by the security personnel.

SSP, Jammu said, these packets were airdropped by a drone from across the border.

"Two AK 47 rifles, a pistol, three AK magazines with 90 rounds, 2 pistol magazines with 14 rounds, some packing material and rolls of wires were seized", he added. A case FIR under relevant sections of law has been registered at police station Akhnoor to carry out further investigations in the case.

According to preliminary investigations, Patil revealed the weapons were meant to be handed over to terrorists for carrying out subversive activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Out initial probe suggests JeM is behind this.

Earlier on June 20, alert jawans of the Border Security Force (BSF) had shot down a GPS fitted drone which carried a payload of around 6 kgs including a US made M-4 semi automatic carbine, 7 Chinese grenades and sixty rounds packed in two magazines, along the International border in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district.

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

It's not only poaching and habitat destruction which are the most pressing threats to the survival of the Greater one-horned rhinoceros, but disease and presence of a large population in an isolated habitat, Kaziranga National Park in Assam also do not bode well for their existence, wildlife experts say.

India is home to two-thirds of the world's remaining one-horned rhinos, a vulnerable species on the IUCN red list.

After review of records from the rhino bearing Protected Areas (PAs) of Assam, a team of wildlife veterinarians said as compared to reported 217 deaths caused due to poaching, more than 600 natural deaths have been recorded during 2008-2018 (Unpublished data), meaning about 60 deaths every year which may be due to the disease and infighting.

In their study conducted in Assam's four rhino bearing Protected Areas viz. Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Manas National Park, and Kaziranga National Park, the researchers observed that the overall preva-

lence of endoparasites was found to be in 58.57 per cent of the total samples collected while mixed infection rate was found to be 6.47 per cent amongst all the four areas.

A total of 309 Rhino dung samples were collected from the four PAs in Assam for this study which were analysed at the Department of Parasitology, College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University, in Guwahati, Assam.

Though the study was conducted just last year, results still hold important as India celebrates World Rhinoceros Day on Tuesday. Early this year itself in February, five one-horned female rhinoceroses died in Jaldapara National Park which the activists blamed on anthrax, a communicable disease that attacks herbivores.

Of the total 2,979 rhinos in the country, around 2,652 i.e. 89.35 per cent are found in Assam, with Kaziranga National Park alone with a population of 2413 individuals.

The need to initiate studies on diseases and pathogens affecting the Indian rhino is urgent as considerable number of cases on rhino deaths goes unaddressed and due to increasing live-

stock pressure on protected areas there is a possible threat of pathogens getting transferred from domestic animals to wild animals, said Amit Sharma, Senior Coordinator Rhino Conservation, WWF India. Parikshit Kakati, Senior Programme Officer-Veterinary, WWF-India, chipped in saying that additionally, dearth of data in India makes it even more crucial to initiate such studies to plug the knowledge gaps in rhino diseases, and help draw up measures to address a disease outbreak.

The wildlife experts felt that as per the National Conservation Strategy for the Indian One Horned Rhinoceros launched by the Union Ministry of Environment, dedicated research on rhinos in India is very scanty, added wildlife veterinarian Debabrata Phukan.



Fit India: PM to interact with Virat Kohli, Milind Soman and other fitness influencers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday interact with sportspersons, fitness enthusiasts and influencers to raise the importance of fitness and commemorate the Central Government's ambitious Fit India Movement.

Fit India Movement was launched on September 24 last year. In his Fit India Dialogue, Modi will also interact with personalities from other fields also through virtual conference. Indian cricketers including Virat Kohli, currently in Dubai in connection with IPL, will also join the conversation.

Apart from cricketers, the online interaction will see celebrities like Milind Soman and fitness influencers like Rujuta Diwekar, share anecdotes and tips of their own fitness journey while drawing out guidance from the Prime Minister on his thoughts about fitness and good health.

"In times of Covid-19 pandemic, fitness has become an even more important aspect of life. The dialogue will see a timely and fruitful conversation on nutrition, wellness and various other aspects of fitness," said the Sports Ministry in a statement.

"Envisioned by Prime Minister Modi as a people's movement, the Fit India Dialogue is yet another endeavour to involve citizens of the country to draw out a plan to make India a fit nation, said the Ministry.



Lack of confidence

India's rising COVID-19 numbers and a second wave in the West mean that economic revival is a long way off



China has enjoyed showing its thumb to the world and in a brazen display of insensitivity, it recently allowed a mass beach party to take place in the city of Wuhan, the epicentre of the contagion that is ravaging the lungs of people across the world as well as the global economy. Stock markets worldwide are in a tumble once again as renewed curbs across Europe, following a resurgence of the pandemic, cast a shadow on economic activity that was picking up pace. The cascading impact hit D Street, too, as foreign portfolio investors and domestic institutions dumped shares, plunging graphs southwards. And although our market has recovered by about 50 per cent from the lows of March, it is still patchy and any decelerator sends it crashing too. Large countries like the UK as well as several cities and states across the US are being forced into another round of lockdown to prevent a devastating "second wave," which means shuttering businesses that had opened. In India, while numbers have stabilised, albeit with lower testing numbers as well as evidence that district and city level officials are restricting testing deliberately, the pandemic appears to have become a fact of life with most cities whirling back. In Kerala, the State Government is allowing asymptomatic workers to return to their jobs in a secluded work zone. Yet, full steam ahead is quite a way off. While the impending festive season and the action in the Indian Premier League (IPL) will bring a spending boost, the levels will be nowhere close to those of past years. The problem is while businesses aren't completely dysfunctional, allowed as they are to operate freely in non-restricted areas, they are inter-connected to supply and distribution chains across States. Stalling of operations in one hub in a badly-hit State is bound to affect others as the cascading effect slows down the sector a particular business is into, and thereby grunts the overall economy. With attendance and production capacity affected by restrictions, some sectors cannot even take off optimally. Bengaluru is a prime example. With most IT workers having left the city through a series of lockdowns, they returned in waves, thereby, slowing down the desired momentum for recovery. All such micro-blocks are threatening to disrupt the little gains made in reviving the economy. A slew of economic relief measures, too, has failed to inspire confidence among businesses as corporate finances remain squeezed, sales have not regained momentum and demand remains low. Even the amount allocated for bailing out MSMEs remains largely undistributed.

As some have described it, 2020 is a lost year, a year spent bleeding and that can only stop next year. Anyway the process of full recovery will not start before 2022. That said, others are still quite hopeful of a rebound economy and while expecting numbers to be lower than before, they feel they would be fairly decent. Many of these people are seen in the stock exchanges betting big. The rise in the price of many major stocks despite the lost first and insipid second quarters of the year was a sign that some would hold out long-term. As long as COVID-19 is around, there will be a continuing drop in demand and supply chain inconsistencies. Besides, there are sectoral spurts while the economy as a whole needs to stabilise. Given the Government's long-range structural reforms, stimulus and relief by RBI, many investors are still using the volatility to their advantage by focussing on long-term prospects and asset allocation and choosing to build a solid portfolio. While many Indians do not have a choice but to live with the virus, some nations might prioritise differently. That said, it appears that the virus will keep on coming back. If we are to learn anything from the 1919-1920 Spanish flu epidemic, it is that it just took time to eliminate it. Vaccines did not exist then. But a price of asking for time will be that the economic bleeding might last longer and many worry that a body without any blood is not worth saving. So, will 2021 also be frightening year? It is a question worth asking now. Global ratings agency Fitch has already estimated that the Indian economy is expected to contract by 10.5 per cent in 2020-21. And while industry federations are hopeful that growth can be expedited through continued government support and hand-holding of businesses during this crisis, they are still cautiously optimistic about full capacity utilisation. This is going to be a long road to recovery.

Women in combat

Woman pilot to fly Rafale, two others to fly choppers from Navy warships. Finally, the glass ceiling has been broken



Women in India have something to be extremely proud of as Avani Chaturvedi, a young fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force (IAF), will soon be part of the crew flying the newly-inducted Rafale fleet. She is now undergoing training to fly India's latest acquisition and is part of a three-member women team commissioned as flying officers in July 2016, less than a year after the Government decided to open the fighter stream for women. The first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo, she has been flying MiG-21s for a while now. However, India has been a bit late in entrusting the nation's safety to its daughters. Because this small and elite league of extraordinary women is led by Turkish aviator Sabiha Gökçen, who in 1937 flew fighter airplanes into war zones and dropped bombs on rebel camps. This was a time when women weren't even allowed to become air force pilots, forget flying fighters. At the young age of 24, Gökçen became the world's first-ever woman to participate in a national military operation. That a woman from a predominantly Western Asian country, with a small part straddling south Europe, was the first to do so says much about the region's leadership at that time as even in the "free world", namely the US, women were not allowed to serve as jet pilots until about 50 years later in 1976. And it took a few more years for women in the US to do what Gökçen could as Jeannie Leavitt became the first woman fighter pilot in 1993. It's a sad statement on gender parity in the Indian security forces that it took over six decades for them to send a woman into combat. It was in 1999 during the Kargil War that India allowed Gunjan Saxena to fly into a war zone on a chopper. Too late and too little, the IAF has 10 women fighter pilots and 18 women navigators and the total strength of women officers serving in the IAF is 1,875 as the force continues to induct and deploy them as per strategic needs and operational requirements. Now, the Golden Arrows squadron that was raised on October 1, 1951, will have its first woman fighter pilot. Two women will also fly Navy choppers in frontline positions on Navy warships. A rather slow start. This in a country that has had a woman Prime Minister, a woman President and many women Chief Ministers and Governors, leaving behind a so-called developed country like the US, which is yet to have its first woman President. So while the much-maligned world of politics has been more inclusive, the gallant security forces have not been as welcoming of the other half.

Thanks to the Supreme Court, women officers in the Army can now get command positions on par with male officers and break the glass ceiling in the forces. However, the sad part is that they had to fight for it legally rather than being naturalised in the just order of things, considering that they were inducted in the Army way back in 1992, a long 28 years ago. The court also underlined the need for a mindset change in the evolutionary flow of changing times, not just in the Army but everywhere. It had said, "Physiological features of women have no link to their rights. Women work shoulder to shoulder with men." Women officers in the forces, like their male counterparts, give up on all familial commitments to be part of the Army. They, too, undergo the same rigorous selection and training procedures as their male peers. If women have made it through all kinds of selection criteria, then they should at least be given a chance to prove their mettle. Not benched.

opinion08

China sitting pretty

One scenario is PLA withdrawing to original positions from most friction points except Depsang with Indian forces vacating Chushul heights as quid pro quo



ASHOK K MEHTA

After a hiatus of seven weeks, the India-China disengagement and de-escalation process (DDP) resumed on Monday in a revised military-diplomatic format. To recap, in April-May, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) presented India with a fait accompli through multiple intrusions across LAC, annexing 1,000 sq km of territory following intelligence and operational lapses of Himalayan heights. China built up 40,000 troops with matching deployment by India and preliminary conversations on a DDP culminated in the Galwan clash, which led to further mobilisation of troops. The China-dictated DDP disadvantaged Indian forces, locking them in buffer zones and blocking their patrolling in Galwan, Hot Springs-Goghra, Depsang and Pangong Lake areas. An Indian riposte came south and north of Pangong Lake on Kailash ridge centred around Mukhpari through a pre-emptive operation by the Special Frontier Force, comprising exiled Tibetans, and local action in the Fingers area. This unnerved PLA, which created a friction point near Mukhpari prior to the anodyne five-point Moscow agreement between Chinese and Indian Foreign Ministers. Few days earlier, the two Defence Ministers had conversed at the same platform. Two thresholds — unarmed combat resulting in casualties and prophylactic firing — on the escalation ladder have been crossed for the first time in 45 years.

Speaking in both Houses of Parliament on the situation along the LAC, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh skipped specifying statistics of PLA ingress. In fact, he was less than economical with the truth by suggesting that coordinated intelligence and border troops' action thwarted aggression which he referred to as transgression when it was clearly a case of intrusion. In fact, the Ministry of Defence had put out the details of intrusions on its website but mysteriously removed them.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's epic statement on June 19 that no Chinese troops intruded or were on Indian soil was the original sin which became the Holy Grail for Beijing. Singh replied rhetorically to Indian troops in lockdown being prevented from



patrolling by PLA. What was also missing from his statement was any reference to restoration of status quo ante (RSQA) and Depsang, the deepest and strategically most unbalancing of all intrusions. It was Singh who first spilled the beans on intrusions and later admitted he could not guarantee a favourable outcome from military commanders' talks. He was spot on as DDP had virtually collapsed by August 2, the last date of talks.

India's negotiating strategy has serious lacunae. Further, in the statements issued by each side, China has never mentioned RSQA but restoring peace and tranquility in border areas. The word LAC has also never been used. Curiously, the Indian side has also not used RSQA in formal statements but called for full and complete disengagement. Mention of Depsang has become taboo. China has violated all border protocols, especially the 1993 and 1996 agreements, and changed the concept of LAC since it is neither delimited nor delineated. It has made LAC irrelevant, turning it into the line it can occupy and control. Instead, it has promulgated the November 1959 claim line shifting LAC westwards. As the stronger power, it has exploited the undefined LAC for exercising coercive diplomacy. China's *Global Times* has repeatedly said that India must

“CHINA HAS NEVER MENTIONED RESTORATION OF STATUS QUO ANTE BUT WANTS PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN BORDER AREAS. THE WORD LAC HAS ALSO NEVER BEEN USED. CURIOUSLY, THE INDIAN SIDE HAS ALSO NOT MENTIONED IT BUT CALLED FOR FULL AND COMPLETE DISENGAGEMENT. MENTION OF DEPSANG HAS BECOME TABOO”

accept the 1959 claim line or else face war.

Before the Foreign Ministers' Moscow meeting, the PLA attempted to unhinge India's seizure of Chushul heights, including several nodal points on the 30-km Kailash ridge line dominating PLA Moldo garrison and Spanggur Gap. These dominating heights are on the Indian side of LAC and not a trespass as alleged by China. PLA manufactured a friction point on a plateau roughly 300 m away and 200 m lower, near Mukhpari, one of the highest points on the ridge. It is surprising why the Special Frontier Force (SFF) did not occupy this plateau. During the ongoing talks, Mukhpari has already become the new bone of contention in DDP.

Even with the dust not settling on the plateaus of east Ladakh for over five months now, it is possible to decipher more rationally the Chinese motivation for its well-planned military occupation of Indian territory. It is now flatly refusing to disengage and abandon military gains like it did after past intrusions — Sumdorong Chu (1986), Depsang (2013), Chumar (2014) and Doklam (2017). India is still relying on China eventually withdrawing and returning to barracks.

It seems China was incensed when Indian troops trespassed border at Doklam (disputed between China and Bhutan)

SOUND BITE

There is a tangible threat of further escalation as India might conduct another false flag operation to justify renewed aggression against Pakistan, posing a serious threat to regional peace and security.

Pakistan Foreign Minister
—Shah Mahmood Qureshi

The proposed Mekedatu reservoir under the guise of drinking water purpose would irreparably and irreversibly affect the flow of water.

DMK president
—MK Stalin

We remain committed to using our tools to do what we can to ensure that the recovery will be as strong as possible, and to limit lasting damage to the economy.

Federal Reserve Chairman
—Jerome Powell

For the past month we have been training here, Virat Bhaiya (Kohli) has talked to me and I have learnt a lot from him.

Cricketer
—Devdutt Padikkal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ruckus in Parliament

Sir — The Government did not have a majority in the Rajya Sabha to get its farm Bills passed. Thus, to bend the House to its wishes, even as the Opposition protested and demanded further discussion on the same, the ruling dispensation intentionally had the Bills passed through a voice vote. The sheer display of arrogance by the Government will cost it dear as the farmers continue to protest against the "historic farm reforms".

R Narayanan
Mumbai

Hollow promises?

Sir — With the Bihar Assembly elections round the corner, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a special package of ₹1.25 lakh crore for the State. This is not the first time a Government has announced a special package just before elections, so, only time will tell how much of this package will actually help the people of Bihar. As of now, Bihar remains one of the most backward States in the country. And many promises

made before are yet to see the light of day.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Gender equality

Sir — In a first, the Indian Air Force's Rafale squadron in Ambala is getting its first woman fighter pilot. Currently, the total strength of women officers serv-

ing in the IAF is 1,875, including 10 women fighter pilots and 18 women navigators. There is still a long way to go before we achieve gender equality in all spheres of life.

Yashi Bairagi
Ujjain

Disgraceful conduct

Sir — Rajya Sabha Deputy

A call for people's vaccine

The decision to stop funding WHO and opt out of COVAX, the COVID-19 Global Access Facility, by the US were major setbacks in the fight against the virus. Also, orders by countries like US, UK and Australia for large supplies of potential COVID-19 vaccines will deplete the limited stock and deny or delay vaccination in the developing countries. Speaking at the United Nations' 75th anniversary commemoration, Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for global collaboration and cooperation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN should indeed facilitate an agreement for a fair and equitable distribution of vaccines when they become available.

While the race for the COVID-19 vaccines is understandable, the cut-throat competition for developing them is avoidable and unnecessary. However, this isn't the time to seek national glory or commercial benefit but to push the idea of "people's vaccine" forward. This will make the vaccines available to all at affordable prices and the pharmaceutical companies won't be able to



manipulate the prices.

The UN will have served its purpose if it sends out the message that creating vaccinated pockets won't be beneficial for any country. The leaders need to come together and work towards a sustainable future for all mankind.

David Milton
Maruthancode

This presents a grim picture of the state of democracy in India under the present regime. However, the Opposition's reaction didn't help the case either as they went on a rampage disrupting the proceedings of the House and the farmers' interest was lost in the din.

Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

Bank reforms

Sir — Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan suggested that the Government should privatise select public sector banks as reforms are necessary to ensure growth of banking activity without the periodic boom-bust cycles. However, before initiating such a step, the Government should complete the process of consolidating Government banks by merging the remaining five nationalised banks. Once this is done, there will be about seven or eight big public sector banks out of which a select three or four may be considered for privatisation.

MR Anand
Vrindavan

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Time to take stock of the UN

Overall the UN is a mixed bag and it is for the members to make it effective. At this juncture, it is crucial to improve the UN rather than destroy it



KALYANI SHANKAR

The United Nations (UN) will be 75 next month. It is a relatively young organisation but a significant birthday like this one means it is time for stock-taking. It came into being after its structure was finalised at an international conference in San Francisco in October 1945, in which 50 countries, including India participated. Since then it has grown and today the UN has 193 members. Moreover, the UN of today is hugely different from the UN of 75 years ago. The big question is whether the world body has played its role properly or has it become irrelevant? It was the late UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld who said famously that the UN was created “not to lead mankind to heaven but to save humanity from hell.”

Interestingly, those who support the UN believe that the world body has served its purpose by and large. The very fact that it has survived, despite the ups and downs, shows success. They point out that most of all, there has been no nuclear war in the last 75 years. Others praise the peace-keeping missions of the UN. They also praise its sustainable development programmes. But the UN is also criticised for not being effective for various reasons. On the UN’s watch, several authoritarian rulers have used conventional weapons against innocent citizens. The UN resolutions are non-binding. The world body was supposed to prevent conflicts and war and yet over 80 conflicts took place since its inception. In the last three decades, US Presidents, right from Bush to Trump, have all criticised the UN for its functioning. The UN is also facing a resource crunch because members, including the US, do not pay their contribution in time.

India’s involvement with the UN is remarkable. As a founding member, New Delhi’s contribution in implementing the goals of the UN Charter and programmes has been substantial. It has been involved in many UN bodies and India is the current chair of the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) executive committee. India is right now a member of the UN’s Commission on Status of Women (UNCSW), for four years (from 2021 to 2025). India was elected as a non-permanent member of the powerful UN Security Council (UNSC) for two years in June and the country served eight two-year terms earlier. New Delhi has been lobbying for the expansion of the UNSC and also staked a claim for a place in it. For some years now, whenever any of our Prime Ministers went abroad or any heads of State visited India, one issue that was always raised was getting support for India’s candidature to the expanded UNSC. However, the reforms are not taking off for various reasons. For instance, the five permanent members are not keen on losing their veto powers. The UN chief has praised India’s contribution to the peace-keeping forces as it has been the driving force behind many issues like the end of colonialism and apartheid and of global disarmament and terrorism. India is an ardent advocate of UN reforms. New Delhi initially had no ambition of becoming a permanent member of the Council. However, when the General Assembly took up the UN reforms in 1992, Japan, Germany and Brazil sought membership in an expanded Security Council. India too joined them in the chorus. However, many European countries object to Germany’s claim, Argentina opposes Brazil and Pakistan opposes India, and so on. Thereafter, the four countries formed the BRICS group to work together.

The one question that is being repeatedly asked in today’s circumstances is what is the future of the UN? Some want the UN to play a greater role in world affairs, while others want its role to specifically focus on humanitarian work. Reforming the system and getting wide international support and funds are the most important things needed for the UN. Almost from the early nineties, the reforms are being talked about but there is no progress in this regard, which is indeed unfortunate. Second, the UN needs to be modernised. Many feel that the present structure is flawed and many programmes are often duplicated. Third, there is an increasing feeling that the UN should be strengthened. The world body should be vested with more powers to deal with errant members.

Fourth, UN funding should not be stopped for any reason as the world body must remain independent. The UN is dependent on the contribution of cash, goods and services from its member states to finance and help its activities. Fifth, there is a need to cut down the strength of the staff. As *The Guardian* newspaper pointed out some time ago, “85,000 bureaucrats, an annual spend of about \$40 billion (£26 billion) — 2,000 times that of the organisation’s budget during its first year in 1946. Spending has quadrupled in the past 20 years — and still, several agencies struggle to balance their books.”

However, despite all complaints and criticism, the UN is currently the only international body where heads of states can gather to discuss important issues and countries come together to try to work out some of the world’s problems. Overall the UN is a mixed bag and it is for the members to make it effective. At this juncture it is crucial to improve the UN rather than destroy it.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

IT IS A WITCH-HUNT. PEOPLE IN THE FILM INDUSTRY ARE BEING FLOGGED BY SOCIAL MEDIA. PEOPLE WHO MADE THEIR NAMES IN IT HAVE CALLED IT A GUTTER.

—SP MP

JAYA BACHCHAN



WHEN THE FILM INDUSTRY IS FULL OF WITCHES WE WILL HAVE TO HUNT FOR THEM.

—BJP MP

SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY

A boon or bane?

The Govt needs to fix the lacunae in the farm Bills instead of trying to push them through without consulting those it affects most, namely our farmers



CHITTARVU RAGHU

Central legislation, the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was enacted with the main objective of prohibiting hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities. The other objective was to provide them to the common man at fair prices. This is because their cost to the consumer is dependent on various uncontrolled factors like climatic conditions, region of origin, supply chain, marketing and so on. Restrictions were stipulated under the Act and control orders were issued by respective States in relation to stocking, pricing and distribution. Over the years, we have been witnessing fluctuations in prices of essential commodities as well as other agriculture produce. This has often resulted in huge losses to farmers and control orders have often been invoked by the States to minimise the financial damage to them.

Now, there is an uproar among the farmers in the country and in political circles, too, after the Parliament passed three agriculture-related Bills, namely, the Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill.

A reading of the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 shows that the same is being enacted to protect and empower the farmers. It is meant for them to engage with agri-business firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters, large retailers for farm services and sale of future farming produce within a mutually agreed remunerative price framework in a fair and transparent manner. A reading of the provisions shows that farming produce includes all the agriculture produce, foodstuffs, cereals, cattle fodder, cotton seeds and so on. And farm services under the Bill include even the provision for supply of seed, feed, fodder inputs for farming and so on by the wholesaler or retailer, who is termed as “sponsor” under an agreement.

This shows that the entire agriculture produce of a farmer would be under the control of the “sponsor”, who could be a businessman or a corporate. The proposed Act specifically overrides the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and all the State control orders and any other laws related to stock limit and so on under Section 7 of the Bill. The “sponsor”, who would provide inputs for the farmer, would have overall control over the production, stocking and so on. Since the proposed Act overrides the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, there is no limit in relation to the number of agreements that may be entered into by the “sponsor” with various farmers. There is a possibility of a single “sponsor” monopolising the entire control of farming and the produce.

The next stage would be with regard to trade and marketing by the farmer. The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 has been introduced with the main objective of giving farmers and traders the freedom of choice relating to sale and purchase of the produce. The word “farmer” has been defined as an individual engaged in the production of agricultural produce and includes farmer-producer organisations (FPOs). The FPO is defined as an association or a group of growers. However, sections on the inter-State and intra-State trade have included only the word “trader”. The trader has been defined as a person who buys farm produce and does not include a farmer. Therefore, the sum and substance of the

“THOUGH IT APPEARS FROM THE READING OF BOTH THE FARM BILLS THAT THEY ARE BEING LEGISLATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF GROWERS IN RELATION TO AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY, PRICE, MARKETING AND SO ON, IN REALITY THE BUSINESSMAN, CORPORATES, MIDDLEMEN MAY TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE CONTROL OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES. THERE CANNOT BE ANY REGULATION IN RELATION TO HOARDING AND BLACK MARKETING. THE ENTIRE AGRICULTURE PRODUCE OF A FARMER WOULD BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ‘SPONSOR’, WHO COULD BE A BUSINESSMAN OR A CORPORATE. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF A SINGLE ‘SPONSOR’ MONOPOLISING THE ENTIRE CONTROL OF FARMING AND THE PRODUCE



proposed Act is that the inter-State trade or intra-State trade can be conducted by only the one who buys the farm produce.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 ends with the purchase of the stock by the “sponsor” who enters into a farming agreement with the farmer at the production level. The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 speaks with regard to the trade of the farm produce and spells out that the trader would be involved in the inter and intra-State trade.

Neither the word “trader” in the said Bill includes the “sponsor” under the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, nor does the definition “sponsor” include the “trader” under the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020. Both the Bills do not specify how the commodity will be dealt with after the produce is taken over by the “sponsor”. Maybe the “sponsor” has to become a trader under the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 but the Bills are silent on this.

Though it appears from the reading of both the proposed legislations that they are being pushed for the benefit of growers in relation to agricultural activity, price, marketing and so on, in reality the businessman, corporates, middlemen may take over the entire control of essential commodities. There cannot be any regulation in relation to hoarding and black marketing. This lacuna has to be addressed by the Central Government and it must make suitable amendments to protect the interests of the farmers and the consumers.

Section 6 of the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and

Facilitation) Bill stipulates that no marketing fee or cess levy under any State Agriculture Marketing Committee Act or any other State law shall be levied on farmers, traders, electronic trading and transaction platforms for conducting business in a “trade area.”

The “trade area” has been defined as a place where the farmers produce can be collected. Obviously, the “sponsor” under the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 would be in control of the farm produce and he may be acting as a “trader” who would utilise the trade area for the purpose of his business. In the process, the State Governments shall lose revenue, which otherwise would be available by way of market fee, levy and so on. Such a provision will adversely affect the revenue of the States.

Section 8 of the said Act of the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 stipulates dispute resolution but speaks with regard to a dispute arising out of the transaction between the farmer and a trader under Section 4. The “farmer” may not have any scope to offer his produce for sale to a trader in cases wherein he enters into an agreement with the “sponsor” under the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.

When both the Bills are independently understood, those farmers who would not enter into an agreement with any “sponsor” for the purpose of production, may benefit in the course of time. But in the light of the businessmen/sponsor entering into the domain of the agriculture production, whether the farmer would be benefitted or not is the question.

Certain amendments may be required to the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price

Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 in respect to pricing of farming produce under Section 5, mechanism for dispute resolution under Section 14 and power of the State Governments to make rules under Section 23 of the Bill, in the interest of protecting the rights of growers.

Certain safeguards can be provided to them in relation to the payment of the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the consequences if the farming produce is refused by the “sponsor” on the ground of quality and payment of money to the grower by the “sponsor”.

Section 5, which contemplates pricing of the produce, does not stipulate any minimum price. It only speaks with regard to the “guaranteed” price to be paid for the produce. The provision is silent with regard to the “authority” which would determine the said guaranteed price. Section 23, which empowers the State Government to make rules, is also silent regarding this aspect. It only enables the State Government to frame rules in relation to the mode and manner of payment but gives it no right to fix the guaranteed price. A reading of the Act shows that the guaranteed price would be determined inter-se between the “farmer” and the “sponsor”. When the “sponsor” is providing various inputs for the crop, obviously he would be in a position to command a particular price which may be adverse to the interest of the farmer.

The “sponsor”, while determining the price, would also take into account the other factors like the cost of the inputs which in the end would reduce the farmer into a farm labourer.

The Government needs to fix the lacunae in the farm Bills instead of trying to push them through without consulting those it affects the most, 60 per cent of the country’s population.

(The writer is Advocate, Andhra and Telangana High Courts)

Green buildings only hope in post-pandemic era

It is high time governments act by adopting mandatory energy-saving codes for new buildings and refurbishing existing ones



ARCHANA JYOTI

Sneha Singh shifted to an apartment in a highrise building with her husband and children in the national Capital two years ago. She has two air-conditioners, a TV, a refrigerator and other electrical appliances in her home. But she has stopped using air-conditioners now and has minimised the use of other electrical appliances because of the economic impact of the COVID-induced lockdown.

“With the mercury shooting up in April and May, it was extremely difficult for my kids to study or sleep. They were restless and unable to focus on their work,” she says. But what she does not understand is that the problem lies with the design and construction of the flat, which was not built keeping the

health of its occupants in mind. With the virulent virus forcing Sneha to spend most of the time indoors, she and many other families like hers are now realising the importance of the quality of the environment inside the house.

Experts are of the opinion that green building technologies can help the world prepare for a future in which pandemics will be more common. In fact, the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) president Dr Ho Nyok Yong made it loud and clear at a webinar in May this year when he said, “Think of green buildings as giant N95 face masks, protecting you from harmful toxins the moment you step inside.”

Echoing his observation, a study in Singapore said that people who stay in “green” buildings are less likely to suffer from fatigue, headache and even skin irritation, showing that their benefits stretch beyond saving energy.

In contrast, the health impacts of living in energy-inefficient buildings have been studied extensively in some countries like the UK and New Zealand. They have shown that the list

of consequences of non-energy efficient houses is long: Increased chances of respiratory infections, cardiovascular disease, gastro infections, asthma, allergy symptoms, poor mental health, arthritis, rheumatism and a higher number of falls — a major safety risk for the elderly. Closer home, in 2018, IIT Bombay and Doctors For You, an NGO, conducted a study in Mumbai’s poorest ward, M-East, that established a co-relation between mortality due to tuberculosis (TB) and housing conditions. It found that eight to 10 per cent of the residents in the denser, less light-filled and more poorly ventilated complexes had TB, compared to one per cent of residents in a better ventilated project. Even within a building, the risk of TB declined on higher, well-ventilated floors.

Veteran architect Ashok B Lall explains, “Most of the time buyers are not aware that housing conditions have an influence on physical health. People must understand that houses are more than the physical structures providing shelter. For example, a warm and dry house can improve gen-

eral health outcomes and specifically reduce respiratory issues. Children living in crowded homes are more likely to be stressed, anxious and depressed, have poorer physical health, and inattentiveness at school.”

Lall is a supporter of green building design focussing on reductions in energy and water usage, creation of healthy indoor environment and minimisation of environmental disturbances.

Realising the significant co-benefits of improving housing conditions, in 2018, the World Health Organisation (WHO) came out with guidelines on health and buildings. “Improved housing conditions can save lives, reduce disease, increase the quality of life, reduce poverty and help mitigate climate change,” said the WHO, also noting that these can contribute towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to health (Goal 3) and sustainable cities (Goal 11). As per the guidelines, installing efficient and safe thermal insulation can improve indoor temperatures that support health, while also lowering energy costs and

reducing carbon emissions.

Thermal quality refers to whether the indoor temperature is comfortable and healthy. While most evidence relates to the impact of cold environment, overheating can also damage health through dehydration. In cold climates, better and improved energy efficiency can lower rates of excess winter mortality while in hot climates it helps reduce the risk of dehydration and negative health impacts, says Sameer Maithel, Director of research and advisory firm Greentech Knowledge Solutions and Head, Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) Project Management and Technical Unit in India. BEEP is a bilateral cooperation project between the Union Power Ministry and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) of the Swiss Confederation. Maithel says that the health quotients in energy-efficient buildings are: Thermal comforts, natural ventilation, daylight availability, which serves as a disinfectant as well as the source of Vitamin D, safe drinking water, sanitation and waste management.

Talking about the design princi-

ples of building green and sustainable homes in India, Lall says, “If we can devote 60 per cent of the terrace area of a four-storey building to install solar panels, it will meet the energy demand of all its residents.” The height of the building has a direct co-relation with its carbon emissions and is inversely proportional to affordability, he adds.

Refining the ventilation system is another key to minimising disease transmissions while saving electricity. Unfortunately, in India most buildings are not equipped to establish and maintain healthy indoor air quality and need to be upgraded. The number of buildings conforming to green labels covers only about one per cent of the urban buildings in India. Isn’t there a risk that raising standards will push up costs further? “But in the bargain you cut down medical bills as well as enhance productivity,” argues SP Garnaik, executive director of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Power Ministry.

On its part, with an aim to make workplaces healthier and greener in the COVID-19 scenario, EESL and the

US Agency for International Development’s (USAID) MAITREE programme, launched the “Healthy and Energy-Efficient Buildings” initiative to ensure efficiency along with health components at workplaces.

“We hope that this pilot will spur urban planners, architects and property managers to rethink the design, operation and maintenance of the buildings so as to safeguard the health and well-being of the occupants at offices and homes as well,” he says.

It is high time governments act by adopting mandatory energy-saving codes for new buildings and for the refurbishment of existing ones, assert experts. “This is all the more urgent in the light of soaring construction rates. Most buildings lack mandatory building energy codes. By strengthening these codes every three-five years, zero-emission and net zero energy codes could rapidly become the norm,” says Maithel.

(The writer is Special Correspondent with The Pioneer. The article has been published as part of CMS-BEEP Media Fellowship Programme.)

Sensex down 300 points on lockdown fears across Europe

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

The Indian stock market continued its dip on Tuesday, in line with the global markets as resurgence in coronavirus cases have increased possibilities of fresh lockdown restrictions across Europe, including the UK.

The across-the-board sell off in the Indian market was led by oil and gas, energy, auto, banking and finance stocks.

“Sensex and Nifty continued to be in correction mode by closing down by 300 points and 97 points, respectively, due to a spike in covid cases in Europe,” Keshav Lahoti, Associate Equity Analyst, Angel Broking Ltd, said.

BSE Sensex closed at 37,734.08, lower by 300.06 points, or 0.79 per cent, from the previous close of 38,034.14.

It had opened at 38,200.71 and touched an intra-day high

of 38,209.97 and a low of 37,531.14 points.

The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange was trading at 11,153.65, lower by 96.90 points, or 0.86 per cent, from its previous close.

Manish Hathiramani, technical analyst with Deen Dayal Investments, said: “The markets are weak and we should see more downside in the coming days. Nifty could go down to 10,950-11,000 and if we don’t halt there, we could fall further to test 10,800.

The resistance on the upside is 10,600-10,650 and till we do not cross that, a sell on every rise would be the appropriate strategy to adopt.”

The small and midcap indices also witnessed a selloff on Tuesday.

The BSE MidCap index closed 1.70 per cent lower and the BSE SmallCap was down 1.61 per cent.

₹ drops 20 paise amid renewed growth concerns

Mumbai: The rupee depreciated by 20 paise to settle at 73.58 against the US dollar on Tuesday due to forex outflows and a stronger greenback in the global markets.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened on a weak note at 73.50 and fell further to a low of 73.64 as stock markets continued to fall for the fourth straight day.

Renewed growth concerns following resurgence of coronavirus cases in Europe and subsequent restrictions weighed on investor sentiment, dealers said.

‘Labour reforms intend to put India among top 10 nations in ease of doing business’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government aims to catapult India to among the top 10 countries in World Bank’s ease of doing business rankings with the comprehensive labour reforms which are likely to be completed after Parliament approves three draft codes in the ongoing session, a senior official said on Tuesday.

Under the labour reforms, the Centre plans to subsume 44 central laws into four broad codes on wages; industrial relations; occupational safety, health and working conditions (OSH) and social security.

The Wage Code Bill 2019 was passed by Parliament last year, while the other three codes were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Saturday. These bill are listed for consideration and passage in the Lower House on Tuesday.

“The ultimate goal of the government is to see India fig-



ure in top 10 nations in ease of doing business index of World Bank with completion of long-pending labour reforms,” a senior labour ministry official told PTI.

As per the ‘Doing Business’ 2020 report, India had jumped 14 places to the 63rd position in the ease of doing business rankings. India has improved its rank by 79 positions in five years (2014-19).

“Labour laws would act as catalyst after the reform process

is completed with passage of remaining three codes in Parliament during the ongoing session.

They would be help in attracting investments and generate employment in the country,” the official added.

“At present, it is cumbersome to be an entrepreneur due to this vicious web of labour laws which make compliance practically difficult. It is easy to seek employment rather doing own business and becoming a job creator,” the official noted.

Govt is also contemplating to digitise the entire process of labour law compliance

The codes provide for ‘one labour return, one licence and one registration’ to smoothen compliance.

At present, an entrepreneur has to maintain eight registrations and four licences to run a business under the existing labour laws.

Besides, they have to file eight labour returns, including to the EPFO, ESIC and Chief Labour Commissioner.

The government is also contemplating to digitise the entire process of labour law compliance, which will ease the process for entrepreneurs.

Under these codes, the maximum punishment for offences has been reduced to three years from seven years earlier. Besides, the workers would benefit by getting 50 per cent of penalty imposed by courts on employers. That would be in addition to the compensation awarded by the court to them.

Liquor makers urge Bengal CM not to alter tax structure

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Manufacturers of alcoholic Beverages have urged West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee not to alter the existing structure of tax on liquor before the festive seasons as it will hit the market.

In a joint representation to the chief minister, two major liquor makers’ associations -- Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) and International Spirits and Wines Association of India (ISWAI) -- have said if the current tax structure is changed before pujas, it would prove “counterproductive” for both the government and the industry. The state Government had imposed a 30 per cent sales tax on liquor causing “a deep slide in sales and thus hurting the government exchequer,” they said.

Covid bonanza for health insurers, 25% growth recorded

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the propensity of consumers to opt for a comprehensive health insurance product that gives proper financial protection for meet-

ing any medical emergencies.

Accordingly, overall growth in the health business of general insurers was strong at 25 per cent yoy in August (13 per cent yoy in 5MFY21) with strong performance reported in retail health and government

business at 40 per cent yoy each, according to analysis report by Kotak Institutional Equities. Group health insurance, however, was muted at 12 per cent.

“Increasing risk aversion among consumers, strong

uptick in demand for new Covid-related policies (‘Corona Kavacha’ and ‘Corona Rakshak’) and penetration among mass segments through the newly launched ‘Arogya Sanjeevani’ plans were likely drivers,” the report said.

In the health insurance category, people preferred taking policies from entities having expertise in this line of operation.

Accordingly, standalone health insurers reported 39 per cent yoy increase in health

premiums led by 51 per cent yoy increase in the retail health business. Private players were up 16 per cent yoy in the health business (up 40 per cent in retail health) while PSUs were up 21 per cent yoy.

Insurers in digital renewal of policies has likely paid off.

Private players witnessed 40 per cent yoy increase in retail health insurance premiums on the back of 1.1X yoy growth for Reliance General, 66 per cent yoy

growth for Tata AIG and 65 per cent yoy growth for Iflico Tokio. Chola MS, ICICI Lombard and Bajaj General reported 62 per cent yoy, 28 per cent yoy and 35 per cent yoy growth, respectively, the brokerage report said.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11,301.75	11,302.20	11,084.65	11,153.65	-96.9	
HCLTECH	813.95	831.5	790.55	825.8	23.2	
TCS	2,485.00	2,555.00	2,458.00	2,527.00	61.7	
TECHM	793	811	772	805.85	18.6	
SUNPHARMA	509.5	515	493.6	513.8	10.15	
GRASIM	720.4	746	706.8	727.45	10.6	
ULTRACEMCO	3,879.65	3,944.50	3,794.00	3,928.90	90	
CIPRA	777.05	787.95	753.15	778	99	
ICICIBANK	354	356.15	349.5	354.65	3.95	
DREDDY	5,214.00	5,260.00	5,055.00	5,198.70	56.7	
BHARTIARTL	468.5	478.5	461	471.25	3.5	
SBIN	186.15	188.3	181.15	187	1.2	
JSWSTEEL	269.3	275.15	262.7	272.5	1.2	
WIPRO	315.4	316.75	303.95	313	1.1	
TATASTEEL	374	378.5	358.2	374.5	1.1	
HDFCLIFE	576	587.5	566.3	578.65	-0.7	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,984.20	3,009.45	2,942.10	2,982.00	-4.7	
INFY	1,009.00	1,022.50	991.2	1,008.00	-1.9	
SHREECEM	19,075.00	19,187.20	18,424.00	18,840.00	-63.7	
HINDUNILVR	2,040.55	2,054.75	2,000.05	2,026.75	-11.05	
BAFINANCE	3,329.00	3,353.80	3,217.05	3,312.00	-18.15	
BAJAJFINSV	5,712.25	5,756.00	5,545.00	5,670.00	-42.25	
NTPC	88.3	89.55	85.3	87.6	-0.7	
MARICO	622.45	624.25	603	617.5	-4.95	
UPL	532.2	537.9	512.35	528	-4.4	
POWERGRID	166.8	170.45	166.5	169	-1.5	
ITC	175.75	176.75	173.75	174	-1.75	
KOTAKBANK	1,288.05	1,301.50	1,261.70	1,275.00	-12.85	
BRITANNIA	3,660.00	3,678.00	3,540.05	3,590.00	-99.3	
HDFCBANK	1,050.45	1,058.15	1,029.50	1,038.00	-11.3	
COALINDIA	122	122	118.85	120.05	-1.6	
NESTLEIND	15,430.00	15,430.00	15,100.00	15,214.80	-215.95	
EICHERMOT	2,104.00	2,122.15	2,033.65	2,071.80	-31.15	
RELIANCE	2,227.00	2,277.00	2,201.55	2,220.05	-35.8	
TITAN	11,200.00	11,275.00	10,993.15	11,101.35	-185.5	
HINDALCO	168	168.95	160.8	161.55	-3	
HDFC	1,716.25	1,716.25	1,672.00	1,676.40	-31.75	
ANSAPAINST	1,990.20	1,995.70	1,926.35	1,934.65	-37.9	
IOC	78.1	78.4	75.4	76.2	-1.5	
HEROMOTOCO	3,040.00	3,052.00	2,960.00	2,995.00	-60.35	
ONGC	71	71.3	68.75	69.65	-1.5	
BPNCL	403.05	403.8	382.2	392.9	-8.55	
LT	887.95	887.95	852	860	-21.85	
AXISBANK	424	426.65	406.3	412.75	-10.6	
TATAMOTORS	138	138.15	129.65	133.85	-3.6	
MARUTI	6,675.00	6,685.95	6,312.35	6,415.55	-211.4	
INDUSINDBK	564	578	537	542.3	-18.3	
GAIL	88.1	88.5	82.85	84.2	-4	
ADANIAPORTS	347.85	348.35	327.15	331.65	-16.2	
INFRADEL	190	192.6	179.35	179.9	-8.85	
ZEEL	212.35	212.35	193.35	196.7	-14	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	26,654.00	26,672.35	25,873.95	26,357.50	-313.75	
DIVISLAB	3,160.00	3,273.80	3,042.55	3,253.75	94.95	
ABBOTINDIA	15,900.00	16,132.00	15,539.95	16,098.00	207.85	
AUROPHARMA	798.25	812	768	802.6	10.25	
TORNTPHARM	2,722.35	2,749.00	2,640.00	2,739.50	27.9	
PGHH	9,868.00	9,974.00	9,691.40	9,969.95	99.45	
HINDZINC	205.8	211	200.1	208	2	
PAGEIND	18,315.00	18,543.75	17,685.00	18,470.00	166.25	
DABUR	492.2	494.6	480	494	3.3	
SRTANSFIN	637.5	647	613.05	639.2	1.75	
ADANTRANS	245.6	252.1	231.65	245.95	0.35	
OFSS	3,064.00	3,084.00	2,911.00	3,040.05	-5.9	
HDFCAMC	2,160.00	2,163.00	2,122.00	2,160.00	-4.55	
HAVELLS	673.95	673.95	645	666.3	-2.75	
GICRE	124.2	125.65	119.55	124.35	-0.55	
SBICARD	820	828	774.05	813	-5.15	
ICICIIG	1,272.90	1,274.00	1,248.20	1,266.00	-10	
CADILAH	397.9	398.5	381.25	392.9	-3.2	
SBILIFE	840	840	801.6	833	-7.1	
PEC	88.5	88.8	85.9	87.7	-0.8	
GODREJCP	685	689.65	666	680.9	-6.4	
IGL	414	415.2	398	411	-4.2	
MARICO	351.45	352	344	346.45	-3.85	
BIOCON	429.15	431.65	413.5	424.45	-4.9	
BERGEPAINT	568.9	569.9	550.5	562	-7.85	
PIDILITIND	1,439.00	1,439.95	1,394.40	1,425.00	-20.15	
CONCOR	379	380	363.65	373.3	-5.25	
MCDOWELL-N	522	522.55	505.55	515	-7.25	
BANKBARODA	42.65	42.95	40.85	42.25	-0.6	
DMAT	2,099.00	2,104.85	1,995.10	2,067.00	-30.45	
NHPC	20.5	20.6	19.85	20.15	-0.3	
MOTHERSUMI	115	116	110.1	112.4	-1.75	
PNB	30.75	30.8	29.5	30.15	-0.5	
UBL	982.5	982.5	944.2	964	-18.6	
NMDC	81.35	83.7	79.9	81.65	-1.65	
COPAL	1,365.00	1,365.00	1,322.15	1,340.00	-27.4	
PETRONET	224	224.5	215.3	220	-4.5	
ACC	1,380.00	1,393.70	1,345.70	1,349.00	-28.75	
AMBUJACEM	209.5	210.55	203	205.3	-4.45	
DLF	151.9	152.85	146.5	148.65	-3.3	
NAUKRI	3,370.35	3,420.00	3,275.40	3,329.00	-73.7	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,030.00	1,032.95	1,000.00	1,021.80	-22.95	
PEL	1,278.95	1,283.00	1,194.00	1,246.30	-28	
ICICIPRULI	414	415.6	399.55	403	-10.2	
SIEMENS	1,243.00	1,247.75	1,196.75	1,211.00	-32.6	
BANDHANBNK	275	275	262.35	268.65	-8.55	
RAJAHLDNG	2,480.05	2,509.60	2,392.50	2,415.75	-100.65	
BOSCHLTD	12,840.50	12,895.00	12,121.25	12,389.65	-355.95	
HINDPETRO	190	190.85	178.65	180.8	-8.4	
INDIGO	1,285.15	1,286.00	1,208.10	1,232.80	-65.05	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	IOC	78.55	78.55	75.45	76.15	PFIZER	4920.25	4923.85	4685	4780.25	OIL	92.4	92.45	87.15	88.2
RELIANCE	2287	2287	2201.35	2211.15	BSOFT	191.9	201.35	172.15	193.7	AUBANK	651.55	694.6	651.55	668.2	CCL	260	267	242.5	257
DREDDY	5189	5260.55	5056	5173.5	DMART	2086	2098.05	1996.1	2053.85	LINDEINDIA	777.5	788.95	709	732.2	SHK	79.65	81.7	76.3	78.35
IDEA	10.28	10.45	9.66	10.25	MCX	1639	1658.45	1539	1619.2	HAVELLS	679.75	679.75	645.7	665.05	RELAXO	645.2	648.95	610.05	637.8
TCS	2484.8	2554	2458.45	2523.55	NATIONALUM	33.05	33.2	31.5	32	SONATSOFTW	325.55	337.15	305	334.1	LEMONTREE	26.35	27.3	25.65	26
CHOLAFIN	229.6	235	221	231.4	FINEORG	2750	2750	2450	2665.3	ABBOTINDIA	15752.2	16130.2	15525	15950.7	NAM-INDIA	274.2	274.2	261	264.35
ICICIBANK	353.25	356	349.4	354.5	UPL	534	537.5	512.6	529.15	EQUITAS	51.5	52.05	49.25	49.85	JKLAKSHMI	263.5	267.65	249.65	250.9
TATAMOTORS	138	138.25	129.7	133.1	GRASIM	711.3	736.7	707	728.95	TVSMOTOR	449.05	449.6	433	442.7	ENDURANCE	1092.55	1092.55	1075.5	1080.5
HINDUNILVR	2040	2054	2001	2027.05	LICHSGPNS	289	292	281.35	286.5	ABCAPTALIT	64.95	65.65	60.95	62.95	CREDITACC	1380	1380	1340	1340
INDUSINDBK	565	577.95	536.85	544.55	ADANIINFOS	353.9	353.9	327.25	331.5	BATAINDIA	1335	1335	1270.85	1313.8	AAVAS	640	640	620	620
INFY	10104	10224	9915	1007.2	EXIDEIND	159	16105	153.9	156.8	VIJAYTHORGA	1218.6	1271.8	1150	1232.8	OFSS	3075	3075	3000	3000
CIPLA	779.9	787.65	755.05	778.2	CUMMINSIND	466.45	469.35	445.5	455.45	ANANTHARAM	1565.05	1620	1519.65	1560.5	CHAMBLEFRT	152.5	152.5	145	145
SRIN	186	188.25	181.2	186.5	KPITTECH	543	113.15	98.6	107.7	ENGINEERSIN	65.85	67	63.8	64.45	GLAXO	1695	1695	1650	1650
MSL	591.15	609.1	588.7	593.75	SYNGENE	559.2	565.55	527.95	557.8	WELCORP	108	109.65	104.2	104.2	SFL	1449.4	1449.4	1400	1400
HCLTECH	813.5	831	791	821.8	IGL	414	415.4	398.2	410.8	HAWKINCOOK	5231.45	5390	4900	5345.35	BAJAJHLNDG	285	285	275	275
MARUTI	6670	6682.5	6313.7	6434.65	DABUR	493	494.7	480	492.4	NCC	31.1	31.5	29.65	30.8	ABB	2496	2496	2400	2400
TBULHSGFIN	156.65	165.7	146.95	154.4	BALKRISIND	1307	1353.25	1281.6	1315.95	SWSALOR	197	209.9	187.25	196.6	BLUESTARCO	625	625	600	600
WIPRO	315.25	318.7	305.75	312.5	PNBHOUSING	308	318	300.05	314.2	JANANAUOTO	47.65	49.3	43.75	45.4	MASEFIN	839.45	839.45	810	810
LT	886.9	888	852	857.05	NATOPHARM	918.9	918.9	837.15	855.8	CAPPL	571.95	574.35	520	548.35	JKBANK	16	16	15	15
BIHARTIARTL	467.6	478.35	460.6	471.9	BHARATFORG	460	460	433.65	453.5	ASHOKA	67	67.85	62	65.3	FORCEMOT	1120	1120	1080	1080
LAURUSLABS	1425	1435.2	1285	1423.15	AARTINDIA	1021	1059	994	1038.45	SUZLON	3.05	3.09	2.9	3.01	KRBL	264	264	250	250
BAJFINANCE	3300	3353.5	3218.55	3304.4	BANKINDIA	40	42	38.25	41	PTC	47	49	44.8	48.15	PNCINFRA	155.55	155.55	150	150
ZEE	213	213	193.55	197	ATUL	6261.55	6445.25	601	6196.5	IDBI	35.95	36.95	34	35.1	IRCON	83	83	80	80
DIVISLAB	3159.5	3270.9	3048.28	3234.1	SUDARSCHEM	494.55	494.35	450.5	466.05	INOXLEISUR	270.5	281.8	246.75	270.15	RAI	135	135	130	130
AXISBANK	425.5	426.6	406.45	412.3	BEI	96.5	96.75	91	92.35	NAVINFRA	2030	2053.1	1917.4	1984.8	INFIBEAM	74.55	74.55	72	72
DEEPAK	824.3	855	775.95	848.5	IPCALAB	2065	2120.75	1983.7	2114.95	MARICO	353	353	344.25	341	IKAPER*	92.15	92.15	90	90
ASHOKLEY	74.5	76.25	70.75	74.55	NAUKRI	3400	3417.8	3280	3340.9	PGHL	5132.3	5164.55	4961.95	5010.7	AGEISLOG	230.15	230.15	220	220
KOTAKBANK	1286	1301.2	1261.75	1271.2	PAGEIND	18358.4	18500	17700	18386.85	SUMICHEM	303.8	306.7	285	295.7	VBIL	690.2	690.2	670	670
HDFCBANK	1050	1058	1030	1036	DELTAFCORP*	107.25	108.95	99.9	103.4	MOTILALOFS*	629.45	629.5	600	614.8	ZENSARTECH	186	186	180	180
JINDALSTEEL	174	175.3	159.7	170.05	IRCTC	1390	1390	1331	1356.2	RADICO	423.95	437.95	399.9	419.6	METROPOLIS	1760	1760	1700	1700
BANDHANBNK	274.6	275	262.35	267.55	HAL	797	797	755.15	775.1	CONROMANDEL	735.05	808.6	732.4	800.35	TORNPOWER	328	328	310	310
ADANIET	276.35	282.8	257.45	280.55	SBILIFE	833.7	838.2	801.05	832.95	FCONSUMER	9.15	9.15	8.66	8.72	UJIVANSF	317	317	300	300
TATASTEEL	374.9	378.65	358.2	374.2	IDFC	30.55	32.4	29.5	31.3	PRESTIGE	246	249.55	222.5	232.95	CEATLTD	932	932	900	900
HDFC	1706	1714	1671.2	1675.6	CONCOR	377.05	378.6	363.7	371.5	VARROC	305.1	309.29	290	294.6	JAICORP	74.95	74.95	73	73
TECHM	790	810.7	771.8	800.5	GODFREYPROP	863.95	863.95	821.05	843.75	STOUTHBANK	6.6	6.89	6.49	6.72	GREAVESCOT	84.95	84.95	83	83
SUNPHARMA	509.75	515.3	493.7	510.45	HDFCLIFE	574	587	566.25	579.15	WABAG	193.1	195.15	184	186.6	OMAXE	68.95	68.95	67	67
ASIANPAINT*	1987	1995.75	1930	1935.8	SIEMENS	1241.4	1241.4	1196.7	1219.85	TV18BRDSTC	29.55	30.05	28.7	29.55	CROMPTON	266.2	266.2	250	250
LUPIN	1041.05	1053	1017.35	1040	INDIACEM	116.55	118.4	109.6	116.1	CENTRALBK	15	17.45	14.65	14.7	DHANUKA	790	790	770	770
BHEL	34.35	34.5	32.25	32.6	VOLTAS	665.35	672	645.4	657.85	STRTECH	146.7	149	140.4	145.7	TEAMLEASE	2230.75	2230.75	2180	2180
DLF	152	152.7	146.5	149.05	COFORGE	2160	2202.7	2062.45	2164.05	INDHOTEL	95	95.45	90	92.7	LUXIND	1332	1332	1280	1280
GENMARK	480	480	441.65	459.5	NBC	24.45	24.55	22.8	23.5	EDIEWEISS	63.5	65.3	61.15	61.15	DISHTV	133	133	125	125
BRITANNIA	3636.5	3676.95	3541.3	3586.55	AMARAJABAT	711	725.35	697.65	710.9	FCP	333	343.25	310.45	339.95	FINOLEXIND	51.95	51.95	50	50
AUROPHARMA	797.5	812.05	767.95	798.75	PIIND	1911	1969.85	1863	1896.3	RAMCOCEM	720	727.9	694.3	704.7	JFINFANCI	83.5	83.5	80	80
SBICARD	818	827.95	773.55	812.25	UNIONBANK	26.15	26.35	25	25.5	REPCHOME	150.8	159.15	150.75	157.25	NHPC	20.8	20.8	20	20
INDIAMART	4688.05	4935	4371.5	4852.7	PETRONET	223	223.65	215.3	220.2	TRENT	640.15	645.55	613.25	633.4	VMART	2076	2076	2000	2000
HINDALCO	501	518.85	158.6	162.4	TORNTPHARM	2716.35	2745.35	2641.55	2731.7	SPOKEJET	49.4	49.75	47.15	48.85	CUB	139	139	130	130
TATACONSUM	160	161.55	490.05	504.25	AFENT	2920	2935	2805.5	2870.55	WICKPHARMA	290.15	293.05	277.2	288.05	BIRLACORPN	655	655	630	630
ONGC	71	71.3	68.75	69.5	UJIVAN	211	213.65	201.35	210.5	BTCT	1352	1367	1306.05	1320.1	TINDIA	621	621	600	600
IDFCFIRSTB	29.3	29.6	28.2	28.7	ESSELPRO	243	254.15	226.35	251.7	ITL	124.95	124.95	116.9	121.05	BAJAJELEC	473	473	450	450
PVR	1115	1140	1052.5	1127.05	SHREECEM	18935	19179.75	18427.7	19005.5	LALPATHLAB	1881	1908.5	1800	1804.5	BALKRACHIN	150	150	140	140
BOCHSLTD	12835.75	12835.75	12131.95	12380.9	ABFRL	125	133.5	120	130.5	PPC	89	89	85.9	87.4	KAJARIACER	501	501	480	480
NTPC	88.3	89.5	85.25	87.75	GODREJCP	686	689	665.55	683.25	RALLIS	286	294.5	275.35	282.05	SPANDANA	450.1	450.1	430	430
MGL	885	889.8	830.65	850.4	ASTRAL	1110	1110	1026.7	1071.7	EHOTEL	82.1	82.1	75.85	78.35	KTKBANK	51.95	51.95	50	50
ANADIGREEN	636	649	619.3	619.3	ATACHEM	287	290	273.55	279.4	DCBANK	85.6	85.6	80.05	83.45	SCHNEIDER	792	792	770	770
NOCIL	129.2	132.8	120.05	129.05	KALYALAMINE	3176	3180	2860.15	3076.8	BLUEDART	2629	2750	2400	2678.95	GSFC	57	57	55	55
MR	58201	58201	57371.7	57754.25						HXWAKEAR	460	464.65	452.45	460.65	GICRE	126	126	120	120
ULTRACEMCO	3883	3943.75	3794.65	3878.3						NILKAMAL	1301.95	1327.35	1280.9	1316.1	SUNTECK	273.05	273.05	260	260
JSWSTEEL	266.5	275.05	262.8	271.8						SANOFI	8470	8470	8168	8343.95	GUJALKALI	339.65	339.65	320	320
COALINDIA	121.7	121.95	118.85	119.6						QUESS	397	415.2	368	389.5	GRSE	174.55	174.55	165	165
BANKBARODA	42.3	42.95	40.9	42.35						UBL	982.5	982.5	944.45	964.2	WESTLIFE	369.9	369.9	350	350
HDFCAML	2151	2165	2122.2	2151.35						HEG	750	750	698.85	711.4	RCF	44.9	44.9	43	43
BAJAJFINSV	5707.5	5759	5547.2	5682.05						MPHASIS	1360.1	1382.2	1304.05	1372.35	3MINDIA	18000	18000	17500	17500
ITC	175.7	176.25	173.8	174.15						BEMIL	623.8	626	600	606.75	JKTRYE	56.55	56.55	55	55
RBLBANK	169.35	171	161.5	166.4						PERSISTENT	1150.05	1190.65	1092.9	1180.65	VAKRANGE	208.95	208.95	200	200
TATAPOWER	53	53.5	50.45	51.55						TRIDENT	6.64	6.64	6.36	6.43	BALMLAWRIE	15.05	15.05	14	14
FRETAIL	92	94.5	90.65	90.9						ADANITRANS	240	251.85	231.55	247.05	WACOINDIA	5751.95	5751.95	5600	5600
L&T	60.6	60.85	57.4	59.75						CGCL	239	239	225	228					

WHO: Highest weekly spike of 2mn cases

Geneva: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported a record number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus registered across the world over the past week — almost 2 million infections — which marks the highest number in a single week so far.

“ From 14 through 20 September, there were almost 2 million new cases of COVID-19, which represents a 6 per cent increase compared to the previous week, and the highest number of reported cases in a single week since the beginning of the epidemic. During the same period, there was a 10 per cent decrease in the number of deaths, with 36,764 deaths reported in the past seven days,” the WHO said in a sit-



uation report late on Monday.

In particular, an increase in the weekly case incidence rate was reported across all regions in the last seven days, except for

Africa, with the two Americas remaining the worst-hit areas and accounting for over 38 per cent of all new cases reported over the past week.

Meanwhile, Europe showed the greatest increment in the number of fatalities in the past week, with a 27-per cent increase compared to the previous week. **AP**

Covid airborne, believe many scientists despite US body flip-flop

Washington: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday removed language from its website that said the novel coronavirus spreads through airborne transmission, the latest example of the agency backtracking from its own guidance.

The agency said the guidance, which went up Friday largely without notice until late Sunday, should not have been posted because it was an early draft.

“ Unfortunately an early draft of a revision went up without any technical review,” said Jay Butler, the CDC’s deputy director for infectious diseases. “ We are returning to the earlier version and revisiting that process. It was a failure of process at CDC.”

Evidence that the virus floats in the air has mounted

for months, with an increasingly loud chorus of aerosol biologists pointing to super-spreading events in choirs, buses, bars and other poorly ventilated spaces. They cheered when the CDC seemed to join them in agreeing that the coronavirus can be airborne.

Experts who reviewed the CDC’s Friday post had said the language change had the power to shift policy and drive a major rethinking on the need to better ventilate indoor air.

Jose-Luis Jimenez, a chemistry professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder who studies how aerosols spread the virus, told The Washington Post before the CDC reversed its guidance that “ this is a good thing, if we can reduce transmission because more people understand how it is spreading and know what to do to stop it.”

Bolsonaro: Brazil is victim of environmental smear

Rio de Janeiro: Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro defended his administration’s record protecting the Amazon rainforest, telling the United Nations’ virtual meeting of global leaders on Tuesday that his country has been wrongly portrayed as an environmental villain.

Speaking first in the General Debate of the UN’s General Assembly, as is tradition for the Brazilian leader, Bolsonaro said the South American nation’s agribusiness sector has succeeded in boosting agricultural exports to feed a growing global population, which has made it a target.

“ We are victims of one of the most brutal disinformation campaigns about the

Amazon and the Pantanal wetlands,” Bolsonaro said.

“ The Brazilian Amazon is well-known to be very rich. That explains why international institutions support such campaigns based on ulterior interests, joined by self-serving and unpatriotic Brazilian associations, with the objective of harming the government and Brazil itself.”

Bolsonaro came to office in 2019 promising to open more of the Amazon to development, such as farming and mining. International concern, particularly after last year’s fires, has led investors to try to distance themselves from rising deforestation and pressure Bolsonaro’s government to take more action against it. **AP**

Romney OKs voting on SC nominee

Washington (AP): Utah Republican Sen. Mitt Romney said Tuesday he supports voting to fill the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s seat on the Supreme Court, all but ensuring President Donald Trump has the backing needed to push the nomination over Democratic objections that it’s too close to the November election. Romney issued a statement saying he would support moving forward.

“ If the nominee reaches the Senate floor, I intend to vote based upon their qualifications,” Romney said.

Trump , meanwhile, said he would announce his choice to replace the late Ginsburg on Saturday, setting off a Senate battle with Democrats.

The Senate Judiciary chairman who will shepherd the nomination through the chamber said Republicans have the votes they need for confirmation even though no nominee has been announced.

The nominee is going to be supported by every Republican in the Judiciary Committee, Chairman Lindsey Graham told Fox News late Monday. We’ve got the votes to confirm the justice on the floor of the Senate before the election and that’s what’s coming.

The president met with conservative Judge Amy

Coney Barrett at the White House on Monday and told reporters he would interview other candidates and might meet with Judge Barbara Lagoa when he travels to Florida later this week. Conversations in the White House and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s office have been increasingly focused on Barrett and Lagoa, according to a person granted anonymity to discuss the private deliberations.

Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the chamber and can confirm a justice by a simple majority.

Barrett has long been favored by conservatives, and those familiar with the process said interest inside the White House seemed to be waning for Lagoa amid concerns by some that she did not have a proven record as a conservative jurist. Lagoa has been pushed by some aides who tout her political advantages of being Hispanic and hailing from the key political battleground state of Florida.

Barrett, 48, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, was a strong contender for the seat that eventually went to Brett Kavanaugh in 2018. At the time, Trump told confidants he was saving Barrett for Ginsburg’s seat.

Before joining the 7th Circuit, she had made her mark in law primarily as an academic at the University of Notre Dame, where she received a law degree and later began teaching at age 30. She clerked at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, clerked at the Supreme Court for Justice Antonin Scalia, worked at the Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin law firm in Washington, D.C., then returned to Notre Dame.

Barrett has long expressed sympathy with a mode of interpreting the Constitution, called originalism, in which justices try to decipher original meanings of texts in deciding cases. Many liberals say that approach doesn’t allow the Constitution to change with the times.

Trump has said he would choose a woman, and he admitted that politics may play a role. He gave a nod to another election battleground state, Michigan, and White House officials confirmed he was referring to Joan Larsen, a federal appeals court judge there. The president also indicated that Allison Jones Rushing, a 38-year-old appellate judge from North Carolina, is on his short list. His team is also actively considering Kate Todd, the White

House deputy counsel who has never been a judge but was a clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas.

Democrats, led by presidential nominee Joe Biden, are protesting the Republicans’ rush to replace Ginsburg, saying voters should speak first, on Election Day, and the winner of the White House should fill the vacancy.

Trump dismissed those arguments, telling TV’s Fox & Friends” on Monday, I think that would be good for the Republican Party, and I think it would be good for everybody to get it over with. The mounting clash over the vacant seat when to fill it and with whom injects new turbulence in the presidential campaign with the nation still reeling from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed nearly 200,000 Americans, left millions unemployed and heightened partisan tensions and anger. Democrats point to hypocrisy in Republicans trying to rush through a pick so close to the election after McConnell led the GOP in refusing to vote on a nominee of President Barack Obama in February 2016, long before that year’s election. Biden is appealing to GOP senators to uphold your constitutional duty, your conscience and wait until after the election.

memorandum.

By custom, Brazil speaks first and the U.S. second as the host country in the annual meeting’s general debate, which is generally less a dialogue than a series of declarations.

The coronavirus has inflicted heavy tolls on both countries, close to 200,000 people in the U.S. and over 136,000 in Brazil, according to statistics collected by Johns Hopkins University.

Both Bolsonaro and Trump have been at odds, at least at times, with governors and health experts over the pandemic and have emphasized the economic consequences of shutdowns.

Both also are contending with plenty of other issues that command world attention,

late that it is seeing relatively few cases, mostly among people arriving from other countries. China, the world’s most populous nation, has reported over 4,700 deaths.

Russia, where the death toll is over 19,000, last month became the first country to approve a vaccine for the COVID-19 virus. Russian President Vladimir Putin trumpeted the development, saying one of his adult daughters had already been inoculated. But international health experts have expressed caution about the vaccine’s effectiveness and safety because of the small study sample and other limitations.

A record number of heads of states and governments are due to speak at the virtual

China responsible for unleashing plague of ‘China virus’ onto the world: Trump

United Nations: US President Donald Trump blasted China on Tuesday for “ unleashing” “ the plague of the “ China virus” “ onto the world, demanding that the United Nations must hold Beijing accountable for failing to contain the coronavirus that has killed nearly one million people across the world, including 200,000 Americans.

“ 75 years after the end of World War II and the founding of the United Nations, we are once again engaged in a great global struggle. We have waged a fierce battle against the invisible enemy - the China virus - which has claimed countless lives in 188 countries,” Trump said in a video statement to the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

Trump demanded that China, where the coronavirus emerged, be held accountable for failure to control the virus and for allowing it to spread across the world.

“ As we pursue this bright future, we must hold accountable the nation which unleashed



this plague onto the world: China,” he said.

Doubling down on Beijing, Trump said that China condemned his travel ban on their country, even as they cancelled domestic flights and locked citizens in their homes.

“ In the earliest days of the virus, China locked down travel domestically while allowing flights to leave China and infect the world,” Trump said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has so far infected over 30 million people and more than 958,000 people have died. The US, with 6.7 million infections, crossed the grim milestone of 200,000 deaths.

“ The Chinese government, and the World Health Organization -- which is virtually controlled by China -- falsely declared that there was no evidence of human-to-human transmission,” Trump said.

“ Later, they falsely said people without symptoms would not spread the disease. The United Nations must hold China accountable for their actions,” he said.

Trump also slammed China for dumping millions and millions of tonnes of plastic and trash into the oceans every year, overfishing other countries’ waters, destroying vast swaths of coral reef, and emitting “ more toxic mercury into the atmosphere than any country anywhere in the world.

“ China’s carbon emissions are nearly twice what the US has, and it’s rising fast,” he said, adding that he withdrew from the “ one-sided” Paris Climate Accord and last year America reduced its carbon emissions by more than any country in the agreement. **PTI**

Critic of Xi sentenced to 18 years in graft

Beijing: The former chairman of a Chinese state-owned real estate company who publicly criticized President Xi Jinping’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic was sentenced to 18 years in prison on Tuesday in a corruption case, the government announced.

Ren Zhiqiang, who had become known for speaking up about censorship and other sensitive topics, disappeared from public view in March after publishing an essay online that accused Xi of mishandling the outbreak that began in December in the central city of Wuhan. Ren, was convicted of corruption, bribery, embezzlement and abuse of power, a court in Beijing announced. The former chairman and deputy party secretary of Huayuan Group was expelled from the ruling party in July. **AP**

Turkey accuses EU of rewarding aggressor in Libya

Ankara: Turkey on Tuesday accused the European Union of “ rewarding the aggressor” after the 27-nation bloc slapped sanctions on three transport companies for violating the UN arms embargo on Libya, including the Turkish shipping firm which operates a vessel that was at the center of a naval standoff in the Mediterranean Sea between Turkey and France.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry statement dismissed the decision as “ of no value.” It insisted the ship was providing aid to Libya’s U.N.-recognised government based in the capital, Tripoli, and accused the EU of ignoring countries and companies sending arms to the rival Libyan National Army, led by Gen. Khalifa Hifter, which

controls the east.

“ With this attitude, the EU insists on maintaining a double-standard attitude ... Which rewards the aggressor, instead of taking an attitude in favour of international legitimacy,” the ministry said.

The statement also said it is “ extremely unfortunate” that the decision came as efforts are underway to reduce tensions between Greece and Turkey over energy exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean.

At talks in Brussels on Monday, EU foreign ministers imposed sanctions on the Avrasya Shipping company, which is headquartered in Turkey, saying it was “ found to have violated the arms embargo in Libya.” **AP**

Australian rescuers save 25 of 270 stranded whales so far

Hobart (Australia): Around one third of an estimated 270 pilot whales that became stranded on Australia’s island state of Tasmania have died, with rescuers managing to return 25 to the sea in an ongoing operation, officials said Tuesday.

The whales were discovered Monday on a beach and two sand bars near the west coast town of Strahan. Sixty people have joined the rescue effort.

“ We’ve rescued about 25 at the present time and escorted them out the channel and out to sea and crews are continuing to work, so that number will increase before we get to the end of the day,” Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service Manager Nic Deka told reporters late Tuesday afternoon. **AP**

Govt responsible for bringing back Nawaz Sharif: Islamabad HC

Islamabad (PTI): A high court in Pakistan on Tuesday said that the federal government was responsible for bringing back former prime minister Nawaz Sharif from London to stand a trial in the country.

A two-member bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) took up hearing of Sharif’s case on Tuesday. Sharif, 70, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo, has been living in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treatment. The court on September 15 issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Sharif who failed to surrender before it despite clear warning by the bench. The IHC said the onus was on the federal government to bring back Sharif from London to stand a trial in Pakistan.

At the start of the hearing, the court asked about Sharif and the additional attorney general, on behalf of the state, informed the court that the

execution of the former premier’s arrest warrants had commenced.

“ Nawaz Sharif’s arrest warrants were sent to Britain on September 17 and Pakistan High Commission officer Rao Abdul Hanan went to Nawaz Sharif’s house with warrants where a person named Yaqub refused to receive them,” the additional attorney general said.

He added that Pakistan High Commission in the UK then sent an arrest warrant through the Royal Mail which was received by Sharif’s son Hassan Nawaz at their Avenfield residence.

The judges were not happy at the official response and Justice Amir Farooq remarked that the court was not even informed when the federal government allowed Sharif to go abroad.

“ No petition was filed before the court by the government to allow Nawaz to go aboard and now we are waiting for him to appear before the court so that his appeal could be heard,” he said.

Poll indicates Ardern poised to win reelection

Wellington: A new opinion poll indicates that New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is poised to win a second term in office when the nation goes to the polls next month.

But Ardern said Tuesday that she’s taking nothing for granted.

The 1 News Colmar Brunton Poll put support for Ardern’s liberal Labour Party at 48 per cent while support for the conservative National Party, led by opposition leader Judith Collins, was at 31 per cent.

Support for Ardern as preferred prime minister was at 54 per cent compared to 18 per cent for Collins.

Under New Zealand’s pro-



portional voting system, larger parties typically form coalitions with smaller parties to govern.

Ardern’s popularity has surged since the coronavirus became the defining issue for her government six months ago. Her approach of trying to eliminate the virus has been widely viewed as successful. **AP**

Sri Lanka Easter attack probe panel summons ex-PM Wickremesinghe, former prez Sirisena

Colombo (PTI): A presidential panel probing the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka has summoned former president Maithripala Sirisena and former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe for giving their testimonies on the deadly terror strikes, officials said on Tuesday. Nine suicide bombers belonging to local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels on the Easter Sunday last year, killing 258 people, including 11 Indians.

While Sirisena is scheduled to appear before the commission on October 5, Wickremesinghe will testify before the panel on October 6, the officials said.

The previous government headed by Sirisena and Wickremesinghe was blamed for its inability to prevent the attacks despite the prior intelligence made available on the impending attack.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who pledged an independent probe in the incident during his election campaign in November last year, continued with the same panel appointed by Sirisena after assuming office.

Sirisena had appointed the panel as an immediate reaction to pressure from the local head of the Catholic Church Cardinal, Malcolm Ranjith.

The Easter attack was one of the main reasons for the crushing defeat of the Wickremesinghe’s government in the August parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, testifying before the commission on Monday, former defence secretary Hemasiri Fernando accused the then head of the state intelligence services (SIS), Nilantha Jayawardene, for negligence of duty. Fernando was arrested and jailed alongside the then police chief Pujiith Jayasundera for criminal negligence over their inaction to prevent the attacks despite the availability of prior intelligence.

World powers take the stage, virtually, at UN debate

United Nations (AP): The UN’s first virtual meeting of world leaders started Tuesday with pre-recorded speeches from some of the planet’s biggest powers, kept at home by the coronavirus pandemic that will likely be a dominant theme at their video gathering this year.

Among those speaking Tuesday are U.S. President Donald Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, whose countries have reported the highest and second-highest coronavirus death tolls, respectively. Also on deck are President Xi Jinping of China, where the virus originated, and President Vladimir Putin of Russia, which has raised international eyebrows with its rapid vaccine development.

After Monday’s introductory session marking the U.N.’s 75th anniversary, the meeting’s central event speeches from each of its 193 member nations start Tuesday. They traditionally serve as a platform for countries to tout accomplishments, seek support, stoke rivalries and express views on global priorities.

This year, the platform is online, and there is a pressing new priority in the pandemic that has killed over 960,000 people worldwide.

When we met in New York a year ago, no one could have imagined that 2020 would arrange such a powerful crash test for our world,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy remarked in his video speech for Monday’s anniversary com-

memorandum.

By custom, Brazil speaks first and the U.S. second as the host country in the annual meeting’s general debate, which is generally less a dialogue than a series of declarations.

The coronavirus has inflicted heavy tolls on both countries, close to 200,000 people in the U.S. and over 136,000 in Brazil, according to statistics collected by Johns Hopkins University.

Both Bolsonaro and Trump have been at odds, at least at times, with governors and health experts over the pandemic and have emphasized the economic consequences of shutdowns.

Both also are contending with plenty of other issues that command world attention,

including Bolsonaro’s plans to develop the Amazon and Trump’s 2018 decision to pull the U.S. out of Iran’s nuclear deal with world powers. Washington took a further step this weekend with a unilateral, and disputed, declaration that all U.N. penalties eased under the 2015 nuclear deal had been restored, setting up a likely showdown at the assembly where Iran’s speech is also scheduled Tuesday.

So is Turkey’s, a day after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the U.N. has flunked during the pandemic. The virus was first detected in Wuhan, China, late last year. After building field hospitals and imposing a draconian 76-day lockdown to battle the virus there, China has said of

late that it is seeing relatively few cases, mostly among people arriving from other countries. China, the world’s most populous nation, has reported over 4,700 deaths.

Russia, where the death toll is over 19,000, last month became the first country to approve a vaccine for the COVID-19 virus. Russian President Vladimir Putin trumpeted the development, saying one of his adult daughters had already been inoculated. But international health experts have expressed caution about the vaccine’s effectiveness and safety because of the small study sample and other limitations.

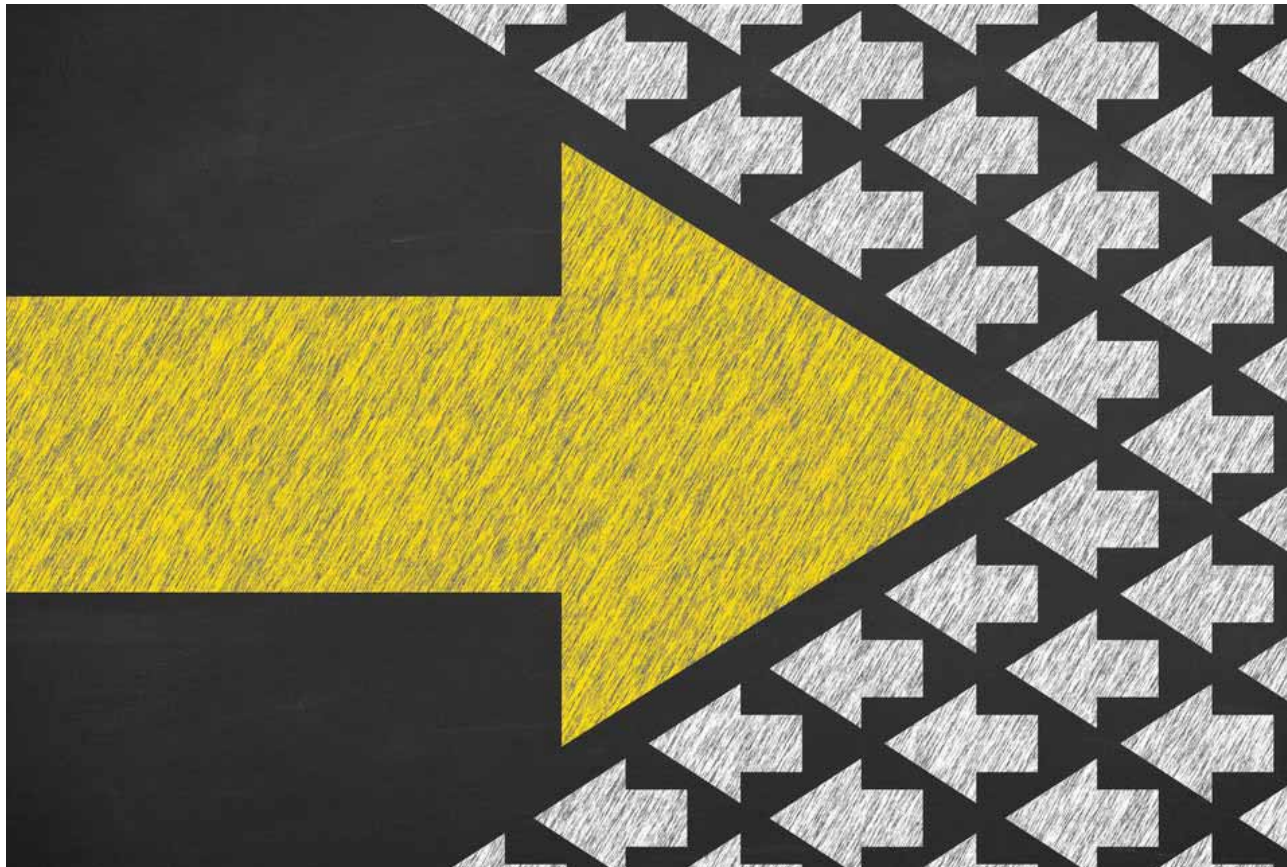
A record number of heads of states and governments are due to speak at the virtual

meeting, rather than sending ministers or diplomats. That’s a good thing, but the idea that prime ministers and presidents are going to be sitting at home with a bucket of popcorn watching each other’s televised speeches is a bit silly, said Richard Gowan, who oversees U.N. issues for Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank.

Still, German U.N. Ambassador Christoph Heusgen sees the assembly as a chance for a global meeting of minds when it’s needed more than ever.

Even in a digital format, UNGA-75 is an opportunity especially in the face of international conflicts and dramatic challenges such as climate change or COVID-19, he said.

The conventional model and approach in the Education Sector seem to be taking a backseat and the unprecedented times are calling for a newer approach to disseminate education without impacting its quality, says DR DNS KUMAR



For a better tomorrow

India has always held a significant place in the world of education. It has not only been known for its quality education but also the devotion of institutes that focus specifically on making the students learn and prosper in their respective fields. Even though our country has one of the largest networks of higher education institutions across the globe, there still are a lot of areas of improvement it can work on. The country still hasn't explored its highest potential in the field of education.

As per a report by Indian Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), India was aiming to raise its current gross enrolment ratio to 30% by the end of 2020, which would also have boosted the growth of distance education in India. However, the plans had to take a backseat due to the outbreak of COVID-19, disrupting the entire education sector. There is no doubt about the industry witnessing a crisis due to the ongoing pandemic and the education of the students being impacted severely by the same. The

disruptive period has steered the institutions and universities to focus on their higher education model and re-contemplate its working to resonate with the current scenario.

The conventional model and approach in the sector seem to be taking a back seat ever since the pandemic hit the country and the unprecedented time is calling for a newer approach to disseminate education without impacting the quality of it. The need of the hour requires the institutions to adapt to new innovative technologies and different techniques, which will further help them sync with the present generation.

Holding lectures and regular classes for the students is turning out to be a task because of the physical disruption caused by coronavirus. However, the universities from all over the world are putting their best foot forward to combat the issue by adopting a tech-enabled approach and conducting classes on virtual platforms. A lot of universities are going an extra mile to stand in unison with

the global institutes and form international alliances to offer the best to their students. They are offering a diversity of experiences as they provide international exposure to their students via online platforms and classrooms.

A number of massive online open courses (MOOCs) are being available to the students these days, preventing any lag on their educational front along with the professors and lecturers upgrading their skill sets to match the new way of teaching.

The way to rise above this disruption is to embrace innovative ways and break outdated boundaries. Technological advancement comes with its own set of pros and cons, with some of the flaws adverse effects including the increase in cybercrimes or offences, but these times require us to focus on the silver lining in the cloud and create opportunities out of this crisis instead. Eliminating conventional ways and outdated approaches will create a wave which will pave a new path to success and will further make edu-

cation accessible to the masses with the help of technology.

Education in the age of disruption has eventually led us to a path where the institutions are not only making online learning cost-effective and affordable for more people to enrol, but also encouraging students to focus on acquisition of skills rather than theoretical teaching. This will further bolster their confidence and make them competent to deal with any uncalled crisis in the near future. The collaborative learning coupled with a new way of teaching is revolutionising the educational sector along with offering additional perks to the students, such as online open houses, webinars, internships, smart-learning and others.

Fuelling the spirit of education and promoting remote learning, the universities are trying to fleet out of their comfort zones to create a new today and a better tomorrow. Endeavouring to make education soar high in an age of disruption, they are hosting online workshops, digi-

talised lectures, interactive sessions and discussions and on-screen examinations for the students. Remote learning, along with other tech-savvy approaches, is catching up with the country and is anticipated to contribute to the individual success of students, eventually leading India towards collective growth.

The education sector's receptivity towards innovative approaches is also providing the country with a window to improvise the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and build technology-oriented skills and competency amongst students. Building technology-oriented skills and making students competent to take the world head-on, edu-tech and virtual learning are seen serving as the tools for collective success.

The education in the age of disruption is creating ripples of change and empowering the youth to pursue their passion and eventually become skilled professionals contributing to the economic growth of the country. The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Ansal University

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Give a girl an education and introduce her properly into the world, and ten to one but she has the means of settling well, without further expense to anybody.
— James Madison

Online GK Olympiad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The term GK is firmly associated with general intelligence, therefore understanding the significance of things that happen in our life. Participation in a test like Olympiad makes students learn it through quizzes and puzzles in turn enabling them to be more decisive and confident in career.

Hence, in support of every parents and child's wish to achieve a new milestone and succeed in what he or she does; Mind Wars, a multiplatform knowledge programme promoted by Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd has announced India's largest online general knowledge

Olympiad 2020, intending to identify, encourage, and promote students towards achieving a better tomorrow.

A national-level championship will begin in November 2020, and it is open to students of classes IV to XII from all education boards across India. The 20-minute exam comprises relevant and interesting general awareness question across five topics per class, that aims at improving students' ability and growth in the coming years.

To participate in Olympiad visit: <https://www.mindwars.co.in/olympiad/>.

Exam dates: November 22, 28 and 29, 2020. December 5, 6 and 12, 2020.

UG programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is inviting applications for BEng Hons Manufacturing Engineering with Management course (four years) starting in September 2021.

Students will learn to combine virtual and physical design and prototyping in the university's digital design suite. Every physical product you come into contact with has been manufactured and the industry's demand for those skilled in this area continues to increase.

Students will benefit from guaranteed industrial experience to develop and apply their skills as a product design engineer within the real world and

add to their CV, through the Industrial Group Project modules.

Manufacturing Engineering with Management blends a more technical engineering focus (such as mechanics, manufacturing, electronics, maths, programming, engineering calculations of a product's design) with production and management principles, and technology such as operational improvement and quality management.

Eligibility: 70-75 per cent in all subjects taken at level XII and the same at level X. Marks should be particularly strong in the proposed area of study. IELTS requirement is 6.5 (no individual element below 5.5).

How to apply: Contact eng-admissions@strath.ac.uk.

While education remains a vital part of any individual's life span, that not only assists in providing a threshold to a flourishing career but also broadens the horizon to give a positive outlook to their personality. Analysing the estimated students for undergraduate programmes, around 9 crore in senior secondary level and nearly 3.5 crore in higher education. But devoid of availability of quality higher education institutions in India, the number of students opting for the best higher education remains in incongruity, leading to a steady outflow of the Indian Students for International Education.

Attributing to a plethora of quite obvious reasons like emotional control, financial budget, dependent nature of the child, culture, and lifestyle of various countries, and most importantly unawareness, parents were earlier hesitant to send their kids abroad, as seen historically. The demand for high-quality education fuelled by a rising and stable economic condition in the country has managed to make this idea turn into a reality for many.

Students these days are opting for higher education in a foreign destination. However, abundant options and too many choices make this dream a challenge for many to achieve.

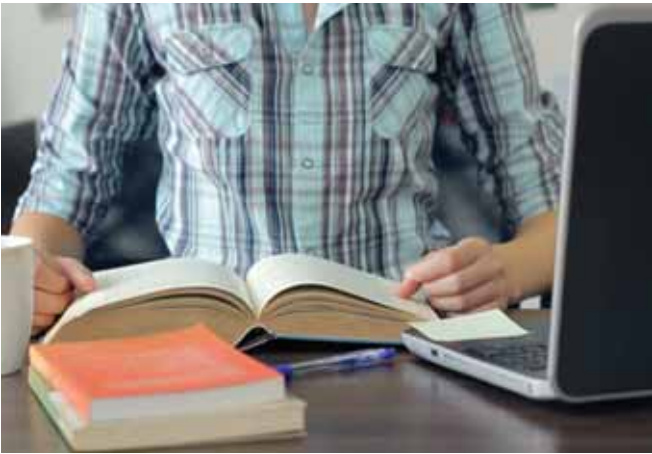
Why Indian students' International Mobility on rise?

When you look at the kind of course combinations that are provided by international universities today, they will definitely attract any student who is willing to explore possibilities through various courses or inculcate experience by mixing with international peer groups.

But a student aiming to go abroad for education should con-

Proper guidance is must

A student aiming to go abroad for education should consider several factors, including the budget. Many students due to incomplete research end up getting an admission in a university of less credibility, says ANKIT KAPOOR



sider factors that include languages known, budget, aptitude, suitable country, and future plans. Many students due to incomplete research end up getting an admission in a university of less credibility.

As far as financing the education is concerned, today most students look at affordable universities with part-time work opportunities in order to be able to fund their living cost. The bigger question however remains what exactly are the top universities looking for in their students which requires expert guidance and assistance.

Specialised team is required to provide holistic guidance on the

choice of universities, profile building, deadlines, university application, visa processing, and even financial planning to study and get into the world's best universities.

It is important for a student to understand the importance of building a profile. If one studies the student profiles accepted in top universities across the world there are a few common traits within the students:

Concern for community: if you do not bother for people or conditions around you and do not have an urge to improve situations, probably an expensive education in a top university is of no good to you.

Interest towards the course: Prove it to the university that you are keenly interested in the subject that you are applying to. Only exceptional academic scores in the subject might not be enough in this regard, rather your participation in subject based Olympiads, quizzes or taking higher level courses may be worthwhile.

Leadership and Risk-Taking capacities: Very common skill in sophomores of top-notch universities across the world. If you have the capacity of taking the initiative and leading others towards a positive movement, it means a lot to the universities as they can see a change maker in you.

Proper guidance helps in aspiring to bring out the best in its students by ethically guiding them and helping them build up their profiles to crack the world's top universities with scholarships. Motivating the students to choose the best courses as per their potential and evaluate their profile to provide the information based on a wide range of courses and options available across the world, is one of the important traits. Overall, one must understand those top universities today are looking for nothing less than a unique individual.

The writer is Managing Director, Pratham International Education Desk

Be a true leader

Creating leadership talent is not easy, given just how vast a capable leader's toolkit is. A leader is the cusp of people skills, strategy, technical competence, vision, commercial sense and selling ability, says DR JITENDRA K DAS

A key concern across industries and geographies is the lack of leadership talent. While the ranks of executives and managers are adequately staffed with superior talent, the top of the corporate pyramid lacks enough visionaries. Where is the next Jack Welch? The next Bill Gates? The next Steve Jobs? The next Lee Iacocca? Or closer home, the next JRD Tata? The next Aditya Birla?

Creating leadership talent is not easy, given just how vast a capable leader's toolkit is. A leader is a cusp of people skills, strategy, technical competence, vision, commercial sense, and selling ability. Little wonder that the business world is suffering from a dearth of leaders just when they are needed the most in volatile times.

The majority of millennials (the leaders of tomorrow) agree that their leadership skills are underdeveloped. Organisations thus have to invest heavily in leadership development of their workforce which has huge cost implications. To develop tomorrow's leaders, enter B-schools as a training ground. Think of it this way — from the industry's perspective, if they could hire competent business managers from B-schools who have the right seeds of leadership already planted then it would reduce time, cost, and effort down the road when it is time to select CXOs.

This clarion call from industry has led to B-schools sharpening their curriculum and pedagogy to include specific and proven techniques for identifying and nurturing leadership talent on the one hand and helping others who are lacking in leadership potential to devel-



op it. The emphasis is based on the belief that leadership is better learned when experienced than when explained. Here are some of the initiatives seen in select B-schools:

Structured courses on leadership: Many B-schools offer personalised and intensive structured programmes on leadership for students. These courses help students assess their strengths and weaknesses as a leader, learn different leadership styles, provide them with opportunities and challenges to develop their leadership capabilities. This is aided by lessons from history and real-life case studies.

Emphasis on experiential learning: B-schools are making continuous efforts to re-design their curriculum in a way that enables students to apply academic knowledge into practice through internships, case studies, industry projects, teams, and mock situations to give them a reflection of real-life situations. Practical exposure involves challenging situations, which helps students to

think critically and find creative solutions thus strengthening their decision-making skills. The objective is to push students out of their comfort zones — after all, leaders have vast comfort zones.

Integrating Entrepreneurship skills into the curriculum: Not every management student wants to pursue a corporate career. Many of them choose a management programme to polish their entrepreneurial capabilities, which also emphasises the significance of leadership qualities. Of course, the first gateway to successful entrepreneurship is effective leadership and team building. Realising this, many business schools have come forward with incubators, innovation labs, accelerators, and also organise 'start-up pitch' competitions which help students explore and refine their entrepreneurial skills.

Emphasis on technology and digital skills: Digital technology is reshaping the industry and hence, the leadership style. Business leaders are now required to possess digital and technical competence to grow the business and take decisions that are aligned with the evolving trends. Business schools are taking measures to bridge the technological leadership gap to make students ready for an ever-evolving business landscape disrupted by technological trends.

The gap in leadership talent is not something that can be plugged in the short term. However, a beginning has been made in nurturing talent at an early stage in the cradle of business education.

The writer is Director, FORE School of Management, New Delhi

NCPA's live workshop

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's premier cultural institution, the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in collaboration with renowned dancer, and cultural entrepreneur Dr Anita Ratnam will be hosting a live workshop on 'Innovation, ideas and experimentation in artistic pursuit' on September 24 live on: <https://www.facebook.com/NCPAMumbai>. The session is a part of the ongoing Uttaraksh Series by NCPA.

Considering the new normal with no on-stage performances, the live session will have Dr Anita address how innovation, when adapted digitally, can beautifully

transcend all boundaries and barriers associated with dance as a genre.

As a founder of Natharkhi.com, Ratnam noticed that many dancers were taking to Instagram while performing from their living rooms. Taking this opportunity ahead, this session is curated to address out of the box ideas for performers to think beyond a structured framework and push boundaries of dance & choreography.

The live workshop will give the audience an understanding of the production value that can be imperative when a dancer is planning to create content for a digital audience.

New batch with virtual induction programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies, Pune is all set to welcome its incoming batch of 2020-23. The virtual induction ceremony will be graced by distinguished and eminent leaders from the industry who will be addressing the students. In a first, SCMS is hosting its induction session virtually due to the current coronavirus crisis. With much grandeur, the institute is going to welcome the students following the virtual protocol in the new normal. The induction is designed in a way

that the students can embark on their educational journey with motivation and learnings from industry leaders.

The five-day induction session will be addressed by Kaushik Deka — Deputy Editor of India Today Magazine, Anurag Gour, Director — Partner Development at Microsoft.

The session will also include a panel discussion on the third day wherein notable SCMS alumni Hanisha Lalwani, Senior Marketing Manager for the Middle East & Africa region at PageGroup, Dubai, Mr. Kunal Shah, AVP — Non Financial

Risk Management at Deutsche bank, London, Twishi Chaturvedi, Channel Marketing Manager at Siemens Financial Services, London, Priya Venkatraman, Customer Care Executive at CMA CGM Agencies Pvt Ltd, India shall be discussing 'My memories of SCMS'.

Speaking about the event, Dr Adya Sharma, Director, SCMS Pune said: "The core agenda of the induction programme is to empower students to make the most of what the institute offers. With much mirth and glory, every year the induction session

takes place in the campus and is looked forward to by students. This year, we are welcoming the students virtually, with the same zeal and enthusiasm. We hope students will be motivated to start their career journey with valuable learnings from industry leaders and faculty members."

The induction programme will also include a session on a pressing topic of Gender sensitisation. Fun filled student activities through virtual gym which will be conducted by Department of Sports Recreation and Wellness (DSRW), SIU through Microsoft Teams platform.

22nd convocation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati celebrated its 22nd Convocation on September 22, 2020, with a graduating class of 1,803 students (1532 male & 271 female). Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi graced the occasion as the Chief Guest in the esteemed presence of Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Education Minister, Government of India, among others.

Virtually addressing the students, Narendra Modi said, "Convocation is a special day for every student. But this year, it is a different experience for them. The pandemic has changed the way convocation is conducted. But still it is as special as it was before. I congratulate students for their bright future."



Move online

If one has in-depth understanding of sales process and good communication, interpersonal and analytical skills, then working as a digital banker offers plenty of opportunities, says PROF AMIT GOYAL

Since demonetisation, the spread of digital banking has increased. More so, due to Coronavirus. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also issued a notification urging people to use digital banking and online payment facilities as much as possible. Due to which the value of transactions reached its highest level last month on Unified Payments Interface (UPI), a platform designed by India's largest banks in 2016.

Digital bank offers the same type of banking services such as a traditional bank except it operates entirely online without any single physical infrastructure, such as a bank branch. So customers of a digital bank can control their finances entirely from their smart phones and computers.

Digital banks are seen as the next frontier in terms of innovation in the financial services sector, which is traditionally dominated by large, well-established banks. This includes Internet banking, mobile banking, UPI, ATM etc. In digital banking, your bank is always with

you and you can avail its services anytime.

RESPONSIBILITIES

A digital banker contributes to new customer acquisition through mobile banking registration. They are responsible for deliver set sales targets in mobile banking activation and usage. They participate in product campaigns to ensure product information is readily available to customers and provide excellent sales customer service. Seek customer feedback on bank products and services. Help in the selling of mobile banking products and services. They do proper documentation and KYC as per the stipulated standards.

According to a survey, since the COVID-19, three-fourth of Indian consumers have started using more digital payments. 78 per cent of people expected to continue digital payments over the next five months.

The RBI said last year that it aims to increase digital transactions from about 10 per cent to about 15 per cent by 2021. The Government

A digital banker contributes to new customer acquisition through mobile banking registration. They are responsible for delivering set sales targets in mobile banking activation and usage

also aims for one billion digital transactions every day as consumers in the world's fastest growing smart phone market i.e. India can transact at the click of a button.

COURSE AND QUALIFICATION

To become a digital banker, Class XII candidates from Commerce field can make their future in this field by taking a three-year advanced Diploma in Banking and Finance Course or graduate students from any field, by taking one year Global PG Diploma in Banking and Finance course.

During these courses, subjects like Score Based Lending, e-KYC, Digital Payments, Crypto Currency, Cyber Frauds and AI in finance are taught to prepare students as a digital banker. Since all the work of digital banking is related to technology, it is very important to have technical knowledge in skills. Apart from this, communication skills, interpersonal skills, in-depth understanding of sales process, numeric and analytical skills and skills to influence cus-

tomers are also very important.

OPPORTUNITIES

As a rapidly evolving area, digital banking offers a really broad variety of roles and jobs in banking and finance.

Millions of transactions take place online each day, and banks need top notch digital teams to help them in all matters of their digital product development and management.

Due to which many commercial banks as well as many Fintech companies are working in the market which provides services like online banking, digital payment, mobile banking, UPI and digital wallet. By completing these courses, the candidate can find a job in any such company or Banks.

REMUNERATION

The digital banker can earn ₹25,000-₹30,000 a month to begin with. After gaining experience, new opportunities open up with increased salary.

The writer is director, TKWs Institute of Banking and Finance

‘Create interactive & immersive teaching’

With the integration of technological tools, students can now engage in self-learning and assessments can be conducted via open-book and take-home exams, says DR PAWAN KUMAR SINGH

Due to the coronavirus induced lockdown across India, all educational institutions were closed. As a learning institution, we believed no crisis should change the trajectory of teaching and learning. We have responded to the ongoing pandemic and made technological advancements to make sure learning continues. The institute seamlessly shifted from offline to online pedagogy using technological devices to train faculty as well as non-faculty members and conduct online classes for students.

Changes B-schools will witness

In the future, B-schools must focus on creating interactive and immersive teaching-learning ecosystems, which are flexible as well as accessible. These approaches can be made robust with greater implementation of technology. With the integration of technological tools, students will engage in self-learning.

Assessments can be conducted via open-book, take-home exams designed to assess higher-order thinking skills that will help inculcate entrepreneurial skills. Cloud-based admissions and enrollment of students may take place in the future. With the entire pedagogy moving online, it will open avenues for business schools to collaborate deeply and conduct joint programs with other educational institutes via online methods.

Inculcating entrepreneurial skills

Management education acts as a fertile ground to develop entrepreneurial skills in budding managers. In addition to that, independent thinking, ability to spot the opportunities, and risk-taking ability, etc. are all important skill development practice that takes place in a B-school. For students driven to be entrepreneurs, a good blend of theoretical grounding and practical exposure and interaction with entrepreneurs is a boon.

At MDI, the entrepreneurial cell is also quite active and indulges in a lot of activities to ignite the fertile brains to follow their latent entrepreneurial skills by exposing them to not only skill and tactics but also making them listen to great entrepreneurs from differ-



Dr Pawan Kumar Singh
Director, MDI, Gurugram

ent sectors, instilling confidence in their ideas. At MDI, classroom education and attitudinal training in entrepreneurship goes hand-in-hand.

The future

We have envisioned scalability by its research-driven activities of a consistently higher international standard. Our goal is to provide a world-class education to students who emerge as future leaders of the country. We are integrating our curriculum with new-age skills such as Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Capital to train our students on the same. We are also looking ahead to bring infrastructural developments to establish state-of-the-art labs in collaboration with industries. As per NIRF India Rankings 2020 announced by MHRD (GoI), MDI Gurugram is currently on 10th position amongst the top private B-schools in India. In years to come, we hope to achieve newer heights by adapting to the technological shift and excelling in new age learning.

Research is an important constituent and we encourage research activities and expects its academic community to be research-active to carry out research work of a consistently higher international standard.

The National Education Policy move to introduce teaching and learning in the mother tongue is a particularly strong bold move. The prelude of the mother tongue will encourage a child to go to school with enthusiasm. The mother tongue is not just a language but a sense of belonging and valuing it can aid in fostering respect for one's heritage. The NEP's move will definitely help to bring back the emphasis and importance of our Indian languages and perhaps, also help to de-emphasize the importance of English. Being bilingual will also open up social and cultural opportunities for students and help one develop new perspectives.

The NEP 2020 is exactly on the lines of

Basic Education by Mahatma Gandhi. Language holds the key to understanding and without it any concept taught is meaningless. One can master a concept only if one has a strong hold on the language it is presented in and there is no language more conducive than one's mother tongue for learning. It has been proven time and again through research that students who study in their mother tongue find it easier to learn the information presented, retain it for longer periods and find it easier to understand the concepts and relate them to real life.

Quantitatively, studies also show that children who receive schooling in their mother-tongue language in early grades have better learning outcomes overall and

MIND IT

have significantly better literacy levels. Apart from academic benefits, learning in mother tongue has proven to improve speaking skills and social skills which are key factors in creating well rounded citizens.

The proposed system provides a very promising prospect for our future education system and can revolutionise the teaching-learning process. However, there are few creases in the proposed plan which can be ironed out by making certain changes in the system. If with careful planning this system is implemented successfully, I am certain it

can make a positive impact in our current education system.

Home is the first school for any kid and children should be taught in their mother tongue. Beginning with mother tongue at home and learning in foreign language in school slows down the learning process. Any foreign language can be easily learnt by a child even after grade 5 because of brain plasticity. When the language of instruction is in the mother tongue, children can understand concepts faster and retain them for longer.

The use of mother tongue as a medium of instruction in the classroom helps students to understand easily and connect with the classroom conversation. Learning in foreign language may lead to distraction among students. Due to the use of English language, many parents are not able to participate in their child's schooling. This will increase the rate of parental participation in child's schooling and will lead to strong home-school partnerships.

Being bilingual enhances analytical skills, they have higher synaptic activity in the brain due to multiple languages which shows higher mental flexibility and processing power. Learning in local language will boost self-confidence and will be able to

express themselves in better ways.

India has different and beautiful languages which are unique. The loss of our languages and dialects will be cultural loss not just to India but also to the world. Learning through mother language or local language helps children to connect with their ancestors in a way which others can't. Developed countries offer education in their native language which helps in preserving and maintaining cultural heritage.

There are a few shortcomings to this approach. First, it is hard to implement in metro. Second, it does not take children who transfer from one city to another in mind.

The writer is Neelima Kamrah, Principal, KIIT World School



The University of Sydney invites application for the Dr Abdul Kalam International undergraduate financial aid in any of the course of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technologies.

The purpose of this program is to provide 50% of the tuition fees for a maximum of one year of the undergraduate program subject to satisfactory academic performance deemed to be a minimum of a credit average (65%) each semester.

Eligibility: Have completed an Australian Year 12 qualification or an international senior secondary qualification accepted by the University with an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) of at least 98 or equivalent.

How to apply: The students are required to complete the online form for the funding opportunity. Log on to: <https://www.syddney.edu.au/scholarships/b/dr-abdul-kalam-international-undergraduate-scholarship.html>.

Application deadline: It is January 11, 2021.

Applicants are invited to apply for the **ISSS need-based awards funded by the International Student and Scholar Services** (ISSS) at the

University of Minnesota.

Who can apply: Indian students can apply.

Eligibility: The grant is for undertaking an undergraduate degree programme in any field offered by the university.

To be eligible for this funding, an international student must be in F-1 or J-1 student status and enrolled at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Supporting documents: Applicants must submit all the following documents: Official documents are those that are original or attested copies of original academic documents that are mailed in a sealed, stamped envelope directly from the secondary school or examination board.

A scanned or electronic copy of an official document is considered unofficial.

Admission requirements: An applicant must be a high school candidate while applying to a bachelor degree program at the university.

Language requirement: Foreign candidates are required to satisfy the English language requirements of the university for studying in the US.

How to apply: Interested candidates are invited to apply for the that they need to take admission in an undergraduate degree program at the university. After being enrolled, candidates can apply for the opportunity.

Application deadline: It is February 1, 2021

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT ACTOFIT WEARABLES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349528
Deadline: September 30, 2020

BUSINESS ESCALATION AT EXPERTTRONS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349531
Deadline: September 29, 2020

INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT) AT SKILLBIT

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349533
Deadline: September 29, 2020

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT FACTECH AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS

Location: Delhi, Noida
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349535
Application deadline: September 30, 2020

DIGITAL MARKETING AT WHAT AFTER COLLEGE

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349534
Application deadline: September 30, 2020

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT ARBOREAL

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349536
Application deadline: September 30, 2020

DIGITAL MARKETING AT OPTIMIZE FOR SEO

Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5349538
Application deadline: September 27, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

‘Go for a life-changing experience’

Studying in a foreign university can provide an array of opportunities and broaden horizon, says SADIQ BASHA

Some experiences in life provide an array of learning opportunities. Studying abroad that best matches your criteria and supports your strengths is one such life-changing experience. It will help you broaden your perspective and give you an edge when you step into the job market. Studying abroad is a great way to savour first-hand foreign culture. It also enhances your interpersonal as well as intrapersonal skills that goes a long way in your holistic development.

If you aspire to go overseas for your higher education, here are a few tips to get you going with your study abroad plans. How to apply? Even if you are keen about your choice of university, it is advisable that you apply to at least three universities as an option. There have been incidents when students have decided to go ahead with their second choice, and found that it was a wonderful stroke of luck.

When it comes to applying to a university abroad, students primarily do it through the university website. However, it is time consuming. With the advent of AI driven study abroad platforms like Edvoy, the application process has been simplified. Such platforms allow students to apply for five universities with one click. They just need to upload their documents, and they can track their application status. All this is done with complete transparency.

Leaving paperwork to the last minute equals major headaches. There is a list of important documents that are required while applying for a university. This list may vary, depending from university to university and country to country. However, in general, universities will require documents such as mark sheets of 10th to graduation, an updated resume, at least three letters of recommendation, Statement of Purpose, and experience letters if interned or worked. You must also have completed English proficiency tests like IELTS, TOEFL etc. and aptitude tests like GMAT, GRE, depending on university's preference.

The writer is CEO-founder of Edvoy

IN BRIEF

VIRTUAL HIRING PROCESS SURVEY

The JobsForHer conducted a survey around women professionals and job seekers. The survey that gathered the opinions of 1,000 women professionals, revealed that over 40% respondents considered 'flexible options that allow a certain amount of work from home' in the post-COVID world as the deciding factor. The option of working from home and/or visiting the office only when required is the best one according to them as they adapt to the changing corporate world and family needs.

Neha Bagaria, founder-CEO, JobsForHer, said: "This in tandem with the 62% increase in job applications that JobsForHer saw on its platform between April and July and a 55% average increase in the number of work-from-home jobs posted by companies. We hope to see more companies hire capable

women professionals to fill their roles in the coming months."

Another survey conducted on the platform showed that out of 1000+ respondents, 90% women were comfortable with the virtual hiring process as it saves time and is convenient because it opens up plenty other opportunities to attend interviews at otherwise far-away locations thereby cutting down on the commute.

Realising the need for online recruitment, the platform organised its biggest virtual career event — HerRising 2020 for women professionals across the country on September 19, 2020 aimed at bridging the gender gap at work, the overarching goal of the event is to provide jobs to women professionals who are ready to start, restart and rise in their careers.

AI MODELS TO PROCESS TEXT IN 11 INDIAN LANGUAGES

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras faculty have developed AI models and datasets to process texts in 11 Indian regional languages. This was taken up jointly with AI4Bharat.

The faculty have made the resources free and accessed by anyone at (<https://indianlp.ai4bharat.org/>). Dr Mitesh M Khapra, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering,

IIT Madras, said: "As we move towards a digital economy, it is important that our languages find a space online. This requires innovation in creating input tools, and AI models for Indian languages."

RICS SCHOOL OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT SESSION STARTS

The RICS School of Built Environment, Amity University has started successfully for students in their Noida and Mumbai campus inonline mode. The classes have started and the school prepared themselves to comply with current regulatory directives to conduct sessions online until it would be permissible for students to attend classes physically at the respective campuses.

Ashwani Awasthi, MD, RICS School

of Built Environment, said: "It's good to know that students of our ongoing batches are very happy with the quality of our online class mode and the willingness and availability of the teachers to help them when they need it; but we are eager to shift back to the traditional face to face system and as soon as the government considers it safe, which may be soon, we will move to the face to face on campus classes."

As a 36-year-old to come here, having not played a lot of cricket, in the middle of some talented youngsters - was a pleasing start. Very happy with the basics

Padikkal is a brilliant young player, he has shown it over the last couple of years, how talented he is and how destructive he could be at the top of the order

Shubman is a quality player. There is a lot of expectation from him around the world, I'm sure he will exceed all expectations and I'm really confident about that

Bumrah is a world class bowler, he is trying very hard over the last couple of days to find rhythm. I am 100 per cent sure he will be on the mark in the coming games

KKR face MI in battle of equals

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Grace and strength will be on one side while poise and killer instinct on the other when a revamped Kolkata Knight Riders take on Mumbai Indians, who have once again faltered in the beginning of the IPL, on Wednesday.

Since 2013, MI have never won an opening game and the script didn't change against Chennai Super Kings also.

They will be keen to bounce back while KKR would look for a perfect beginning as it will be a battle between big hitters on both sides on a sluggish Abu Dhabi track.

It will be Shubman Gill's third IPL, the one where he would like to own the stage with his languid grace and effortless hitting, which he is so capable of. He can hit sixes over extra cover with grace and caress the ball through covers too.

These are exactly the traits that made Rohit Sharma, the great white ball exponent that he is. Seasoned Rohit versus young Shubman is one for the keeps and makes this battle enticing.

But it's not just grace which makes T20 so appealing. The brute masculinity of power that sends the ball soaring into the orbit is what makes it so special.

Hardik Pandya, who is back with a chiselled body. There is no doubt that he can unleash his firepower against Sunil Narine and K L Deep Yadav as well as KKR's highest

paid multi million dollar recruit Pat Cummins.

But Hardik will find his match in Andre Russell, easily the most destructive hitter in current T20 cricket.

Russell had openly criticised the team management last year for sending him down the order.

But this time, he has been promised a promotion to number three slot and this could spell doom for any opposition.

KKR has Eoin Morgan, easily the best white ball captain in international cricket at the moment, who could advice Dinesh Karthik on how to tackle tense moments.

Whether he would fit in among the four overseas players is the question as Knights have Narine, Tom Banton, Russell and Cummins, who walk into any T20 playing XI.

For Mumbai, it is important that Nathan Coulter-Nile, with more all-round T20 utility compared to Trent Boult, gets fit to add more balance.

They could think about using Ishan Kishan's explosive firepower rather than bulky Saurabh Tiwary, who can't rotate the strike with ease.

Apart from pacers and spinners Krunal Pandya and Rahul Chahal, they need one more option in the bowling and that can be in form of Pandya and Kieron Pollard.

Both Hardik and Pollard, who did not bowl against CSK can jointly share the responsibility of another bowler.

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Stats: Faisal Features

Sanju, Smith & Sixes

Samson, Steve 123-run stand guide Royals to 16-run win



Deepak Chahar takes catch of his own bowling to dismiss Yashasvi Jaiswal. IPLT20.com

PTI ■ SHARJAH

The extended two-week quarantine of Chennai Super Kings unit did hamper his preparations as he didn't get a chance to bat for a long time, said skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni after his team's 16-run defeat to Rajasthan Royals in their second IPL game here on Tuesday.

Dhoni came in to bat at No 7 sending the likes of Sam Curran and Kedar Jadhav ahead of him in a mammoth 217-run chase.

Asked why he came so low, the CSK skipper said, "I haven't batted for a long time. 14-day



Steve Smith congratulates Sanju Samson after he completes his fifty. IPLT20.com

quarantine doesn't help."

Dhoni's reference was to CSK's extra one-week quarantine after 13 people in their contingent tested positive for COVID-19, resulting in missing out on important training sessions. He was not out on 29 off 17 balls with three sixes in the

last over.

Although he didn't name Murali Vijay but the veteran opener's run-a-ball 21 was one of the reasons for CSK falling short besides an off-day from his spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Piyush Chawla.

"With 217 on the board, we

needed a very good start which was not the case. Steve (Smith) and (Sanju) Samson batted very well. We need to give credit to their bowlers. Once you've seen the first innings, you knew the lengths to bowl," Dhoni said.

"Their spinners did well to bowl away from the batsman. Our spinners made the error to bowl too full. If we would've maybe restricted them to 200, it would've been a good game."

His rival captain Steve Smith praised Jofra Archer's big hits in the last over that eventually changed the game.

"I think the last surge from Jofra was an incredible bit of hitting. Sanju Samson, looked like everything he hit went for six. MS smacked a few in the end, and Faf got going too, but nice to get a win," Smith said.

Smith waxed eloquent about Sanju's nine sixes.

"Sanju was incredible, and all I had to do was give him the strike. This should give him a lot of confidence. Jos (Buttler) is a quality player and we'll see what happens when he comes back. Hard to take the opening slot away from someone like him."

Good to play strong Mumbai early: DK

Abu Dhabi: Mumbai Indians consist of world-class players and that is why it is good for us to play the four-time champions early in the IPL, Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Dinesh Karthik said on Tuesday.

The two teams have faced each other 25 times and the Kolkata-based franchise has won only six matches.

"They (Mumbai Indians) have a team of world-class players; they are a strong lineup and the number of IPL titles they have won shows that. It's good that we are playing Mumbai early in the tournament. Every year is a different year. I am sure it will be a great game tomorrow," said Karthik during a virtual press conference on Tuesday.

Karthik also hinted that Shubman Gill and Sunil Narine will be opening the batting for KKR. "Shubman is a quality player. I am sure he will exceed all expectations and it's good to have him. Gill and Narine make a good opening combination," he said.

Karthik admitted that he has the 'problem of plenty' to pick the XI from a revamped Kolkata Knight Riders squad.

"One of the tough points for KKR at this point of time is picking the right XI. A lot of guys have put their hands up and are ready for



Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma chats with Kolkata Knight Riders captain Dinesh Karthik during training session. MI/Twitter

selection. It's going to be an interesting one and a tough one but that's a good sign."

"We are in a good space. One of our strengths is the variety we have in our pace department. All four Indian pacers are shaping up really well. It's going to be a hard decision to make who's going to start the tournament," Karthik said.

Morgan aims to complement Russell

BIG HIT

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Eoin Morgan could well be the 'ice' to Andre Russell's 'fire' as England's World Cup winning captain gets ready to complement the pyrotechnics of the big-hitting Jamaican when Kolkata Knight Riders take the field in this edition of Indian Premier League.

One of the more dependable middle-order batsman in the limited overs cricket, Morgan was bought by KKR at the auc-



tion after they looked heavily reliant on Andre Russell to finish close games as they missed

the qualifiers by a whisker in 2019. "I know (Andre) Russell has done that role significantly well for a number of years for Kolkata. He's done exceptionally well. If I get a go, hopefully I will be able to aid that," Morgan said during a virtual media interaction.

The KKR vice-captain further said he's more experienced now and his batting is coming off really well.

"I think it's been quite a few years since I played (at KKR). Just looking at batting, my game has really come on quite a lot in the last three to four years. I would like to think I've come on

quite well," Morgan, who will be back at the franchise after his stint from 2011-2013, said.

Besides Morgan, KKR have also bolstered their batting with his compatriot Tom Banton who became a sensation in the Big Bash League, while the bowling too looks fiery with the addition of Aussie world number one Pat Cummins.

"I think with the squad that we have, it gives us better options, particularly in batting and bowling. I think within the squad we have a number of very versatile cricketers who can specifically control the batting department," Morgan said.

Warner backs young Indian batsmen

DUBAI: Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper David Warner has backed young Indian batsmen Priyam Garg and Abhishek Sharma to "keep playing their natural game" after their disappointing outing against the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The 19-year-old Garg (12) and 20-year-old Sharma (7) couldn't grab the opportunity as the former was bowled while trying to scoop the ball past the keeper and the latter fell prey to a terrible mix-up with Rashid Khan.

Vijay Shankar could not even open his account.

Warner thought said he has faith in young Indian batsmen.

"We wouldn't have put them (young Indian pair) in the middle over if we didn't think they are not good enough," Warner said in the post-match press conference.

"Anyone who wants to criticise the middle order batting, ... It is something I haven't seen before - three bizzare dismissals. I encourage them to keep playing their way and not think too much about the scenario or situation out there."

"We rely on our senior players to guide these guys out there in the middle, my message to the youngsters was to play their natural game, that's the only way one can learn. It can be difficult at times, it is pressure environment, it's got to keep it calm and simple for them."

PTI

Evergreen Ibra

Zlatan nets brace in Milan's opener

AFF ■ MILAN

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice as AC Milan got their Serie A campaign up and running with a 2-0 win over Bologna on Monday.

Ibrahimovic, who turns 39 next month, showed he has lost none of his goalscoring skills having also netted last week against Irish side Shamrock Rovers in the Europa League.

"If I had been 20 years old I would have scored two more goals," said the Swede of his display.

"I'm like Benjamin Button, born old, but I'll die young. Seriously, the team has worked well: you can see we're not at 100 percent yet, but it was important to start well."

Ibrahimovic grabbed the opener in the 35th minute, rising higher than Danilo to get his head to a Theo Hernandez cross, and celebrated in front of the 1,000 spectators allowed into the San Siro for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic - mostly invited frontline health

workers who had toiled during the worst of the crisis.

The Swede missed a chance for a second shortly after when he was denied by a sliding tackle from Brazilian defender Danilo.

But six minutes after the break he added a second from the penalty spot after a Riccardo Orsolini foul on Ismael Bennacer.

He missed



Vidal joins Inter

Milan: Inter Milan have completed a deal to sign Arturo Vidal from Barcelona for 1 million euros, the clubs announced on Tuesday.

"Barcelona and Inter Milan have reached an agreement for the transfer of the player Arturo Vidal," Barca said in a statement.

"The Italian team will pay FC Barcelona 1 million euros in variables."

After joining in 2018, Vidal played 96 games for the Catalans and scored 11 goals, helping them win La Liga in his first year in Spain.

Inter described the Chilean



midfielder as a "warrior". "From today, Vidal will be on the front line for the Nerazzurri, with the same objectives as ever: fighting, giving it his all, and winning," the Italian club added.

AFP

a chance for a third just after the hour mark following a counter-attack launched by Hakan Calhanoglu, but Lukasz Skorupski proved solid in the Bologna goal.

Bologna were again saved by Skorupski at the end of the match, with the Pole pushing out a Hernandez volley.

Milan keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma also won his duel against Andreas Skov Olsen while Federico Santander hitting the woodwork for the

AFP

may have been a "warrior". "From today, Vidal will be on the front line for the Nerazzurri, with the same objectives as ever: fighting, giving it his all, and winning," the Italian club added.

City start season with nervy win

AFF ■ WOLVERHAMPTON

Pep Guardiola labelled Phil Foden as "incredible" after Manchester City survived a scare to start their Premier League title challenge with a 3-1 win against Wolves on Monday.

City's delayed start to the campaign - due to their involvement in last season's Champions League - had allowed Liverpool to build a six-point lead over them before they had even kicked a ball.

Guardiola's side could not afford to slip up at Molineux if they wanted to keep pace with the champions and they raced into a two-goal lead before half-time thanks to Kevin De Bruyne's penalty and Foden's cool finish.

City's swaggering first half gave way to an anxious spell as Wolves dominated after the interval and they had to cling on after Raul Jimenez got one back before Gabriel Jesus sealed the points in stoppage time.

Foden's goal was a welcome morale boost in his first match since the midfielder was sent home in disgrace, along with Manchester United's Mason Greenwood, after the pair invited local women into the England team's hotel.

"For the goal and in the second half Foden played incredibly well, he helped us keep the ball," Guardiola said.

While City equalled Aston Villa's record of winning 10 consecutive opening fixtures to a top-flight season, there



Kevin de Bruyne scores Man City opening goal. AP

is little doubt Liverpool remain the Premier League's preeminent force for now.

But Guardiola was delighted to open with a victory given the shorter-than-usual pre-season.

"We could not run much because we are tired in our legs but in general we did a good game," he said.

"The period that we are in, the situation that we had this last two weeks, I expected some moments where we suffer but in general we controlled it well. "It was a good performance. We know how difficult it is in this stadium. "Sometimes we need more time to get to our best condition but it was a good start to come here and win."