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8-9 crore Indians Covid +ve: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 8-9 crore Indian, or one in 15 individuals aged over 10 years, may have been exposed to coronavirus by the end of August, according to the findings of the second serosurvey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

In percentage terms, the total people exposed to coronavirus will be estimated at around 7 per cent, which is 10 times higher than the numbers thrown by the findings of the first serosurvey released on September 11. It shows that between the two surveys, the infection has spread widely.

"One in 15 individuals aged over 10 years were estimated to be exposed to Covid-19 by August 2020," ICMR chief Balram Bhargava said. "Earlier we had thought that it does not affect those below 18, but have now found there's no difference. The prevalence is not different by age group or gender."

The survey was conducted between August 17 and September 22. As per its findings, the prevalence of Covid-19 among individuals over 10 years was 6.6 per cent, and in adults (over 18 years of age) was 7.1 per cent.

Since India's population is around 140 crore, the total number of people exposed to coronavirus could be around 8-9 crore when we take out the below 10 age group.

Incidentally, the findings of the first national serosurvey which became public on September 11 indicated that 0.73 per cent of adults in India were exposed to SARS-CoV-2, amounting to a total of 6.4 million Covid-19 infections by early May.

Dr Bhargava also said that the second serosurvey report showed that urban slum and

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 62,11,458

DEATHS: 97,374

RECOVERED:

51,68,342

ACTIVE: 9,44,859

VP Naidu tests Covid positive, in good health

New Delhi: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday tested positive for Covid-19 but is in good health, the Vice President Secretariat said. Naidu, 71, who is asymptomatic, has been advised home quarantine.

In the evening, Naidu had addressed a virtual event on post-Covid healthcare where he urged the private sector to pitch in to improve healthcare system in rural India. "The Vice President of India who underwent a routine Covid-19 test today morning has been tested positive. He is, however, asymptomatic and in good health," the Secretariat tweeted.

urban non-slum areas had higher SARS-CoV-2 infection prevalence than that of rural areas. "Risk in urban slums twice than that in non-slum areas and 4 times the risk in the rural setting," the report stated.

Amnesty cries witch-hunt as it shuts up in India, MHA says it flouted FCRA norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Amnesty International on Tuesday said it was halting all its activities in India due to the freezing of its accounts by the Government of India which it came to know on 10 September 2020, brings all the work being done by the organization to a grinding halt," it said.

Reacting to the development, the MHA said the allegations of Amnesty International is unfortunate and exaggerated and said that the NGO violated the laws in accepting foreign donations.

research work. "The complete freezing of Amnesty International India's bank accounts by the Government of India which it came to know on 10 September 2020, brings all the work being done by the organization to a grinding halt," it said.

The election expense limit for each candidate is ₹28 lakh. Kangale said a Nodal Health Officer will be designated for the state, district and Assembly constituency to oversee Covid-19 related arrangements and preventive measures during the electoral process.

ICMR's 2nd serosurvey says cases rose 10 times since 1st results on September 11

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	13,66,129	36,181	10,69,159
Andhra Pradesh	6,87,351	5,780	6,22,136
Tamil Nadu	5,92,911	8,777	4,76,378
Karnataka	5,82,458	9,453	5,36,209
Uttar Pradesh	3,94,856	5,715	3,36,981
Delhi	2,73,098	5,272	2,40,703
West Bengal	2,53,768	4,899	2,22,805
Odisha	2,15,676	881	1,77,585
Telangana	1,89,283	1,116	1,58,690
Kerala	1,87,277	720	1,24,684
Bihar	1,81,471	894	1,67,890
Assam	1,73,629	667	1,42,297
Gujarat	1,36,004	3,442	1,15,959
Rajasthan	1,33,119	1,471	1,11,272
Haryana	1,26,974	1,356	1,10,814
Madhya Pradesh	1,24,166	2,242	1,00,012



A health worker collects a nasal swab sample to test for Covid-19 in Hyderabad on Tuesday. AP

Hathras' Nirbhaya succumbs to brutality Protest at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, Cong questions PM's silence

PNS/STAFF REPORTER ■ LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI

A 19-year-old girl, who was gangraped in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district two weeks ago, died of her grievous injuries at a Delhi hospital on Tuesday morning.

As news of her death spread, protests broke out at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital as well as in Vijay Chowk and in Hathras. Leading the protests outside Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad appealed to all members of the Delhi community to take to the streets and demand the death penalty for the four men alleged to be involved in the crime who were arrested and will now face charges under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

"The Government should not test our patience. We will wait until the culprits are hanged," said Azad, adding

that the victim was killed in the hospital to silence her forever and shield the culprits.

The Uttar Pradesh Government announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh for the victim's family.

Fitting out at the Yogi Adityanath Government in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and women BJP leaders on the issue and alleged that the state has become the "crime capital" of the country.

The party also staged protests demanding justice for the victim at Vijay Chowk. The party said its leaders PL Punia, Udit Raj, Amrita Dhawan and other party leaders were detained at Mandir Marg Police station for the protest.

On September 14, the young woman had gone to the fields with her mother and went missing soon after. She was found later with severe injuries and her tongue cut as

India retorts as China provokes As Beijing refuses to recognise Ladakh UT, New Delhi says it never accepted unilaterally defined 1959 perception of LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indo-China stand-off has escalated as the Indian Government has rebuffed China's provocative assertion that Beijing didn't recognise Ladakh Union Territory and was opposed to India building military infrastructure in the border areas.

The MEA on Wednesday asserted that the country never accepted the so-called unilaterally-defined 1959 LAC and its position has been consistent and well known to the Chinese. India also asked China to refrain from advancing an "untenable unilateral" interpretation of the de-facto border.

India's reaction was in response to China's advice to India position to abide by its 1959 perception of the LAC.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry insisted it abides by that LAC as proposed by then Premier Zhou Enlai to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter on November 7, 1959.

Making this claim, China in a statement to a newspaper also blamed the Indian Army for the ongoing tension for the last five months in eastern Ladakh. It also termed the bloody brawl on June 15 in the Galwan valley leading to the death of 20 Indian Army personnel as an "unfortunate event".

Brushing aside the Chinese claim of the perception,



An Army convoy moves towards Ladakh amid border tension with China, at Manali-Leh highway. PTI

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said here, "India has never accepted the so-called unilaterally defined 1959 Line of Actual Control (LAC). This position has been consistent and well known, including to the Chinese side."

Srivastava referred to various bilateral agreements including the 1993 agreement on maintenance of peace and tranquility along the LAC, 1996 pact on confidence building measures (CBMs) and the 2005 agreement on political parameters and guiding principles for settlement of the boundary issue, to emphasise that both sides showed com-

mitment to reach a common understanding of the alignment of the LAC.

"Therefore, the insistence now of the Chinese side that there is only one LAC is con-

trary to the solemn commitments made by China in these agreements," he said, adding the Indian side has always respected and abided by the LAC.

27 soldiers killed due to poor bullets in 5 yrs, says Army

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twenty-seven soldiers were killed and 146 wounded due to poor bullets and shells between 2014 and 2019.

Gearing up for a long haul at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, the Army has expressed concern over the alleged poor quality of ammunition, leading to casualties among soldiers.

The Army has noted that more than ₹960 crore was wasted on faulty ammunition and this money could have catered for buying more than 100 howitzers. These guns are very effective in mountain warfare and much needed on the borders facing China.

Pointing these critical deficiencies, the Army also said at least 27 soldiers were killed and 146 wounded due to poor bullets and shells in the period 2014-2019 and urged the Government to take immediate steps. They included fixing accountability and production of top-class ammunition.

Most of the ammunition in question was produced by the Ordnance Factory Board while it while it disposed off ₹960 crore worth of ammunition in the same period before their shelf life was complete, officials said here on Tuesday.



The faulty ammunition included 23-mm air defence shells, artillery shells, 125-mm tank rounds and different calibres of bullets used in infantry assault rifles.

"Lack of accountability and poor quality of production has resulted in frequent accidents over the years with injuries and death of soldiers," they said. On an average one accident has taken place per week, internal data of the Army from 2014 to 2019 shows. There were 403 incidents between 2014 to 2019 due to which the Army suffered 27 deaths and 146 injuries.

A significant quantity of products was disposed off without completing shelf life due to poor quality.

Bypoll in Marwahi Assembly constituency on November 3

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Marwahi Assembly constituency in Chhattisgarh, reserved for Scheduled Tribe, will see a by-election on November 3 and the votes will be counted on November 10, it was announced on Tuesday. The seat fell vacant following the death of former Chief Minister Aji Jogi.

The polling will be held with all protocols for Covid-19. Chhattisgarh Chief Electoral Officer Reena Baba Sahab Kangale said.

Addressing the media virtually, Kangale said with the announcement of the election, the model code of conduct has been enforced in the constituency limits.

The date of issue of Gazette notification for the election is October 9 and the last date for filing nominations is October 16. The nominations will be checked on October 17 and candidates can withdraw their



CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, CHHATTISGARH RAIPUR

nomination till October 19.

The candidates can also file nomination papers, affidavits and payment online.

The election expense limit for each candidate is ₹28 lakh.

Kangale said a Nodal Health Officer will be designated for the state, district and Assembly constituency to oversee Covid-19 related arrangements and preventive measures during the electoral process.

Prior registration must for outside farmers to sell in Haryana mandis

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Prior registration on a Haryana Government portal is a must for farmers from outside the State bringing their produce for procurement in government-run "mandis", a senior State Government official said on Tuesday.

In the wake of reports that some farmers from neighbouring Uttar Pradesh were not allowed to sell their paddy crop at government-run "mandis" in Karnal district a few days ago, the official said there is no bar, but they will have to register themselves on a government portal and upload their details and then every registered farmer receives an SMS when they have to bring their produce. The official, however, said that registra-



She said the constituency has 286 polling centres, of which 237 are main polling stations and 49 assisting polling stations. A total of 126 polling centres fall under the "sensitive" category. All

tion is mandatory for farmers looking to sell non-basmati varieties of rice.

"This time, we have decided that from October 5 onwards the outside farmers can also register and then we will also give them a schedule and call them," Additional Chief Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, PK Das told PTI over the phone.

Sushant didn't die of poisoning, says AIIMS report

But flags lapses in Cooper Hospital autopsy report for leaving out details

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The five-member board of doctors of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) led by Dr Sudhir Gupta entrusted to re-evaluate film star Sushant Singh Rajput's post-mortem and viscera reports has submitted its finding to the CBI and ruled out death by poisoning but raised certain doubts on the autopsy report conducted by the Cooper Hospital, Mumbai.

The report is big blow to those who were claiming that Sushant was first poisoned and then hanged. The CBI investigation has so far not found any evidence to substantiate the

murder theory. The AIIMS report has ruled out poison allegation, leaving it for the CBI to arrive at its own conclusion on the basis of evidence, if any.

The AIIMS team submitted the report at CBI HQ. The CBI is probing the death case of Sushant and the agency is seeking to ascertain whether it was a murder or suicide.

CAPSULE

SI HELD FOR SHOOTING FATHER-IN-LAW, LOVER

New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Tuesday arrested its sub-inspector Sandeep Dahiya who allegedly shot at and injured his female friend here and later killed his father-in-law in Rohtak, officials said. "Dahiya was arrested from Sector-3, Rohini around 11 am by the joint teams of special staff, cyber cell and Lahori Gate police station," a senior police officer said.

DELHI'S AIR QUALITY MAY TURN 'POOR' BY FRIDAY

New Delhi: The national Capital's air quality was recorded in the 'moderate' category on Tuesday, while a government forecasting agency said it is likely to turn 'poor' by Friday. Delhi recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 177, which falls in the 'moderate' category. It was 159 on Monday.

BJP promised moon but delivered nothing: Jidi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Renewing her attack on the BJP Government Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said it seldom delivered on its promises and resorted to communal propaganda for the sake of publicity during the elections.

The Chief Minister who was currently touring North Bengal said those in the central Government "had promised many things but delivered nothing... they did nothing for the tea plantation workers but when it comes to voting they would raise communal issues to derive publicity."

Claiming that her Government had done more than it promised Banerjee said

"we have continuously performed. Despite having performed so well for the past one decade there is no publicity because we do not engage in communal riots... rather we are defamed and become victims of disinformation campaigns despite having worked hard for the people of this region whereas when the elections will come they will incite communal riots to get cheap publicity and votes."

Earlier Banerjee had attacked the Centre for bulldozing the opposition voice in Parliament to pass a number of "draconian anti-people laws" like the farm bill and said the people would take account of that during the elections. Bengal will go to Assembly polls in May next year.

The Chief Minister on Tuesday promised the plantation workers their own houses in a few years' time. "The Government will construct houses for the plantation workers in three years," she said adding "those who had come and promised to you so many things have done nothing for you which can be proved by the condition of the plantation workers and industry here."

Reacting to Banerjee's statements Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said "our Chief Minister is a person who loves to beat her own trumpet... If she has worked well then it will be for the people to see and for them to recognize that. Our Chief Minister is different. The Chief Minister is patting her own back."

IMA demands health emergency in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Taken back by the surge in the number of Covid-19 patients, the Indian Medical Association, the highest policy making body of modern medicine practitioners have asked the Government of Kerala to declare a state of "Health Emergency".

Dr Abraham Varghese, president, IMA (Kerala) said in a statement to the Government that the situation in Kerala is precarious and requires stringent measures to avert a health crisis. The number of cases diagnosed with Covid-19 on a daily basis is disturbing. But what is of more concern is the number of patients contracting the soft-spoken doctor has been cautioning the author-

ities about community transmission which was set back in the State. He said the Government should go for strict social controls and regulations to check the number of people crowding at public places and shopping centres. Offices and business establishments could work with skeleton staff and there should be restrictions on the number of people who could gather in public or private places," said Dr Varghese.

Though the official figures state that over 58,000 people are under treatment in the State for Covid-19, Government doctors themselves say that the figure has crossed 2 lakh mark. "The IMAs studies prove that the situation is catastrophic," getting worse by the day as shown by the spurt in numbers.

7,354 new cases in Kerala, 5,546 in TN

KOCHI/CHENNAI: As the Indian Medical Association's Kerala branch demanded a state of Health Emergency in the State, the number of new Covid-19 patients shot up to 7,354 which include 7,036 patients who contracted the pandemic through social contacts.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who briefed the media after an all party meeting said that there were 61,791 persons under treatment in the State for Covid-19 on Tuesday.

Neighbouring Tamil Nadu is gradually bringing down the number of cases on a daily basis without any fanfare. On Tuesday, Tamil Nadu diagnosed 5,546 new persons afflicted with Covid-19. A medical bulletin released by the Tamil Nadu Government said the number of patients in the State as on Tuesday were 46,281 which was well below that in Kerala. Tamil Nadu saw 70 persons succumbing to the dreaded disease during the last 24 hours.

Kerala, which had claimed that it tamed Covid-19 as early as May 8 is facing a precarious position. Malappuram district alone diagnosed 1,040 new patients while the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram diagnosed 935 patients. The Chief Minister blamed the Opposition, particularly the BJP for the State's failure in countering the pandemic. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palanisamy said the State while Kerala had to content with 53,000 persons.

WB reports 3,188 fresh cases, 62 more deaths



Kolkata: West Bengal on Tuesday reported 3,188 new cases of COVID-19, taking its tally to 2,53,768, as per a bulletin issued by the Health Department.

The COVID-19 toll rose to 4,899 after 62 more people died. Since Monday, 2,961 people have recovered, improving the discharge rate to 87.80 per cent.

There are 26,064 active cases in the state at present. In the last 24 hours, 43,769 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state, the bulletin said.

AP's daily corona count at 6,190

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh's COVID-19 tally increased to 6,87,351 as 6,190 more cases were reported on Monday, while 35 deaths took the fatalities to 5,780.

Also, the overall infection positivity rate dropped below the 12 per cent mark for the first time in over two months, standing at 11.99 per cent on Tuesday after a gross 37.34 lakh samples were tested so far.

Heart patients at high risk during pandemic

Aligarh: The speed at which the corona infection is spreading has destroyed health services and created a crisis for the economy.

Along with other patients, this virus has a fatal impact on heart patients as well. Many people have died from this disease.

According to M.U. Rabbani, chairman of the Department of Heart Disease at JN Medical College and a

renowned Cardiologist, the global mortality rate according to coronavirus data is 3.02%, this rate is 2.6% in America and 1.4% in India.

In poor and medium-income countries, the number of corona infected patients without symptoms is 5 to 10 times more due to less testing of coronavirus. 25% of heart attack patients die because they are not getting proper treatment on time.

Karnataka CM's Political Secy MP Renukacharya, tests corona +ve

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa's Political Secretary and MLA M P Renukacharya on Tuesday said he has tested positive for COVID-19.

The MLA from Honnali constituency said he underwent a test. The changes were observed in his health conditions this morning, and the report showed him to be positive. Appealing all those who had come in contact with him in the last five days to get tested, he said he was doing fine.

Chief Minister Yeddyurappa tweeted wishing for Renukacharya's speedy recovery. Several Ministers and legislators in Karnataka including Deputy Chief Minister Govind Karur, Law Minister G Madhuswamy, senior Congress MLAs H K Patil and Diensh Gundu Rao are among those who have tested positive for COVID in the last few days.

The state recently lost the Belagavi BJP MLAs and Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi, BJP Rajya Sabha member Ashok Gasti and Basavakalyan Congress MLA B Narayan Rao due to coronavirus.

Covid may hit mental health

Aligarh: The Covid-19 pandemic has created a global crisis with far-reaching social and economic repercussions and one of the biggest challenges this crisis has brought is the mental health of people.

He was addressing at the inaugural function of the two-day international webinar on Role of Faith in Facing Personal and Social Crisis. What Religion Can Offer to the Post-Covid World' organised by the Dara Shikoh Centre for Interfaith Understanding and

Dialogue, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). He explained that faith gives courage to people and prevents depression.

"During crisis, people tend to become either aggressive or depressed and these two extremes can be prevented with spiritual knowledge," said Sri Sri Ravi Shankar adding that spirituality leads to serene, calm and meditative state.

He added that Corona virus is a catastrophe, but not an apocalypse and faith can help us to search the silver linings despite the dark clouds of gloom.

Aligarh DM postpones home isolation until further notice

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Due to the rising rate of corona infection in the district, the district administration has postponed the home isolation until further orders. In a review meeting held at Collectorate, the control room will complete this said that during home isolation, asymptomatic patients are not following guidelines and are moving outside, living with family members which is increasing the infection. Nodal

Officer Principal Secretary Nitin Kamesh Gokarn has also been ordered to ensure that the DM Chandra Bhushan Singh postponed the home isolation with immediate effect. All Magistrates / SDMs have been directed to strictly follow it.

The people kept in home isolation will complete their time by Tuesday. But if a patient does not follow the rules during home isolation, then that patient should be shifted to COVID Hospital. There will be no negligence in this.

SUSHANT DEATH-RELATED DRUG CASE Bombay HC reserves order on bail pleas of Rhea, Showik, others

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday reserved its order on the bail applications of accused actress Chakraborty, her brother Showik and others in the Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case, after observing that its verdict would have "wide reach and repercussions" and that it would pass separate orders in all matters.

After hearing all the sides, Justice S. V. Kotwal of the Bombay High Court noted: "Arguments on the matter are closed. The matter is now reserved for the court. Due to voluminous proceedings, the court may take some time." "This judgment has wide reach and repercussions. I will try to write separate orders in all matters, but I might end up attributing my arguments to Sayed (advocate for co-accused Abel Sath Parihar) and Zaid Vilatra (Sathish) Maneshinde. Please

excuse me for that," the judge noted.

At the hearing, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh argued for the state, while Sathish Maneshinde represented Chakraborty siblings, advocate Tareq Sayed appeared for co-accused Abel Sath Parihar. Advocate Subodh Desai for Samuel Miranda (late Sushant's house manager) and advocate Rajendra Rathod Dipesh Savant (late Sushant's house help).

Rhea, Showik and other accused in the Sushant death-related drug case had moved the high court after the Special Court had rejected their bail applications on September 11. Apart from Rhea and Showik, the four other accused whose bail applications were denied by the special court were: Sushant's house manager Samuel Miranda, house help Dipesh Savant and two alleged drug peddlers Abel Sath Parihar and Zaid Vilatra.

₹15,000 cr loan sanctioned for projects: Urban Affairs Ministry

New Delhi: The National Capital Regional Planning Board (NCRPB) has sanctioned over ₹15,000 crore loan in over ₹1,000 crore worth of projects related to transport, regional rapid transport system, water supply, drainage, power, solid waste management, tourism and road infrastructure. Informing this, the Ministry of Housing, Urban Affairs (MoHUA) secretary Durga Shankar Mishra on Tuesday said that 265 projects of more than Rs 18,500 crore are complete and the rest is under construction.

Speaking at the launch of the Project Management Information System (P-MIS), Mishra said that MIS will help to monitor projects.

The NCR is presently spread over a 55,083 sq km area with around 60 million population. According to the NCRPB, Haryana sub-region comprises of districts of Gurgaon, Faridkot, Rohtak, Sonapat, Rewari, Mahendragar, Jind, Karnal, Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri. Rajasthan sub-region comprises districts of Alwar and Bharatpur. Uttar

Pradesh Sub-region comprises districts of Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Bagpat, Hapur, Muzaffarnagar and Shamli.

Explaining the features of the software, Mishra said that the P-MIS is having unique feature of doing calculations at back end for monitoring various financial critical events for regular classes and monthly repayment of loan due date for each IA and generates alert for Guarantee Renewal and Payment of Loan in soft format i.e. email in advance.

Schools in AP to reopen on Nov 2

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

Schools in Andhra Pradesh would be re-opened for the 2020-21 academic year on November 2, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced here on Tuesday.

"We wanted to open the schools on October 5, but in view of the prevailing situation, we have now decided to re-open them on November 2," the Chief Minister told district Collectors during a video conference. Schools remained shut due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic in the current academic year.

The state government initially announced September 5 as the re-opening day and later deferred it to October 5. Though the Centre is yet to issue fresh guidelines on opening the schools fully, the Chief Minister set November 2 as the date.

The Chief Minister said the 'Jagananna Vidya Kankana' (Jagans Education Gift) would, however, be

The state Government initially announced September 5 as the re-opening day and later deferred it to October 5 distributed on October 5 to all students.

A school kit, including uniforms, would be distributed to the students under the freebie scheme.

If we distribute the kits on October 5, students can get them stitched and be ready when the schools re-open on November 2," he said. The Chief Minister, who reviewed the progress of the Mana Badi, Nau-du-Nedu scheme, under which school infrastructure is being renovated, directed the District Collectors to step up the work.

Of the 15,715 schools chosen for renovation in the first phase, works were yet to begin in 153 schools, he said. Start the works immediately. The District Joint Collectors should monitor the work daily and ensure that they are completed in time," Jagan added.

No decision yet on reopening schools: Karnataka Minister

Bengaluru: Karnataka Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar on Tuesday said that the State Government had not taken any decision yet on reopening of schools.

The Karnataka government had decided about a fortnight ago that Classes 9, 10, 11 and 12 would be partially allowed to be held.

In other words, teachers of these classes would be present in schools whereas students who have doubts in any topic could seek clarifications in their respective subjects through regular classes will be held.

This led to speculations that Karnataka would reopen schools soon. A section of parents had vehemently opposed the reopening of schools amid the pandemic. Owing to parental pressure, the government on September 20 prohibited Class 9 to 12 students from visiting schools and only undergraduates to meet teachers amid the pandemic.

He bid to allay the fears, Suresh Kumar had posted detailed information on the issue on Facebook.

He maintained that the Karnataka government planned to elicit views from various quarters like politicians, academics and health experts before taking any final decision on this matter.

Soon after returning from Bidar district tour in a day or two, the Minister asserted, he would convene a meeting of different stakeholders along with the departments concerned to decide on reopening of schools.

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As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(14) of the said Act read with Rule 6 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

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2.	Sai Industries/ LBDEL000002010380	Property No 400, 1st Floor Without Roof Rights, Block AA, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi/ September 28, 2020	October 31, 2019 / Rs. 30,76,340/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Saket Sayam & Sushil Kumar Shrivastava/ LBDEL0000237603	Flat No 32, LIG Block B-18, PKT 5, Sec- 35, 2nd Floor, Rohini, Delhi/ September 28, 2020	January 31, 2020 / Rs. 13,62,125/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrower(s) / guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients I. Sri Sandeep Kumar S. S. S. (P.A.N. N.O. AHOPK1238) 2. Sri Ved Prakash S. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 3. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 4. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 5. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 6. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 7. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 8. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 9. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 10. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 11. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 12. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 13. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 14. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 15. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 16. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 17. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 18. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 19. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 20. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 21. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. AXPW98982) 22. Sri Laxmi Chand, (P.A.N. NO. 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Another silent Nirbhaya

Dalit girl from Hathras dies after being brutally gang-raped. Where are the deterrent laws and action? Will we have to wait years again?



The "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign is being slandered with each passing day as it becomes a "Beti Hatao, Beti Darao" mission in reality, with heinous crimes against the girl child and women going up every day across the country. So it is that just two days after Daughter's Day, a 19-year-old Dalit girl was brutally gang-raped in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district. In a chilling throwback to the Nirbhaya case and the incident in Hyderabad not so long ago, the girl was left with her tongue cut out, ostensibly to prevent her from testifying. Her legs were bruised so severely and her spine was so lethally battered that she was completely paralysed while her arms could just about register a movement. Still she fought for her dear life over 15 days in hospital but gave up despite being brought to Delhi's AIIMS. Yet there was no outcry for the last fortnight till she became just another cold statistic. Nobody mourned a young life snuffed out in its prime due to caste-based hatred, sexual depravity and a deteriorating law and order situation, particularly in the Hindi heartland. Exacerbating the situation, as usual, were the poorly conducted investigations and a slow justice system. The conviction rate for rape is only 27.2 per cent despite the fact that it accounts for 11.5 per cent of the total crime statistics. On an average, 91 rapes were reported every single day across India in 2018, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) says that trial in rape cases should be completed in 60 days but that never happens because of the tardiness of police investigations. Then there are judicial flaws that need to be plugged when it comes to rape, the primary being bail to the accused, which should be denied till the probe is completed. Some independent studies indicate that the average time of finishing trial even in fast track courts is eight months. And even if one were to get death penalty, acquittals, appeals and mercy petitions mean that only about five per cent death penalties are actually upheld by the Supreme Court. A traumatised rape survivor hardly has the courage to go through such travesty and gives up midway. The 2012 Nirbhaya rape, which shook the conscience of not just the nation but the world, too, compelled our parliamentarians to strengthen the punitive justice delivery system based on the recommendations of a committee that included eminent jurists. It led to some crucial amendments to the law, which included changing the very definition of "rape", the establishment of fast-track courts to ensure victims get justice without undue delay, harsher punishments for the accused with the provision of death sentence being added to it and the abolition of the two-finger test among others. Two other such incidents, in Kathua and Unnao, where two children were raped, had widened the scope of punishment for raping a child under 12 to death penalty. Undoubtedly, there has been an increase in reportage of crimes against women after Nirbhaya though much of them are still under-reporting. Besides, as the Hyderabad incident has shown, question marks remain on the use of the death penalty as criminals are now murdering their victims to destroy evidence. For the criminal, there is no deterrent. But yes, he can be stalled if deterrence is built into the system by fast-tracking procedures and ensuring swift justice. Conviction rates need to go up proportionately. At present, fast-track courts are no different from the usual courts in terms of case pile-ups and vacancies. A quick, fair and unbiased judicial set-up with requisite number of judges is a *sine qua non*. A continuously responsive system is a bigger deterrent than one or two landmark rulings.

The unchecked crimes against women and the girl child are also skewering gender equity in the rural hinterland. According to a study supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), that was conducted in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, the increasing crimes against women have deepened preferences for a son. So much so that we have lost around 4,60,000 girls to sex selection at birth each year between 2013 and 2017, according to the UNFPA. When errands go scot-free and the woman's family is left to wallow in pain and shame, a malaise becomes a societal archetype. And the girl child will continue to be vulnerable, either used as a tool in a caste war as the rapists in Hathras belonged to the upper caste, a sacrifice in a revenge drama or a family feud or a life cheap enough to be pawned by male-dominated codes. Predictably, there is a political sluffest over this latest incident, with the Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) slamming the BJP Government in UP for the sorry plight of law and order in the State. Their protests will once again be tainted by the ruling party as "crocodile tears" and a "political conspiracy" to "defame the Government." The Opposition will predictably make the rape a subset of excesses on Dalits. But neither the Opposition nor the ruling party was there for the girl when she was writhing in hospital for a fortnight. And much to the shame of India's most populous State, nobody wants to roll back UP's unique distinction of reporting the highest crime spiral against women. As for justice, will we have to wait another seven years?

Amnesty shuts shop

The human rights watchdog may have looked at India through a Western prism but can we dispute its findings on Delhi riots?



The trouble with human rights watchdogs is that they have, by virtue of countering the establishment narrative, assigned themselves a certain kind of legitimacy and credibility without realising that some of their own investigations are compromised by subjective assessment rather than objective investigation. This has also been a problem with Amnesty International, which has many times been accused of looking at India through a Western prism. But as a robust democracy, we have it within ourselves to accept vilification and acknowledge cogent counterpoints. We shouldn't need lobbyists to get the other side of the story; our media should be free to do that. Besides, by and large, the organisation has an international acceptability even if we take some of its reports with a pinch of salt. But by targeting Amnesty, which says it is now forced to shut shop in India because the Government has completely frozen its bank accounts here, we appear to be in the bracket of oppressor and authoritative regimes like China. And considering its activists have been particularly penalised for tracking dissent pan-India over the last two years, it gives them a moral upper hand and claim a witch-hunt. The reasons that the organisation lists behind the Government crackdown on it are the same as those cited by tormented civil society activists — namely "unequivocal calls for transparency in the Government, more recently for accountability of the Delhi police and the Government of India regarding the grave human rights violations in Delhi riots and Jammu & Kashmir." Frankly, even without the Amnesty's reports, there is far too much on-ground evidence of the charges it has made. And the way the disclosure statements and names in the chargesheet of the Delhi Police on the city riots have been circled out, targeting the liberal intelligentsia, protesters and activists while leaving out the inflammatory fringe Rightists, there is a move to freeze the right of democratic dissent. So the timing of its India exit suits Amnesty more than us at this point of time.

It would have made more sense had the Government zeroed in on Amnesty in 2016, when it was booked in a section case for allowing "anti-India" slogans on Kashmir at an event in Bengaluru. But to pursue it for violating foreign funding rules in 2019 obviously raises questions on intent. Amnesty though claims that its India operations have been funded domestically. The immediate context seems to be the report it released last month on the complicity of Delhi police in the riots. Yes we must defend our pluralism and challenge the official narrative. But by hounding out Amnesty, we have a public relations battle ahead. Nothing will happen to it. Nothing would have if it had been allowed to continue.

opinion 06

New agricultural paradigm

The end of socialist-era impediments should ideally stimulate increased private sector investment across the value chain and help create jobs



SANDHYA JAIN

The over-hyped green revolution of the late 1960s introduced varieties of dwarf rice and wheat in northern India with a cocktail of chemical fertilisers and pesticides that sucked up groundwater and gradually made it unfit for drinking. The chemicals leached into the soil and water. State-sponsored propaganda about "miraculous yields" extended the phenomenon across the country, ruining soil fertility and the nutritious value of food crops; the impact on public health was noticed by the medical community. The voices of the silenced farmers were not heard. Today, Gurdaspur-to-Delhi trains are called "Cancer Express", yet there has been no medical study of the harm caused by chemical agriculture to the health of humans, animals, soil and water resources.

Now, four momentous laws could pave the way for a revolution in which farmers drive the change, with technology playing a supportive role. If the Government repudiates the genetically-modified food crops lobby, India could return to farming methods that do not require costly inputs and force farmers into a vicious cycle of debt (and even suicide).

On September 16, 2020, one day before the three agriculture-related Bills were moved in Parliament, the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act 2020 was passed, bringing all cooperative banks under the purview of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It means stricter supervision of 1,482 urban and 58 multi-state cooperative banks, with deposits of ₹4.84 lakh crore.

The legislation undermines the strongmen who control the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs), mandis, loans and so on in many States. It is noteworthy that large farmers are among the new law's beneficiaries. They opposed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGS) as they had to match wages or lose farm labour. The ongoing COVID pandemic has also impacted the intra-party caste divides. The support base also suffered massive erosion following the desertion by Muslims after the Bhopal riots in 1989 and Babri Masjid demolition in 1992. However, the electoral prospects for the party seem rather good this time, particularly for its role in mitigating suffering of the migrants and students during the lockdown and its active support to farmers' protests against the enactment of the three new farm laws. Also, Dalits and Muslims are now mobilising in favour of Congress.

Nihal Raj Noida



farmer suicides in some States.

Simultaneously, the Union Cabinet approved the ₹15,000 crore fund for animal husbandry as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan stimulus package and a scheme for interest subvention of two per cent to "shishu" loan category borrowers for one year under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. These developments form the sub-text of the farm Bills.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2020 allows sale and marketing of produce outside notified APMC mandis. State Governments cannot collect market fee, cess or levy for trade outside the APMC markets; inter-state trade barriers are nixed and provisions for electronic trading of agricultural produce. No licence is needed; anyone with a PAN card can buy directly from farmers. The new system provides a dispute resolution mechanism in case farm-owners are not paid immediately or within three days.

The APMC's failed as they allowed vested interests to seize the system. States levied cess to earn extra revenue that was not part of the budget and was used for "discretionary" development spending, mostly under the Chief Minister's orders. As the cess increased, political appointees took charge of the APMC's. Even the Food Corporation of India (FCI) paid cess. Small farmers were bur-

“THE NEW LAWS COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR A REVOLUTION IN WHICH FARMERS DRIVE THE CHANGE, WITH TECHNOLOGY PLAYING A SUPPORTIVE ROLE. IF THE GOVT REPUDIATES THE GENETICALLY-MODIFIED FOOD CROPS LOBBY, INDIA COULD RETURN TO FARMING METHODS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE COSTLY INPUTS”

dened with the cost of transport to take their produce to the mandis and deal with middlemen. For instance, waiting outside sugar mills, with heat evaporating the sugar content in the cane, desperate farmers have succumbed to agents (of near-by mandis) who arrive miraculously and dictate the price.

Under the new Act, politicians and urban elite farmers will find it difficult to get large "agricultural" incomes mandated and pay zero per cent income tax, as payments have to be made against PAN cards.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 regulates contractual farming rules and State APMC Acts. Farmers can make contracts with a corporate entity or wholesaler at a mutually agreed price. The system already exists in 20 States; PepsiCo buys potatoes from 24,000 farmers across nine States. Further, 18 States allow permit private mandis while Kerala and Bihar don't have APMC mandis at all. More pertinently, the Act prohibits acquiring ownership rights of farmers' land.

The Centre has funded ₹6,685 crore for the formation of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and the ₹1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). The FPO will give farmers higher bargaining power while AIF and market reforms serve as additional enablers. They can invest

in farm equipment, infrastructure and build forward market linkages by making agreements with agribusinesses, thus improving access to technology and investment. Maharashtra Sahyadri Farmers Producer Co. Ltd., with 8,000 marginal farmers, exports 16,000 tonnes of grapes every season. The end of socialist-era impediments should stimulate increased private sector investment across the value chain, creating jobs in logistics service providers, warehouse operators processing unit staff. The rise of food-processing industries could create non-farm jobs in rural areas.

India processes less than 10 per cent of output (cereals, fruits, vegetables, fish, etc) and loses around ₹90,000 crores annually to wastage. Hopefully, market linkages will motivate farmers to diversify and grow crops such as edible oils and help reduce India's edible oil import bill that currently stands at \$10 billion.

Finally, The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 removes excessive control on production, storage, movement and distribution of food commodities; removes ceilings, bans, hoarding, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities, and paves the way for cold chain infrastructure to come up. Previously, control regarding the storage of essential commodities (onions, potatoes, edible oils, rice paddy, sugar) gave draconian powers to authorities to raid "hoarders", confiscate stocks, cancel licensing and even imprison offenders. This naturally discouraged investment in storage as entrepreneurs started being prosecuted as "hoarders." Lack of storage also contributed to volatility in prices as their stability depends on adequate warehousing infrastructure.

Henceforth, the ECA 2020 will be invoked only under extraordinary circumstances such as war, famine, natural calamity of grave nature and extraordinary price rise (100 per cent increase in retail price of horticultural produce over the preceding 12 months, or 50 per cent increase in retail price of non-perishables over the preceding five years).

Dismissing the propaganda that the new laws would end the minimum support price (MSP), the Centre has quietly ordered procurement, effectively nipping the canard that small and marginal farmers would be short-changed. Implementation will be the key.

(The author is a senior journalist. Views are personal)

SOUNDBITE

I think home quarantine can play a role in the future and it's something that is being considered by the Assistant Health Protection Principal Committee, particularly as we move beyond the phase we're in now.

Australian PM — Scott Morrison

There is an undercurrent of painful events — passing away of people, the tragedy of missing people, the loss of everything is in the back of my mind.

Artist — Atul Dodiya

Yogi Adityanath Government kept sitting for eight days. Why was no action taken against the culprits all these days? It was only when the case was highlighted that the administration woke up.

Congress General Secretary — Priyanka Gandhi

I would say it is a very crucial time for the team and each player should have their own yardstick and must work on raising the bar.

Former hockey player — Deepika Thakur

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Road to revival?

Sir — The 2015 Assembly elections in Bihar saw the Congress regain a reasonable space in the State legislature. After a gap of 15 years, the party's tally rose to double digits, as 27 out of 41 candidates in the fray won their seats. But will the grand old party be able to revive itself this time around? The Congress began to lose its support base as it failed to address backward caste aspirations between 1988 and 1990, when four of its Chief Ministers were nominated to the top post only to be pulled down swiftly, giving rise to the intra-party caste divides. The support base also suffered massive erosion following the desertion by Muslims after the Bhopal riots in 1989 and Babri Masjid demolition in 1992. However, the electoral prospects for the party seem rather good this time, particularly for its role in mitigating suffering of the migrants and students during the lockdown and its active support to farmers' protests against the enactment of the three new farm laws. Also, Dalits and Muslims are now mobilising in favour of Congress.

Nihal Raj Noida

A reminder of the 2012 Delhi gang-rape case

A woman passenger was allegedly gang-raped inside a moving bus for the entire night on September 25. The police found her lying unconscious on Delhi Road in Meerut the next morning and rushed her to the hospital. This comes as a chilling reminder of the harrowing 2012 Delhi gang-rape case, when the 23-year-old female medical student, who came to be known as Nirbhaya, was severely assaulted and gang-raped by five men and a juvenile inside a moving bus in South Delhi.

This is the third incident in the last one month in Uttar Pradesh when a woman passenger, on her way to Delhi, was gang-raped on a moving bus and that too by the staff. This highlights how law and order in the State has deteriorated drastically. The victim, according to reports, told the police that she had boarded a bus from Bhaishali bus stand on Friday night. En route, she was given a cold drink which had been spiked after which she lost consciousness and was raped by the driver and the conductor throughout the night.

Stormy affair

Sir — The tussle in the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), relating to the naming of the chief ministerial candidate for the 2021 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly election, continues with no solution in sight. Both Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O

Panneerselvam, who are chief ministerial hopefuls, have dug in their heels and are slugging it out. Even the five-hour-long meeting of the AIADMK executive council on Monday failed to arrive at a consensus on who will be its chief ministerial candidate. The final decision will be taken on October 7. Hopefully, by then, Palaniswami and Panneerselvam will be able to sort out their dif-



It took seven years and three months for justice to be served in one of India's most talked-about criminal cases — the Nirbhaya gang-rape. However, the numerous cases that have followed since, haven't been able to draw the nation's attention. It is crucial that all cases are given equal attention and justice is served swiftly.

Noor Ahmad Hyderabad

ferences and come to a decision.

CK Subramaniam Tirumangalam

Battle for the ballot

Sir — The popularity of the ruling Janata Dal (United) and the BJP-led Government, headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, is waning. While Nitish has been under fire for badly handling the

COVID outbreak and the returnee migrants, the BJP has taken on the defensive mode on questions of border security, economic stagnation and farmers' backlash. This should be enough for the Opposition to challenge the State Government. However, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress together have not been able to push the Government on any substantial matter. Being held under exceptional circumstances, the battle for the ballot promises to be a challenging and exciting affair.

Yash Pal Raihan Jalandhar

Legal fiction

Sir — The investigation into Sushant Singh Rajput's death seems to have been sidetracked as officials haven't been able to find any concrete evidence. It has become a whirlpool of misreported facts and concocted lies and sheer entertainment in the name of news, reducing a tragedy into a sensational drama.

Devendra Khurana Bhopal

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

BJP all set to make it alone

It is well within its rights to expand its base and in times to come, go solo as the top brass believes in making the party electorally strong



KALYANI SHANKAR

The saffron party must slowly learn to live without its major allies now that its oldest partner, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), quit the BJP-led NDA alliance on Saturday. The BJP and the SAD had been partners even during the Jan Sangh days. However, with a brute majority in the Lok Sabha, the BJP's attitude now is "go if you want to leave." That is why there are no efforts to mollify miffed allies as it was done during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee era. There was a time in the eighties when it was difficult for the BJP to get allies but today Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in a strong position and hence the alliance partners are not needed by the party anymore.

The BJP had five major allies till two years ago. They were the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the Shiv Sena, the SAD, the Janata Dal-United (JD-U) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). With the Bihar elections round the corner, the party is left with only the JD(U) as its major alliance partner now. The others are smaller parties. Out of all these NDA allies, the TDP was the first to leave in March 2018 over the issue of grant of special status to Andhra Pradesh. Soon after the TDP's departure, another one of the oldest allies, the Shiv Sena parted company in October 2019 on the issue of chief ministership in Maharashtra after the Assembly polls. The Sena formed the Government in the State under the Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) as partners. Now, the SAD too has left on the issue of the controversial farm Bills that were pushed through amid din and allegations of riding roughshod on the objections of the Opposition parties and allies alike.

The only partner the BJP itself dumped was the PDP in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). In any case, the BJP-PDP alliance was an uneasy marriage of convenience and the late PDP chief Mufti Mohammad Sayeed termed it as "an alliance of the North Pole and the South Pole."

The NDA partners had been unhappy with the BJP for long, claiming that they were not consulted or even informed about major issues. "Where is the NDA," asks SAD chief Sukhbir Badal. The relationship under Modi has changed compared to Vajpayee's time when one of the partners was the convener of the NDA while Vajpayee or later Advani were the chairmen of the alliance. There were NDA meetings on important issues. Though Modi has included the representatives of the allies, despite the BJP having a majority in both 2014 and 2019, there is no formal NDA structure now. However, the BJP needed them in the Rajya Sabha for pushing the Bills where it was in a minority.

The BJP under the leadership of Modi has learnt the art of dividing the Opposition and pushing through even some controversial Bills like the recent farm ones and the earlier Citizenship Amendment Bill. Also, the Punjab elections are in 2022 and the next Lok Sabha polls are even further off, in 2024. Who knows what will happen by then? However, according to insiders, the BJP wants to improve its performance by going solo in the coming polls. The main grouse of the allies is that the BJP which was the junior partner in Maharashtra and Punjab, has expanded its base in the last six years. Not only has it overtaken the allies, it has become the richest party, too. Notwithstanding the concerns of its partners, the BJP is aggressively pursuing its objective of coming to power in States where it is not in Government. The only aim of the party is to consolidate Hindu voters even further by eating into the votes of its alliance partners. It has a major presence in most big States and is now eyeing the South and the North-East for expansion. The saffron party has replaced the left in Tripura and edged the Congress out in West Bengal and Odisha as the main challenger to the ruling party.

In the 552-member Lok Sabha, the NDA has 335 seats, of which the BJP alone has 303 representatives. It does not need partners in 334 seats and is dependent on allies in 212 seats. When the BJP came to power in 2014, it had only 23 Rajya Sabha seats but today, it has 87. So far, the party has managed to push even controversial Bills like the bill of J&K and the Citizenship Amendment Bill by dividing the Opposition. The three farm reform Bills, too, were passed similarly.

The Modi regime wants to have ties in which the BJP stands to gain. This has mostly worked in the last six years. The BJP has overtaken the Sena in Maharashtra and in other States too it has improved its electoral chances. It is indeed well within its rights to expand its base and in times to come, go solo as the top brass believes in making the party electorally strong.

Is it not said that in politics there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies? The BJP, too, is banking on the old allies coming back to its fold and new allies joining it. If one looks at the coalition politics, which is practised by both the main parties — the Congress and the BJP — the Congress-led UPA too is not in a good shape.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

THESE (OPPOSITION) PARTIES ARE INSULTING THE FARMERS. THESE REFORMS WILL STRENGTHEN LABOURERS, YOUTH, WOMEN, FARMERS OF THE NATION.

—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI

POINT COUNTERPOINT



EVEN YOUR ALLY OF 24 YEARS, THE SHIROMANI AKALI DAL (SAD) HAS DUMPED YOU (ON THE FARMERS' ISSUE). MODI JJ, IS THE SAD INSULTING FARMERS?

—CONGRESS LEADER
KAPIL SIBAL

Education as revolution

The poor have found innovative ways of helping themselves and visionary leaders from among these communities are nurturing a growing industry of good quality private schools



MOIN QAZI

The state of India's school education continues to be abysmal despite many high-sounding policy prescriptions being tossed around. There are, however, islands of excellence and even in this bleak landscape there are shoots of green. While Government schools are the mainstay of school education for the poor, some exceptional private schools are affordable even to the extremely marginalised. The accepted wisdom that private schools serve the privileged; everyone else, especially the underprivileged, requires public schools. This logic is grounded on the assumption that the poor need Government assistance if they are to get a good education. Which helps explain why many school choice enthusiasts believe that the only way the poor can get the education they deserve is through Government schools.

But if we reflect on some of the underprivileged communities, we find these assumptions lacking. The poor have found remarkably innovative ways of helping themselves educationally and visionary leaders from among these communities are nurturing a large and growing industry of good quality private schools. Tikiapara, a sprawling slum in Howrah, is a witness and a willing participant in a quiet revolution led by Mamoon Akhtar, that has the potential to turn around the lives of its residents, especially of its children. Mamoon was forced to drop out of middle school because his parents couldn't afford to educate him further. Three decades later, he is the driving force behind Tikiapara with 3,000 students, most of them children of unlettered parents. Mamoon's extraordinary journey from a victim to champion of the underprivileged started the day he decided that just because his family couldn't pay for his schooling, he wouldn't forego education. Mamoon's passion helped him overcome his deprivation.

His father was keen that his son get a good education. So he put him in one of the area's leading schools, St Thomas. After his father died, the teenager had to give up his studies and took up a librarianship job at a private school in Tikiapara, supplementing his income by giving private tuitions. Life would have gone on as usual but Mamoon couldn't get over the tragedy he suffered on being forced to leave out on education. The young idealist believed in giving direction to the fire within, not in extinguishing it.

In 1991, he started an informal "school", teaching five to six children in his own house in the Tikiapara slum. This began his lifetime romance with education. As the residents of the area became aware of this "school", more and more children started coming and soon there was no place to seat them. The enterprising Mamoon constructed a room on his own 600 square foot plot of land. In that room, the Samaritan Help Mission School was born with 25 young and eager children flocking to it daily. The good Samaritan started his every step and canvassed from door to door to raise ₹25,000 per annum (in addition to his own contribution of ₹10,000). The organisation has continued to steadily grow through the years. The catchment area of the school can break the determination of even the greatest optimist but Mamoon is alive and equal to the challenge. The parents come from very poor backgrounds and are rickshaw-pullers, drug peddlers and daily labourers. But with Mamoon's effort, their dreams of educating their children in an English-medium school has become a reality.

Social responsibility: As an educationist, Mamoon is also sharply aware of his role of a social reformer. Most children come from families afflicted with social maladies, with a large number of them being children of drug peddlers. Mamoon believes that schools should have the right to exclude pupils

TIKIAPARA, A SPRAWLING SLUM IN HOWRAH, IS A WITNESS AND A WILLING PARTICIPANT IN A QUIET REVOLUTION LED BY MAMMOON AKHTAR, THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TURN AROUND THE LIVES OF ITS RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY OF ITS CHILDREN. MAMMOON WAS FORCED TO DROP OUT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL BECAUSE HIS PARENTS COULDN'T AFFORD TO EDUCATE HIM FURTHER. THREE DECADES LATER, HE IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND A SCHOOL WITH 3,000 STUDENTS, MOST OF THEM CHILDREN OF UNLETTERED PARENTS



only as a last resort and that too, to protect the other children in the class as well as teachers. The excluded children, he avers, can be affected by anxiety, depression and loss of self-worth. There is a decline in their mental health and children become very reclusive. The stress of the exclusion takes its toll on parents, too.

Mamoon knows the pain of deprivation only too well. At a time when there is a widespread practice of pupils being shunted off a school's rolls in order to manipulate its exam results and rankings in league tables — he is doing his every bit to ensure that children remain at school during the day. There are hundreds of pupils who joined his school after being booting out of another one. Taking in as many vulnerable pupils as possible is the core of this teacher's mission. His school is single-handedly ensuring pupils remain on the rolls. There are a number of youngsters who wouldn't be getting an education were it not for the Samaritan Help Mission School. In a world where schools are clearly pushing vulnerable pupils out through the back door via little ill-thought school next steps and best interests, he is embracing them with a cheerful heart.

With a little help from friends: When he canvassed for help from the community around him, Mamoon reaped a bonus — a strong connection with the community. In 2007, the Samaritan Help Mission School became accredited and recognised by the West Bengal Government. Today, it is a co-educational English-medium school, affiliated to the State Board of Secondary Education, with an enrolment of 1,300. The big thing is that with the school being an English medium one, it makes a major difference to the future prospects of the kids once they go out into the world. However, the odds are stacked against the children of this locality given the inter-generational nature of poverty and the poor developmental outcomes that families face. This impacts the children in many ways. The battle poor academic achievement, inferiority complex, maladjustment, lack of initiative and

an underdeveloped personality. Disheartened and discouraged by financial stress and their own inadequacy, parents are ill-equipped to adequately support their children. Sadly, parents in Tikiapara have little motivation to invest in their children's education. Fortunately, Mamoon's conviction and commitment are unflagging and his enthusiasm is contagious, sending hope in the community.

Some of the students are orphans; some have run away from home; all are underprivileged. The Samaritan Help Mission School charges them a meagre ₹5 a year, and that too because the teacher believes that people will not value anything that is free. Funds to run the school come from Mamoon's savings and private donors whose motivation is inspired by the good Samaritan's devotion. This led to an addition to the original school on Mamoon's plot, the IR Bellidius Institution on Bellidius Road, covering two acres of land bequeathed by a Jewish couple, Rebecca and Isaac Raphael Bellidius. The school today has a football field, basketball court, a water body, a two-storeyed school building and a bigger one coming up close by. As a child Mamoon swam there, to later see the water body turn into a municipal garbage dump and the Government school that used to run there become virtually defunct, the whole space got derelict and transformed into a den of drug pushers. The land on which the second Samaritan Help Mission School stands had thus been a garbage dump for years until Howrah City Police and the Howrah Municipal Corporation got together to create a conducive atmosphere for Mamoon to expand his initiatives. The police helped them (Mamoon and his staff) build a wall, remove encroachments and start a school there.

Creating safe spaces for children at risk: Many children studying in the two schools attest to the fact that they have a fun-filled, interactive and encouraging atmosphere and that their teachers are extremely supportive. Children are engaged in creative activities like sports,

quiz competitions, picnics and recreational programmes in the local parks. Regular cleaning campaigns in Tikiapara are organised in which students, teachers and other volunteers take an active part. Mamoon has also introduced a paramedic course for senior students. His policy of inclusive education has ensured that the constitutional right to primary education is a reality in this slum. There are schools which identify parents who are not well educated and living in the slum. They are approached informally and told that "it will be difficult for your child to stay" in the hope that the parents agree to move out or home-school their child. But Mamoon's schools are a safe learning haven where no one is shunned — either because of creed, low academic scores or poverty.

Innovative approaches: Mamoon says that the process of teaching and learning is an intimate act that neither computers nor markets can hope to replicate. It is a small wonder then that the technology-centric corporate business model has not worked in reforming the school system where there is simply no substitute for a personal element. There is no substitute for a good teacher and nothing more valuable than quality classroom instruction. But we also need more involved parents to make learning more effective.

The core objective of a school is to provide high-quality instruction. Fostering both excellent teaching and a learning environment in which students can thrive. These schools don't develop randomly on their own; an essential ingredient behind each of these success stories is transformational leadership.

A lot of good programmes get their start when one individual looked at a familiar landscape in a fresh way. What they did was to simply change the fundamental approach to solving problems, and the outcomes have been truly revolutionary. Thus, people only need to summon their will power the way game-changers like Mamoon are doing to bring about change. (The writer is a well known development professional)

How many child deaths will it take to stop hunger?

The wasted, stunted, anaemic and mentally underdeveloped youth of our country, who barely survived, cannot build a strong nation



AR SINDHU

In the fourth month of the lockdown, the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) had warned India that if the nation does not seriously address the issue of hunger and malnutrition aggravated due to the shutdown and make proper arrangements for providing adequate nutritional food to underprivileged children, 3,00,000 more kids under the age of five would die within the next six months and make the toll a total of around 12-13 lakh this year.

Even before the Coronavirus pandemic struck, the situation was quite alarming. In 2018, a whopping 8.8 lakh children under the age of six died in India, says the UNICEF. Nearly half of all our children are underweight, about 45 per cent are stunted (too short for their age), 20 per cent are wasted (too thin for their height), 75 per cent are anaemic and 57 per cent are deficient in Vitamin A. Half of the world's malnourished children live in India.

The rate of malnutrition among India's children is almost five times more than China and double than that in Sub-Saharan Africa, says a World Bank report. A study commissioned by the UNICEF in 2019 had found that over 80 per cent of adolescents in India suffered from hidden malnutrition. This includes deficiency of one or more micronutrients such as iron, folate, zinc, vitamin A, vitamin B12, and vitamin D.

According to the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Mission document of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, out of the total

child births of 2.5 crore annually in India, 1.75 crore are born underweight. Infant mortality is 0.8 crore annually or 80,00,000 children die every year in our country before six months of age. This means that on an average as many as 21,917 children die every day in India. Maternal and child malnutrition as one of the reasons for 68 per cent under-five deaths in India.

What has been the COVID-19 lockdown impact? With job and income loss on a large scale, closing of schools and consequently the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and Anganwadis that gave hot, cooked meals, poor Public Distribution System (PDS) and poor implementation of the announced schemes of free rations during the last five months, there is a situation of absolute poverty and hunger in our country that will have a serious impact on the already pathetic nutritional status of our people, especially the children and women.

The UNICEF has estimated that 120 million children living in South

Asian countries, including India, could slip into poverty within 175 million months due to the COVID-19 crisis, taking the total number of such kids in the region to 360 million. The UNICEF also warns: "In the worst-case scenario, where health interventions are reduced by around 45 per cent, there could be as much as a 44.7 per cent increase in under-five child deaths and 38.6 per cent increase in maternal deaths per month."

In the last two decades, there have been many dialogues, debates, and legal steps like the Supreme Court Judgment on Right to Food Act and so on to address the issue of malnutrition. But the schemes or missions rolled out by respective governments proved to be inadequate. The ICDS, the flagship scheme to address this crisis, has been deprived of funds despite the apex court's judgment for universalisation of the scheme. The fund allocation pattern has been changed to 60:40 in the last few years, putting a major financial burden on the States. With the

ongoing issues of lack of funds in States, things have worsened. In addition, there were drastic budget cuts. As an impact, according to the Global Hunger Index 2019, wasting among children in India rose from 16.5 per cent in 2008-2012 to 20.8 per cent in 2014-2018.

The much-acclaimed "Poshan Mission" is just policing of the Anganwadi workers, who are already overburdened with non-ICDS work. Similar is the case of the other schemes like the MDMS and the National Health Mission. At present, despite the warning bells, the announced packages do not address the problem of malnutrition. Moreover, there is an absence of a national composite guideline to address malnutrition at the community level.

To stop further loss of precious lives, there is an urgent need for the Government to show political will to recognise the right to food/nutrition of every citizen of India, make quality infrastructure and basic nutrition ser-

vices schemes like ICDS, MDMS effective with increased financial allocation, so that the most marginalised and vulnerable are benefited as well.

The pandemic has shown that the lakhs of community-based women caregivers like the Anganwadi workers and helpers, Accredited Social Health Activists and MDMS workers, are the crucial link between the community and policymakers. Their work must be regularised with minimum wages and social security, as recommended by the 45th Indian Labour Conference. Otherwise, whom do we expect to be "skilling" for the "Make in India" projects? The wasted, stunted, anaemic and mentally underdeveloped youth of our country, who barely survived, cannot build a strong nation. How many more deaths do we need before we realise so many of our children are dying?

(The writer is general secretary, All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers and national secretary of the CITU)



FOREIGN EYE



TEST, TRACE AND TEACH

Final figures on the take-up of UK's university places are not yet known. But predictions that the recruitment of international students would collapse due to COVID have not come true. This worst-case scenario having been avoided, UK's universities must ensure that students get the education they deserve, while obeying pandemic rules put in place. (The Guardian editorial)

on: twitter.com/WesternRiy 06

Monday, with demonstrators holding torches, punching a police sergeant in the face and spraying a chemical irritant at officers, police said in a statement. Twenty four people were arrested.

The demonstration with about 150 protesters took place outside a police union building that has turned into a frequent protest site, police said in the statement issued Friday.

The protesters with makeshift shields gathered earlier for their demonstration in a park and officers moved in to take away the shields,

said "vote, multiple videos from the social media and police also used pepper spray. The Oregonian/Oregonian Live reported.

Police in their statement called the protesters' walk from the park to the union building an "unprovoked, unprovoked march."

Most of those detained amid clashes were arrested on suspicion of interfering with a police officer and disorderly conduct.

Portland has been gripped by nightly protests for more than three months since the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. AP

Deputy General Manager, Chakanjapatt State Guest House, 13, Veer, Tikenderji Marg, Chakanjapatt, New Delhi-110028

F-14/MSH/G2020/128 Dated:-22.09.2020

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NIB: GAD2021/A0015 Sd/-
ENR: GAD2021/L0800017 Deputy General Manager,
Chakanjapatt State Guest House,
Chakanjapatt, New Delhi

DPMPC/77320/2020

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORKS

Sl. No.	Tender Name/ No. & Date	WORK LOCATION	Approx. cost of work in ₹	EMD ₹
1	EL/Main/4 13JWA/10 dt.29.09.2020	Mumbai Division (Churgachte): Manning, Operation and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of AC Plants at G40 Building and Churgachte for a period of two years.	23,64,325/-	47,700/-
	EL/Main/4 13JWA/10 dt.29.09.2020	Mumbai Central- Manning, operation and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of AC plants at TMS, Raj Nikunj hall, PHS & Upper Class Waiting Hall at Mumbai Central (MMC) for a period of two years.	18,80,910/-	38,650/-
	EL/BW/4 43BWA/4 dt.29.09.2020	Mumbai Suburban Section: Electrical works in connection with I Bandra Terminals - Minimum infrastructure development, management facilities, (ii) Bandra - Relocation of M/E booking office with provision of new G + bldg., (iii) STC-VRF Sec. - New tool rooms at 5 Locations.	50,90,906/-	101,800/-

Sl. No. : 1 & 2 : Date & Time of Submission : Till 02.11.2020 **15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening :** On 02.11.2020 Till 15.30 hrs. **Sl. No. : 3 : Date & Time of Submission :** Till 02.11.2020 **15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening :** On 02.11.2020 Till 15.30 hrs. (Regarding detailed tender conditions please visit www.rwreps.gov.in)

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Market takes a breather after 2-day stellar rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

After two consecutive sessions of thumping gains, benchmarks Sensex and Nifty took a pause on Tuesday amid lack of directional cues from domestic and global markets.

After starting the session on a positive note, the BSE Sensex was caught in an intense volatility as the trade progressed, paring all intraday gains to end 8.41 points or 0.02 per cent lower at 37,973.22.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty slipped 5.15 points or 0.05 per cent to 11,222.40.

Analysts said that domestic equities traded on a choppy note amid lack of directional cues from the domestic as well as global markets.

On the Sensex chart, ONGC was the top loser, shedding around 3 per cent, fol-

lowed by IndusInd Bank, PowerGrid, Axis Bank, HCL Tech, NTPC and ITC.

On the other hand, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Tata Steel, Titan and HDFC were among the gainers.

Of the Sensex constituents, 20 logged losses and 10 registered gains.

Sectorally, BSE telecom, utilities, FMCG, banks, real estate and power indices fell up to 2.13 per cent.

On the other hand, consumer durables, metal, energy, basic materials, IT and auto indices rose up to 1.97 per cent.

Broader midcap and small cap indices fell up to 0.16 per cent.

After a gap up opening, the benchmark indices grew volatile, before ending the day flat. Global markets were also undecided and slightly negative for the day as the outcome of US presidential debate was awaited, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

With increasing coron-

avirus infections and chances of location-specific lockdowns, Indian indices were also uncertain, he said, adding that markets are awaiting a trigger in the form of confirmation of a stimulus package by the government to boost economic activity.

Market participants across the globe are looking for cues from the first presidential debate between US President Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Joe Biden, set for later in the day.

Asian markets ended mixed after a mildly higher opening on Tuesday ahead of the first US presidential debate later in the global day, with investors also remaining cautious over the global economic prospects as coronavirus deaths surpassed the one-million mark worldwide, market experts said.

Bourses in Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul ended with gains, while Hong Kong was in the red.

Concerns over pace of economic recovery have deepened: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The steady rise in caseloads and the spillover effects of the strict lockdown measures will continue to undermine economic growth in the country, says a report.

According to Dun and Bradstreet's Economy Forecast, concerns over the pace of economic recovery have deepened.

"The recovery now is expected to be gradual as rising infections pose constraints. Even if the growth takes the form of a V-shape, the level of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will matter. Credit growth has not picked up as envisaged," said Arun Singh, Global Economist, Dun & Bradstreet.

Moreover, with the credit guarantee scheme in place for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), credit off-take was expected to strengthen more than the current level so far, Singh added.

According to various estimates, India's coronavirus-battered economy will witness

During August, D&B expects IIP to have fallen by (-) 4 per cent to (-) 3 per cent

significant contraction during the current financial year.

India's economy suffered its worst slump on record in April-June, with the GDP contracting 23.9 per cent as the coronavirus-related lockdowns weighed on the already-declining consumer demand and investment.

"The steady rise in caseloads and the spillover effects of the strict lockdown measures will continue to undermine the growth of the economy in subsequent quarters of the year. Constrained government finances, contraction in investment activity and probable

defaults, both at the firm and consumer level will continue to be a drag on growth," Singh said.

According to the Union Health Ministry's data updated on Tuesday, the total coronavirus cases in the country mounted to 61,45,291 with 70,589 new infections, while the death toll reached 96,318.

According to the Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) report, following the easing of lockdown restrictions, the pace of contraction in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is expected to reduce further.

"The pent-up demand and re-start of small businesses and street vendors along with medium and large firms are weighing on the demand for industrial goods. The index is expected to rebound to the positive territory from the month of October," the report said.

During August, D&B expects IIP to have fallen by (-) 4 per cent to (-) 3 per cent.

According to official data, India's industrial production shrank 10.4 per cent in July.

Over 16,400 tonnes paddy procured at MSP from Punjab, Haryana in last 72 hrs: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said 16,420 tonnes of paddy worth ₹31 crore has been procured at minimum support price (MSP) in the last 72 hours from farmers in Punjab and Haryana, while the procurement has just commenced in other states.

With the latest procurement data, the Government aims to send a message to farmers protesting against new farm laws that it has no intention of scrapping procurement at MSP. Farmers in Punjab and Haryana and several other states are protesting against the new farm laws, which they feel will lead to procurement in the hands of corporates and the end of MSP regime.

The Union Agriculture Ministry, in a statement, said arrival of kharif crops has just begun and the government continues to procure 2020-21 kharif crops like paddy at MSP from farmers as per the existing schemes.

Paddy procurement commenced from September 26 in

Punjab and Haryana, while it started on September 28 in other states.

In Punjab and Haryana alone, about 16,420 tonnes paddy at MSP of ₹1,888 per quintal, totalling ₹31 crore, has been procured up to September 29, it said.

Of this, about 3,164 tonnes paddy has been purchased in Haryana, while 13,256 tonnes in Punjab from 1,443 farmers, it added.

For the current year, the government has fixed the MSP of paddy (common grade) at ₹1,868 per quintal, while that of A grade variety has been fixed at ₹1,888 per quintal.

The Government has also given nod for procurement of 10 lakh tonnes of kharif pulses and oilseeds for Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Haryana under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). The approval to other states will be given on receipt of proposal under the PSS, which gets operationalised if the mandi prices fall below the MSP in the notified harvesting period, the statement said.

Rupee widens losses by 7 paise against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee lost further ground on Tuesday, settling 7 paise down at 73.86 to the US dollar, tracking weaker Asian peers against the greenback.

Besides, month-end dollar demand from importers too exerted pressure on the Indian currency.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.78 per US dollar and traded between a high of 73.75 and a low of 73.91 during the session. It finally closed at 73.86, registering a fall of 7 paise over its previous close.

"The slide in the Indian rupee continued for the second straight day, with INR hitting levels last seen in August.

The primary reasons for the depreciation in the rupee could be month-end dollar buying. The dollar index was trading steadily against the basket of currencies," said Nishu Bhat, founder and CEO, Millwood Kane International.

Bhat further noted that the Reserve Bank postponing its monetary policy later this week also had a bearing on the rupee.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of five currencies, fell 0.09 per cent to 94.19.

Cement industry has started recovering: India Cement MD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian cement industry has started recovering from the impact of Covid-19 helped by pent-up demand and improved rural markets, India Cement Vice Chairman & Managing Director N Srivastava said.

The company expects an uptick in demand on the back of Governments push towards infrastructure projects such as construction of highways, rural infrastructure and irrigation projects, Srivastava said while addressing the 74th Annual General Meeting of India Cements Ltd (ICL).

"The industry has started recovering slowly from May 2020 given the pent-up demand and the improved rural demand," Srivastava said while addressing the shareholders virtually.

During the first quarter of FY2021, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments re-started their infrastructure projects and housing for poor schemes. "With further relaxation of lockdown measures, there are expectations of increased public spending on rural infrastructure, irrigation, road building and other projects. This along with pick up in individual home building and construction is expected to improve the cement demand," he added.

According to DIPP data, the cement industry had a steep decline of 86 per cent in production in April 2020 and marginally improved to register a decline of 39 per cent until June 2020, said Srivastava. "Based on the information available, the cement industry in the south had also registered a negative growth of around 45 per cent during the first quarter," he said.

While talking about ICL's performance in the COVID impacted April-June quarter, Srivastava said it reported good working results on the back of improved selling price and sustained efforts on cost reduction despite the steep drop in volume caused by the lockdowns.

"The company achieved an EBITDA of Rs 159 crore during the first quarter as compared to Rs 245 crore in the previous year during this period," he said. "The lower volume was caused by 52 per cent (as compared to the previous year," he said. Total revenue of Chennai-based ICL, including other income, was down to Rs 5,085 crore in FY 2019-20 as against Rs 5,659 crore. As per the official estimates, the overall cement production for the industry in 2019-20 had a "marginal negative growth" to 334.48 million tonnes from 337.32 million tonnes in 2018-19.

Automobile sales may fall 20-25 pc this fiscal: Ind-Ra

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rating agency Ind-Ra expects automobile sales to decline by 20-25 per cent this fiscal against its earlier forecast of 22-25 per cent on account of increasing preference for personal mobility and an expected demand rebound from rural and semi-urban markets.

At the same time, the rating agency has maintained a negative outlook for the auto sector for the second half of the fiscal, owing to continued weak consumer sentiments and macroeconomic headwinds amid the disruptions caused by the pandemic, Ind-Ra said in a release.

The latest forecast is marginally better than the earlier forecast of 22-25 per cent Y-o-Y decline in sales volume in FY2021, released in June this year, Ind-Ra said.

Favourable regulatory changes such as GST cuts or incentive-based scrappage policy could help demand revival in the medium-term, the ratings agency said.

It, however, warned that any significant spread of the virus to rural India could affect the recovery trend due to further disruptions in those parts of the economy.

Both passenger vehicles

(PVs) and two-wheelers (TWs) sales could fall 18-21 per cent Y-o-Y in this fiscal while the decline in the commercial vehicles (CVs) sales would be 30-35 per cent Y-o-Y in FY2021, on account of lower economic activities, it said.

Ind-Ra further expects auto volumes could post double-digit growth (in mid-teens) in FY22, primarily due to a lower base over FY20-FY21.

According to the ratings agency, lower affordability due to job losses/loss of income would shift consumers' preference towards lower-end vehicles, especially PVs.

In 2Ws, motorcycles will continue to outperform scooters as the former derives substantial demand from rural markets, it said adding CVs and more specifically medium and heavy CVs would continue to see a muted demand due to lower industrial production and excess capacity in the system, and any demand revival, therefore, is unlikely before the fourth quarter of 2021-22.

Light commercial vehicles are likely to benefit from increased e-commerce, and last mile transportation particularly for essential commodities, it said in the release.

Jio seeks early spectrum auction, says policy pause to hurt national exchequer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom major Reliance Jio has questioned the Department of Telecom's rationale to pause the policy of annual spectrum auction and demanded that the sale of airwaves should be held at the earliest to meet the demand for data services in the country.

Mukesh Ambani-led Jio in a letter dated September 28 to Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash said that the nation-building policies should not be kept hostage to the vested interest of few operators and delay in auction is hurting the national exchequer as well as making investors jittery as per capita income is the principle of economic growth.

The telecom major said that any delay in auction of unutilised spectrum will lead to serious issues around quality of mobile services in terms of call drops etc, and also result in revenue loss to the government.

"We are unable to find any reasonable rationale behind this sudden pause in a successful and fruitful policy of auctioning available spectrum every year, since the Hon'ble Supreme Court decision in 2012," Reliance Jio said in the letter.

The spectrum auctions were held every year after the apex court order in the 2G case

OILs 2019-20 profit 2,584 cr, revenue ₹ 13,649 cr: CMD

IANs ■ GUWAHATI

State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) has posted a profit after tax of ₹2,584 crore with revenue of ₹13,649 crore in fiscal 2019-20, its Chairman and Managing Director Sushil Chandra Mishra said on Tuesday. Addressing the 61st Annual General Meeting virtually, he said that during 2019-20, OIL's annual domestic production of crude oil stood at 3.133 million metric tonnes, while its domestic gas production was 2,801 million metric standard cubic metres.

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SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely: Aaysha Chauhan**, W/o: Shri Karal Singh, R/o: H.No. G-103, Bhagya Vihar, Mandapur Dabas, Delhi. Age: About 27 Years, Height: 5'. Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Hair: Long & Black, ID Mark: A mole on nose. Wearing: Green Colour Suit and Golden Colour Salwar and Fancy Hawaii Chappal in Feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard DO No. 116A, Dated 21.09.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped lady please inform the undersigned.

Phone: 011-23014046 (Direct) 23015229, 23015218 Ext. 210. Web-site: <http://cbl.nic.in> E-Mail Id: cic@cbl.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334 P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi DP/428/RD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely Tunni kumari DO Raja Ram** R/o Kham No. 62/10, B-267 Krishana Colony, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 11.09.2020 from the area of P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. In this regard a case vides DO No. 468 dated 18.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi.

The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under: Name: Tunni kumari, Father's Name: Raja Ram, Age: 17 years, Height: 5'. Face: Round, Complexion: Sallow, Build: Medium, Wearing: Yellow Colour top, and blue Colour jeans.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website: <http://cbl.nic.in> E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 P.S., Shahbad Dairy, Delhi Ph: 011-27821407 DP/497/ON/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a girl **Namely Gudiyaa/Preeti** D/o Shri Kashi Prasad R/o H.No. Bhatpara Pania, Village Karal, Delhi. Age: About 21 years, Height: 5'3". Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Hair: Long & Black, Identification Marks: A scar on left leg. Wearing: Green colour suit & Pyjama, yellow colour Churni and Black colour ladies shoes in feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard a case DO No. 92-A dated 19.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this girl please inform the undersigned.

E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/433/RD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a girl **Namely Roshani D/o: Deen Daryal**, R/o: L-101, Sec-1, DSIIDC, Bawana, Delhi has been reported missing/kidnapped since 22.09.2020 at 08:00 AM from her house. In this regard FIR No. 575/2020, dated 23.09.2020, U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Roshani, Age: 15 Years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Build: Strong, Wearing: Green colour suit-salwar and ladies chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Bawana, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbl.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbl.gov.in P.S. Bawana, Delhi Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/502/ON/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

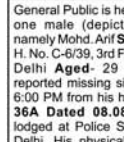


General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely: Manju**, W/o: Vicky, R/o: H.No. 812, Gali No. 2, Balmiki Mohalla, Village Banker, Narela, Delhi. Age: 28 Years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Hair: Long Black, Wearing: Yellow Colour Suit and Salwar & Yellow Colour Chappal in Feet has been missing since 18.09.2020 from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi. In this regard DO No. 56A, Dated 20.09.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Narela, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform the undersigned.

Web-site: <http://cbl.nic.in> E-Mail Id: cic@cbl.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334 P.S. Narela, Delhi DP/493/ON/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE



General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) **Namely Mohd. Arif S/o Mohd. Idrish** R/o H. No. C-6/39, 3rd Floor, Sec-5, Rohini, Delhi Aged- 29 Years has been reported missing since 07.08.2020 at 6:00 PM from his house vide DO No. 36A Dated 08.08.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Budh Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'7", Build: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing: Red & black coloured Check shirt, Gray coloured jeans and blue slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Budh Vihar, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in or website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

Tele No.: 011-23014046 (Direct), 23015229 & 23015218 extn. 210 P.S., Budh Vihar, Delhi Fax: 011-23011334 DP/313/RD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING



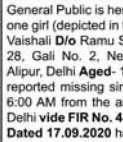
General public is hereby informed that a boy **Namely Vishal Mehto S/o: Vibhishan**, R/o: A-630, Shyam colony, Budh Vihar, Ph. II, Delhi has been reported missing since 29.05.2020 at 05:00 PM from his house. In this regard DO No. 43-A, dated 03.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi. The description of missing boy is as under:

Name: Vishal Mehto, Age: 19 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Build: Normal, Wearing: Black Shirt, Black Pant and Hawaii Chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing boy please inform P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbl.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbl.gov.in P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/427/RD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) **Namely Vaishali DO Ramu Sharma R/o H.No. 28**, Gali No. 2, Near Dayal Market, Alipur, Delhi Aged- 17 Years has been reported missing since 17.09.2020 at 6:00 AM from the area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi vide FIR No. 432/20 U/s 363 IPC Dated 17.09.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Alipur, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Sallow, Height: About 5'5", Build: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Pink coloured suit & black pajama and slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Alipur, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in or website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

Web: <http://cbl.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbl.gov.in P.S. Alipur, Delhi Fax: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/495/ON/2020

Business law as a specialisation is gaining popularity and with a degree in business law, young lawyers can also explore career options in different facets of business like legal fee auditors and transactional analysts, says DR SUKHVINDER SINGH DARI



Manage your business

Each day, new businesses are created with the aim of becoming profitable and successful. Businesses have always been intertwined with the legal regulations, and with the ever-evolving ecosystem, it becomes necessary for lawyers and solicitors to comprehend the importance of business law. Business law specifically deals with the evolution and establishment of new business ventures and any problems that may arise as the business associates with the government, other companies, and the public. It is, therefore, important to have a business-law attorney representing your business as well as to avoid any incidences of future litigation.

Individuals need to be governed by legal restrictions in a country in order to operate with some measures. Similarly, businesses need to operate under some legal guidelines. In the

absence of these laws, it will become extremely challenging to manage the various activities that are initiated in the name of the business. The laws also help to lay down the certainty and stability to the stakeholders of the business, besides providing a means to resolve disputes and protect the public against any wrongdoings for ensuring better profits or assured sustenance in a highly competitive market.

It is important to enter some form of a contract while doing business. Let's take an example of a wholesaler. A wholesaler wouldn't ship shoes to the retailer unless there is a legal document or a force that can bind the retailer to pay for the goods. When a business enters into a contract with other businesses, it is important to know who is bound to the contract and the outcomes in case the individuals who agreed upon the contract fail to perform as legally outlined in the

contract.

■ **Businesses need a universal set of standards:** A basic understanding of business law helps the business owners and other professionals to make better decisions. There are several legal rules and regulations that apply to businesses, and they need these legal guidelines to resolve disputes and grievances, provide certainty, define unacceptable behavior, and protect the employees.

■ **Handling contracts and legal agreements:** For a smooth business operation, it is important to keep all the legal documents clear of discrepancies. Studying business law can equip young legal professionals to suggest their legal team to make the appropriate changes to eliminate any terms that might seem conflicting with their business interests.

■ **The rationale for judgment calls:** Legal professionals need to tackle a

wide range of legal issues as a part of day to day business operation. Possessing appropriate knowledge of business law enables the professionals to not only fully understand these legal issues, but also their consequences and implications for the business. This, in turn, proves critical in helping the professionals to make the most beneficial decisions for the business.

■ **Outlines the legal responsibilities for the business and the consumer:** In the day-to-day operations of a business, engaging with other parties like customers or vendors is crucial to any business. Companies need to know that a set of legal responsibilities obligates them. Once it becomes complex, a clearly defined set of terms and conditions should be outlined by legal professionals to ensure the business' ethics and disputes are resolved in the best possible way.

■ **Help understand and manage**

transactions: Exchange of money taking place between businesses, customers, or banks helps businesses to make their transactions smooth. But the obligations associated with it are also necessary to be understood. Business law makes sure that the organisation is legally covered from all angles before any financial transaction takes place.

The legal team also prepares the documents to ensure that the business is protected on papers.

Business law as a specialisation is gaining popularity, and with a degree in business law, young lawyers can also explore career options in different facets of business like legal fee auditors, transactional analysts. All this translates into a plethora of options for law graduates to engage in a mix of business and law.

The writer is Director, Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The more that learn to read the less learn how to make a living. That's one thing about a little education. It spoils you for actual work. The more you know the more you think somebody owes you a living.

— Will Rogers

FIITJEE's Big Bang Edge Test

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

FIITJEE's Big Bang Edge Test will be held across the country in Proctored Online Mode on October 18, 2020 for students presently in Class V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X & XI (going to Class VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI & XII in 2021).

It is a unique platform for students aspiring all-round excellence as it will help students realise and maximise their current potential for National and International Level Competitive as well as Scholastic exams this test is also a scholarship test.

With the Big Bang Edge

Test, students will have a golden Opportunity to accelerate their preparation for JEE Advanced, JEE Main, BITSAT, Olympiads, KVPY, X & XII Boards, NTSE & Jr. Olympiads, without any break, impediments and hurdles even amidst COVID pandemic.

The test will showcase the student's readiness reflected by a single All India Rank Potential Index for the goals they aspire for, such as JEE (Main & Advanced), KVPY, Boards, BITSAT, NTSE, Senior and Junior Science Olympiads KVPY, BITSAT and X & XII Boards. For more details log on to www.bigbangedge.com.

Survey on skill development

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the current day scenario, Education is making major strides away from the erstwhile 'rote learning' which was its primary focus. Now, many companies look for individuals who do not just have a bag full of academic qualifications, but rather skills and experience that they bring with them making them work-ready.

A survey conducted by Vastium, a recruitment start-up and 'Talenting, employability and training organisation, has released some insights by employees about what they consider to be vital career skills for success in the workplace.

The survey has revealed some interesting observations. Results show that there is a consensus among all about the importance of skill development for jobs. Skill development is no longer a matter of choice. It is inevitable to adapt, survive and succeed.

About 45.5% of the participants are graduates and 31.8% are employed full-time with various companies, but not necessarily having years of experience. About 14.9% are trained professionals who say that they acquired the necessary skill-set on the job. This goes to show the skill gap that the existing education regime needs to address on an urgent basis.

Make way for entrepreneurs

Encouraging students for entrepreneurship in the under-graduation level allows them to develop and enhance skills such as creative thinking, problem-solving ability and time management, among others, says PROF DR C KARTHIKEYAN



Business models across the world have changed and the expectations of the customers' expectations, be it service or products, the ever increasing expectations to run business is getting tougher. With the change in the models, the opportunities to start ups and run business with support of other resources with combination of technology is ubiquitous. The opportunities to raise capital funding and advisory services are almost endless.

Hence the shift in the paradigm of business environment has undergone a massive transformation in recent years. This transformation has changed the perspective of our nation regarding various things including the approach we have towards developing students for the challenges thrown at the Indian Economy and Prosperity. Earlier, we concentrated on building job-ready students so that they can strengthen the economy.

However, this notion has changed in recent years. Nowadays, we as a nation are more focused on developing students who can create job opportunities; students who can not only strengthen the economy but can also take our country towards development. Therefore, entrepreneurship should be encouraged among students right from undergraduate degree education.

But, why should entrepreneurship encourage among students right from undergraduate courses?

The best platform to inculcate the qualities of entrepreneur is the undergraduate degree education, and enhancing interest and exposure to the opportunities of being an entrepreneur and helping them to develop basic entrepreneurial skills can give a strong foundation for students. It prepares the student for the journey ahead of them. Encouraging students for entrepreneurship in the under-graduation level

allows them to develop and enhance skills such as creative thinking, problem-solving ability, problem identification ability, time management, among others.

All these skills enable students to climb the ladder of success quickly. Moreover, these skills also prove beneficial in personal development. Therefore, in recent years colleges are encouraging entrepreneurship through courses such as BBA.

How is BBA suitable to foster entrepreneurial spirit as well as appropriate skills?

BBA is a professional degree programme has the potential to expose various business concepts that are basic requirements to start a business on own, as well as the basic skills of accounting and finance, which are indispensable to an entrepreneur. It is also opening up chances to meet real life entrepreneurs. These form of guest lectures to listen to their experience and learn fruitful

lessons on the same. All the subjects of BBA together will assist students in acquiring business knowledge and management skills at an early stage. Furthermore, it also allows students to master in fields like financial management, information systems, and international business.

The course is distributed in six semesters that spread across three years. Its curriculum is designed in a way that enables students to develop skills that are needed in the modern management world. Factors listed below establishes ways BBA is helping students to achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

The six semesters of the entire BBA curriculum has the potential to offer versatile nature. It provides students with an in-depth understanding of management concepts and its implementation in the business environment. BBA program not only provides the students with theoretical knowledge but also build them for practical applications of this knowledge through internships. The end of semester mini projects and specialisation project work presents ample opportunities to use creativity in completion of projects as well as presentation skills, alongside earning experience through internships.

The internship opportunity during college duration gives students an exposure to the work environment. Furthermore, allowing them to learn more about business practices. Along with it, they get a clear understanding of the domain they would like to pursue a career.

While at the pursuit of the course, many of the management colleges expose the students to special lectures in the form of entrepreneurship events, where in many real life entrepreneurs including the alumnus of the colleges who turn out to be a successful entrepreneur to share their experience in a common platform to encourage entrepreneurship among students. In conclusion, we can say that if one wants to open their own business or enhance their management skills to pursue a career in management, then BBA is the right choice for under-graduation.

The writer is Principal, Jain Institute of Management and Science

Earn while you learn

The pandemic has brought into focus the importance of upskilling, reskilling and expanding skillset to prevent job loss in the new normal, says VIKAS SHARMA

Experts have been debating for the last few years that the introduction of machines, automation and digitisation will cause job loss. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven it right, as the majority of work and other activities, approximately 69 per cent, have moved online.

Work online, buy online, learn online is the new normal.

The pandemic has changed the mindset and parameters of hiring managers. During this pandemic the online professional platform 'LinkedIn' created a buzz by adding a tool to provide help to professionals who wanted a job change. In a short span of time more than 30 million members have used this tool to help them become more discoverable by hiring managers.

It is now common knowledge that organisations that have skilled employees with expertise in specific skill sets can manage operations with less staff but greater efficiency. That is the key learning for professionals to upskill, reskill and expand your skillset to prevent job loss in the new normal that has been brought into focus by the pandemic.

There is a huge demand for professionals in sectors such as ICT, FMCG, healthcare, logistics and e-commerce to name a few, who are not only skilled in the relevant field but also possess good problem solving, communication, research and presentation skills, and are also technologically savvy. It is expected that hiring in these sectors may go up by 15 per cent to 20 per cent during the current year. Even in the manufacturing sector, organisations are on the lookout for individuals with such skills.

India is a young nation with more than 65 per cent of its population being less than 35 years in age. It also possesses the largest workforce in the world. Our youth has an incredible opportunity to become skilled in white collar and blue-collar jobs. Universities focused on skillings such as Shri Vishwakarma Skill

University of Government of Gujarat is doing a commendable job by skillings learners



Vikas Sharma

through a unique model of two-way learning, in various sectors. In this model, theoretical training is provided in the university by its expert faculty and the practical training is provided through on-the-job training by partner organisations. Students get the chance to experience practical training, through on-the-job to not only develop the skill sets in real life situations but also earn while they learn.

We hope this pandemic is seen as a wake-up call and more and more professionals and students embrace learning and skillings as a part of everyday life to make New India — Skilled India.

The writer is a public policy expert presently serving as Director & Chief Executive, Centre for Strategy & Leadership, New Delhi (me@vikassharma.net)

NSS day celebrations at IP varsity

The NSS Cell of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, in collaboration with the NSS unit of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, affiliated to GGSIPU, celebrated the NSS Day on September 29, 2020. The event was held online on Zoom and streamed live over YouTube and Facebook.

The theme was — Holistic Health and Wellbeing. Throughout the week, several online competitions were conducted including poster making, cooking, slogan writing, logo making, essay writing & recitation, NSS quiz and plantation campaign. The sub-themes were — mental health, nutrition, physical health, environment, anti-

tobacco, harmful effects of drugs and unhealthy lifestyle.

The welcome address was given by Dr BVR Reddy (programme coordinator of NSS Cell of the university). With motivating the NSS volunteers, he highlighted the previous activities of NSS Cell and said: "We have 10 units and have a list of promoted activities at respective units and also promote to adopt villages/slums so that, children get sensitised towards the societal problems and in a big way, university contributes in alleviating programmes and finding technical solutions by sending our children to what we call as special campaigns. These are our primary objectives."

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vidyamandir Classes, one of the leading institutes of the test preparation industry, is delighted to announce the launch of Vidyamandir Intellect Quest (VIQ), its biggest admission & scholarship test of the year for one lakh plus prospective IITJEE and NEET aspirants.

VMC aims to pave the way for students scoring high marks in IITJEE and NEET through this launch. This exam will be conducted on October 24 and November 1, 2020 through the proctored online medium for

admissions in classroom and online programmes starting April 2021.

Students have the option of selecting any of the two dates as convenient considering festive period during the time of exam. In lieu of the pandemic, students will get to study at last year fee as Vidyamandir management has decided not to have the customary increase in fees implemented. Upon qualifying, students can register for the course at just ₹9,999 and pay the balance by April 2021.

This is a huge opportunity for students as they can get mini-

mum savings of ₹50,000 on select classroom programmes upon qualifying and upto 100 per cent scholarship on fees basis their merit and their score in this qualifying test. It is also a chance for the aspirants to be part of unique pedagogy of VMC, which outlines in JEE Main 2020 (Sep) with six toppers from four states Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar and J&K.

This exam is specially designed for IITJEE and NEET aspirants who want to be a part of the top engineering and medical colleges and want to pursue courses in these streams. This

exam is also a way for students to understand their current potential and basis their marks obtained in VIQ, students can comprehend their academic intellect. With VIQ Vidyamandir has also launched Prodigy Programme which caters to pre- Foundation stage students who will be entering Class VI to VIII in April. These students will get to build their acumen for reaching their fullest potential. The registration fee for the exam has been revised to ₹999, during the lockdown. The students can visit the website www.vidyamandir.com for more information on VIQ.

New book released

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh on September 29, 2020 launched a bouquet of flowers, a book written by author Dr. Krishna Saksena, at his residence. This is the ninth book authored by the senior English Professor who is the first lady to get a PhD from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in 1955.

Through this book, Dr Saksena, presents a series of anecdotes that allow the reader to extract the moral of the stories, rather than a didactic imposition of her views. Speaking about the book, Dr Saksena says: "The book has been designed to allow the readers to travel their journey, arrive at their own personal realisation and be inspired. I hope the readers enjoy and relate with it."



The JEE Advanced 2020 organised by IIT-Delhi for admission to the 23 IITs was held on September 27, 2020. There were two papers — Paper-I and Paper-II and both were compulsory. Analysis of JEE Advanced (Paper-I):

Total Marks: 198
The Paper had (54) questions in total.
It had three parts — Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics.
Maximum marks for each part was 66.

Over all analysis of Paper I: Students found the overall level of paper moderate to difficult level but not easy. However, it was easier compared to 2019 as per students.

Some students have reported Chemistry was easy to moderate, Physics was moderate but Maths relatively difficult.

In Physics almost questions from Chapter of Classes XI and XII were asked. Some students reported Physics was lengthy. Chapters like Rotation, Work Power Energy, magnetism & Thermodynamics had more questions.

In Mathematics, there were five-six questions from Calculus. There were questions from

Let's analyse

The JEE Advanced 2020 was held on September 27, 2020. FITJEE expert RAMESH BATLISH breaks down the two papers based on the feedback given by the aspirants

Students found the overall level of the Paper-II moderately tough. It was lengthy and tougher compared to Paper-I. Chemistry was easy to moderate, Maths was moderate & Physics was moderate to tough

Continuity & Differentiability, Application of Derivative, Definite Integrals. One question each from Probability, Complex Numbers, Determinants and two questions from 3 D Geometry.

In Chemistry, few questions on Organic Chemistry compared to Inorganic & Physical Chemistry. No mistakes reported till now as complete paper is yet to be analysed.

Over all analysis of Paper-II: Students found the overall level of the paper to be moderately tough. It was lengthy and tougher compared to Paper-I.

Chemistry was easy to moderate, Mathematics was moderate & Physics was moderate to tough.

In Physics questions were more concept based and covered all chapters. Questions were asked from Chapters of Fluids, Ray Optics, Electromagnetic Induction, Current Electricity, Rotational Motion, Heat & Thermodynamics. Mixed concepts questions took more time.

In Mathematics, there were more questions from Calculus & Algebra. Questions were asked from Functions, Limits, Continuity & Differentiability, Application of Derivatives, Differential Equation. In Co-ordinate Geometry, there was a question from Hyperbola. In Algebra, there were questions from Permutation & Combination, Complex Numbers, Matrices. A

question on Probability was had lengthy calculations.

In Chemistry, questions from all chapters were covered and were Easy to Moderate level. Organic Chemistry had good no. of questions. In Physical Chemistry there were questions from Chapter of Solutions, Atomic Structure, Ionic Equilibrium & Chemical Kinetics.

No mistakes reported till now as complete paper is yet to be analysed. As the test was computer-based students had the option to clear response to change any option, they could mark it for review, save and next to proceed further.

The writer is head FITJEE, Noida

'GRE tests students on relevant metrics'

In order to secure a seat in a B-school globally, one must clear show academic capabilities. The GRE test is one of the best option available for aspirants, says ALBERTO ACEREDA

Every year, thousands of B-school aspirants apply for schools around the world as a first step to securing a place in prestigious institutes. Cracking one of these schools is not an easy task though. B-schools reflect this recognition and hence typically lean towards candidates who demonstrate all-round academic capabilities, a well-rounded personality, leadership qualities and intellectual vigour- attributes that are seen to be important for success in the real world of business and finance.

A key element of the admission process to these schools is a standardised assessment test. Given the abilities that are on test, the GRE is the one which best tests the students on the relevant metrics. The GRE measures students' verbal reasoning, problem solving, critical reading and analytical writing ability- in short, it's a test for some major competencies that are required for success in B-Schools as enumerated above and is structured as such.

The first section is the analytical writing section which is essentially a task in writing two essays each spanning 30 minutes. The first essay is typically written by the student on a topic as chosen by her stating her position on an issue. The second essay is then written to dissect the logic provided in the first essay and to figure out where the logic fails and can therefore be improved.

The scoring is done on a scale of 0-6. Each essay is rated by a human reader and an e-reader and in case of difference in ratings, it's sent to another human reader and the average of the two human scores is taken. Analytical abilities and analytical writing in particular are important skills which are not only relevant to B-Schools but are extremely critical for success in the world outside.

This is followed by the verbal reasoning section. This section places a great deal of emphasis on vocabulary, logic and reading comprehension. This is important as proper vocabulary helps the student better communicate with peers and others in an academic environment. To crack this section, one would require a fair degree of expertise



Alberto Acereda
Executive Director, Higher Education,
Global Education Division,
Educational Testing Service

in reading and reasoning skills. A fair amount of habitual reading should get a student past this section comfortably. This section is scored on a scale of 130-170 with one-point increments.

The last section is the quantitative abilities section which involves problem solving and quantitative comparisons and essentially measures an individual's ability to interpret and analyze data and quantitative information using mathematical concepts. Quantitative reasoning is also on test here. Students are also allowed to use the calculator for this section. As in the previous section, here too the scoring is done on a scale of 130-170 with 1-point increments.

The three-hour 45 minutes assessment is a section adaptive test which means one can skip a question which is tough and move on to another one which could be answered first and come back later to skipped question.

An important feature of the GRE is Score Select option. On test day, this enables a student to send scores from the most recent test or any other test taken within the last five years as per the student's preference. This has enabled students to send off their best scores, thus enhancing chances of success.

Homeschooling is where children learn outside of a traditional school setting, the most common setting being their home. This was an option consciously chosen by a small segment of parents for reasons that could range from health to dissatisfaction with the traditional school system, flexibility to explore different methods of learning or to provide personalised attention that meet a family's value system or a child's learning need.

With COVID, however, homeschooling is no longer offbeat. It's become mainstream. This sudden shift has left parents across demographics grappling with a flurry of questions on how to turn their home into the primary learning environment.

This is where technology, when used correctly as the tool it is meant to be, can calm these anxieties. However, for it to work in a demographically diverse country like India, it must allow for:

Democratising learning: Technology erases geographical barriers and gives parents the opportunity to discover and choose from limitless learning opportunities, no matter where they are. Keeping in mind their child's learning needs, interests, their day-to-day schedule or the values they resonate with, parents can try out different homeschooling programs or learn with different teachers without being confined to a rigid curriculum. It has the potential to create a level playing field and put the power

MIND IT

of choice back in the hands of parents. In our own work in the preschool segment, we've seen parents from Jaisalmer to Majuli Pathanambhita to Sirinagar actively using technology to provide meaningful learning experiences for their little ones at home.

Transparency: The credibility and authenticity of Homeschooling resources or a teacher can be vetted and reviewed before signing up. Parents we interact with tell us that they avoid downloading a learning app that has less than a 4.2 rating on Play Store. They choose to download our app only after

reading our reviews and subscribe to it after going through the trial period where they get to experience what is being offered transparently. Service providers have to constantly be on top of their game, or risk losing customers to other qualitatively appealing options.

Affordability: With financial pressures associated with the COVID pandemic, many parents have had to realign life priorities. However, the possibility of not providing the best education for their child is a compromise they would not like to make.

Technology can make access to quality learning resources and teachers affordable, flexible and customised to suit one's need.

Collaborative participation: Instead of packaging learning like instructions on a 'Ready To Cook' meal packet, technology should provide the right ingredients and the freshest ideas for parents and children to link, create, connect, collaborate, share feedback and add their own touch.

Localised product experiences: It is crucial that technology allows localised solutions to address learning needs at home — from using local languages in the product and content experience, to making the infrastructure light and easy to access in low bandwidth areas and devices with

limited storage. Technology should not be intimidating, but rather inclusive, and built on a strong premise of empathy so that a fundamental right like access to good quality education is not limited to only those who are experienced users of technology.

The pandemic has certainly gaterashed into our lives but I also see this as a tremendous opportunity for different stakeholders in the education system to be it parents, teachers or technology platforms to introspect and come together to usher in new ways to ensure continuity in education goals while always putting the needs of children first.

The writer is Sneha Sundaram, Founder, Kukulki



Applications are invited from highly motivated applicants for the Presidential Scholarship at Boston University. The programme is open for international students.

Eligibility: Applicants must be an incoming first-year student at BU. Applicants must have SAT scores above 1500 and ACT scores above 33.

Award: \$25,000
Supporting documents: Submit all the required supporting documents such as secondary school records, English proficiency testing results, documentation of financial support, and copy of data page of the passport.

Admission requirements: The candidates are advised to check the entry requirements asked by the university to study in a UG degree programme.
Language requirement: If the candidate's first language is not English, then they have to demonstrate the English language ability by taking the TOEFL or IELTS test.

How to apply: After taking confirmation, no additional application form is required for this study fund. The candidates will be automatically considered by the university based on their eligibility.
Application deadline: The last date to apply for this school-

scholarship is December 1, 2020.

Over 600 opportunities are available at the Tennessee Technological University, USA for both home and international students.

Eligibility: Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the higher level required by the University.

To complete the university's application, you must be admitted to Tennessee Tech (The admission application for Fall 2021)

Any required supplementary materials must be received and processed by January 15 to be fully considered. Supplementary materials include:

Official Transcripts from any institutions you have previously attended

FATSA (completed by December 15, 2020 used for consideration for need-based awards)

Any required letters of recommendation (must be received in ScholarWeb by January 15)

Official ACT or SAT scores if you are a new freshman MUST be received by January 15.

Review the scholarship Timeline. Tennessee Tech's application must be completed each year.
Application deadline: The last date to apply is December 15, 2020.

ANGULAR 9 DEVELOPMENT AT FLEXIELE CONSULTING SERVICES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523550
Deadline: October 8, 2020

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AT SIRPI
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523552
Deadline: October 8, 2020

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT SAFEJOB
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523555
Application deadline: October 8, 2020

EVENT COORDINATION AT MILESTONE PAGEANTS
Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523556
Application deadline: October 5, 2020

FRONT OFFICE OPERATIONS AT BOLLYGRAD STUDIOZ
Location: Chandigarh, Shimla, Mohali, Gurgaon, Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523557
Application deadline: October 7, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT WEBPULSE SOLUTION
Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523559
Application deadline: October 5, 2020

CAD DESIGNING & ANALYSIS AT INVENT GRID INDIA
Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523558
Application deadline: October 6, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

'Study abroad can be an enriching experience'

Choosing right university to study abroad can be a daunting task hence students should tread carefully, says SADIQ BASHA

Choosing a university is one of the biggest decisions that you will make in terms of your education, and it can be overwhelming if you do not know where to start. Start researching universities and make sure you choose the right course.

There are many important factors that the students need to consider before shortlisting. University rankings are a good overview of how a university is performing. Depending on which ranking you turn to, you can determine different information about an institution.

Students must also consider the total cost of studying in the country (both tuition fee and living costs). Other factors include working opportunities while studying, job prospects after completing education.

Students can join webinars, organized by online study abroad platforms that will help them make decisions.

Organise your Finances
Financial planning is crucial

in the study abroad process. As a student you will be spending money on the university's tuition fee, accommodation, food, and other activities.

These costs vary from country to country. So it is essential to plan your expenses beforehand. One can also opt for an education loan. Banks in India provide education loan schemes with flexible repayment options. Education loan repayment starts six months after the student has completed their course.

Scholarships that you can look for

Students can apply for scholarship options provided by the Government as well as the university to support their education. Applying for scholarships can be confusing. Students can seek guidance from advisors on digital study abroad platforms such as Edvoy, who can help them through the process as they have direct partnerships with universities abroad.

Choosing to study overseas is one of the most rewarding decisions you will ever make in your life. Contemplate, plan and make the right choice.

The writer is CEO-founder, Edvoy

IN BRIEF

EDUCATION FEE PAYMENT MADE EASY

The education financing has been a key challenge for parents in India. While it is still relatively easy to avail financing options for higher education there are not enough options available for school education. With rising aspirational levels of parents and wanting the best educational institutions for their child, paying hefty amounts of fees continues to be a challenge.

An average Indian household spends nearly 24 per cent of its total income on children's education, placing financing of education fees top-of-mind for parents. To add to this, due to the current COVID-19 induced financial crisis, parents are facing a huge liquidity crunch. This makes it even more challenging to finance the school education for their children.

Keeping these challenges in mind,

GrayQuest is an innovative fintech start-up which has taken the initiative of making the process of school fee payment more convenient and rewarding. It provides parents the option to pay their child's annual education fees in up to 12 monthly instalments — without incurring any extra cost — instead of paying it to their educational institution in two-three bulk instalments.

At present, the company is enabling over 3,00,000 students across the country to access education in an affordable manner while also becoming a strong source of liquidity and fee collection support for its partner institutions. Parents can also safeguard the lifetime education expenses against any major or unfortunate event to earning members of the household by a complimentary insurance cover.

NIU JOINS HANDS WITH UZBEKISTAN GOVERNMENT

The Noida International University (NIU) has joined hands with the Government of Uzbekistan.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan along with a number of other high ranking officials

from the Government and BSMI signed an MoU virtually.

With the signing of this MoU, joint faculty programmes will be introduced for MBBS and also the dual degrees

wherein the students can study for two degree courses at a time. Student exchange programmes, medical tourism and joint research programmes will be introduced at NIU and BSMI, Uzbekistan.

APP TO DETECT UNORIGINAL WORK IN SCHOOLS

Turnitin has launched a comprehensive academic integrity solution called Turnitin Originality. Turnitin Originality combines the text similarity checking functionality that Turnitin is known for with new features that help instructors address trends such as contract cheating and text students the value of original thinking skills.

Students in learning how to properly attribute ideas and concepts to others. When reviewing submissions, it examines whether the work is similar to other known text or if it has any indications that it was not authored by the student. The need for this combined solution is clear: as schools and universities move to online instruction, they must be even more thoughtful and holistic about their approach to academic integrity.

Nothing to take away from RCB. They stuck to their plans, although we put them under pressure, they held their nerve more than us

Saini has been amazing not just this year but the last couple of years also. He has been very good and he is going from strength to strength and growing as well

Outstanding Super Over from Saini, bowling against Hardik and Kieron Pollard. I think the longer boundary helped him gain some confidence with his yorker

We have a very well-balanced team, good bowling strength, we are confident with our batting lineup, we bat deep with even someone like Shreyas batting at number nine

DC restrict SRH to 162-4



Sunrisers Hyderabad captain David Warner walks back to the pavilion after getting out

PTI ■ ABU DHABI
 opener Jonny Bairstow scored his second fifty of the tournament as Sunrisers Hyderabad posted a competitive 162 for four against Delhi Capitals in the 18th Premier League match on Tuesday.

Bairstow smashed two fours and one six in his 48-ball 53 and shared two crucial partnerships — 77 off 57 balls with David Warner (45 off 33) for the opening stand and 52 off 38 balls with Kane Williamson (41 off 26) for the third wicket.

Making his IPL debut, Jammu and Kashmir's Abdul Samad (12 off 7) blasted a four and six in his useful cameo.

Put into bat, Warner and Bairstow were circumspect with the pace trio of Ishant Sharma, Kagiso Rabada (2/21) and Anrich Nortje maintaining their line and length.

The result was Sunrisers could only score 38 in the powerplay, which yielded just two fours and a six — all hit by Warner. Bairstow picked his first boundary in the seventh over, launching a slog sweep for a six off leg-spinner Amit Mishra (2/35).

The duo tried to make up for the lack of boundaries on the slow track with their excellent running between the wickets to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Warner sent one straight over Ishant's head for his second six and then picked a four off Mishra with a reverse sweep but the spinner had the last laugh as he had him caught behind with SRH reaching 82 for one in 10 overs.

Mishra returned to dismiss Manish Pandey (3) by force. Sunrisers crossed the 100-mark in 14th over.

Playing his first match of the season after recovering from an injury, Williamson smashed two fours in the 16th over to take SRH to 128 for two.

Bairstow reached his fifty off 44 balls before holding out to Nortje in the 18th over. Williamson too was dismissed in the last over.

Had faith in seniors to bat well in Super Over: Mahela

PTI ■ DUBAI

Mumbai Indians' decision to not send Ishan Kishan, who was striking the ball hard and clean, to bat in the Super Over surprised many but their head coach Mahela Jayawardene defended the tactic saying they had faith in their experienced players to do the job.

It was wicket-keeper batsman Ishan Kishan, who with his blistering knock of 99 runs brought Mumbai Indians back in a stiff 202-run chase along with Kieron Pollard (60).

However, the match had to be decided via Super Over, where the defending champions opted to send Hardik Pandya with Pollard.

The strategy backfired as all they could manage was only seven runs off Navdeep Saini and lost the match to Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Jayawardene said, Kishan felt tired after giving his all during the contest.

"If anyone could see, he (Kishan) was very tired at that moment and we were thinking that we probably need a couple of fresh guys who can go and hit the ball," the Sri Lankan said at the post-match press conference.

It is quite easy to say in hindsight this and that, but Polly (Pollard) and Hardik had done the job in the past in those Super Overs, two experienced guys who are capable of doing that.

"So you take a chance on these



Reacting to RCB win over MI on Super Over's last ball, actress Anushka Sharma took to Instagram Story and wrote, 'Phew! Too exciting a game for a pregnant lady! What a team this one!'

calls and it could have gone either way. If we had 10-12 runs anything could have happened," explained the coach. Jayawardene had to admit that Sunrisers were too small to defend even for a bowler of the calibre of Jasprit Bumrah.

"In the Super Over, we had three dots, so that's a killer for you because we lost a wicket and then we had a couple of more dots. "We needed to make sure that they played some smart shots, get that early boundary away, which we couldn't, we had one, but a couple of boundaries would have been really handy especially when Booms (Bumrah) comes to bowl," added the Sri Lankan batting great.

Marsh's scans lost in UAE Cricketer in dark about extent of injury

Dubai: Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh is unaware of the extent of his injury, which ruled him out of the IPL, as the reports of the scans performed on his right ankle went missing in the UAE.

This was confirmed by the cricketer himself on Tuesday. "We don't really know what happened with the scans over in the UAE. Cricket Australia haven't been able to get their hands on so it's bit of a weird situation," Marsh told reporters during

a virtual press conference. Marsh, who twisted his ankle while going for a dive in his franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad's season opener against RCB, is currently undergoing a 14-day quarantine in a Perth hotel.

The injury cut short his outing in the remainder of the lucrative T20 league. Marsh, whose IPL campaign in 2016 was also derailed by an injury, could only bowl four deliveries in his spell before being helped out of the ground.

"Hopefully I'll go for another scan at some point this week, if I can get clearance, and then we'll be clear on what we're dealing with. "This one is obviously

really frustrating and a little bit unlucky. I've tried to dive for a ball like that a thousand times in my career.

"It's one of those frustrating injuries. I've been through a few now so I think I know how to deal with it. I moaned and groaned for about 48 hours in the UAE," Marsh said.

The Australian, who shone on the tour of England prior to the IPL, expressed his disappointment at not being able to be a part of the action in the UAE. **PTI**

KKR's batting firepower faces Royals test

PTI ■ DUBAI

Kolkata Knight Riders will have to bat out their skin to stop a marauding Rajasthan Royals when the two teams clash in an IPL match at the Dubai International Stadium on Wednesday.

Having started off as underdogs, the Royals have taken the IPL by storm, chasing down the highest tournament total 224 against Kings XI Punjab in their last match.

In two wins from two matches, the Royals have got past the 200-mark with ease. In their success, they have found two stars in Sanju Samson and Rahul Tewatia, who have outshone marquee players.

In his second coming at the Royals, little known Haryana all-rounder Tewatia has got instant stardom for his 31-ball 53 against KXIP, which helped the side chase down a record

224 with three balls to spare against KXIP. But the season so far belongs to Samson — the wicketkeeper from Kerala.

Boasting of the season's highest strike-rate of 214.86, Samson has two successive half-centuries that has once again put him in contention for a longer rope in the Indian team as a keeper-batsman.

Skipper Steve Smith has been ever reliable, striking two half-centuries, while opener Jos Buttler will be waiting to explode.

To match or even surpass the Royals, KKR have the biggest stars in Andre Russell to go along with reigning World Cup winning English skipper Eoin Morgan, one of the best in limited-overs cricket.

But both Morgan and Russell have got limited oppor-

ties so far, having dropped down to No 5 and 6 respectively.

The fixture might just finally see them bat higher up, especially the star Jamaican, who was their highest run-getter last season with 510 runs at a astonishing strike rate of 20.81.

Having started off with a familiar defeat to Mumbai Indians in their opener, Kolkata Knight Riders put up a determined show to bounce back against a sloppy Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Talented opener Shubman Gill's unbeaten half-century, aided by Morgan's late firework overtook SRH's below-par 145 with two overs to spare.

Come Wednesday, it may well be a run fest with no target set against the Royals.

Dubai has been host to both the Super-Over matches this season. The venue will be an uncharted territory for both the teams who will be playing here for the first time this season.

For the record, the teams batting first have won all the five matches here so far.

No one can, no one should try to play like MSD: Samson

PTI ■ DUBAI

"No one can" and "no one should try" to play like Mahendra Singh Dhoni, wicketkeeper-batsman Sanju Samson said on Tuesday, rejecting comparisons with the cricketer great after taking the IPL by storm with his incredible hitting prowess.

Samson cleared the boundaries at will to power his franchise Rajasthan Royals to two massive wins over Chennai Super Kings and Kings XI Punjab, in the second one ending in record IPL chase.

After his exploits, Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram, Shashi Tharoor, called him the next MS Dhoni.

But Samson did not think so, quite like former India player and BJP MP Gautam Gambhir.

"I am sure that no one can and no one should try to play like him. It's not at all easy to play like MS Dhoni, so leave that aside. I never think of playing like MS Dhoni. He is a legend of Indian cricket, legend of the game," Samson said.

"I only focus on my game, what I can do, how I can do it

best and how I can win matches," the Keralaite added, again like Gambhir, on the eve of his team's match against Kolkata Knight Riders.

With his belligerent knocks of 74 and 85, Samson has again staked his claim for selection in the Indian team. Asked if he thinks he has done enough to attract the attention of the national selectors, Samson said, "I maybe, I maybe not. The only thing I know is I am in good form, my only dream is to win matches for my team, any team I play. My focus is on the IPL right now."

Having performed admirably well over the last few IPL, but probably not as much in the domestic circuit, Samson said he has started to understand his game better.

"I have understood my game, it's more of power hitting. So I have been training on my strengths on my power hitting."

He said playing most of his cricket in Kerala and Jaipur has helped him in adapting to the hot and humid conditions of the UAE better.

"I am in a very good space mentally. I have worked closely with my video analyst for four to five months and that really helped me improve."

Pliskova survives early scare

French Open (Day 4)
Live from 2:15pm IST
STAR SPORTS 2 NETWORK
AFP ■ PARIS

Second seed Karolina Pliskova ended Mayar Sherif's fairytale Grand Slam breakthrough to set up a Roland Garros semi-final clash against former champion Jelena Ostapenko on Tuesday.

Pliskova, a semi-finalist in 2017, squandered eight set points in the opening set as world number 172 Sherif, the first Egyptian woman to play in the main draw at a Slam, took a shock lead.

However, the Czech's greater experience eventually told as she recovered to progress 6-7 (9/11), 6-2, 6-4.

"I think she was playing very smart today. Of course she had a lot of confidence just winning three matches from qualifiers," said Pliskova of her 24-year-old opponent. "She had nothing to lose."

Latvian's Ostapenko, the world 43, won her first match at the French Open since sweeping to her shock 2017 title when she fired 46 winners



Mayar Sherif and Karolina Pliskova walk to their benches after the first round

past Madison Brengle of the United States to win 6-2, 6-1. "After I won here it was a tough time. I had to get used to the pressure but now it's all gone," said the 23-year-old Ostapenko.

Meanwhile, a row was brewing after French player Kristina Mladenovic suffered a controversial exit against Laura Siegemund when the German player won a point off what appeared to be a double bounce.

The incident, which came with Mladenovic 5-1 ahead and holding a set point in the

opener, was missed by chair umpire Eva Asderaki.

World number 44 Mladenovic pleaded in vain and her German opponent took full advantage, racing into the next round 7-5, 6-3.

It was a second successive miserable Grand Slam for the 27-year-old Frenchwoman who was withdrawn from the doubles at the US Open earlier this month in a row over coronavirus.

Denmark's Clara Tauson, 17 and unseeded, unleashed 48 winners to knock out American 21st seed and US Open semi-finalist Jennifer Brady 6-4, 3-6, 9-7.

Tauson also saved two match points on her way to a first career main draw win.

Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin recovered from a break down in the final set to defeat 125th-ranked Ludmila Samsonova 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Fourth seed Kenin, who jumped out Serena Williams in Paris a year ago, fought back from 2-0 down in the decider Tuesday to advance to a second-round tie against

Romania's Ana Bogdan.

DJOKER WINS

Novak Djokovic's bid to become the first man in half a century to win all four Grand Slam titles twice got off to a straightforward start on Tuesday at Roland Garros as a double bounce row prompted calls for video replays to be introduced in tennis.

World number one Djokovic, returning to Grand Slam action for the first time since his US Open disqualification, eased past Sweden's Mikael Ymer, ranked 80, in straight sets 6-0, 6-2, 6-3.

It was his 32nd win in 33 matches in 2020 and kept him on course for a second French Open title following his 2016 triumph, and 18th career major.

"It's always a pleasure to return to Paris on Philippe Chatrier, this important court. The atmosphere is a little different this year with few fans but I remain motivated to win the title," said Djokovic, only one of two men to have defeated 12-time champion, Rafael Nadal, in 15 years in Paris.

DIOGOAL

AP ■ LONDON

Three wins from three games, two big rivals dispatched, and an expensive new signing already on the scoresheet.

Liverpool is making an ominous start to its title defense in the Premier League.

The champions' high-risk, high-reward strategy paid off as it came from behind 3-1 win over Arsenal on Monday in an open game featuring a late clinching goal by Diogo Jota in his first league start for Liverpool.

"I was absolutely exceptional," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said, "100% dominant against a team in form."

Liverpool is one of three teams to have opened with three straight wins, including over Chelsea and now Arsenal. With two of its other main rivals Manchester City and Manchester United — having already lost a game each, the start to the season could hardly have gone better for Liverpool.

Arsenal dropped points for the first time but was threatening to beat Liverpool for a third straight month — after wins in the league in July and the

DUGOUT











Reacting to RCB win over MI on Super Over's last ball, actress Anushka Sharma took to Instagram Story and wrote, 'Phew! Too exciting a game for a pregnant lady! What a team this one!'

OMG! Another thriller another #SuperOver. Both teams played so WELL. My heart goes out to @IshanKishan Hard Luck out @Mumbai Congrats @RCB As for @Virat critics - the last one ball 4 won RCB the game Form is temporary Class is Permanent so chill out. @RCBvMI #IPL2020 #Dream11IPL

After Virat Kohli managed to score just combined 18 runs in his first three innings, KXIP owner Preity Zinta defended him. "As for Virat's critics - the last one ball 4 won RCB the game. Form is temporary, class is permanent. So, chill out," she tweeted



Team India head coach Rav Shastri took to Twitter to praise RCB's off-spinner Washington Sundar for his performance against MI. Washington registered figures of 4-0-12-1 including 13 off 20 balls and did not concede any boundary.

POINTS TABLE							
		P	W	L	NRR	PTS	
1		DC	2	2	0	+1.100	4
2		RR	2	2	0	+0.615	4
3		RCB	3	2	1	-1.450	4
4		KXIP	3	1	2	+1.498	2
5		MI	3	1	2	+0.654	2
6		KKR	2	1	1	-0.767	2
7		CSK	3	1	2	-0.840	2
8		SRH	2	0	2	-0.730	0

Community Shield in August — when Lancashire took advantage of a rare mistake by Andrew Robertson to give the visitors a 25th-minute lead.

Sadio Mane equalized inside three minutes before Robertson made amends by scoring himself after controlling a cross from Liverpool's other flying full back, Trent Alexander-Arnold.

That wild nine-minute period, featuring three goals, char-

acterized a high-risk game plan from Liverpool that causes chaos for its opponents because of the way they are squeezed high up.

Jota sealed victory in the 88th by driving in a shot that glanced the post as it went in, after David Luiz's headed clearance only reached the edge of the area.

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No SS/MOM/Plates & Glass/2020/2649
Mission Director, Axiom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission cum State Nodal Officer MD, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from manufacturer of Steel Utensil for supply of Stainless Steel Plates and Stainless Steel Glass for Mid Day Meal.

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal: <https://assamenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axiom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

3d-Mission Director SSA, Assam cum State Nodal Officer- MD, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19
Assamender/C2020/2649