

murder of a junior engineer
Balwant Singh Multani. The S
sought response from Punjab
Government on Saini's plea

MP Police killed innocent tribal man in Kabirdham: Akbar

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar on Tuesday spoke to Governor Anusuya Uikey over the killing of a tribal man from Kabirdham district in an alleged unprovoked firing by the Madhya Pradesh Police on September 6.

The Governor is currently at her native place in Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh.

Akbar informed her over telephone that Jham Singh Dhurve of Balsamund village in the Jhalmala police station area was killed while another villager, Nem Singh Dhurve, escaped unhurt in the firing by the Madhya Pradesh Police on the inter-state border, an official press released on Tuesday quoted the Minister as saying.



"Based on preliminary findings, police in Jhalmala have pointed that the MP Police allegedly opened unprovoked firing on the two tribals," said Akbar, the MLA from Kawardha constituency in Kabirdham

"Based on preliminary findings, police in Jhalmala have pointed that the MP Police allegedly opened unprovoked firing on the two tribals," said Akbar, the MLA from Kawardha constituency in Kabirdham.

The Dhurve had gone to neighbouring Madhya Pradesh for fishing. While returning home, the Madhya Pradesh Police tried to stop them. Scared, both ran away from the spot.

The MP Police chased and killed them in Jhamsingh in Chhattisgarh, the Minister said, adding that both the tribals had no connection with Naxalites.

The Governor has assured the Minister that she will take up the issue with her Madhya Pradesh counterpart.

Akbar has also written to Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan seeking a high-level probe into the killing.

Do not panic or hide if tested Covid positive: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Raipur district administration on Tuesday requested people not to panic if they are tested Covid positive.

"Many times, it has been seen that after people are tested Covid positive they immediately switch off their mobile phone and try to hide," an official press release said.

"This is completely wrong and such people are not only putting themselves at risk but also their near and dear ones," a Health Department official was quoted as saying.

Explaining the timeline, the official said antigen tests are quickly reported while RT-PCR or True-Nat test take 2 to 3 days.

If anyone is reported Covid positive and they do not have

any symptoms, then there is an option of home treatment. They can also admit themselves in a Covid care centre or private hospital, the press release said.

After a person is found Covid positive, a link to apply for home isolation is sent on their mobile number. If the patient is finding it difficult to fill the form then they could contact 75661 00283 for technical assistance.

If there is a separate room and toilet in a patient's house, then officials can permit home isolation.

The Health Department has said that if any Covid positive patients are in hiding, they should come forward and get the treatment. If Covid treatment starts on time, then patients have very high chances of full recovery, the press note said.

Union Minister tests Covid +ve, BJP leader dies

RAIPUR: Renuka Singh, the Union Minister of state for Tribal Affairs, tested Covid positive while the virus killed BJP Raipur Vice President Manoj Prajapati on Tuesday.

Renuka Singh, a MP from Surguja, tested Covid positive in Delhi where she is attending the monsoon session of Parliament here.

"I tested Covid positive... My health is fine and I was staying in Chhattisgarh Bhawan. I am going to AIIMS for treatment," she tweeted.

She asked people who came in her contact to get themselves tested.

The Vice President of the BJP in Raipur and former Corporator Manoj Prajapati died of corona, BJP Chhattisgarh tweet on Tuesday evening.

Man held with 2.50 kg gold biscuits in Raipur

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Police on Tuesday arrested a 49-year-old man and seized gold biscuits weighing 2.50 kg valued at ₹1.25 crore here.

Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar Yadav told The Pioneer that Ashok Bera, a resident of Professor Colony in Raipur, was intercepted in a car (CG-04, ML-3978) near Mageto, ML in the Telibhadra police station limits.

The man first insisted he had no gold biscuits but these were found in the



car, the officer said. He failed to produce documents showing their ownership.

The man later told the police that he purchased the yellow metal from West Bengal

and brought it to Raipur for selling it. The man also confessed to evading income tax, the officer added.

Police seized the gold biscuits as well as the car, Yadav said.

The village that is home to thousands of migratory birds

Every year, demiselle cranes (Grus Virgo), the smallest of 15 crane species, travel from their breeding grounds in Eurasia to India. They complete an arduous 5,000 km journey, migrating over the Himalayas, crossing the mountain range at an altitude of up to 26,000 feet to reach Keerach.

The first small batch of 350 demiselle cranes have already landed in the first week of September. Rest start arriving from October and stay here till March.

When they were first brought over to France from the steppes of Russia, Queen Marie Antoinette was so taken by their elegant, demure appearance she named them 'Demiselle', which translates to 'maiden-like' or 'young lady'. Locals call them 'karjo'.

LAAS GRAPHICS

HC dismisses plea against appointment of ex-IAS officer

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

In a major relief to the Congress-led government, the Chhattisgarh High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition challenging the appointment of retired IAS official Alok Shukla on contractual basis in May.

Justice Goutam Bhaduri said the government exercised the power of relaxation of rule 17 of Chhattisgarh Civil Services (Contractual Appointment) Rules 2012 to appoint him, Shukla's counsel Ayush Bhatia told The Pioneer.

Shukla was given additional charges of Chairman of Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education, Chairman of Chhattisgarh



Professional Examination Board and Principal Secretary in Skill Development, Technical Education and Employment Department.

BJP leader Nareesh Chandra Gupta had filed a writ petition challenging the contractual appointment of Shukla.

Raman Singh seeks free treatment for Covid-19

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Accusing the Chhattisgarh government of failing to stop the spread of Covid-19, former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Raman Singh on Tuesday sought free medical treatment to those in need.

The government has also failed to provide the necessary infrastructure in hospitals for treatment of patients, he said in a statement to the media.

He demanded free medical treatment to those in need. In the prevailing situation, people are already facing an economic crisis. With fixed rates in hospitals, it would further add to the woes of the people, he said.

Dr Raman Singh said: "The former BJP government in the



scheme has a limit of ₹5 lakh. Had they been in place, they would have played a major role to the beneficiaries." But after the Congress came to power in the state, in the name of providing ₹20 lakh limit of medical treatment, it launched the 'Universal Health Scheme'. The scheme has not been implemented, he added.

Now, the state government is asking people to cough up medical charges and pass itself for fixing the rates for the treatment in private facilities, he pointed out.

The BJP leader said now people are coming out on roads to protest on a daily basis in large numbers. This will further spread the epidemic.

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Special emergency services for Covid-19 patients

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Raipur district administration has issued special telephone numbers to provide home isolation facility as well as ambulance and emergency support emergency services for Covid-19 patients.

The Emergency Support Centre can be reached on 0771-2445785, Home Isolation Assistance on 75661-00283 and the Daksh Command Centre at the Collector's Office on 0771-4320202.

If people need ambulance service to transport patients from home isolation to the hospital in an emergency, Deputy Directors A.O. Lari



(94063-46840) and D.K. Singh (88397-78979) can be contacted between 6 am and 6 pm.

For ambulance service, Project Officer Harikrishna Joshi (95255-43148) and Assistant Project Officer S.K. Joseph (98261-23957) can be contacted between 6 pm and 6 am.

BJP spreading falsehood about Covid-19: Cong

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

By giving unwarranted statements, BJP leaders are spreading the fear of Covid-19 in Chhattisgarh when the government has made all arrangements to treat patients, the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee said on Tuesday.

Countering the allegations by Dr Raman Singh, PCC spokesperson Sushil Anand Shukla said if the former Chief Minister is so concerned over the treatment of people, he should ask the Central government to ensure free of cost treatment.

Shukla said a false propaganda is being spread regarding lack of beds and oxygen cylinders in the state.

There is no doubt that the number of Covid-19 cases has risen in the state. But based

This has now expanded to 29 specialised hospitals including medical colleges and additional 19 private hospitals C'garh now has 186 Covid-19 Care Centres, 2,283 oxygen-supported beds and 842 ICU beds

he said. Shukla said that in March the treatment for Covid-19 was limited to AIIMS, Raipur. This has now expanded to 29 specialised hospitals including medical colleges and additional 19 private hospitals.

Chhattisgarh now has 186 Covid-19 Care Centres, 2,283 oxygen-supported beds and 842 ICU beds.

Similarly, the testing is now done in 28 district hospitals and all community health centres. Six medical colleges and 4 private labs are holding RT-PCR testing, he pointed out.

He urged opposition leaders to play a positive role and support the demand of 150 ICU beds from the Central government in AIIMS, Raipur. The leaders can also ask the Modi government to provide free medical treatment across the country.

C'garh to issue new guidelines on nutrition

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government is planning to issue new guidelines to all the districts to ensure nutrition among teenage girls, pregnant women and children as part of the nutrition programmes post Covid-19.

R. Prasanna, Secretary, Women and Child Department, announced this at a media briefing during a webinar on nutrition on Tuesday.

He said that due to lockdown, the state government tried to ensure that dry ration reaches the children of Anganwadis, pregnant and lactating mothers through home delivery.

Asked about lack of Anganwadis in tribal and Naxalite areas, Prasanna said the government is considering the other option of 'Phulwari'.



He said if it is a remote village having less population, an Anganwadi centre cannot be opened. In such cases, if a group of women having infants are ready, then sanction will be given for Phulwari. The group will then

prepare hot food and serve it to all beneficiaries. All assistance will be extended to the group to ensure eradication of malnutrition in the village.

This is to ensure that nutrition reaches even the remotest areas, the official said.

Earlier, Job Zachariah, Chief of UNICEF office for Chhattisgarh, spoke on what the future will throw as a challenge on malnutrition in the state, impact on children and women during and post the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr Farhat Saiyed,

Nutrition Specialist in UNICEF Chhattisgarh, threw light on central and state government nutrition schemes. She also briefed journalists on how to identify malnutrition, its various reasons and kinds as well as its effects on growth of children.

CHHATTISGARH HOUSING BOARD
Capital Project Dn.-1, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar (Ph-0771-2971300)

TENDER NOTICE

Advt. No. - 05

Invitation of online bids in Form "B" (Lump-sum Contract) from eligible Contractors as per NIT and registered class "B" and Above Registered Contractor with Unfiled Registration System with C.G. PWD for the following work as per Detail given below:

(1) Name of work: DEVELOPMENT OF PARK INCLUDING PLAY AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES, LANDSCAPING WORK IN FOUR DIFFERENT LOCATION AT SECTOR-29 NAVA RAIPUR ATAL NAGAR (C.G.)

Tender Amount : Rs. 39,00,00,000
Earnest Money : Rs. 3,90,00,000
Cost of tender form : Rs. 15,000.00
Period of validity: 60 (Sixty) days from the date of completion of the work.

Note: - (1) The bid document can be downloaded and submission of bid from website <http://e-proc.cgstare.gov.in> up to date 16-10-2020

(2) Any Other Information regarding works can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, Capital Project Division-1, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar during the office hours. (3) Amendment in tender if any will only be uploaded on the website and shall not be published in any news paper or inform by mail to any contractor.

Samvad - 2646673

Executive Engineer

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Office of the Superintending Engineer
Shivnath Circle Durg (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
e-Procurement Portal: <https://e-proc.cgstare.gov.in>

(2nd Call)

System Tender No. : 67646/NIT No. : 13/SAC/2020-21, Balod, Dated : 14/09/2020

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 01/10/2020 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : Remodelling, Lining of canal and Head work I-Earth work and Canal Structures
- 6 Nos. V.R.B.-1, Nos. 1.20 M Fall, 6 Nos. 1.00 M Fall, 3 Nos. 0.60 M Fall, 6 Nos. Direct Outlets, C.C. Lining of Gurami Tank Scheme.

Probable Amount of Contract: Rs. 146.61 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://e-proc.cgstare.gov.in>) from Date 21.09.2020, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://e-proc.cgstare.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
Water Resources Division Balod (C.G.)
For, Superintending Engineer, Shivnath Circle Durg (C.G.)

G- 83689/5 Ryp/Dtd 15.9.20

No dignity of labour

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



Benjamin Disraeli once said, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics." Perhaps this is what the Government has internalised in dealing with a national crisis. Since it doesn't believe in any kind of data collection that has not been commissioned by it, it denies that there has been any migrant death during the pandemic-induced lockdown. It doesn't matter that its white lies are caught out by countless heart-breaking stories in the media of labourers turfed out of their city jobs overnight, forced to trudge back to their villages and without money, succumbing to hunger and illness on the way or even to destitution at their homes,

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

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

Equality in marriage

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



When the Supreme Court struck down the penal provisions of Section 377 that criminalised all but vaginal intercourse, it effectively removed the legal persecution of homosexual relationships. Now a group of petitioners has approached the Supreme Court asking that it mandates that same-sex marriage be legalised in India. Surprisingly, for some in the LGBTQ community, this petition is being led by Right-wing agent provocateur Abhijit Iyer-Mitra, who has identified himself as a homosexual for many years. Yet the Solicitor-General (SG) of India Tushar Mehta, arguing before the Division Bench, has toed the cultural line that our values

will not allow us to recognise same-sex marriage.

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



BHOPINDER SINGH

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

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

PLA's 'Peace Disease'

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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

Afghanistan Ambassador
—Adela Raz

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

Cricketer
—Kuldeep Yadav

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

Pakistan's Foreign Minister
—Shah Mahmood Qureshi

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

Footballer
—Neymar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where is the logic?

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

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

Navneet Seth
Punjab

Crime graph shoots up in Goa

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

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



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

Pachu Menon
Goa

Abe's legacy

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

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

Minister Narendra Modi.
Sanjana Soni
Ujjain

A clarification

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

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

US showing ominous signs

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



GWYNNE DYER

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

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

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

It is a plausible one, especially if the race has tightened by then. Just 1.00,000 votes in three States, mostly from people who had previously voted Democratic, put Trump in the White House in 2016. A miracle vaccine could certainly swing that many votes again.

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

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

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

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

—BJP MP AND ACTOR

RAVI KISHAN

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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

—SP MP AND ACTOR

JAYA BACHCHAN

Move the needle on cooling

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



SHANMUGANATHAN K



ASHISH SARASWAT

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

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

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

The convention provided the framework for the Montreal Protocol (MP), the most successful environmental agreement till date to achieve universal ratification. On September 16, 1987, the United Nations (UN) and 46 other countries signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. It aimed to preserve the protective shield through worldwide control, reduction and phasing out of production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Three decades ago, the speech of a 12-year-old girl, Severn Cullis-Suzuki from Vancouver, Canada at the 1992 Earth Summit, caught the attention of leaders of parties and the UN in strategising expeditious measures for phasing out of ODS. "I am afraid to go out in the sun now because of the hole in our ozone. I am afraid to breathe the air because I don't know what chemicals are in it. If you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it," said Cullis-Suzuki in her landmark speech.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The death of a credible media with a backbone

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



SIDHARTH MISHRA

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

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

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

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

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

Then there is another issue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FOREIGN EYE



DO NOT ISOLATE THE ELDERLY

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

IRAN PLANNING TO AVENGE SOLEIMANI KILLING

Trump: Retaliation will be 1,000 times greater

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

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

Iran had vowed to seek revenge for Gen Soleimani's killing. "Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude," Trump said in a tweet after news reports emerged that Iran is planning some kind of attack against the US.

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

In a news report based on unnamed intelligence sources, the Politico said "the Iranian government is weighing an assassination attempt against the American ambassador to South Africa, since US President Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal and imposed crippling sanctions."

Iran had vowed to seek revenge for Gen Soleimani's killing. "Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude," Trump said in a tweet after news reports emerged that Iran is planning some kind of attack against the US.

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

regime potentially has the ability to act on an assassination plot. Iran has in the past planned assassinations of American ambassadors -- which is partly why the intelligence community is taking this particular threat assessment seriously, the news channel said.

Iran has denied the allegations.

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

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

Iran warns US against strategic mistake after Trump threat

AFP ■ TEHRAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Navalny posts hospital photo of himself, plans Russia return

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

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

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

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



Picture from Navalny's Instagram account

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

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

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

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

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

"No other option has ever been considered," she wrote. Leonid Volkov, a top associate of Navalny, refused to give any details on his condition or his possible return when reached by The Associated Press on Tuesday. AP

No info on reported detentions in Taiwan, says Hong Kong

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

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

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

US issues sweeping new travel warning for China, Hong Kong

AFP ■ BEIJING

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

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

The new advisory warned US citizens that China impos-

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

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

China successfully launches 9 satellites into orbit from ship

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

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

The nine satellites belong to the Jilin-1 Gaofen 03-1 group. About 13 minutes later, after travelling 535 km, it has deployed nine Jilin-1 high-resolution Earth-observation satellites, three to take videos and six to take photographs in sun-synchronous orbits, the report said. PTI

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

AFP ■ BERLIN

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

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

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

ing a deal by Wednesday.

After a fire laid waste to Greece's biggest refugee camp Moria last week, pressure has grown on Merkel's government to offer refuge to the 1,500 left homeless by the disaster.

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

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

Boat capsizes near Libya, 24 migrants presumed dead: UN

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

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

Around the Globe

Baghdad: A roadside bombing targeted British diplomatic vehicles in Baghdad on Tuesday, the British Embassy and Iraqi officials said. There were no injuries but the attack is fueling concerns of armed groups outside of the state's control.

Washington: US President Donald Trump said Tuesday he would have "no problem" selling advanced F-35 warplanes to the United Arab Emirates, despite objections from close ally Israel. "I personally would have no problem with it," he said on Fox News. "I would have no problem in selling them the F-35."

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Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended		(Rs. In Lacs)
	30-06-20	31-03-20	30-06-19	31-03-20	
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	
1 Total Revenue From operations	4,290.72	10,636.73	11,400.50	38,333.59	
2 Net Profit/Loss for the Period (Before Tax)	13.69	76.24	59.22	267.37	
3 Net Profit/Loss for the Period (After Tax)				272.09	
4 Total Comprehensive Income	13.69	76.24	59.22	272.09	
5 Equity Share Capital	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04	
6 Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserves)				6,603.53	
7 Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10 Each)					
Basic:	0.08	0.47	0.36	1.67	
Diluted:	0.08	0.47	0.36	1.67	
* Not Annualised					
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites i.e. 'www.bseindia.com' and also at the website of the Company at www.rathisteels.com.					
2 The Company does not have any Exceptional and Extraordinary item to report during the above periods.					
3 The Company has not discontinued any of its operations during the above periods.					
4 Tax expenses / Provision for Taxation has been made on annual basis only.					
5 The figures of previous year / Quarters have been re-arranged/grouped wherever felt necessary.					
By order of the Board for Rathi Bars Limited sd/- Anurag Rathi Whole Time Director DIN : 00663345					

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED					
CIN : L25199DL1980PLC010173 Regd. Office: 2/8, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110 007 Website : www.cosco.in Email : mail@cosco.in Tel : 91-11-23843000 Fax : 91-11-23846000					
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2020					
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		30.06.2020	30.06.2019	31.03.2020	31.03.2020
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations	2,723.63	3,327.29	3,335.30	13,435.82
2	Net Profit for the period before Tax	57.97	48.53	4.23	221.78
3	Net Profit for the period after tax	37.02	75.09	19.58	180.72
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	37.02	75.09	18.67	179.81
5	Equity Share Capital	416.10	416.10	416.10	416.10
6	Other Equity	-	-	-	3,504.85
7	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10 each)				
(a)	Basic (₹)	0.89	1.80	0.47	4.34
(b)	Diluted (₹)	0.89	1.80	0.47	4.34
Notes:-					
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites (www.bseindia.com/corporates) and on the Company's website www.cosco.in.					
2 The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the respective meeting held on September 15, 2020.					
By Order of the Board Devinder Kumar Jain Managing Director and CEO DIN : 00191539					
Place: Delhi Date : 15.09.2020					

ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED			
CIN:- L74899DL1976PLC008036			
Regd. Office: Unit No. 8, Ground Floor, Pocket M, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi 110076			
Telephone:- 011-47366600 E-mail:- info@rotogridia.co.in Website:- www.rotogridia.co.in			
EXTRACT OF UN-AUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS			
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30 2020			
(In Lakhs Except EPS)			
Particulars	Quarter Ended 30.06.2020 (Un-audited)	Quarter Ended 30.06.2019 (Un-audited)	Year ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)
Total Income from Operations(Net)	0	0	14.72
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(1.15)	(2.28)	1.90
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(1.15)	(2.28)	1.90
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(1.15)	(2.28)	1.37
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(1.15)	(2.28)	1.40
Equity Share Capital	360.13	360.13	360.13
Earning Per Share Basic and diluted (not annualised)	(0.03)	0.00	0.04
Notes:-			
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly financial Results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI(LODR) Regulations 2015. The full format of Quarterly financial Results are available on the stock exchange website www.bseindia.com and Company's Website at www.rotogridia.co.in .			
2. The above unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the board of Directors at their meeting held on 15.09.2020			
For Rotographics (India) Limited Naresh Kumar Bansal Director			
Place: New Delhi Date: 15.09.2020			

BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED					
CIN: L01403AS1999PLC005741 Regd. Office: Debendra Nagar, Jhoom Basti, P.O. Badarpurhat, Distt. Karimganj, Assam-788803 Corp. Office: 281, Despathi Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 Tel No. : 03645-269258/81, Fax: +91-3645-269865 Website: www.barakcement.com, E-Mail Id: cs@barakcement.com					
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2020.					
PARTICULARS	STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED		(Rs. in Lakhs)
	Quarter Ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	
Total Income from operations (net)	2,231.22	4,146.64	3,852.38	13,357.11	
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	106.98	151.32	437.79	
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	106.98	151.32	437.79	
Net Profit for the period after Tax (after exceptional and extraordinary items)	(79.86)	182.87	104.67	422.31	
Total Comprehensive Income for the period	(79.86)	169.60	104.67	409.04	
Paid Up Equity Share Capital (face value of Rs. 10/- per share)	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	2,216.00	
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)	(0.36)	0.83	0.47	1.91	
Basic:	(0.36)	0.83	0.47	1.91	
Diluted:	(0.36)	0.83	0.47	1.91	
NOTES:-					
1. The above Unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and have been approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 14 th September, 2020. Limited review of the results as required under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation 2015, have been carried out by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.					
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com)					
3. Figures of the previous period have been regrouped / rearranged, wherever necessary.					
For and on behalf of Board BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED sd/- Kamakhyia Chamarla Vice Chairman & Managing Director					
Place : New Delhi Date : 14 th September, 2020					

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/Dankuni/E-Procurement/20-21/13 Dated:14-09-2020.	
PCMM/CLW/DKAE on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tenders is/are for supply of electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in. These are E-Tenders; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website. Sl.: Tender No.: 34202529; Blower for Oil Cooling Unit with casing including 30 kW Motor for OCU as per specification No. RDSO/SPEC/OCU/123, Rev (0) and 6-PE/E-10/3/09 (MOTOR) with amendment Nos. 01 to 05; As Per Tender Doc. 28.09.2020; 0.00.	
ADK-107 PCMM/CLW/DANKUNI	
Like us on www.facebook.com/clwrailways	

US import curbs on Chinese textile to benefit India: Icr

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accordingly, cotton origin from Xinjiang, which could end up as yarn or fabric in another region/ country, which could be processed further to manufacture apparel.

Further, there could be likely retaliatory actions by China against India, which could impact the ongoing US-China trade war, which could prevent widening of the scope of the ban, Icr report added.

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

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

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

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

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

On the other hand, Titan, Maruti, ITC, Asian Paints, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Auto were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.20 per cent.

Mid and small-cap stocks extended their gains as participants wagered on increased inflows into the segment following the RBI's new classification norms for multi-cap mutual funds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rupee settles 16 paise lower at 73.64 against US dollar

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

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

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

Indian economy to shrink 9 pc in FY2: ADB

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

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

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

ADB also projected the Indian economy to contract 11.5 per cent and 10.5 per cent respectively in the current fiscal. However, Goldman Sachs has estimated the contraction at 14.8 per cent.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tariffs on billions worth of U.S. goods - if the process is completed. But the U.S. Government can appeal the decision announced by the WTO's dispute settlement body, and WTO's appeals court is currently not fully functioning - largely because of Washington's single-handed refusal to accept new members for it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further, it said if early paying of securities has been made to the clearing corporation, then all margins would be

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

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

SBI extends OTP-based ATM withdrawal facility round the clock

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The GMB manages the existing port at Bhavnagar, having a capacity to handle 3 MMTPA cargo. While the consortium would invest ₹1,900 crore in the second phase, To develop CNG and other terminals on the north side of the existing port would require major modifications in the existing infrastructure, including dredging in the water channel of the port basin, construction of two lock gates and off-shore infrastructure for CNG transportation, the release said.

UJVNL LTD.
H.O.: UJVNL, Mahatma Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones : 0135-2763808 & Fax : 0135-2765058
CIN No. U40101UP2001500255888 Web : www.ujvnl.com

Schedule time table extension Notice 1
The schedule time of the Tender are extended as follows Tender No. 01/EE/IC&M/2020-21

Name of work : Procurement of new Transformer Oil for various Power Stations of UJVNL Ltd. for the FY.2020-21
Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal : 26.09.2020 up to 16:00 Hrs
Date/Time for submission of original documents : 30.09.2020 up to 11:00 Hrs
Date/Time of opening of bid on website : 30.09.2020 from 13:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in/>

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

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division, HMT, Srinagar

GIST OF TENDER
e-NIT No.: PHE/QC&PD/08/fe-Tender Dated: 12-09-2020

For and on behalf of L1 Governor of UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis in two copies from Govt. registered / Govt. approved manufacturers holding valid CML certification for the manufacture of said diameters of G. Pipes who have Supplied Such Items in India and possess Satisfactory Performance and excellent track record in the said field, with documentary evidence from Respective Govt./Semi Govt. Departments /Corporations /State or National level Undertakings for the following subject items:

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

Estimated Cost :- Rs 15.00 Crores
EMD Fee :- Rs 30.00 Lakhs
Cost of tender Documents :- Rs 2500.00

Validity of Rates :- 180 days from opening of the Price Bid.
The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Materials (BOM), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed /downloaded from the website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in) as per the schedule of dates given below:

Time Schedule of e-Tender

1. Date of Inviting Tender :- 12-09-2020.....10.00AM
2. Documents Downloading Period :- 14-09-2020 (02.00PM) to 05-10-2020 (02.00PM)
3. Clarification Period :- 14-09-2020 (02.00AM) to 26-09-2020 (04.00PM)
4. Pre Bid Consultation :- 28-09-2020 (02.00PM)
5. On Line Document Submission Period :- 14-09-2020 (02.00PM) to 05-10-2020 (04.00PM)
6. Date of opening of Cover 1st :- 06-10-2020.....02.00PM
7. Tender Document Issuing Authority :- Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jai Shakti HMT Srinagar. E-mail: enmdndpp@gmail.com
8. Tender Inviting Office :- Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jai Shakti HMT Srinagar payable at Srinagar.
9. Document Fee :- In the shape of treasury Challan favoring to Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jai Shakti HMT Srinagar payable at Srinagar or e-transfer to J&K Bank A/c No: 0005010100005110 IFSC: JAKAACHINAR
10. Earnest Money :- In the shape of CDR/FDR/BG from nationalized banks only having a branch in Srinagar.
11. Bid Opening Authority :- Chief Engineer, Kashmir PHE, Jai Shakti Deptt. Srinagar.
- No. DIPK-5689/20
Dated: 15-09-2020
- Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Jai Shakti QC&PD PHE (K) HMT Srinagar.

KAVYAM

"KAVYAM"-AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

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

Project Details

1. Project Approvals	Coloniser/Developer: Agrante Realty Ltd License No/ Year: 101/2017, Building Plan Approved on 06.07.2018 Haryana RERA Registration No. RC/REPHARERA/GGM/2018/23 dated 22.11.2018.
2. Location	Sector 108, Gurugram, Haryana
3. Provisions	Project Area : 5 acres comprising a total 723 no. of apartments. Community Facilities : One Community Hall of 2000 sqft and One Anganwadi-cum-Creche of 2000 sqft.
4. Apartment Details	Category 1: Part Draw of 48 no. of apartments of 512.50 sqft (approx.) carpet area and balcony(es) with an aggregated area of 330.30 sq ft (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking. Category 3: Part Draw of 25 no. of apartments of 488.30 sq ft (approx.) carpet area and balcony(es) with an aggregated area of 79.73 sq ft (approx.) with a two-wheeler parking.
5. Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)	Category 1: Rs. 21 lakhs/ apartment, Category 3: Rs. 19.93 lakhs/ apartment. The above rate is an all-inclusive cost of apartment as per rates prescribed under the policy notified vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof (details available at the Department website, i.e. tchpharyana.gov.in).
6. Payment Terms	* Statutory & government taxes are as applicable. i. With application: Booking amount, i.e., 5% of cost of flat. ii. On allotment: Additional 20% of cost of flat. iii. Balance 75% of the amount in six equal monthly instalments over three year period. No interest shall fall due before the due date of payment. Any default in payment shall invite interest as provided in rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Rules, 2017
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	2 BHK + 3 Balconies 2 BHK + 2 Balconies (Detailed specifications are provided, in application form)
8. Applications Timelines	i. Applications can be procured from: 704 DLF Tower-B, Jasola, New Delhi by paying an application fee of Rs 1000/- starting from 16.09.2020. ii. Last Date of submission of Applications: 01.10.2020. iii. All Applicants who have already applied and the prospective applicant are also directed to submit an affidavit declaring "weather applicant is or not identified beneficiary under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna and relevant documents."

Eligibility:-

1. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT of Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.
2. Any applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have to choose to retain only one flat.

Allotment Criteria:-

1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.
2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.
3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy 2013 notified vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof (available at the Department website, i.e. tchpharyana.gov.in).

Agrante Realty Ltd 704 7th floor DLF Tower-B, Jasola, New Delhi., CIN: U07010DL2013PLC248731

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

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



IT'S A NEET ANALYSIS

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

Here is a detailed analysis of the paper.

PHYSICS

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

CHEMISTRY

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

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

BOTANY

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

ZOOLOGY

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

- A couple of terms beyond the NCERT domain.
- Two questions required linguistic prowess.

- Overall, the questions were quite thought provoking requiring alertness of mind and critical approach.
- Comprehension, application & synthesis required to interpret the questions.

Detailed analysis

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

Chemistry: The Chemistry section was of easy to moderate difficulty level. All the questions were from the prescribed NEET syllabus and completely based on the NCERT textbooks. In fact, statements were directly picked from the NCERT textbook. Questions were straightforward and easy to comprehend.

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

Botany: The Botany part was of high difficulty level in comparison to previous years. While 25 questions were tested from class XI syllabus, 18 questions were from class XII syllabus. There were two controversial questions with more than one correct answer. Although the majority of questions were within the prescribed syllabus and based on the NCERT textbook, two questions were beyond the NCERT. The questions were conceptual in nature and required great conceptual and application-based understanding. There were also a few fact-based questions. Plant Physiology dominated with 9 questions followed by Ecology and Genetics with 7 questions each. Overall, the Botany part was not lengthy and should have been completed in the stipulated time period.

Zoology: The Zoology section was of moderate difficulty level with a few exceptions. Some questions were tricky and lost in the terminology. A couple of terms were also beyond the NCERT domain. The questions were multi-conceptual in nature and required incisive thinking and precision on the part of students. While two questions tested linguistic prowess, others required comprehension, application and synthesis to interpret the questions. Human Physiology dominated with 12 questions followed by Animal Husbandry & Biotechnology with 10 questions and Biomolecules with 6 questions.

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

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

— James Madison

Second NATA 2020 held

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

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

The HBT mode was introduced by the Council for the first time as an online proctored examination using Artificial Intelligence technology. A total of 30999 aspiring candidates enrolled for second test out of which 22289 candidates appeared for the examination. 8202 candidates appeared from their homes and 14087 candidates appeared for online examination in 158 designated centres pan India and at one centre in Dubai in two shifts.

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

BTech programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Get ready to play

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



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

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

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

Opportunities galore

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

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

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

Pursuing a career in gaming

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

When it comes to qualifications, most recruiters in the gaming

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

Analysing the future potential

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

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

The writer is Founder, Pacific Gaming

Upskilling is key

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

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

One in four employees in India lost their jobs between March-May alone and there is still a downward trend in the job market. Today, the one and only way to sustain the crisis is upskilling, which is as essential to companies as it is for employees. For the former group, upskilling is mandatory to stay ahead of competition and for the latter group, it helps to get noticed in the workplace. Upskilling is no longer an expensive and strenuous affair — thanks to the digitisation of communication that has made learning and upskilling immensely affordable for both companies and individuals. Availability of e-learning content in various formats and in different languages is greatly benefiting them while serving well-informed and sophisticated customers.

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



ensure their personal and professional growth.

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

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

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

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

The writer is the Founder & CEO of Speakin

SRM MCHRS signs MoU with NIS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Placement opportunities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The institute has created a milestone by placing their more than 200 students in Accounts & Finance stream in the key IT companies across the globe. As the institute specialises in taxation, finance, accounts, and other job-oriented courses, they have got 206+ students placed in the last four months (April-July 2020). But for all sectors combined, the placement record is over 5,000 in these four months. The students bagged an average package of over ₹23 lakh per annum.

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

PRADEEP KUMAR PANDEY

TIPS TO ACE CAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

based upon complexity or number of variables in problem sets.

Type-III: Topic Based DI/LR Sets:

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

Type-IV: Mixture of DI and LR Sets:

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

Type-V: New Puzzle types:

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

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

The writer is Academic Head, TIME, Delhi

‘Fashion needs to reinvent now’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mithun Bhardwaj
Director, Zashed Fashiontech

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MIND IT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is Rakesh Kharwal, MD-India, Cyberbit



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

Benefits: The sponsorship will be awarded worth up to \$2,400.

Eligibility: The applicant must have to apply for a thesis for the degree of MSc or PhD in the field of Ecology and Environmental Science at the University of Canterbury by the academic year 2020-2021. You are required to upload a CV, statement of interest, copy of passport and statement of purpose. **Admission requirements:** If you are going to enroll for a degree at UC then you must have at least an upper second-class, undergraduate honors degree or equivalent international qualification degree. **Language requirements:** Applicants must achieve the minimum standard in a recognized English language.

How to apply: If you want to join this program, then you have to be a university student through applying for a PhD and masters degree course at the University of Canterbury. After taking full-time enrollment, candidates can apply for the award.

Scholarship
Application deadline: It is November 1, 2020.

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

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

Eligibility: An applicant must be a full-time participant and demonstrate aptitude, research skill, material and/or performance-related productions and activities. The participants need to upload unofficial transcripts, letter of intent, curriculum vitae and language ability proof. **Admission requirements:** The participants must have an undergraduate degree in applying to a graduate degree programme. **Language requirement:** Overseas applicants are suggested to take the TOEFL/IELTS test for demonstrating their English language ability.

How to apply: There is no additional application for the grant. All eligible participants will be considered for the grant, after the enrollment in a master or a PhD degree program at the university.

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

WEB DESIGN AT THE DREAMER DESIGNS

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

SOFTWARE TESTING AT 361 DEGREE MINDS

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

FRONT END DEVELOPMENT AT MEINIGAR TECHNOLOGIES

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

PRODUCT DESIGN AT BOOKMARK PROJECTS TRUST

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

TELECALLING AT BEHIND THE SCREENS

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

CONTENT WRITING AT ACROSS CODE

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

CUSTOMER SERVICE AT OZIVA

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

STUDY ABROAD

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

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

He made the announcement on a visit to The University of Cardiff where he met with Indian students along with the CEO of Study Group Emma Lancaster.

The group provides international student pathway programmes leading to undergraduate and post-graduate degree level study at the university and at leading universities across the UK.

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

The Minister reassured his

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

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

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

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

IN BRIEF

SURVEY: POSITIVE CHANGE WITH NEP 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TERM SYSTEM IN MBA PROGRAMME AT IIT ROORKEE

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

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

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

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

POWER OF 3

AP ■ BRIGHTON

Chelsea team featuring just two of its slew of high-profile and expensive signings got off to a winning start in the English Premier League by beating Brighton 3-1.

Timo Werner and Kai Havertz - signed for a combined \$160 million - didn't manage to score at Amex Stadium, either, with Chelsea's goals coming from Jorginho, Reece James and Kurt Zouma.

James was the most spectacular



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

and the most crucial, the right back's swerving pilfered from 30 meters gaining the lead for Chelsea at 2-1 in the 36th minute, just two minutes after Brighton equalized through Leandro Trossard.

Zouma's deflected volley from a corner in the 66th then gave Chelsea some breathing

space. "I thought we were OK," Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said. "I liked the work ethic and discipline of the team."

"We have been together for four days. ... To expect everything to click on day one would have been difficult."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Murray gets French Open wildcard

AP ■ PARIS

Andy Murray received a wild card into the French Open.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DC has firepower to go all the way: Axar

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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



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

think we can become champions this time.

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

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

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

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

"Nevertheless, the positive thing

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

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

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

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

COVID-19 episode made me mentally stronger: Manpreet

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India hockey skipper Manpreet Singh says going through a stressful isolation period while recovery from coronavirus has made him a mentally strong player who is now equipped to tackle any situation on the field.

Manpreet was one of the six hockey players to test positive for COVID-19 at the team's training base in Bengaluru last month after they arrived for the national camp.

Having started their individual sessions after recovering, Manpreet said they still miss being part of the rest of the squad, even though Hockey India, Sports Authority of India and support staffs are doing their best to keep them upbeat.

"Tricky India officials would check on us almost every day if the food being provided is good, if our tele-treatment was done regularly, if we are monitoring our oxygen levels regularly and so on."

"Coaching Staff and teammates too would check on us through video calls. These things really helped us remain upbeat. Though it did sting a little to know all our teammates were back on the pitch while we were still in isolation, I feel this experience has made me mentally tougher to face any situation," the



skipper said. Recollecting the time spent at the hospital, the star midfielder said it was mentally tough for him and rest of the infected players to remain in isolation.

"It was not easy, especially mentally. I have not done anything for a month and that's a long time in a sportsman's career especially when every day is about improving and being the best," Manpreet said. "To be honest, initially when the results came out, we were slightly stressed. (But) we received best facilities in the hospital with SAI constantly checking with the medical team there of our well-being."

Feels great as we are slowly getting back into it: Padikkal

PTI ■ DUBAI

Royal Challengers Bangalore's young batsman Devdutt Padikkal says he is feeling as good about his game as it was before the COVID-19 lockdown after a good two and half weeks of skills training ahead of the IPL.

His team will take on Sunrisers Hyderabad on September 21 in its opening match of the league, which begins on September 19 in the UAE.

"Feels great as we are slowly getting back into it. There have been a good number of (net) sessions and we are feeling good like we were before lockdown," Padikkal told RCB's YouTube channel.

The Karnataka left-hander is being talked about highly in the Indian cricket circles after top-scoring in both the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy. The 20-year-old achieved an astonishing strike rate of 175 plus and an average of 64 in 12 games. He has a hundred and five fifties.

"It's more about movement, getting the legs moving quicker, getting the reactions faster again, the sessions were targeted on what we are doing and what we are aiming to achieve," Padikkal said.



While terms

Bumrah as the best T20 bowler in the world, Australia pacer James Pattinson has said he is looking forward to working with the Indian pacer and the New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult, among others, in the Mumbai Indians' bowling unit during the Indian Premier League (IPL) starting on

Fuming Paire shows little effort in 1st-round loss

AP ■ ROME

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

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

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

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

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

During the final game of the match, Paire slammed returns of serve into the net in anger — with Paire's racket nearly hitting the ball into play. When he finally managed

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

"I had not played in 10 days, staying in my room," Paire said.

"It was a good training, I'm happy I played one hour. I even played one hour and four minutes. I'm happy I hung on for 1:04. I gave what I could. Jannik played very well."

"The result does not really matter," Paire added.

"I still have the doubles. I will try to entertain myself with Nico (Nicolas Mahut) and try to win a match."

The tournament at the Foro Italico, where spectators are barred, was rescheduled from its usual May slot due to the pandemic.

Sinner said, "One hand I can understand, after spending so many days under quarantine in New York. ... In the end, I did what I needed to." He moved on to meet third-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Kei Nishikori — who is returning from right elbow surgery and missed the U.S. Open after testing positive for COVID-19 — won for the first time in more than a year, beating Alexander Zverev 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Rasmus Vinolas 6-4, 7-6 (3). Also in the first round, Casper Ruud of Norway rallied past Karel Achkanov 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

Borna Coric beat Cristian Garin 6-4, 6-4; Grigor Dimitrov eliminated wild card Gianluca Magno 7-5, 6-1; and Filip Krajinovic beat Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 7-5.



Bumrah probably the best T20 bowler: Pattinson



September 19.

"Personally, it's just fantastic to work with some of the best bowlers in the world. Obviously, Bumrah is probably the best T20 bowler in the world. And Boult (Trent Boult) is up there as well. So, for me it will be a great experience to work with those guys," Pattinson said in a video shared on Mumbai Indians' official handle. "I have played a few One-day Internationals here in the UAE before, so I have got a bit of experience. I never here in UAE."

Reigning champions MI named Pattinson as a replacement for veteran fast bowler Lasith Malinga for this year's IPL.

Pattinson also spoke about the conditions in the UAE, saying the slower ball might be used a lot on surfaces which could be slower and lower as the tournament progresses. "The wickets are drier and there will be three wickets which will be used throughout the tournament, so it will be slower and lower as the tournament goes on. May be the slower ball and stuff like that might come into play a lot more."

Finally, Thomas & Uber Cup postponed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vimal blames Asian nations withdrawal for postponement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We are not as big as China but India stood positive, we wanted to participate but if big countries don't play, what can BWF do? How will they conduct events? I'll blame the Asian nation for this mess."

The international body, though, decided to hold the BWF World Tour Finals in Odense, a HSBC BWF World Tour Event, as originally planned from October 13-18, while cancelling the Denmark Masters that was slated for October 20-25.

The decision to go ahead with the Denmark Open has left a few Indian players, including P V Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap, confused.

"We are still confused what to do under the cir-

cumstances. Saina has got a visa for Denmark and I have applied for it but we are still undecided about participation," Kashyap said.

"There are many questions like what happens if I test positive? Will I be sent back home or I will have to stay there for 14 days? Who takes care of the expenses and responsibility?"

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Tuesday wrote to the players who have sent their entries for the Denmark Open, stating that they would be "travelling or participating at their own responsibility due to the current pandemic" and "have to bear their consent within September 17".

It would not be possible to deliver a high quality tournament in the current circumstances and hence it decided to defer the event.

"...We are not in a position to deliver the level of competition reasonably expected by fans and all stakeholders..." it said.