



NITISH HIGHLIGHTS
BIHAR NDA GOVT'S
DEVELOPMENT WORK



'SHOW MAXIMUM
FLEXIBILITY IN
IMPLEMENTING NEP'

P4

P5



ASSANGE IN UK
COURT TO FIGHT
US EXTRADITION BID

P10



NEVER BEEN
SO CALM,
SAYS KOHLI

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky with very light rain/drizzle. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 36 and 25 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: 001.3 mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 92% Min: 67%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 34.0°C (O) Min: 25.8°C (O)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

06:03 hrs 18:34 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

22:13 hrs 12:01 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Migrant labourers rest outside the departure lounge of Dum Dum Airport as their flights got cancelled during a day-long lockdown. In Kolkata on Monday. AFP

Sputnik V vaccine trials in India soon: The clinical trials of Sputnik V vaccine for coronavirus will be held this month in several countries including India, confirmed Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) on Monday. Dmitriev told Sputnik that the clinical trials in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, the Philippines, India and Brazil will begin this month. The development comes as Russia had said it is looking forward for a partnership with India for producing Covid vaccine.

Why no ban on disinfectant tunnels? The Supreme Court asked the Centre on Monday as to why it has not banned the use of tunnels for disinfecting people for Covid-19 despite taking the stand that spraying of chemical disinfectants is physically and psychologically harmful. A bench headed by Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah was told that the Health Ministry has not issued any advisory on use of ultraviolet lights for disinfection of humans for Covid management. P4

Covid tally goes past 42L; 69k recoveries in 24 hrs

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA,
7 SEPTEMBER

India has surpassed Brazil to become the second worst-hit in the world by the coronavirus pandemic with a record daily spike of 90,802 cases taking the country's tally past 42 lakh, Health Ministry data showed this morning.

This is the second consecutive day that the country registered over 90,000 new infections in 24 hours. The United States, which has the highest number of Covid-19 cases in the world, has over 62.75 lakh Covid infections so far, about 20 lakh more than India.

The Covid-19 recovery rate in India has risen to 77.31 per cent with 69,564 patients recuperating from the disease in 24 hours pushing the total number of recoveries

to 32.5 lakh, the Health Ministry said on Monday.

The case fatality rate has further dropped to 1.7 per cent, it said.

According to the Ministry, five states are contributing 60 per cent of the total cases with Maharashtra at the top accounting for 21.6 per cent cases, followed by Andhra Pradesh with 11.8 per cent, Tamil Nadu 11 per cent, Karnataka 9.5 per cent and Uttar Pradesh 6.3 per cent.

Maharashtra also contributed 26.76 per cent of the active cases in the country, followed by Andhra Pradesh 11.30 per cent, Karnataka 11.25 per cent, Uttar Pradesh 6.98 per cent and Tamil Nadu 5.83 per cent.

These five states combined presently contribute 62 per cent of total active cases, the Ministry said.

"On a continuous upward trajectory, India's total recovered cases have crossed 32.5 lakh today, with 69,564 patients being discharged in the last 24 hours. This has resulted in the recovery rate touching 77.31 per cent," it said.

The Ministry said various calibrated and focussed actions undertaken within the umbrella strategy of 'test, track and treat' have enabled early identification of cases through aggressive and wide-scale testing.

"Better ambulance services and seamless point-to-point management of patients to facilitate their timely hospitalisation before their health deteriorates has led to a high number of Covid-19 patients recovering and being discharged from the hospitals," the Ministry said.

During a discussion of about 10 minutes near the net involving tournament referee Soeren Friemel, Grand Slam supervisor Andreas Egli and chair umpire Aurelie Tourte, Djokovic pleaded his case.

"His point was that he didn't hit the line umpire intentionally. He said, 'Yes, I was angry. I hit the ball. I hit the line umpire. The facts are very clear. But it wasn't my intent. I didn't do it on purpose.' So he said he shouldn't be defaulted for it, said Friemel, who made the decision to end the match.

"And we all agree that he didn't do it on purpose, but the facts are still that he hit the line umpire and the line umpire was clearly hurt."

Friemel didn't see what happened, and said he was not allowed to check a video replay, but was given a rundown by Egli and Tourte. Friemel said that even if Djokovic didn't intend to hit the line judge, she was hurt, and that was enough to merit the ruling. Eventually, Djokovic walked over to shake hands with Carreto Busta. Tourte then announced that Djokovic was defaulted, the tennis equivalent of an ejection.

"I was a little bit in shock, no?" Carreto Busta said later at a news conference done via video conference because of social-distancing rules at the US Open, the first Grand Slam tournament staged amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Delhi reports a dip in new virus cases, but deaths spike to 32: Delhi today recorded 2,077 fresh Covid-19 cases, which pushed its caseload to 1,93,526, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

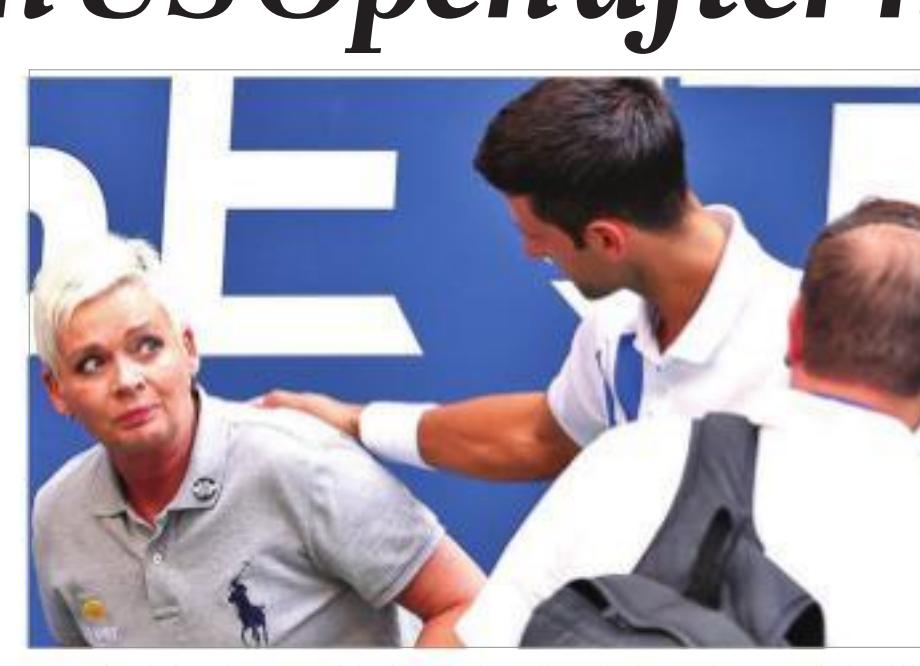
The national capital today recorded 32 Covid fatalities, which took the cumulative total of such deaths in the city to 4,599 so far, the health bulletin said.

The total count of recovered Covid patients was 1,68,384 including 2,411 patients discharged by various city hospitals during the past 24 hours. Delhi's recovery rate stood at 87 per cent, the bulletin stated.

The hospitalised Covid cases in the city numbered 5218 and the count of active coronavirus cases was 20,543, the bulletin said. The Covid patients getting



treatment under the home isolation system numbered 11,613.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia tends to a line judge who was hit with the ball during his Men's Singles fourth round match of the 2020 US Open late Sunday in the Queens borough of NYC. AFP

Djokovic quickly left the tournament grounds, posting an apology on social media hours later.

"This whole situation has left me really sad and empty. I checked on the lines person and the tournament told me

that thank God she is feeling ok. I'm extremely sorry to have caused her such stress. So unintended. So wrong," he wrote.

"As for the disqualification, I need to go back within and work on my disappointment and turn this all into a lesson for my growth and evolution as a player and human being," he wrote.

"Apologise to the @usopen tournament and everyone associated for my behaviour."

Asked whether he thought Djokovic should have been allowed to continue to play, Carreto Busta shrugged and replied: "Well, the rules are the rules. ... The referee and the supervisor (did) the right thing, but it's not easy to do it." Indeed, the US Tennis

Association issued a statement saying that Friemel defaulted Djokovic "in accordance with the Grand Slam rulebook, following his actions of intentionally hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences."

The USTA went on to say Djokovic forfeits the ranking points and \$250,000 in prize money he earned in the tournament "in addition to any or all fines levied with respect to the offending incident."

"Novak was angry. He hit the ball recklessly, angrily back. There was no discretion involved," Friemel said.

This was the latest example of Djokovic finding himself at the centre of the ten-

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK, 7 SEPTEMBER

Novak Djokovic was kicked out of the US Open for accidentally hitting a line judge in the throat with a tennis ball after dropping a game in his fourth-round match, a stunning end to his 29-match winning streak and bid for an 18th Grand Slam title.

As he walked to the Arthur Ashe Stadium sideline for a changeover on Sunday, trailing Pablo Carreto Busta 6-5 in the first set, Djokovic, who was seeded and ranked No. 1 and an overwhelming favourite for the championship angrily smacked a ball behind him.

The ball flew right at the line judge, who dropped to her knees at the back of the court

Kangana given Y-plus security

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut has been given Y-plus category security by Central security agencies and will be protected by about 10 armed commandos around the clock, Union Home ministry officials said.

The decision comes two days before Ranaut, who is in her home state Himachal Pradesh, said she plans to visit Mumbai on 9 September. She said she felt unsafe in Mumbai after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput and also spoke of drug use in Bollywood film industry.

The Y-plus category central cover entails the deployment of about 10 armed commandos with the protectee round the clock. BJP leader Ram Kadam had asked the Sesa government to provide police protection to Ranaut since "she wanted to expose Bollywood drug nexus".

DETAILS ON PAGE 5

Djoker sent packing from US Open after hitting line judge with ball

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK, 7 SEPTEMBER

Novak Djokovic was kicked out of the US Open for accidentally hitting a line judge in the throat with a tennis ball after dropping a game in his fourth-round match, a stunning end to his 29-match winning streak and bid for an 18th Grand Slam title.

As he walked to the Arthur Ashe Stadium sideline for a changeover on Sunday, trailing Pablo Carreto Busta 6-5 in the first set, Djokovic, who was seeded and ranked No. 1 and an overwhelming favourite for the championship angrily smacked a ball behind him.

The ball flew right at the line judge, who dropped to her knees at the back of the court

and reached for her neck. Friemel didn't see what happened, and said he was not allowed to check a video replay, but was given a rundown by Egli and Tourte. Friemel said that even if Djokovic didn't intend to hit the line judge, she was hurt, and that was enough to merit the ruling. Eventually, Djokovic walked over to shake hands with Carreto Busta. Tourte then announced that Djokovic was defaulted, the tennis equivalent of an ejection.

"I was a little bit in shock, no?" Carreto Busta said later at a news conference done via video conference because of social-distancing rules at the US Open, the first Grand Slam tournament staged amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Djokovic quickly left the tournament grounds, posting an apology on social media hours later. Djokovic tends to a line judge who was hit with the ball during his Men's Singles fourth round match of the 2020 US Open late Sunday in the Queens borough of NYC. AFP

"This whole situation has left me really sad and empty. I checked on the lines person and the tournament told me

that thank God she is feeling ok. I'm extremely sorry to have caused her such stress. So unintended. So wrong," he wrote.

"As for the disqualification, I need to go back within and work on my disappointment and turn this all into a lesson for my growth and evolution as a player and human being," he wrote.

"Apologise to the @usopen tournament and everyone associated for my behaviour."

Asked whether he thought Djokovic should have been allowed to continue to play, Carreto Busta shrugged and replied: "Well, the rules are the rules. ... The referee and the supervisor (did) the right thing, but it's not easy to do it." Indeed, the US Tennis

Association issued a statement saying that Friemel defaulted Djokovic "in accordance with the Grand Slam rulebook, following his actions of intentionally hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences."

The USTA went on to say Djokovic forfeits the ranking points and \$250,000 in prize money he earned in the tournament "in addition to any or all fines levied with respect to the offending incident."

"Novak was angry. He hit the ball recklessly, angrily back. There was no discretion involved," Friemel said.

This was the latest example of Djokovic finding himself at the centre of the ten-

Delhi Metro gets back on tracks after 169 days

The Capital's crucial rapid transport system resumes graded services with strict safety measures amid the Covid pandemic; DMRC says operations will become normal by 12 September

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

The Delhi Metro today got back on tracks and resumed its services with curtailed operations on the Yellow Line after being closed for more than five months due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, even as both the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and the Metro commuters treading with caution amid the newnormal in the rapid transport system.

The operations of the Metro trains in the first four hours from 7-11 am were smooth and around 7,500 passengers availed the services, the DMRC said in a statement.

All possible measures will be taken to ensure that services are smooth in the evening (from 4-8pm) as well, it added.

The graded Metro services resumed with strict safety and social distancing measures in place. The first trains left from Samaypur Badli station to HUDA City Centre station and simultaneously from HUDA City Centre to Samaypur Badli at 7 am, a senior DMRC official said.

"We are on our way. It's been 169 days since we've seen you! Travel responsibly and commute if it's only necessary. #MetroBackOnTrack," the DMRC tweeted in the morning and posted a video clip of the first train leaving HUDA City Centre. No stations on the Yellow Line were closed as none is in proximity to any containment zone, the official said.

As the day began, some Metro commuters wearing protective masks were seen entering the premises of key stations like Kashmere Gate and Hauz Khas on the Yellow



Delhi Metro back on tracks after more than five months. In the Capital on Monday.

DEEPAK

Line, which connects Samaypur Badli in Delhi to HUDA City Centre in Gurgaon.

"A few happy faces from our first journey after more than 5 months. #MetroBackOnTrack," the DMRC said in another tweet and posted pictures of some commuters wearing masks inside train coaches.

On the station premises, passengers were permitted to enter the concourse only after temperature checks with thermal guns and sanitisation of hands.

Hundreds of the Delhi Metro ground staff and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel wore face shields, masks and gloves as preventive measures against the novel coronavirus.

The Union Home Ministry had recently issued guidelines allowing Metro services in the country to resume a day after Delhi registered 3,256 new corona-

resume operations in a graduated manner, following which the DMRC

had said it would be done in three stages during 7-12 September.

Under stage one, Yellow Line or Line 2 and Rapid Metro were made operational with restricted service hours, a DMRC official said.

The Metro services in the National Capital Region were closed since March 22 due to the Covid pandemic.

The DMRC has appealed to people to use the rapid transport only if urgently needed.

Wearing of masks inside train coaches and station premises is mandatory, and those found violating the guidelines would be fined by authorities.

The Metro services resumed a day after Delhi registered 3,256 new corona-

virus cases, the highest single-day spike in 72 days, taking the tally to over 1.91 lakh.

The commuters are returning to the Delhi Metro stations and coaches after a huge gap of 169 days, with the pandemic changing the paradigm of its operations.

The use of Aarogya Setu App by commuters is advisable, the DMRC has said.

In keeping with the new normal, the Delhi Metro has taken various measures to ensure least physical contact for riders, like automated thermal screening-cum-sanitiser dispenser and lift-calling system driven by a foot pedal at several stations.

Inside coaches, commuters are to sit on alternate seats and maintain prescribed distance even while standing. Stickers have been put up on alternate seats and on platforms so that riders adhere to social-

distancing norms.

Special posters have been put up inside coaches and on station premises to raise awareness besides regular announcements on these preventive measures against Covid.

The DMRC has also appealed to commuters to "talkless inside trains to prevent the possibility of short-range aerosol transmission".

The officials had earlier cautioned that "trains may not stop at some of the stations" if social-distancing norms were not adhered to by passengers. "This is a new normal and an evolving scenario, so we will anyway be assessing the situation as we go along," an official said.

The DMRC has 10 lines spanning 242 stations and 264 stations including the Rapid Metro in Gurgaon.

"Today and tomorrow,

only the Yellow Line (49-km span with 37 stations -- 20 underground and 17 elevated ones) will remain operational for a period of four hours each in the morning (7 am to 11 am) and evening (4 pm to 8 pm)," the DMRC said.

"Trains will be available with a headway (frequency) varying from 2'44" to 5'28" (at different stretches) with 57 trains performing around 462 trips. The same will be further extended in a graded manner from September 9-12 along with other lines," the DMRC said yesterday.

Over a period of next five days, rest of the lines will also be made operational with all safety measures, officials said.

Online education the way forward in making higher edu affordable, inclusive: Delhi L-G

PTI

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

Online and digital education seem to be the way forward in making higher education affordable, cost-effective and inclusive, Delhi Lt Governor Anil Baijal said on Monday.

Attending the 'Governors' Conference on the Role of National Education Policy in Transforming Higher Education', he said in the coming days, e-learning will catalyse enhanced access to higher education for a large number of students, within a short period, without unreasonable strain on government budget.

"Given the experience of teaching and learning during the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, online and digital education seem to be the way forward towards making higher education affordable, inclusive and cost-effective."

Baijal lauded the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, as not only being "holistic and futuristic", but also "effective" in addressing the challenges faced by the current higher education system.

"The NEP bestows the long-awaited and rightful status to vocational education by integrating it into mainstream education and forging a partnership with the industry."

He suggested aligning curricula and job roles with the specific requirement of not only India but also those countries that are likely to emerge as global hubs for employment.



"For this, the credit framework and certification in the vocational stream would also need to be accredited by these countries," Baijal said.

In a world fast moving towards increased automation and use of artificial intelligence, some jobs will become redundant, while new jobs with entirely different skill requirements will emerge, the L-G pointed out.

"Therefore, through an inbuilt system of reskilling and re-certification, the vocational stream has to flexibly align itself to the demands of the changing economy," he said.

Baijal said government-industry-academia collaboration seems to be the key to quality higher education.

"In the new education policy, though an interface with industry in various fields, including research and vocational education, is envisioned, similar linkages with the government sector also need to be built-in," he emphasised.

This approach was suc-

Classified

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

BEFORE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS NORTHERN REGION

In the matter of the companies Act, 2013, section 14 of companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the companies (incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of New Delhi Hotels Limited having its registered office at Ambassador Hotel, Sujan Singh Park, New Delhi - 110003

Notice is hereby given to the general Public that Company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 22nd August, 2020 to enable the Company to give effect for such conversion. Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change / status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition of the concerned Regional Director (B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Parivarayan Bhawan, CGO Complex New Delhi - 110003), within fourteen days from the date of publication of the notice with a copy to the applicant Company at its registered office at the address mentioned above.

For and on behalf of the Applicant

New Delhi Hotels Limited

Sd/-

Rajinder Kumar, Director, DIN : 00053878

TENDERS

WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

Barasat, Kolkata-700 128

TENDER NOTICE

NIT for Electro

Mechanical

Operation,

Maintenance and

Monitoring of

33/0.433 KVA Sub-

station, Operation of

Pumps and Motors

and Diesel

Generators (02 Nos.)

works under WBSU for a period of one

(01) calendar year (in

three shifts basis per

each day).

For details please visit the University website

www.wbsubregistrarion.org and www.wbsu.ac.in.

Sd/-

Registrar (Officiating)

COVID-19: JNU to hold its fourth convocation virtually in November

PTI
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) will hold its fourth convocation virtually in November, a statement from the varsity said on Monday.

Noting that a convocation is a special moment in the life of a student, JNU Vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar said despite the coronavirus pandemic, the varsity has decided to hold the convocation to make it a memorable event for the students.

The Executive Council, which met here, approved holding of the varsity's fourth convocation, JNU Registrar Pramod Kumar said.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the convocation

this year will be a virtual convocation. Soon a notification will be issued inviting the students to register themselves for participating in the virtual convocation," he said.

Kumar said the university is trying the convocation by holding its second convocation in 2018. The first convocation was held in 1972. "A convocation is a special moment in the life of a student. It is all about celebrating the scholarly achievement of a student after years of hard work by the university, family members and friends.

"I have no doubt that the convocation enhances the sense of belonging of students to their alma mater. Therefore, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to hold the convocation and

National Education Policy lacks roadmap for implementation: Sisodia

PTI
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Monday the new National Education Policy (NEP) lacks the roadmap for implementation of the policy can be guaranteed," Sisodia added.

The NEP approved by the Union Cabinet in July replaces the 34-year-old National Policy on Education framed in 1986 and is aimed at paving the way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems to make India a global knowledge superpower.

"The new national education policy lacks the action plan to implement it. The implementation of this policy should be carefully planned so that it is not reduced to just a wonderful idea. It is necessary to put national education policy into practice rather than restricting it to only wishful thinking," he said.

"It is inappropriate to treat vocational degree differently from an undergraduate degree in any other subject. These courses should be given equal importance, then only we will be able to reap their benefits," he added.

Sisodia praises his education team after Delhi ranked 2nd best in literacy rate

PTI
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

As the Delhi metro resumed operations partially in the national capital on Monday, many commuters who used the service amid the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic said they were concerned about last mile connectivity to reach their final destinations after deboarding the trains. On day one, mostly office-goers travelled in the metro since all precautionary measures were in place, once they deboard the train they may not feel safe taking e-rickshaws, auto-rickshaws or cabs to reach their final destination.

Most of the commuters PTI spoke to at the Kashmere Gate metro station said even though they felt safe and had a comfortable ride in the metro since all precautionary measures were in place, once they deboard the train they may not feel safe taking e-rickshaws, auto-rickshaws or cabs to reach their final destination.

Gautam Kumar, who works at AIIMS, said after getting out of the metro station he has no o

and above.

According to the study, after Kerala, Delhi has the best literacy rate at 88.7 per cent, followed by Uttarakhand's 87.6 per cent, Himachal Pradesh's 86.6 per cent and Assam's at 85.9 per cent.

With 96.2 per cent literacy, Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country, while Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 per cent, showed a report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) survey.

On the other hand, Rajasthan is the second worst performer with the literacy rate of 69.7 per cent. Bihar has a literacy rate of 70.9 per cent, Telangana 72.8 per cent, Uttar Pradesh 73 per cent and Madhya Pradesh 73.7 per cent.

The report on 'Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey' from July 2017 to June 2018 provides state-wise detail of literacy rate among the persons aged seven years

governments are bound by it and necessary resources needed for effective implementation of the policy can be guaranteed," Sisodia added.

The NEP approved by the Union Cabinet in July replaces the 34-year-old National Policy on Education framed in 1986 and is aimed at paving the way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems to make India a global knowledge superpower.

"The new national education policy lacks the action plan to implement it. The implementation of this policy should be carefully planned so that it is not reduced to just a wonderful idea. It is necessary to put national education policy into practice rather than restricting it to only wishful thinking," he said.

"It is inappropriate to treat vocational degree differently from an undergraduate degree in any other subject. These courses should be given equal importance, then only we will be able to reap their benefits," he added.

The Statesman

KOLKATA

Statesman House,

4, Chowringhee Square

Kolkata-700 001

Tel: (033) 22127070-76,

(033) 41071700

Fax: (033) 2212-6181 / 7107-1780

Email: thestatesman@gmail.com

<



Sh @narendramodi Ji, you should talk to former PM
Sh Manmohan Singh Ji and listen to him patiently

LEADER OF CONGRESS IN LOK SABHA ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY
ON THE COUNTRY'S WORST ECONOMIC SLUMP

The Statesman

03

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 2020

Himachal Assembly Session begins on a stormy note

The Congress slams the BJP govt for mishandling the Covid situation and economy, seeks resignation of CM Thakur and his Cabinet

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 7 SEPTEMBER

The ten-day Monsoon Session of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly began on a stormy note on Monday, with the principal Opposition Congress alleging complete failure of the BJP-ruled state government on various fronts.

The Congress sought resignation of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and his Cabinet for allegedly mishandling the Covid pandemic and leading the state to economic disaster over the past five months.

The Chief Minister, however, said the Congress was "playing politics" on it and had failed to raise the serious issue properly. "Himachal has won praise at the national level for doing the best of work during the Covid-19 period," he said.

Allowed the adjournment motion by Speaker Vipin Singh Parmar for discussion on the Covid situation in Himachal Pradesh in the midst of ruckus and heated exchanges for around 20 minutes after the obituary references, Leader of the Opposition (LOP), Mukesh Agnihotri, charged that there was "total anarchy and chaos" in the state during the ongoing Covid pandemic and that the Thakur government was "totally confused" and had mishandled the pandemic.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur was preparing to declare Himachal Pradesh corona-free and was publicising it much. The CM should have a vision to see what is going to happen in future. See the condition now. There are over 7000 Covid cases and 53 people have died. Had the government taken proper steps



HP Leader of Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri and other Congress MLAs heading to the state Assembly in Shimla on Monday.

SNS

to control Covid, it would have been a different situation," said Agnihotri.

He said the health department "crossed all limits of corruption" in purchases of materials for tackling Covid-19, whether PPE kits, ventilators or sanitisers, and that there has been no action. He said the state BJP chief Rajeev Bindal then had resigned in the midst of health scam, and was later given a clean chit.

"The CM must clarify whether he was involved in the scam or not."

The LOP said it was strange that a minister (earlier holding portfolio of Urban Development) was facing a vigilance inquiry into land purchase but has not resigned. "The CM has said it time and again that he got the complaint and had ordered a vigilance inquiry into it," he said.

The senior Congress leader said the state government could not run the Covid centres and quarantine centres properly, which compounded the problems in HP amid the Covid crisis.

He said the government failed to take steps to save the economy from disaster in Himachal Pradesh. "While the people are already in distress, the government increased the prices of essential commodities, discriminated against Above Poverty Line (APL) people in ration subsidy, hiked the electricity tariff, bus fare and prices

of petrol and diesel, which harassed them even more," he said.

The LOP also said the tourism industry was totally in doldrums because of the pandemic as the government could not take steps to protect them and give them package. "More than four lakh people have lost their jobs," he said.

Agnihotri said the MLA fund (Vidhayak Nidhi) has been stopped, while the government has no qualms in spending money on appointment of more chairmen and vice chairmen. He said the Chief Minister should have strongly taken up the cause of release of the state's Rs 3200 crore GST claim from the Centre.

Participating in the discussion, Congress member, Asha Kumari came down

heavily on the Thakur government for failing to set up the system of home and institutional quarantine for those who came from outside. She said people were given poor facilities in quarantine centres.

"The government did not even follow the central government's guidelines for Covid-19," she said.

Kumari said Himachal was now fifth in figures of unemployment in the country and the government should see this with concern and should work to generate jobs for the people. She said depression is going to be another public health problem in Himachal Pradesh in the wake of the Covid pandemic and that the government must prepare to handle the situation.

BJP members, Balbir Singh and Venod Kumar, said the government has done "best of work" to tackle the Covid-19 situation and has "set an example".

Lone CPM MLA, Rakesh Singh, grilled the government for gaps in Covid management and the harassment meted out to common people during the lockdown period. He said the government has not been able to live up to the expectations of people during the pandemic.

Intervening in the debate, the CM told the House that he had never said that he had ordered a vigilance inquiry against a minister. "I said that there is a complaint and we will examine that," he said.

Thakur said Bindal had resigned as state BJP chief on moral grounds after the Congress party dragged his name in a matter related to health purchases.

NEP to prepare country for future challenges: HP Govt

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 7 SEPTEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatraya on Monday said the National Education Policy (NEP) is a "futuristic and progressive document" which would prepare the country for upcoming challenges.

He was participating in a video conference of Governors, Lieutenant Governors and Vice chancellors on NEP in which President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Education minister Ramesh

Pokhriyal Nishank were present.

Dattatraya said Himachal had pledged to become the first state in implementation of the policy and soon after notification of NEP, he initiated discussions with concerned institutes, groups and experts.

In last few days, discussions were held with Vice Chancellors, teachers, academics, parents, students and officers and employees of the Education department," he added.

He said in order to implement the policy document in

the state, he has also consulted with the Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Education Minister Govind Singh Thakur and the state Cabinet has decided to constitute a task force in this regard.

Dattatraya further stated that the Vice-Chancellors of all universities had been instructed to set up a high-level committee under his chairmanship which will soon prepare a vision document for their institutions to build a multidisciplinary education and research university.

He added that he himself

would review it from time to time.

He urged the Central government to continue providing financial support for institutional and infrastructural changes that are needed to implement this policy.

"Online education has increased due to COVID-19 pandemic but for this, teachers and students need to be trained. Work should be done in this direction.

Telephone and internet system in tribal areas and remote areas is weak, due to which the students are facing problems," he added.

Robust economy, industry needed but not at environment's expense: Dalai Lama

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 7 SEPTEMBER

The Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama, on Monday said the industry and robust economy are needed but not at the expense of the environment.

He was replying to a query of Asian Buddhist students at White Tara Buddhist Centre in Jakarta through video conferencing from his residence in Dharamshala in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.

Dalai Lama said monetary returns were not the only factors worth consideration. Acting on studies of the potential consequences of industrial processes, cannot but be beneficial for the environment.

"As our way of life and the results of industrialization become less and less sustainable," he said while citing an example his friends in Stockholm had told him about.

"Industrial effluents flowing into the local river became so bad that no fish lived in it any more. Because of the public outcry, industry adopted better practices and stopped polluting the river. Consequently, the river recovered its natural qualities and fish returned," he added.

Replying to a query of a Thai monk on how one can find peace of mind in the midst of our busy lives, he said when you get up in the morn-



Dalai Lama during a virtual interaction with Asian Buddhist students at White Tara Buddhist Centre in Jakarta from his residence in Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.

Court seeks HC clarification whether interim bails be extended for Delhi riots cases

PTI
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

A court here on Monday

sought clarification from the Delhi High Court on whether its directions to extended interim bails of undertrial prisoners by 45 days to decongest jails here in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, applied for cases related to the communal violence in north east Delhi in February.

The court said the interim bails granted purely on humanitarian grounds for a limited period should not come within the purview of the directions of the Full Bench of the High Court of Delhi because what can not be granted to an accused directly under the minutes, dated May 18, of the High Powered Committee can not be deemed to be accorded indirectly under the directions of the Full Bench.

A High Powered Committee was formed on the order of the Supreme Court in March to lay down guidelines to decongest jails and prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

"This court has doubt as

to whether the directions of the High Court of Delhi

passed will apply to the cases

of rioters because the

High Powered Committee has been pleased to exclude the following category of undertrial prison-

ers (UTPs) even if falling in the criteria, thereof should not be considered for interim bail," it said.

It further added that it was expedient and in the interest of justice that clarification be sought from the High Court on this aspect for its guidance.

"In my humble opinion, the interim bails granted purely on humanitarian grounds for a limited period should not come within the purview of the directions of the Full Bench," the court said in its order.

The observations came while hearing an application of Suhai Saifi, arrested in a murder case related to the riots, seeking interim bail for 30 days to appear for his class 10 compartment examinations.

The court dismissed the bail application saying facilities were available in jail to prepare for the examinations.

It directed the Jail Superintendent to make available the relevant books and study material to Saifi.

Punjab Police to crack down on Covid rumour-mongers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 7 SEPTEMBER

To tighten the noose around those spreading false propaganda about Covid, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday directed the state Director General of Police to crack down on all rumour-mongers and web channels spreading misinformation among the people about the pandemic.

Amrinder also asked DGP

Dinkar Gupta to monitor

statements being issued by

anti-India operators working

from abroad and to register

cases against all such people,

wherever they might be located, who are found spreading

rumours on social media

and web channels. The CM

directed the DGP to initiate

the process of getting these

entities banned in India.

The directives came even as the Punjab Police continued

to register cases against

rumour mongers across the state. The DGP informed the Covid review virtual meeting chaired by the CM that eight cases have been registered over the past 10 days (from August 27 to September 7) against those spreading rumours and circulating false and misleading videos.

He said these rumours and videos are hampering the fight against

coronavirus, and also preventing

the people from availing

of proper medical treatment

at public and private

health facilities.

These first information

reports,

government's prohibitory orders against all such gatherings.

So far, 54 persons, including the owner of Moon Walk Resort, have been arrested for holding a Pool Party in Ludhiana and 17 persons have been arrested in Phagwara, including the owner of Basant restaurant, Phagwara, the DGP disclosed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF INDIA DELHI CHAPTER®
(Registered Body)
Regd. Office: 69, DSI DC Office Shed, Scheme-I, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110020

NOTICE FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In view of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic & restrictions imposed on the movement of people, this notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Public Relations Society of India, Delhi Chapter (Registration no. S-E/493/Dist. South-East/2014/26/December/2014) will be held on Saturday, 19th September, 2020 at 15:00 Hrs through Video conferencing/other Audio visual means (OAVM) in compliance with the provisions of the Societies Registration Act, 1860. In this regard, members have already been informed about the agenda of AGM on their registered e-mail (available in record) on 19th August 2020. Those who haven't received it, may send a test mail on our e-mail id delhichapterprsi@gmail.com. Members are hereby requested to participate in AGM through Zoom (VC/OAVM) facility only.

S. S. Rao
Secretary

Punjab legislator booked for misleading people over Covid

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 7 SEPTEMBER



SIMARJIT SINGH BAINS

The Punjab Police on Monday registered a case against Lok Insaaf Party (LIP) legislator Simarjit Singh Bains for allegedly spreading false propaganda to mislead the people on the Covid pandemic.

The first information report has been registered under Section 54 of Disaster Management Act, Epidemics Act, 2005, Section 3 of Epidemic Disease Act, 1897 and under Section 188, 505 IPC in Ludhiana, on the basis of a complaint by Civil Surgeon, Ludhiana.

In his complaint to Ludhiana Police, the Civil Surgeon Ludhiana had requested legal action against Bains, Member of Legislative Assembly from Atam Nagar constituency, Ludhiana, for misguiding people through a video clip regarding Covid-19.

The Civil Surgeon said that this video clip is being played on various social media platforms, thus leading to the creation of an atmosphere of confusion among the public, regarding Covid-19. Bains was also inciting people not to wear masks, said the complaint.

In his legal opinion, as sought by the Ludhiana Police, District Attorney

of Covid-19 pandemic caused by the novel Coronavirus.

Bains is making the claim that Coronavirus is a bogey created by the Government to perpetuate their power by misleading people and asking them not to wear masks, the District Attorney further opined.

The opinion given by the Attorney further mentioned that even though Bains is an elected MLA, who is representing a section of citizens of Ludhiana, he is misleading people by forbidding them to wear face masks, which have been made compulsory by the Central government to protect the health and safety of the citizens of the country.

Already so many lives have been lost due to the Corona pandemic in the country as well as in Punjab, the District Attorney said in his report, concluding that Bains is thus willfully endangering the health and safety of the people living in the state by exhorting and provoking them to violate the directions, norms and guidelines laid down by the Central and the state governments under the Disaster Management Act, Epidemics Act etc.

Even the World Health Organisation has advised wearing of face masks, he further noted.

HP govt also extends security to Kangana

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 7 SEPTEMBER

decided to provide security during her stay and transit in the state to mitigate any threats.

Thakur also thanked the Union Home Ministry for extending security cover to Kangna Ranaut by the CRPF.



A child plays along muddy banks of the Yamuna after flood waters receded, in Allahabad on Tuesday ■ AFP

Deepak Kochhar arrested: The ED has arrested Deepak Kochhar, husband of former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar, in connection with a money laundering case under PMLA. The couple has been questioned for alleged irregularities in giving bank loans to Videocon group. ■ PTI

Bheema Koragaon case: NIA summons sons-in-law of Varavara Rao to Mumbai

SNS
HYDERABAD, 7 SEPTEMBER

National Investigation Agency (NIA) has sent notices summoning a university professor K Satyanarayana and a senior journalist KV Kurmanath, both sons-in-law of revolutionary poet Varavara Rao, to Mumbai on 9 September in connection with the Bheema Koragaon case.

Mr Rao is in jail for past 18 months for his alleged links to a conspiracy to eliminate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the family had been trying to secure his bail and ensure his access to medical treatment after his condition deteriorated. KSatyanarayana, a Dalit academician issued a statement about the notices sent by NIA.

"I wish to share the distressing news that NIA, Mumbai summoned me to appear before it as a witness under section 160 CrPC and also under section 91 of CrPC on

Mr Rao is in jail for past 18 months for his alleged links to a conspiracy to eliminate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the family had been trying to secure his bail and ensure his access to medical treatment after his condition deteriorated

09.09.2020.

My co-brother KV Kurmanath, a senior journalist, was also summoned to appear at the same time and date," wrote Prof. K Satyanarayana of English and Foreign Language University (EFLU). He went on to add that his flat was raided by Pune police on August, 2018 on the pretext of collecting evidence against revolutionary poet Varavara Rao although he had denied

any links to the Bheema Koragaon case and it had caused him "mental agony."

"It is a fact that I am related to Varavara Rao but I reiterate that I have no connection with the Bhima Koregaon case," said Prof. K Satyanarayana.

"NIA notice adds to our family distress at a time when Varavara Rao's health conditions is not very good and the pandemic is fast spreading in Mumbai. I was summoned to Mumbai in these terrible times," he further said in the statement. Varavara Rao was arrested by Pune police on August, 2018. Initially, he was kept under house arrest but in November he was shifted to a prison in Maharashtra. The octogenarian has not been keeping well and his family had said that he was being denied access to medical treatment although he was unable to speak, walk or go to the toilet. So far repeated appeals for bail have been turned down.

Meanwhile, Telangana unit of BJP has written to Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan seeking her intervention in celebrating 17 September as Telangana Liberation Day. The state of Hyderabad under Nizam joined the Union of India on the same day in 1948, a year after India got freed from British Rule.

Election to RS Deputy Chair's post on 14 Sep

IANS
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

The election to the post of deputy chairperson of the Rajya Sabha will be held on 14 September, the day Parliament's Monsoon Session convenes.

The post fell vacant after Janata Dal-United MP Harivansh Narayan Singh's term in the Upper House expired. Harivansh has since been re-elected to the Rajya Sabha.

"The Chairman, under Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Council of States, has fixed 14 September as the date of holding election to the said office of the Deputy Chairman," read an official notification issued by the Rajya Sabha secretary general.

The election will be held at 3 pm on 14 September.

The nominations will be accepted till noon on 11 September.

There is no official word from the BJP or the National Democratic Alliance on the likely candidate. The Congress and the United Progressive Alliance too has not officially announced any candidate though the matter is likely to be discussed in the Congress strategy meeting on Wednesday.

PROTEST PITCH



Farmers protest against the Electricity Amendment Bill 2020 and against agriculture-related ordinances brought by the Union government, outside the Deputy Commissioner's office in Amritsar on Monday. ■ AFP

Hyderabad metro resumes; monsoon session begins

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 7 SEPTEMBER

Hyderabad Metro resumed its operations after five-and-a-half months and the state Assembly began its monsoon session from today, even as the number of Covid-19 cases in Andhra Pradesh crossed the five lakh-mark. Neighbouring Telangana reported 1.42 lakh cases.

Masks were mandatory as well as thermal screening. Metro staff encouraged commuters to avail smart cards and cashless and online transactions.

The Metro services resumed beginning with Miyapur-LB Nagar route.

Tomorrow services will commence between Nagole

and Raidurg and from 10 September trains will be running on all three routes.

Train services were available between 7 a.m. and 12 noon and then again between 4 to 9 pm.

There was hardly any crowds so social distancing could be maintained as the staff were prepared with sanitisers and other precautions.

Masks were mandatory as well as thermal screening. Metro staff encouraged commuters to avail smart cards and cashless and online transactions.

The state's death toll has pushed up to 4,487 as 70 more succumbed to the virus. Prakasam, East Godavari and Vizianagaram are the worst affected districts. The last two lakh cases were reported in 20 days.

a condolence motion after recalling the active role played by President Pranab Mukherjee in the formation of Telangana. Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao described "Pranabda" as a towering personality in the country's political arena and moved the motion which was adopted unanimously.

Currently, AP has reported 5,06,493 Covid-19 till date with 8,368 fresh cases added today.

The state's death toll has pushed up to 4,487 as 70 more succumbed to the virus. Prakasam, East Godavari and Vizianagaram are the worst affected districts. The last two lakh cases were reported in 20 days.

UK court rejects plea seeking partial reporting ban in Nirav Modi case

LONDON, 7 SEPTEMBER

A UK judge, presiding over fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi's extradition case over the estimated USD 2-billion PNB fraud and money laundering charges brought by India, rejected an application seeking a partial reporting ban at the start of a five-day trial here on Monday.

District Judge Samuel Goozee dismissed the application after hearing representations in what he called a high profile case in India, including from members of the press present at Westminster Magistrates' Court who stressed the importance of free and fair reporting of the proceedings.

Modi's barrister, Clare Montgomery, applied for the partial restriction with reference to a BIP press conference held in India in May, giving "unfair commentary" on the evidence given by former Indian High Court Judge Abhay Thipsay during the first part of the extradition trial. Thipsay, as a member of the Congress party, was accused of party political bias in his expert legal opinion, which challenged the Indian government's case.

Having gone over the transcript of the press conference, I am satisfied it was given in a political context opinions of politicians and commentary outside these proceedings are of no regard, said Justice Goozee, as he concluded that there was no evidence of a substantial risk to the administration of justice which would necessitate restrictions on the media.

Modi's legal team have instead sought a written assurance from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), representing the Indian authorities in the extradition proceedings, that there would be no government commentary on further evidence given by Thipsay, scheduled via a video link on Wednesday.

The state's death toll has pushed up to 4,487 as 70 more succumbed to the virus. Prakasam, East Godavari and Vizianagaram are the worst affected districts. The last two lakh cases were reported in 20 days.

Kolkata airport runway clears safety checks; authorities await state govt's green signal on runway expansion

SOUMYADIP MULLICK
KOLKATA, 7 SEPTEMBER

The runways at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCB) airport in Kolkata have passed all safety checks that were recently conducted by a committee which included airport officials and commercial airline pilots. The airport authorities are waiting for state government's nod for expansion of the secondary runway.

The Kolkata airport authorities held a runway safety meeting last Friday after six months.

"We conducted a meeting on Friday. Runway safety meetings are held fortnightly but due to the Covid situation, it got delayed. The last meeting took place in February but our expert teams do regular monitoring of runways in the airport" said the airport director Mr Kaushik Bhattacharya.

Commenting on the observations made and discussed in the meeting, the director confirmed that all aspects of runway safety were considered during the checks.

Both the primary and secondary runways were carefully examined for any safety lapses.

It may be noted that the Kolkata airport has two parallel runways with the primary and longer one- 01R/19L measuring 11,900 ft and secondary runway , 01L/19R measuring 9240 feet.

This was also the first runway safety meeting conducted after Cyclone Amphan

during which the airport premises and its runway went underwater due to the torrential rainfall but water was efficiently drained out to resume flight operations.

The crash at the Kozhikode airport recently had brought attention and highlighted on the importance of runway safety which can be jeopardised with cracks or rubber deposits leading an aircraft to skid off the runway.

Mr Bhattacharya explained, "To ensure that there are no safety lapses, the runway safety team comprises airline pilots during the inspection. Pilots from airlines Air India, Indigo and Air Asia were present in the expert team which also went on an inspection walk on the main runway."

Meanwhile commenting on the expansion of the secondary runway, the director said that the airport authorities have already earmarked land for the project and is now waiting for the state government's approval. "The secondary runway though has a Runway End Safety Area (RESA) of more than 160 metres, the requirement is 240m" said an airport official. The RESA, an extension towards the end of runway ensures that an aircraft does not overshoot runways after landing.

The Kolkata airport yesterday recorded a footfall of 28,000 passengers and 200 flight movements, making it one of the busiest day of operations after resumption of flight services. Commenting on whether any other airlines other than Air India have expressed interest in operating direct flights from Kolkata to Europe, the official said, "Despite Kolkata airport runways equipped to handle wide body aircraft, not many Indian airlines have these types of aircraft needed for such long-haul flights."

I am a doctor and would like to remain the same

DR KAFEE KHAN

PUTTING AN END TO SPECULATION ABOUT HIM JOINING CONGRESS

i
ndia



A health official collects a nasal swab sample from a woman for a Covid-19 test in a residential area, Chennai on Monday. ■ AFP

SC to Centre: Why no ban on disinfectant tunnels

Health Ministry has not issued any advisory or guideline on use of ultraviolet lights for disinfection of humans for Covid-19 management

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

The Supreme Court asked the Centre on Monday as to why it has not banned the use of tunnels for disinfecting people for Covid-19 despite taking the stand that spraying of chemical disinfectants is physically and psychologically harmful.

The bench headed by Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the Health Ministry has not issued any advisory or guideline on use of ultraviolet lights for disinfection of humans for Covid-19 management.

He said that spraying of any chemical disinfectant is also physically and psychologically harmful for humans.

The bench then asked the

SG that when the use of disinfectant tunnels is bad then why the Centre was not banning it. Mehta said appropriate directions will be issued in this regard.

The bench was hearing a PIL filed by one Gurjim Singh Narula, who has sought directions to the Centre to forthwith ban the installation, production and advertisement of disinfection tunnels involving spraying or fumigation of chemical disinfectants on humans.

The plea has also sought forth ban on spraying or fumigation of organic disinfectants and exposing human to ultraviolet rays for the purposes of disinfecting them.

The Centre in its affidavit submitted that as public health and hospitals are state subject, it is for the States/ Union Territories to implement the guidelines issued by the Health

Cabinets, cambers) is not recommended as it would not diminish the infected person's ability to spread the virus through droplets or contact.

The affidavit, filed by under-secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), said the committee further observed spraying disinfectants is not recommended in both health-care and non-health care settings.

"It was observed that in indoor spaces, routine application of disinfectants to environmental surfaces by spraying or fogging is not recommended for Covid-19 as the disinfectants may not be effective in removing organic material and may miss surface shielded by objects, folded fabrics or surface with intricate designs," it said.

The Centre said the committee has reiterated that spraying of individuals with the disinfectants (such as tunnels,

or marketplaces, is also not recommended to kill the virus or other pathogens because disinfectant is inactivated by dirt and debris and it is not feasible to manually clean and remove all organic matter from such spaces, the affidavit said.

Even in the absence of organic matter, chemical spraying is unlikely to adequately cover all surfaces for the duration of the required contact time needed to inactivate pathogens. Furthermore, streets and sidewalks are not considered to be reservoirs of infection for Covid-19. In addition, spraying disinfectants, even outdoors, can be harmful to human health, it said.

The Centre said that even National Guidelines for infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Facilities' enumerated that disinfectant fogging is not recommended for routine patient care areas.

It was also prescribed that fumigation and fogging have no role in the operation theatre because fumigation with formalin is hazardous to persons and can also harm sensitive equipment, it said.



NEP is a futuristic and progressive document which would prepare the country for upcoming challenges

HIMACHAL PRADESH GOVERNOR BANDARU DATTA TRAYA
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

The Statesman
KOLKATA, TUESDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



A newspaper and book vendor wearing a facemask waits for customers in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ AFP

IMA ponzi scam: The CBI has filed a charge sheet against two Karnataka government officials in the multi-crore I-Monetary Advisory ponzi scam case, alleging they took bribes from IMA promoter Mohammed Mansoor Khan to give him a clean chit, officials said on Monday. PTI

Delhi riots: A Delhi court on Monday extended by three days the ED custody of suspended AAP councillor Tahir Hussain in a money laundering case related to the communal violence in northeast Delhi in February. PTI

Digital degrees: Delhi High Court on Monday directed the Delhi University to issue within seven working days digital degree certificates to students who have already graduated and urgently require the document for taking admission in a foreign university or for employment. Getting a degree is an event for a student but it has really become a torture, Justice Prathiba M Singh said. PTI

Ex-MLA dies of Covid: Senior National Conference leader and former legislator Thakur Rachpal Singh died of Covid-19 at a hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Monday, officials said. The 69-year-old Singh is survived by wife, son and two daughters. PTI

Pak violates ceasefire: Pakistani troops on Monday violated ceasefire by resorting to firing and shelling on forward areas along the LoC in J&K's Rajouri district, a defence spokesman said. There was no report of any casualty on the Indian side. SNS

Nitish highlights NDA govt devp works

During a virtual rally CM reminds party workers about 'lawlessness' during RJD; Opp party hits back at Nitish for focussing too much on Lalu regime

MANOJ CHAURASIA
PATNA, 7 SEPTEMBER

Political situation in Bihar suddenly got surcharged today with chief minister Nitish Kumar delivering one of the lengthiest speeches during his virtual rally and the main Opposition RJD countering his tall claims about "development and good governance" with credible evidence.

Political parties have intensified campaigns in the state even as the country's tally rose to over 4.13 million cases today, thus making India the second-most affected country in the world.

Addressing the rally, the chief minister listed the details of the steps initiated by his government in tackling Covid-19 cases, number of testing currently being conducted and

how his government had made three-tier arrangement for the treatment of Covid-19 patients at the Covid Care Centres, Covid Health Centres and Dedicated Covid Hospitals. He claimed the recovery rate in Bihar has now moved to a significant 88 percent.

At the same time, he gave details about the money he credited to the accounts of over 20.95 lakh migrant workers returning homes after lockdown, ration cardholders, 16 lakh flood victims and also about how more than 14 crores human days have been created under 5,60,245 schemes.

He claimed how the law and order situation had improved in the state, roads had become smooth and education had come on the tracks. However, the chief minister didn't explain what would be his party plan and with what issues he



would go to the voters in the elections.

Instead, he asked his party workers to remind the masses about the "lawlessness" which prevailed during the RJD.

"Logon ko RJD ke kam ko bataiye nahin to fir gadbad ho jayega (please tell the masses about the RJD's misgovernance lest the state could be in trouble)," the chief minister advised the masses.

The main Opposition RJD

mounted heavy attacks on Nitish for focussing too much on Lalu regime during his two-hour-long speech, instead of listing his government's priorities in the coming Assembly polls.

"Nitishji can easily recall the activities during the RJD regime but he doesn't recall what happened during his own regime just one-and-a-half year back. He should have told the masses about Muzaffarpur shelter home sex scandal (involving little girls) and Srijan scam involving fraudulent withdrawals of money from government accounts," Tejaswi asked.

He accused the chief minister of defaming Bihar by calling the 15-year-old RJD regime as "Jungle Raj" and then encouraging the filmmakers to make films to defame the state.

According to him, the chief minister also gave tickets to the filmmakers who showed Bihar in poor lights through his movies in oblique reference to Prakash Jha.

He alleged as many as 58 scandals had taken place during the Nitish Kumar regime in the past 15 years and announced he won't allow the chief minister skip "actual" issues through his virtual rallies.

He wondered why the chief minister now shirk from mentioning his party's repeated demand of granting special category status to Bihar and special financial package to the state.

"Berojgari hatana hai to Nitish Kumar hatana padega (If you want to remove unemployment, you will have to remove Nitish)," Tejaswi asked.

He alleged that Bihar was ravaged by floods and reeling under acute misery with the government having "abdi-

cated its responsibility".

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury demanded that the CBI should conduct an impartial probe into the death of the actor, unmindful of the political implication of the case.

Surjewala claimed Bihar has rampant unemployment with over 4,00,000 unfilled posts, and the people of the state have a dearth of rations. There are no opportunities for the youth, he added. "The entire government machinery lies decimated in shambles in Bihar under the BJP and Nitish babu's rule."

He alleged that Bihar was ravaged by floods and reeling under acute misery with the government having "abdi-

Cong accuses BJP of politicising Sushant's death ahead of polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

The Congress on Monday accused the ruling BJP of politicising the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, terming it a new low in Indian politics.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala condemned the party and said Rajput's death was being politicised to deflect attention from the problems faced by the people in Bihar. "This is a new low in the new India of BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Surjewala.

He alleged that Bihar was ravaged by floods and reeling under acute misery with the government having "abdi-

Show 'maximum flexibility' in executing NEP: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that "maximum flexibility" has to be shown in implementing the new National Education Policy (NEP) and all questions about it have to be addressed, as he asserted that it is not a government's but the country's education policy.

Addressing the 'Governors' Conference on the Role of NEP in Transforming Higher Education', Modi said it is natural for stakeholders to have questions about various aspects of the policy and "we are all working to address all these questions". The view of every stakeholder is being heard with an open mind, he said, adding that most of the questions about the NEP are related to its implementation.

He likened the education policy to defence and foreign

'NEP will take country forward'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

President Ram Nath Kovind today said the new NEP will take the country forward, and prepare the youth for the needs and aspirations of the 21st century.

Addressing a virtual Conference of Governors on NEP, he said the policy embodied national expectations and solutions as it was formulated after an unprecedented and extensive process of consultations across the country.

Congratulating the Prime

policies, saying they belong to the country not government. The education policy is linked to the nation's aspirations, he

Minister for shaping the historical document of 'National Education Policy 2020', the President said the Governors being Chancellors of State Universities had a crucial role to play in the implementation of NEP.

There were some 400 state universities with about 40,000 colleges affiliated to them, hence it was imperative to establish coordination and dialogue with these universities which could be done by Governors who are also the Chancellors, the President said.

added. "We have to collectively address all doubts. The vision of flexibility with which this policy was brought... We will

have to show in a similar way maximum flexibility in implementing it," he told the conference, which was also attended by President Ram Nath Kovind, education ministers from states and union territories and vice chancellors besides governors.

The prime minister urged them to hold virtual conferences before 25 September in universities on the NEP 2020 which, he said, has been widely welcomed, from a village teacher to noted educationists, as it was based on feedback received from across the country.

Highlighting the main features of the policy, first since 1986, he said it attempts to bring all aspects of higher education, be it academic, technical or vocational, out of silos and to cut down on administrative layers while bringing about a better coordination.

India, China hold another round of talks on border stand-off



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar is scheduled to leave for Russia to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers' meet.

On the sidelines of the meet, he is likely to hold talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The border issue will obviously figure prominently during the talks.

Meanwhile, *Global Times*, the mouthpiece of the Communist regime in China, has alleged that the Indian media has played a significant role in the deterioration of Sino-Indian relations.

"Indian media must be reined in if the country (India) truly wants to improve relations with its neighbouring countries" it said.

Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotels Pvt. Ltd.
CIN: U55101DL2001G0112143

Regd Office: SCOPE Complex, Core-4, 5th Floor, 7 Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003

NOTICE is hereby given that the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on Tuesday, the 29th September, 2020 at 1100 hours at Hotel 'The Ashok', Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021 to transact the business as detailed in the Notice which has separately been posted to the members.

NOTICE is also hereby given that pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from 24th September, 2020 to 29th September, 2020 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM and payment of dividend, if any.

For Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotels Pvt. Ltd.
Sd/-
(Manish Kumar)
CS-Incharge

ON A VOYAGE



Tourists set for a cruise on the Chandubi Lake in Kamrup, Assam, on Monday. ■ AFP

SFF Tibetan hero who died while foiling China incursion laid to rest

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
LEH, 7 SEPTEMBER

Subedar Nyima Tenzin sacrificed his life during a pre-emptive operation the Indian Army carried out on the southern bank the Pangong Lake in eastern Ladakh last week

youngsters who said that he was not a hero just to the Tibetans but all of India.

The coffin was draped in both the tricolour and the Tibetan flag. A guard of honour was given and officials from the army and civil administration laid wreaths.

When the last rites were performed, locals started singing the national anthem and Tibetan nationalist songs.

Following the protocol for those killed in action, Indian Army troops folded the two flags and handed them over to Tenzin's wife. Tenzin had 33 years of service in the SFF. He leaves behind his wife and three children.

This is the first time a Tibetan's sacrifice is known to all of India. Tenzin Yangkey, a student, said that they came to the funeral to pay tributes

to a man who sacrificed his life for India.

"We are all proud of him," Yangkey said. During the operation, another junior soldier Tenzin Loden, 24, was critically injured in the same explosion, and is currently undergoing treatment at the military hospital in Ladakh.

The injured Tenzin Loden is from the same settlement. India and China are currently locked in a four-month-long military standoff at the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh. Despite several rounds of dialogue, there has not been any breakthrough and the deadlock continues.

On 15 June, as many as 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese troops were killed in a violent clash in the Galwan Valley. ■ SNS

2 booked for raping, killing young female horse in MP

Bhopal, 7 SEPTEMBER

In a repulsive incident, the police have booked two youths and arrested one of them on the complaint of a woman who accused the two of raping and killing a young female horse in the Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh.

The incident was reported from village Batura under the jurisdiction of Amlai police station in the district. Amlai police station TI Kali Parte said on Monday that the complainant, Nan Bai Vasudev had lodged a formal complaint two days ago against the two accused, Pankaj Vasudev and Loknath Vasudev.

In her complaint, Nan Bai alleged that she saw Loknath committing the shameful act from behind while Pankaj Vasudev was standing in front of the filly holding its neck tightened in a noose.

The complainant further alleged that the filly died after one accused committed the ghastly act and the other accused subsequently strangled the animal to death. "We lodged an FIR on the basis of the woman's complaint. Pankaj has been arrested and a search is on for the absconding Loknath," TI Kali Ram Parte said.

A film maker in Gujarat has threatened to start a Gandhian agitation if action is not taken against the scammers who have illegally siphoned off Rs 4 crore subsidies meant for original Gujarati films.

Through applications under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, film maker Manoj Patel has unearthed the fact that subsidies have been illegally paid for films submitted on pen drives instead of viewing them by competent people in auditoriums.

RTI replies to Manoj, 44, have revealed that the macro level committee constituted to evaluate the Gujarati films for subsidies were packed with people who were themselves claimants for the Government money disbursed to encourage locally made original films.

A petition filed by Patel on the matter has already been admitted in the Gujarat High Court and the next hearing is scheduled on 28 October.

Following complaints of film subsidies meant for original Gujarati films being misused by making poor quality remakes, the state government had made the guidelines very strict in 2016.

Guj filmmaker threatens stir over subsidy scam

AHMEDABAD, 7 SEPTEMBER

A film maker in Gujarat has threatened to start a Gandhian agitation if action is not taken against the scammers who have illegally siphoned off Rs 4 crore subsidies meant for original Gujarati films.

Through applications under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, film maker Manoj Patel has unearthed the fact that subsidies have been illegally paid for films submitted on pen drives instead of viewing them by competent people in auditoriums.

RTI replies to Manoj, 44, have revealed that the macro level committee constituted to evaluate the Gujarati films for subsidies were packed with people who were themselves claimants for the Government money disbursed to encourage locally made original films.

A petition filed by Patel on the matter has already been admitted in the Gujarat High Court and the next hearing is scheduled on 28 October.

Following complaints of film subsidies meant for original Gujarati films being misused by making poor quality remakes, the state government had made the guidelines very strict in 2016.

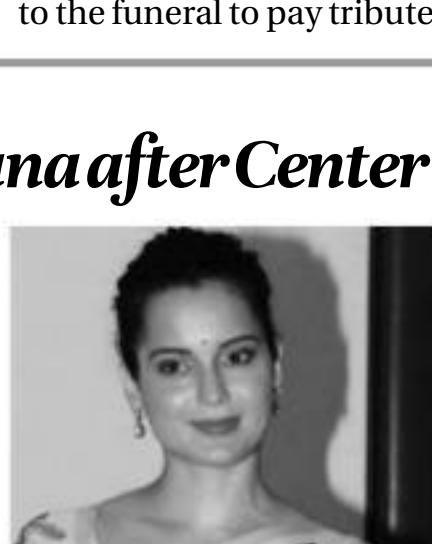
POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Entity)

Registered Office : B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Khetwadi Sarai, New Delhi - 110 016

Corporate Office : Saudamini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 001

Website: www.powergridindia.com, CIN: L40101DL1989G0138121

A Maharatna PSU



No one can crush a patriot: Kangana after Centre allotted Y-plus security

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/SHIMLA,
7 SEPTEMBER

Kangana Ranaut has been given Y-plus category security and will be protected by about 10 armed commandos, the Union Home Ministry said on Monday, prompting the Bollywood actor to thank home minister Amit Shah and declare that no one could crush a patriot.

Of Battles Long Ago...

Donald Trump was over the weekend engaged in a frantic effort to shore up his standing within the military class and its allies in the immediate aftermath of yet another reckless statement that has verily denigrated the fallen heroes of World War I. That recklessness is now manifest barely two months before the presidential election on 3 November. Though the US President has advanced a feeble denial of an ugly truth, he has not exactly rebutted his reference to American soldiers killed in combat during the war (1914-18) as "losers" and "suckers". He has asked, "What animal would say that?" The report in the ***The Atlantic*** by its editor-in-chief, Jeffrey Goldberg, answers the question in a way that makes things awkward for Mr. Trump not the least because he is dependent on the robust support of the military in his re-election bid. The perception, articulated as he goes through the twilight phase of his presidency, has caused a flutter in the roost. The likes of Joe Biden and Nancy Powell must be enjoying a quiet chuckle. To an extent, Mr. Trump had till very recently won the backing of the military through increased spending and pay raises for troops. These have been the pillars of his campaign. At another remove, he has ratcheted down the "endless wars" in Afghanistan and Iraq. Not that all his policies have generally suited the military. He has on occasion clashed with generals by extending clemency to the accused. He has also ordered "active-duty forces" in Washington to crack down on demonstrations. More accurately, he has tried to use the military on perceived internal security duties. Fairly recently, especially after the brutal killing of George Floyd, the President tried to thwart an effort to change the names of army bases named for Confederate generals. Small wonder that the rank and file of the military, the bedrock of America's security worldwide, is deeply upset over his denigration of the "fallen heroes" of the First World War.

Small wonder too that a recent opinion poll, prior to the Democrat and Republican conventions, showed Joe Biden had surpassed Trump with 41 per cent to 37 per cent among active duty troops. The ratio is a stark departure from the military's long-standing support for Republicans. People familiar with the President's impetuous utterances contend that he has almost always scorned those who served in Vietnam as being "too dumb to have gotten out of it". He could even marvel at people choosing military service over making money. Markedly, Mr. Biden has sought to capitalise on the ***Atlantic*** article by debunking the President and saying that he is not fit for the office. The comment on the troops shows "how deeply Trump and I disagree about the role of the President". In the fountain-head of democracy, it will be over to the people as November 2020 unfolds.

Metro travail

The decision to resume the Metro service in Kolkata ~ from north to south ~ from 14 September is reassuring on the face of it. The manner of resumption does not inspire optimism, however. As the lifeline of urban transportation, commuters had been inconvenienced since the last week of March, when Phase One of the nationwide lockdown was announced. Having said that, it must be acknowledged that the Metro is poised to follow a very complex praxis, if the upshot of last Friday's meeting between the Metro authorities and the West Bengal government is any indication. Not to put too fine a point on it, this mode of travel ~ Kolkata's proud boast since 1984 ~ could be rendered inconvenient in the extreme. To begin with, the move to scrap the tokens for travel is seemingly rational considering the spread of the coronavirus contagion. Less easily comprehended, however, is the decision to make the smart card and the e-pass mandatory to enter the platform. In other words, ingress and egress will be driven by technology in a city where a limited percentage of commuters are conversant with the Smartphone and computer ~ essential prerequisites both for the e-pass and the smart card. Small wonder that commuters have by and large resented the fresh modalities. The e-pass is a new embroidery and the majority of commuters are strangers to this. Just as every student doesn't boast a computer for online learning ~ the flavour of the season ~ neither does every commuter claim access to one. The e-pass will be available only through an App or by accessing the Metro website.

But both Nabanna and Metro Bhavan are being presumptuous when they insist that the exact time of the train one wishes to avail must be specified to make the e-pass available. The short point must be that office-goers, in the main, cannot be definite about time of departure from their workplaces, let alone the precise time they will board. The pass will be issued to the commuter depending upon how many people are at that time-slot in the station, on the platform, and inside the rakes. A mode of public transport can scarcely be operated on the premise of conclusion to premise. Introduction of the e-pass calls for more serious reflection than has been manifest thus far.

While the fear that the virus might spread in crowded coaches is dangerously real, yet little or no effort has been initiated to make the coaches safe and secure for travel. It is one thing to delay and advance the timings of the first and last service, even to reduce the frequency of trains, quite another to restrict the number of passengers at the turnstile gate. This is easier contemplated than accomplished. The trains were suffocatingly over-crowded during peak hours. The "new normal" in the season of the pandemic is as unprecedented as it is daunting. Till the end of March, Kolkata's Metro had attracted passengers. Let us wait and see if that is so in September.

The Errant Market

The interest of FPIs in the Indian share market is surprising, because the profitability of Indian corporates is one of the lowest in the world; the combined net profit of BSE 500 companies in 2018-19 was US\$ 63 billion, which is equivalent to 2.31 per cent of India's GDP, as against 6.1 per cent of the US for the top 500 companies

The share market is probably the only component of the economy that has recovered fully from the Covid induced slowdown. To the consternation of Central Banks the world over, the funds released by monetary easing have fuelled a boom in the stock market; stock prices are on the up and up, the US Dow Jones and S&P 500 are nearing all-time highs and European, Chinese and Japanese stock markets are behaving similarly. Our own Nifty is following suit. Almost all economies are staring at recession, but share prices, which should reflect the true value of corporates, are at record high levels.

The BSE Sensex, which had slumped to 25,981 on 23 March 2020 has risen consistently thereafter, and is now touching 39,000 ~ within striking distance of the all-time high of 42,273. The gain in stock prices during the last five months has been about 50 per cent ~ at a time when the Indian economy has contracted significantly, with our GDP falling by 23.9 per cent in the first quarter.

Noting the disconnect between the stock market and the fundamentals of the economy, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI observed: "While markets and fundamentals seldom do a tango, a disconnect between the two carry the risks of disruptive market corrections." The MPC also sounded a warning: "Relatively buoyant global financial markets demonstrate not just a disconnect with underlying economic fundamentals, but also portend financial stability risks, particularly for Emerging Market Economies (of which India is one)."

This is probably for the first time in our history that financial satraps feel concerned about a rising share market. Generally, Finance Ministers and Reserve Bank Governors do their best to prevent the share market from falling. To recapitulate, the tax hikes proposed by Budget 2019, which had led to a continued fall in the Sensex, were reversed within a month. However, the present scenario is entirely different. In addition to a marked recessionary trend, inflation is raising its head and China is acting funny at the border.

It is not difficult to see that easy availability of credit; paucity of productive avenues of investment and speculative tendencies are the cause of rising share prices. After drastically reducing the lending rate, which increased liquidity in the market (and also reduced interest rates on bank deposits), the RBI can only hope for the market to self-correct. The RBI Governor expressed his exasperation at the over-heated stock market, saying: "It (the share market) will certainly witness correction in the future. But when the correction will take

After March 2020, the market share of retail investors in the cash segment (Z group) has increased to 68 per cent, from around 50 per cent. Simultaneously, a 20 per cent fall was seen in new investors in mutual funds. It would appear that retail investors are not looking for long-term investment but are trying to make quick money through speculation in day trading, margin trading and futures and options or risky, low-priced/penny stocks.



place, it is hard to predict."

The behaviour of stock markets has been remarkably similar the world over; till the end of February 2020, share markets generally ignored the pandemic, thereafter markets went downhill, bottoming near 23 March. However, following stimulus from Governments and intervention of central banks, share prices started rising. Credit facilities, government guarantees and lower interest rates, checked the decline in stock prices. The errant behaviour of the share market has market gurus like Warren Buffet, Charlie Munger and Ray Daleo scratching their heads but the ordinary investor is marching resolutely ahead.

An interesting development is the increase in the number of individual investors in the Indian share market; the monthly average investor addition at the Central Depository Services has gone up to 6.5 lakh in the first quarter of this financial year, from a monthly average of 3 lakh for 2019-20, reversing the trend of poor retail participation, since the scam-hit 1990s. The share market is now seeing a new breed of tech savvy online work-from-home (WFH) investors who are aided by sophisticated systems and apps that allow seamless transactions and avoid brokerages and high broker fees.

After March 2020, the market share of retail investors in the cash segment (Z group) has increased to 68 per cent, from around 50 per cent. Simultaneously, a 20 per cent fall was seen in new investors in mutual funds. It would appear that retail investors are

not looking for long-term investment but are trying to make quick money through speculation in day trading, margin trading and futures and options or risky, low-priced/penny stocks.

The role of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), who still dominate in A group (large-cap) shares, in driving up share prices, is also worth mentioning. FPIs have invested huge sums in the Indian markets; aggregate FPI investment, as on 1 September 2020 was Rs 12.91 lakh crore, of which Rs 56,970 crore have come in the current financial year.

The interest of FPIs in the Indian share market is surprising, because the profitability of Indian corporates is one of the lowest in the world; the combined net profit of BSE 500 companies in 2018-19 was US\$ 63 billion, which is equivalent to 2.31 per cent of India's GDP, as against 6.1 per cent of the US for the top 500 companies.

The present scenario is even worse; profits of a sample 1400 listed companies declined by 35 per cent year-over-year in the first quarter of the current financial year.

Initially, FPIs were welcomed by the Government,

which thought that foreign money would provide depth to the share market. Slowly, however, FPIs started to play the market. Given their huge financial clout, all efforts to rein in FPIs have invariably failed, like the attempt to hike taxes on their profits. The unfulfilled challenge before our policy makers is to redirect Foreign Portfolio Investment to more productive avenues because a constant increase in share prices, despite a slowing economy has given a speculative tinge to the share market, which is now diverting domestic resources from productive avenues to share trading.

The probability that prices of some shares fluctuate not for any reason other than a design by deep-pocketed promoters and investors to make money may not be a far-fetched one. For example,

loan defaulters, many of whom are on the radar of law enforcement agencies, assiduously built up a facade of well running businesses which fooled common investors into parting with their hard-earned money, which was then eaten away by unscrupulous promoters and company managements. Around 84,545 fraud cases ~ involving about Rs 1.85 lakh crore ~ reported by scheduled commercial banks and select FIs during 2019-20 and bad loans of around Rs 13 lakh crore, according to the RBI's Financial Stability report, show the extent of skulduggery in the Indian financial market. Perhaps, the boom in share prices of pharmaceutical companies and FMCGs in the wake of the pandemic can be explained but the persistent rise in prices of shares of all description defies logic, although the denizens of Dalal Street dismiss all talk of speculative activities and argue that share prices are rising because of an anticipated V-shaped recovery of the economy.

Upbeat investors are confident of a further fiscal and monetary stimulus by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India and also of continued inflows from FPIs. They hope that the current account surplus would continue, due to lower oil imports, lower gold imports, and reduction in imports from China. The elusive vaccine, if successful, would be an icing on the cake.

Previous instances of meltdown of over-heated share markets suggest that one needs to tread with caution in the highly opaque stock market. Apart from market risks, brokerages are under a cloud after a record number of defaults involving clients' funds in the last three years, that has prompted the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to frame new rules to restrict brokers' access to clients' funds and shares. However, the Investor Protection Funds at both NSE (Rs.594.12 crore) and BSE (Rs.727.59 crore) are highly inadequate given the fact that a single default (of Karvy) amounted to Rs.678 crores. Also, in case of broker defaults, NSE compensates investors to a maximum of Rs.25 lakh, while the BSE pays only up to Rs 15 lakh. A canny investor invests in the stock market not to make a killing, but to earn a steady income. A Cassandra may not be welcome at the time when stock markets are headed to the moon and beyond, still caveat emptor may be the best policy for the present. Charles Henry Dow, the founder of the Dow Jones index and the Wall Street Journal, had said way back in the nineteenth century: "The man who begins to speculate in stocks with the intention of making a fortune usually goes broke, whereas the man who trades with a view of getting good interest on his money sometimes gets rich."

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Stinking callousness

It looks as though waste management, in this country, had come to mean keeping cities clean while other areas are stinking. Whenever garbage piles up in urban centres, there is a great furore, which prompts municipal authorities to remove it. But hardly anyone cares two hoots about where all the city waste ends up unless there occurs a landfill disaster like the one at Meethotamulla in 2017.

Garbage dumps have made lives miserable for tens of thousands of people who happen to live around them, but successive governments have chosen to shift municipal waste to those places. Following the Meethotamulla disaster, the STF was deployed to suppress public protests against the dumping of Colombo's municipal waste at other landfills. Governments and local authorities seem to think that wetlands are there to be filled up with garbage so that they can cover up their failure to address the issue of waste disposal. The Karadiyana landfill is in the news again. It is said to be showing signs of becoming increasingly unstable. Fear is being expressed in environmental circles that it is likely to collapse like the Meethotamulla dump unless remedial measures are adopted urgently. A fire erupted at this waste dump, on Sunday, but fire-fighters succeeded in dousing it before it engulfed the landfill. Sitting adjacent to the Weras Ganga, in an ecologically important and vulnerable area, the Karadiyana landfill receives dozens of truckloads of waste daily from about eight local government areas. It cannot take any more waste. What we are experiencing are the consequences of

The Island

unplanned urbanisation and the incompetence of successive governments. Cities and towns expand with no concern for proper waste disposal among others. Raw municipal waste is dumped in their urban fringes at the expense of wetlands and other such environmentally sensitive areas rich in biodiversity. Garbage has been dumped even in the Muthurajawela wetlands, which must be conserved at any cost. The biggest threat to biodiversity hotspots comes from politicians. A ruling party politician's brother is currently on the run, having destroyed an ecologically sensitive area to build a prawn farm. The police claim they are still looking for him.

The present government, came to power, promising to protect national security. But the police, on its watch, cannot even nab a prawn farm owner on the wrong side of the law! Will they be able to track down an elusive terror group? There was a plan to start a project to convert the Karadiyana waste into energy. It was reported that the project would help maximise energy and minimise environmental impact through the optimisation of the recovery of energy and nutrients in the waste. The people of the area thought a solution had been found, at long last, and looked forward to the implementation of the project only to be disappointed. What has become of this proposed venture, which, we were told, would put an end to the garbage problem at Karadiyana? An answer is called for.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Consolation in the time of pandemic

SIR, My compliments to *The Statesman* for having published Abhik Roy's excellent article, 'Literature and Pandemics' (31 July) that dwells on the role played by literature in making sense of pandemics. Literature regards each individual with compassion and goes deeper than what statistics on historical records can tell us. Literature may not explain away or fight off things such as pandemics, even as modern science sometimes cannot, but it does become a source of consolation, a way of sharing our common humanist concerns, and in its own way, provides the deepest and most insightful record of the events.

Plagues and pandemics that left an indelible mark on the life of Shakespeare ~ he is said to have lost his son to plague ~ mark his plays and poems. In the last scene of *Romeo and Juliet* plague played a very significant role. In response to Friar Lawrence's query, Friar John's statement is unforgettable. *The searchers of the town, Suspecting that we both Were in a house Where the infections Pestilence did reign*



Seal'd up the doors and Would not let us forth. (Act V scene II)

The spread of Covid-19 across the world reminds us of the 1918 Spanish flu which claimed an estimated 12-17 million lives in India and between 50 million and 100 million globally, a moving account of this killer flu is found in Ahmed Ali's novel, *Twilight in Delhi*. The Delhi-born author, who later migrated to Pakistan, narrates how shroud thieves removed sheets from the graves and how grave diggers raised their fees four-fold during the pandemic. "They did not bother to see that the grave was properly dug or deep enough or not. They had so many more to dig," Ali wrote.

Plague and smallpox took an incredible toll of human life in medieval Europe. The noted Hindi writer Mridula Garg opines that writers all over the world constantly wrote about the

havoc outbreaks caused. But she believes that the emergence of a new breed of pandemics is linked to human behaviour. "They are the result of the destruction of forests, closer contact with wild animals, consumption of newer breeds of animals as food and consequent lowering of the biological barrier that kept the viruses prevalent in animals from affecting humans. We writers are concerned about this phenomenon and some works should emerge from it", she says.

Albert Camus's novel, *The Plague* earned him the Nobel Prize in 1957. Camus once defined the novel as a place where human beings are abandoned to other human beings. This is, unlike other apocalyptic fiction where the enemy ~ be it aliens or earthquakes ~ unites a fragmented human race thereby reassuring readers, the very existence of mankind is threatened by pandemics. In Camus's novel, "The Plague" the epidemic-stricken city of Oran realizes the value of human contact.

Yours, etc., Narayan Chandra Ghosh, Nadia, 4 September.

MR TRUMP'S RACIST TONGUE

SIR, Thank you for the two recent editorials 'Mr Trump's Military' and 'International Tragedy'. President Trump ought to hold his racist tongue and refrain from calling in the military to quell the housebreaking, arson and plunder committed in several cities of the United States. What he proposed to do was unprecedented and bizarre. It is fortunate that the Pentagon was left with sanity enough to differ from his proposal and declined to put his thought into action. What was done to George Floyd was inhuman, monstrous and barbaric. The reaction to his gruesome murder was spontaneous, massive and not quite unexpected. The mindset of the white in the States has not changed since the day Abraham Lincoln had made his historic Proclamation of Emancipation more than 150 years ago. That mindset still takes the black for an inferior race, almost sub-human, to be treated with contempt much as the protagonists of the apartheid used to do in South Africa.

What causes worry is that that mindset is at work in several parts of this country, albeit in a subtle and subdued form. It repels humans simply for the pigment of their skin and particular physical features. Hate, ridicule and insult are often directed against visiting students, teachers and workmen from Kenya, Congo, Nigeria, Sudan and Ghana accompanied by denial of accommodation, amenities and civil treatment. Precisely for the same reason people from Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland are subjected to discrimination, ridicule, insult and even physical violence at educational institutions, work places, business centres, places of entertainment and sports complex. Recently, nurses from the North-East have been subjected to whispering insults and insinuations at hospitals while caring for patients infected with Covid-19 virus only because they possess Mongoloid features and a different pigment of the skin. That causes deep and abiding wounds and sows the grapes of wrath. This must end. We need an indictment of our own people.

Yours, etc., Sunrit Deb, Kolkata.

HARSHA KAKAR

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar stated last week that diplomacy is the only means to resolve the current Indo-China stalemate. Jaishankar and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi are scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the SCO foreign ministers' summit in Moscow this week. The Indian foreign secretary, Harsh Shringla, speaking at a seminar in Delhi stated, "It is a fact that it cannot be business as usual. Unless there is peace and tranquillity on our borders, normal bilateral relations will be affected." He added, "we as a responsible nation are always willing to talk and engage."

On the other hand, the Indian army perception is that only projecting a strong resolve and countering Chinese offensive actions would compel them to the negotiating table. It was in this context that the CDS announced military options being on the table in case diplomacy fails.

As part of its military options, the army launched a series of pre-emptive operations along the LAC and occupied vacant dominating features, placing Chinese defences and movement into the Chushul valley under observation and domination. These features have been occupied by strong and resolute forces, prepared for defensive operations, equipped to withstand multiple assaults, supported by artillery and armour. Chinese attempting to come close to Indian positions were warned to maintain a distance.

The only way by which China can seek to reverse the situation, other than talks, is by launching an offensive, for which Indian forces are prepared. After this pre-emptive move, demands for talks from China have suddenly increased. Till recently, Indian requests were ignored or delayed on flimsy grounds. Multiple rounds of Brigadier level talks have since been held, on Chinese request, but without any conclusion as India refuses to relent.

With defence ministers of both nations in Moscow for a SCO conference, China put forth its third request for a meeting. The two defence ministers met and discussed the current scenario. The latest Chinese request came after the army's pre-emptive operations. For China, the intention

Diplomats must not give away Army's gains again

was to convey strong objections of the Chinese leadership to Indian actions. The meeting remained inconclusive and set the tone for discussion between the two foreign ministers.

The Chinese foreign ministry in its press statement, after the meeting, stated, "The truth and cause of the current tension on the border between India and China are clear, and the responsibility lies entirely with India. China's territory cannot be lost, and the Chinese military is fully determined, capable and confident to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The Indian statement read, "The actions of Chinese troops, including amassing large numbers, their aggressive behaviour and attempts to unilaterally alter status quo were in violation of bilateral agreements. Indian troops had always taken a very responsible approach towards border management but there should be no doubt about our determination to protect India's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Each side has blamed the other for the impasse along the LAC. The fact that the Chinese are increasingly calling for talks suggests that the Indian pre-emptive action has unnerved them, and they have no response except to escalate. India is unwilling to budge from its current positions but willing for talks to resolve the standoff. The scenario has reversed. China, which was confident of having pushed India on the defensive and sought to further enhance pressure is now on the defensive, struggling to find answers. The question which arises is what could be the next step, especially as China has thus far refused to adhere to accepted agreements and created a trust deficit?

Chinese attempts to redraw its claim lines and alter status quo to the existing LAC is unacceptable to India. Indian insistence that deployment pre-April 2020 be restored, and addi-



tional forces withdrawn, is unacceptable to China. Existing rules state that in case of disengagement, the nation which entered first withdraws first. This may be unacceptable to both. In an environment of intense distrust, it is unlikely that even foreign minister parleys may determine a meaningful breakthrough, though Jaishankar would be talking from a position of strength as India holds the dominating heights. For both nations, accepting the other's viewpoint is difficult, also due to national prestige.

If the Chinese withdraw to their April positions, then it would signal a loss of face. It would be presumed that they were compelled to act due to Indian pre-emptive actions. It would damage the global reputation of the PLA, something China is wary of. If India accepts the Chinese stand, then it would damage its international

standing. If the PLA remains in place, then any future forward movement could be hindered by Indian forces. Their main camp at Moldo remains under Indian observation. If they attempt to launch an offensive to dislodge Indian forces, their losses may be beyond their capability to hide as an assault in such terrain is disastrous in casualties to assaulting forces.

For India, agreeing to be the first to withdraw would imply trusting the Chinese to follow suit, which may not happen. It has witnessed Chinese refusals after multiple Lt. General-level meetings and hence does not trust China. Further, if it withdraws, it is uncertain of China occupying the same heights at a later time, adding to costs for Indian forces in the region. In such a case, India may never be able to regain these positions.

In Sikkim, China occupied Jelep La, after India vacated it in 1965, post Indo-China diplomatic talks and continues to retain it. Hence, it would prefer to hold its current deployment for a prolonged duration.

The only possible resolution in a situation of distrust is that forces maintain their current deployment while discussions to resolve the current LAC in Ladakh progress. India needs to be resolute when it seeks a diplomatic solution to a military crisis. It has always lost military advantage in diplomatic discussions, despite gaining on the battlefield. Tashkent and Shimla are examples. Diplomats must be on guard and not rush for quick solutions, especially when the cards are in our favour.

The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.

Will Trumpism go with Trump?

MALEEHAA LODHI

An important debate underway in the US and beyond is whether Donald Trump's defeat in the upcoming election will also spell an end to Trumpism. Some cast the election as a referendum on Trumpism. What constitutes Trumpism is itself at issue in this conversation.

With the presidential election less than two months away the Democratic contender Joe Biden is leading in the polls. Just as one day is a long time in politics, 60 days are even more so for an election whose outcome remains wide open. Despite the uncertainty, discussion has intensified about the implications if Trump fails to be re-elected.

Views differ about what Trumpism stands for even though there is general agreement that it doesn't represent any coherent ideology. It is too wrapped up with an egotistical and demagogic personality to be regarded as an intelligible or consistent set of ideas. Nevertheless, Trumpism has come to be identified with a syndrome of characteristics and attitudes, some of which have long been present in American society, that Trump did not create but are embodied in him.

In the debate Trumpism has variously been described as 'right-wing nationalist, anti-establishment populism', an 'amalgam of a narrative of Trump's business career and articulation of right-wing populist rhetoric mixed with previously fringe conservative philosophies', a form of 'plutocratic populism' and a zero-sum view of politics and the world'.

Consideration of four interrelated aspects from the cluster usually associated with Trumpism would enable an assessment of whether these will fade away with his defeat or survive beyond the election. They are: author-



itarian right-wing populism, anti-establishment outlook, thinly veiled racism infused with white supremacist notions, a xenophobic, anti-immigration stance, and a unilateralist America-First paradigm of dealing with the world. The point about these strands of thinking is that they didn't emerge with Trump but were manipulated and mainstreamed by him — and magnified. The question is will they vanish that quickly?

If we consider right-wing populism, it appears that while Trump's defeat will be a setback to the phenomenon it will hardly end its appeal in the US or elsewhere in the world witnessing similar populist movements. In America it has deeper roots than Trump's revival of ideas associated with it, previously found mainly in fringe thinking. Its invocation by Trump has partly been a reaction to America's relative global decline and erosion of its economically predominant position. 'Making America Great Again,' Trump's slogan in the last election, aimed to address a 'weakness' he attributed to Obama and his policies

rather than to changing structural realities in the US and global and domestic shifts in economic and political power.

The rise of Trumpian populism is also often regarded as reflecting public alienation with traditional political parties and the establishment for their inability to meet expectations especially in times of disruption caused by the uneven impact of 'elitist' globalisation. It seems that the underlying factors that fostered Trump's political rise are not going to easily fade away as they now inform attitudes of significant sections of American society.

What about anti-establishment sentiment which Trump has also mobilised? Again, there are reasons for the emergence of popular disaffection in recent decades as manifested in eroding trust in public institutions, which Trump has played off and fuelled by his portrayal of the deep state's anti-people conduct. Having sought to delegitimise public institutions, can that trend be reversed if Trump loses? Probably not in the near

term, while the longer-term outlook will depend on what the next president does to revive this trust. As examples from elsewhere show, once institutions are undermined it takes a long time and much effort to restore confidence.

As for the racial component of Trumpism this has long been a troubling though enduring aspect of America's social landscape, with racism a systemic problem. The centrist policies pursued by both political parties in recent decades prevented racism from rearing its head. But with Trump appropriating and acceding respectability to white supremacist ideas a resurgence of racism occurred — evidenced in the most serious civil unrest that recently swept the country in over half a century. Again, Trump fed off and fed into the unease among a section of white society who felt that minority numbers were rising so fast as to eventually swamp them. The Trumpian slogan in the previous election of 'Taking our country back' was an unsubtle way of conveying this — taking it back from minorities who ostensibly 'seized' it in

the Obama era.

If Trump loses, a President Biden will certainly try to play a healing role, as he has repeatedly affirmed, and seek to unify the country after the polarising and divisive Trump years. But race will continue to be a complicated issue in a country where racism remains deep seated, especially when a racist minority has amplified its voice in national affairs.

Trumpism, like right-wing populism elsewhere in the world, is strongly influenced by xenophobia and a visceral anti-immigration stance — illustrated by Trump's desire to build a wall along the Mexican border to shut out 'illegal' migrants. Its xenophobic and Islamophobic attitude is also exemplified by Trump's infamous 'Muslim travel ban', which suspended travel from several Muslim countries. One of Biden's campaign statements was that he would end this ban on his first day in office. But little change can be expected in America's tighter immigration policies as this remains a politically charged issue, even if polls show a majority of Americans believe migrants make positive contributions to their economy. On engaging with the world, a Trump defeat would likely mean a departure from extreme unilateralism as a Democratic president would return to multilateralism, rejoin global bodies, restore partnerships and repair ties with allies.

Washington would arguably start dealing with the world with some respect. Perhaps on this Trumpism would see the most significant reversal.

But of the domestic trends evaluated above, only some and not all, will likely wane if Trump loses. A decisive defeat and bold actions by his successor may set back some ideas of right-wing populism but they would not disappear. It remains an open question whether America has been transformed — and deeply divided — by Trumpism in ways that will endure much beyond the election.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28067

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The maxim that we must "think Imperially" is now broadened into the principle that we must think internationally. In order to help people to do so, a British Institute of International Affairs has been founded in London. At the inaugural meeting of this new body Viscount Grey delivered a speech in which he laid stress on an important point in international politics - that there must be no secret treaties in peace time. Lord Grey himself has been a party to some secret treaties, but these were in war time when secrecy may be imperative and Government cannot act as free agents. In times of peace Lord Grey suggested that the avoidance of secret treaties should be regarded as a rule of foreign policy. It must be so regarded according to the Covenant of the League of Nations, which gives effect to the principle advocated by President Wilson. The Covenant lays down in its 18th article that every treaty or international engagement must be registered with the Secretariat of the League and published as soon as possible; and that no such treaty or engagement shall be binding until so registered. By article 20 the members of the League undertake not to enter into any engagements inconsistent with the terms of the Covenant. Thus the rule of foreign policy advocated by Lord Grey is already in existence for all States which are members of the League, and it will certainly be upheld by public opinion.

NEWS ITEMS

THE PAPER SHORTAGE

The paper market in Sweden is still very unsettled. Recently the Paper Manufacturers' Association held a meeting at which it was decided to raise further the prices of writing and printing paper on account of the ruling high price for wood pulp. As big contracts in the latter article are reported to have been made at exorbitant charges so far ahead as the summer of 1921, it is hardly possible that paper prices will recede. The situation has been the subject of official investigations, with the result that the paper mills will be permitted to raise their prices for paper to the Swedish newspapers to 5d. a pound on the understanding that the supply is limited to 10,000 lbs. a year. For any further quantity higher prices are to be charged.

TIMBER PRODUCTION

The British Empire Timber Exhibition was opened this afternoon in London by Prince Arthur of Connaught. A most representative collection of timbers is displayed. The Prince, in the course of his speech, referred briefly to his impending departure for South Africa, where he said he would do his utmost to foster and encourage afforestation. He urged that every Dominion required a far-sighted policy of forest conservation. The experience of the war had taught how large a part timber played in the equipment and movement of armies, and the danger of dependence on foreign sources. He pointed out that in 1913, ninety per cent of their timber came from abroad. He welcomed members of the Empire Forestry Conference, which was meeting simultaneously with the Exhibition. The Conference would discuss the responsibility of the State for timber production.

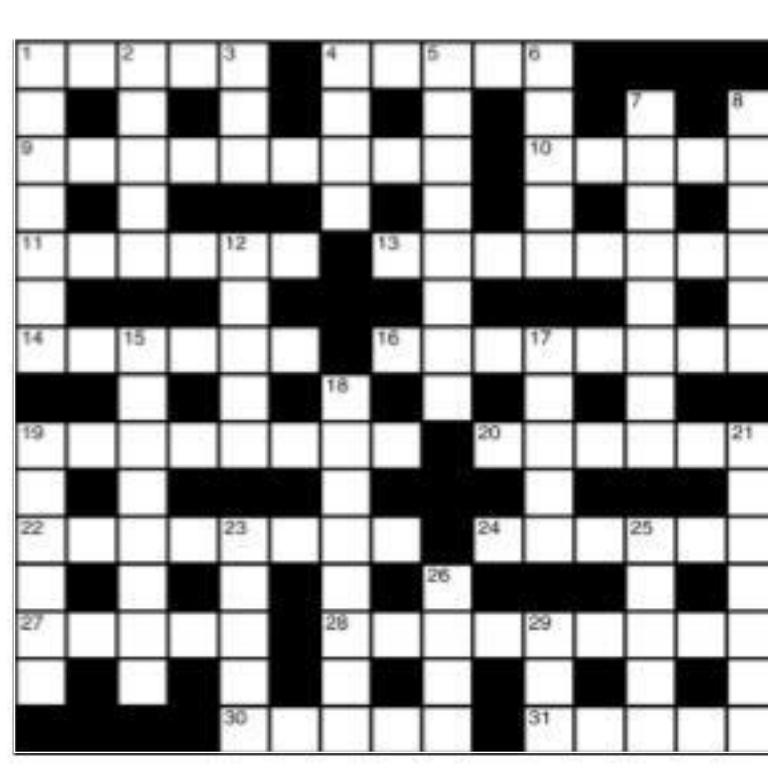
BRITISH RAILWAY POLICY

The new railway policy, for which Sir Eric Geddes has secured the sanction of the Cabinet, embraces the following main points:- Nationalisation is definitely ruled out, the State is to withdraw its financial guarantee, the existing companies are to retain the management of the railways, with the Ministry of Transport exercising a general supervision in the interests of the community, the country is to be divided into zones, with a joint committee for each, to increase the efficiency of cross-country services, Ports are to be provided with railway facilities without reference to the interest of one company or another. Under the scheme the Ministry of Transport will still exercise considerable measure of control. Its main functions will be to ensure that the trade requirements of the country are satisfied.

INDIAN SUGAR COMMITTEE

The Indian Sugar Committee have arrived in Madras after a successful tour in Java. Arrangements for the tour were placed by the Government of the Netherlands East Indies in the hands of the board of the general syndicate of the sugar producers of Java. The Committee visited various factories, and throughout their stay in Java they were received with the utmost cordiality and kindness, and given every facility for obtaining as complete an insight into all the problems of sugar in Java as time at their disposal permitted. The Committee expect to reach Simla about the 19th, after visiting Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Nagpur and Bareilly.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

1	Reportedly remained sober (5)
4	Copper's covering evidence (5)
9	Time to greet prince going with crusader? (9)
10	Trouble with one consuming old mayonnaise (5)
11	Slow-witted Hobbits regularly ignored exercise (6)
13	Society priest maybe pursuing Esther? (4,4)
14	Old chess player dumps Charlie for Rod (6)
16	Aerobic exercises incorporating Latin dance movement (8)
19	Old children's programme's in top 100 (8)
20	Plant working for china maker (6)
22	A police department charges colonists getting drugs (8)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)

ACROSS

- 1 Reportedly remained sober (5)
- 4 Copper's covering evidence (5)
- 9 Time to greet prince going with crusader? (9)
- 10 Trouble with one consuming old mayonnaise (5)
- 11 Slow-witted Hobbits regularly ignored exercise (6)
- 13 Society priest maybe pursuing Esther? (4,4)
- 14 Old chess player dumps Charlie for Rod (6)
- 16 Aerobic exercises incorporating Latin dance movement (8)
- 19 Old children's programme's in top 100 (8)
- 20 Plant working for china maker (6)
- 22 A police department charges colonists getting drugs (8)

DOWN

- 24 Graphical device left out for craftsman (6)
- 27 In a frenzy over including recipe for curry (5)
- 28 Fussy individuals endlessly admitting faults is healthy (9)
- 30 State is firmly put in place (5)
- 31 Rough earth found in section of crop yield (5)
- 1 Cut leave dropping week (4-3)
- 2 Advanced group for skilful person, ... (5)
- 3 ... one repeatedly coming back from Canadian adventures (3)
- 4 Dog handler's first old expression of disgust (4)
- 5 Voluntary work supported by revolutionary Latino (8)
- 6 After change of heart

- 7 Pat's logo designed for sports fixture (8)
- 8 The Spanish and British propose to return gardening tool (6)
- 12 Saturate too much (5)
- 15 Railway workers put horse in empty sidings (8)
- 17 One that may charge money (5)
- 18 Who nosed about in US social events (8)
- 19 Follows lines in recordings (6)
- 21 Where to find tender borders of rosemary (7)
- 23 Press graduate probing company making a comeback (5)
- 25 Men in Romania taking part in summit (5)
- 26 Escape with roll of cloth (4)
- 29 Spike's a penniless western gunfighter (5)



Monthly investment volume in SIP has risen by 143 per cent on our platform in 2019-20

VARUN SRIDHAR
PAYTM MONEY CEO

THUMBNAILS

Happiest Minds IPO: The initial public offer of IT services firm Happiest Minds Technologies was subscribed 2.87 times on the first day of bidding on Monday. The IPO received bids for 6,67,09,800 shares against total issue size of 2,32,59,550 shares, according to data available with the NSE.

PTI

L&T construction: L&T's Power Transmission & Distribution Business has won a package to establish transmission lines and substations associated with a major infrastructure project in Telangana, according to a Press release.

SNS

POWER GLOBAL: POWER GLOBAL, a public benefit corporation, with headquarters in California, announced there foray into Indian market to expedite the transition to electric vehicles in India, said the Press release.

SNS

RBI OMO: The RBI will conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under the open market operation (OMO) for Rs 10,000 crore each on 10 September, the central bank said on Monday.

PTI

'Current crisis requires more active & thoughtful govt'

Bureaucracy should come out of complacency and take meaningful action, says Raghuram Rajan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

The 23.9 per cent fall in the economic growth in June quarter is alarming, former Reserve Bank Governor Raghuram Rajan has said, adding bureaucracy should come out of complacency and take meaningful action.

The current crisis requires a more thoughtful and active government, he said, adding unfortunately, after an initial burst of activity, it seems to have retreated into a shell.

"The sharp decline in economic growth should alarm us all. The 23.9 per cent contraction in India (and the numbers will probably be worse when we get estimates of the damage in the informal sector) compares with a drop of 12.4 per cent in Italy and 9.5 per cent in the United States, two of the most Covid-19-affected advanced countries," Rajan wrote in a post on his LinkedIn page.

He further said the bureaucracy needs to be frightened out of their complacency and into

meaningful activity.

Government will have to expand the resource envelope in every way possible, and spend as cleverly as possible. It also has to take every action that can move the economy forward without additional spending. All this requires a more thoughtful and active government. Unfortunately, after an initial burst of activity, it seems to have retreated into a shell.

RAGHURAM RAJAN
FORMER RBI GOVERNOR

Rajan, currently a professor at the University of Chicago, said the Covid-19 pandemic is still raging in India, so discretionary spending, especially on high-contact services like restaurants, and the associated employment, will stay low until the virus is contained.

The eminent economist pointed out that the government's reluctance to do more today seems partly because it wants to conserve resources for a possible future stimulus. "This strategy is self-defeat-

ing," he opined. Emphasising on the importance of government relief or support in the current scenario, Rajan said: "Without relief measures, the growth potential of the economy will be seriously damaged."

He

said Brazil, which has spent tremendously on relief, is seeing a much lower down-grade to medium term growth than India. "So, government officials who hold out the possibility of a stimulus when India finally contains the virus are underestimating the damage from a more shrunken and

scarred economy at that point," Rajan noted.

Citing an example, Rajan said if one thinks of the economy as a patient, relief is the sustenance the patient needs while on the sickbed and fighting the disease.

"Without relief, households skip meals, pull their children out of school and send them to work or beg, pledge their gold to borrow, let EMIs and rent arrears pile up. Essentially, the patient atrophies, so by the time the disease is contained, the patient has become a shell of herself," he noted.

The former RBI Governor fur-

ther said if one thinks of economic stimulus as a tonic, "when the disease is vanquished, it (stimulus) can help the patient get out of her sickbed faster. But if the patient has atrophied, stimulus will have little effect."

Rajan stressed that the recent pick-up in sectors like

auto is not evidence of the much awaited V-shaped recovery. "It reflects pent-up demand, which will fade as we go down to the true level of demand in the damaged, partially-functioning economy," he noted.

Rajan pointed out that because of the pre-pandemic growth slowdown and the government's strained fiscal condition, officials believe it cannot spend on both relief and stimulus.

"This mindset is too pessimistic, but the government will have to expand the resource envelope in every way possible, and spend as cleverly as possible," he said, adding it also has to take every action that can move the economy forward without additional spending.

All this requires a more thoughtful and active government. Unfortunately, after an initial burst of activity, it seems to have retreated into a shell," the former RBI Governor added.

Noting that India needs strong growth, not just to satisfy the aspirations of the country's youth but to keep its unfriendly neighbours at bay, Rajan said temporary half-baked reforms, such as the recent suspension of labour protection laws in a number of states, will do little to enthuse industry or workers, and give reforms a bad name.

Rupee falls 21 paise vs US dollar; stock indices snap losing streak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 7 SEPTEMBER

The rupee slid 21 paise to settle at 73.35 against the US dollar today, tracking subdued equities and stronger greenback against its key rival currencies. At the interbank forex market, the Indian unit opened at 73.17 and lost further ground as the trade pro-

gressed. Meanwhile, stock markets broke their two-session losing run to end with slim gains today as investors made a cautious return to equities amid mixed global cues. A depreciating rupee and concerns over economic recovery contributed to the risk-off sentiment, traders said.

After fluctuating between mild gains and losses during the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally settled 60.05 points or 0.16 per cent higher at 38,417.23 points.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty advanced 21.20 points or 0.19 per cent to close at 11,355.05 points.

HUL was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 1.77 per cent, followed by TCS, ITC and Asian Paints. On the other hand, M&M, Bajaj Finance, NTPC and UltraTech Cement were among the major laggards.

RBI specifies parameters for loan restructuring

MUMBAI, 7 SEPTEMBER

start-ups stabilise. "The SVEP focuses on providing self-employment opportunities with financial assistance and training in business management and soft skills while creating local community cadres for promotion of enterprises," a ministry statement said. SVEP works through what it terms the "three major pillars of rural start-ups" - finances, incubation and skill ecosystems. The focus is to use local resources for local development.

Towards this, around 2,000 trained cadre of Community Resource Person-Employee Promotion (CRP-EP) guide rural entrepreneurs. They support 100,000 rural businesses, both individual and group start-ups. The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India in Ahmedabad provides technical support.

A mid-term review of SVEP from the Quality Council of India a year ago showed about 82 per cent of the sampled village entrepreneurs came from disadvantaged sections. Seventy-five per cent of the enterprises were owned and managed by women.

The SVEP helps villagers start small-scale enterprises and provides support until the

The RBI today specified five financial ratios and sector-specific thresholds for resolution of Covid-19-related stressed assets in 26 sectors, including auto components, aviation and tourism. It had on 7 August announced the constitution of a panel under the chairmanship of veteran banker K V Kamath to make recommendations on the required financial parameters to be factored in under the "resolution framework for Covid19-related stress" along with sector specific benchmark ranges.

The circular issued by the RBI for resolution of the stressed assets is based on the recommendations of the KV Kamath committee.

"The recommendations of the committee have been broadly accepted by the Reserve Bank," it said.

Voda Idea for tariff hike, unveils new identity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

Struggling telecom operator Vodafone Idea today said that the Supreme Court giving 10 years to telcos to clear past dues is eventually a good outcome, but stressed that mobile tariffs need to be raised to give sustainability and returns to companies.

At a virtual briefing today, Ravinder Takkar, MD and CEO, Vodafone Idea Limited, said the company, in the past, had not shied from raising tariffs, which are under forbearance but insisted that the regulator and the government should take a call on fixing a minimum floor price.

Last week, VIL board approved fund-raising plans of up to Rs 25,000 crore through a combination of equity and debt instruments, to keep the company afloat.

The upcoming fund-raising will offer a lifeline to cash-strapped VIL, which has suffered massive losses, has been losing

Rural biz takes off with 1 lakh entrepreneurs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 7 SEPTEMBER

WOMEN POWER

► Rural women entrepreneurs in 29 states produced around 23.07 crore face masks, 1.02 lakh litres of hand wash and

over 4.79 lakh litres of sanitiser, in an estimated business turnover of Rs 903 crore.

► Face masks produced in villages in the past four months generated Rs 357 crore

through government procurement.

► While most businesses in the country took a hit and people lost jobs and incomes, these enterprising rural women made an estimated additional income of around Rs 29,000 each.

caterpillar poverty - a key element to reversing migration to big cities and widening national development, thereby improving quality of both rural and urban life. SVEP women came to the fore across India during the Covid-19 pandemic. Turning a crisis into an opportunity, they made face masks, protective gear, kits, sanitisers and hand wash. As of 14 August 2020, around 318,413 members are involved in the manufacturing of face masks, protective kits and sanitising products," the rural development ministry stated.

Rural women entrepreneurs in 29 states produced around 23.07 crore face masks, 1.02 lakh litres of hand wash and

4.79 lakh litres of sanitiser, in an estimated business turnover of Rs 903 crore. Face masks produced in villages in the past four months generated Rs 357 crore through government procurement.

While most businesses in the country took a hit and people lost jobs and incomes, these enterprising rural women made an estimated additional income of around Rs 29,000 each.

Some of the women were involved in running community kitchens and serving cooked meals to over 5.72 crore vulnerable people.

The SVEP helps villagers start small-scale enterprises and provides support until the

ministry of rural development and skill development ministry.

The ministry has also kept world-class shopping facilities (Multi-Brand Retails and F&B) for passenger delight.

To address the concerns of parking, the development work of multi-level car parking is also progressing at Patna airport.

In order to cater to the rising passenger traffic at the Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport, Patna, the work for the modernisation of the airport is underway with a project cost of Rs 1216.90 crore.

The airport is one of India's fastest-growing in terms of annual passenger growth in the last five years with the existing terminal handling almost 4.5 million passengers per annum.

The ambitious project for modernisation of Patna airport scheduled to get completed by March 2023 includes con-

struction of a New Integrated Terminal Building with state-of-the-art facilities, cargo complex, multi-level car parking, air traffic control cum technical building, airport fire station, new apron with 14 aircraft parking bays.

After the modernisation, the annual handling capacity of the airport will be increased to 8 million passengers per annum

with a total area of 7,00,000 sq ft having separate departure (upper) and arrival (lower) levels with departure level connected via a flyover to the airport entry gate and via a link bridge to the multi-level car parking. The upcoming new integrated terminal building will be 4-star GRIHA rated energy-efficient building equipped with 52 check-in

counters, in-line baggage handling system, five conveyor belts for arriving passengers, well connected with lifts and escalators, centrally air-conditioned, five aerobridges and

Interiors depicting the art and culture of Bihar. Provision of commercial space of 62000 sq ft has also been kept for world-class shopping facilities (Multi-Brand Retails and F&B) for passenger delight.

As part of its expansion plans, Cashaa is set to launch its neo-bank for India. With this, it hopes to pave the way for a crypto-friendly banking system for the country where services will be regulated under the Reserve

Bank of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Cashaa CEO & founder Kumar Gaurav said, "India has tremendous potential in its fintech sector. Hence, we have been actively working on developing products, working on our infrastructure and recruitments to power our entry into the Indian market. Apart from India, we will also tap into the African and Caribbean market."

Cashaa, a blockchain investment and advisory firm, raised \$5 million from a Dubai-based Olex. Cashaa is a crypto-friendly neo-bank based in London.

As part of its expansion plans, Cashaa is set to launch its neo-bank for India. With this, it hopes to pave the way for a crypto-friendly banking system for the country where services will be regulated under the Reserve

Bank of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar Gaurav said, "India has tremendous potential in its fintech sector. Hence, we have been actively working on developing products, working on our infrastructure and recruitments to power our entry into the Indian market. Apart from India, we will also tap into the African and Caribbean market."

Cashaa, a blockchain investment and advisory firm, raised \$5 million from a Dubai-based Olex. Cashaa is a crypto-friendly neo-bank based in London.

As part of its expansion plans, Cashaa is set to launch its neo-bank for India. With this, it hopes to pave the way for a crypto-friendly banking system for the country where services will be regulated under the Reserve

Bank of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar Gaurav said, "India has tremendous potential in its fintech sector. Hence, we have been actively working on developing products, working on our infrastructure and recruitments to power our entry into the Indian market. Apart from India, we will also tap into the African and Caribbean market."

Cashaa, a blockchain investment and advisory firm, raised \$5 million from a Dubai-based Olex. Cashaa is a crypto-friendly neo-bank based in London.

As part of its expansion plans, Cashaa is set to launch its neo-bank for India. With this, it hopes to pave the way for a crypto-friendly banking system for the country where services will be regulated under the Reserve

Bank of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar Gaurav said, "India has tremendous potential in its fintech sector. Hence, we have been actively working on developing products, working on our infrastructure and recruitments to power our entry into the Indian market. Apart from India, we will also tap into the African and Caribbean market."

Cashaa, a blockchain investment and advisory firm, raised \$5 million from a Dubai-based Olex. Cashaa is a crypto-friendly neo-bank based in London.

As part of its expansion plans, Cashaa is set to launch its neo-bank for India. With this, it hopes to pave the way for a crypto-friendly banking system for the country where services will be regulated under the Reserve

Bank of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar Gaurav said, "India has tremendous potential in its fintech sector. Hence, we have been actively working on developing products, working on our infrastructure and recruitments to power our entry into the Indian market. Apart from India, we will also tap into the African and Caribbean market."

Cashaa, a blockchain investment and advisory firm, raised \$5 million from a Dubai-based Olex. Cashaa is a crypto-friendly neo-bank based in London.

As part of its expansion plans, Cashaa is set to launch its neo-bank for India. With this, it hopes to pave the way for a crypto-friendly banking system for the country where services will be regulated under the Reserve

Bank of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar Gaurav said, "India has tremendous potential in its fintech sector. Hence, we have been actively working on developing products, working on our infrastructure and recruitments to power our entry into the Indian market. Apart from India, we will also tap into the African and Caribbean market."

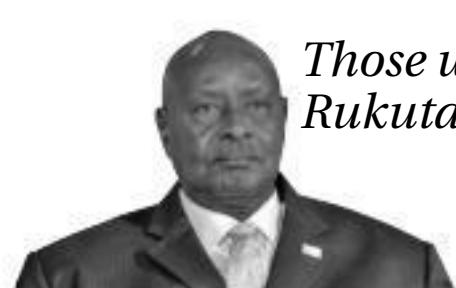
Cashaa, a blockchain investment and advisory firm, raised \$5 million from a Dubai-based Olex. Cashaa is a crypto-friendly neo-bank based in London.

As part of its expansion plans, Cashaa is set to launch its neo-bank for India. With this, it hopes to pave the way for a crypto-friendly banking system for the country where services will be regulated under the Reserve

Bank of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar Gaurav said, "India has tremendous potential in its fintech sector. Hence, we have been actively working on developing products, working on our infrastructure and recruitments to power our entry into the Indian market. Apart from India, we will also tap into the African and Caribbean market."

Cashaa, a blockchain investment and advisory firm, raised \$5 million from a Dubai-based Olex. Cashaa is



*Those who beat people... are all in jail or on the run.
Rukutana is in jail and will be prosecuted.*

UGANDAN PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVENI
CONDENMING THE INVOLVEMENT OF A MINISTER DETAINED IN THE ELECTION VIOLENCE

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 2020

Belarus activist goes missing, colleagues fear detention

Maria Kolesnikova was a member of the council created to facilitate talks on a transition of power

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV, 7 SEPTEMBER

A leading opposition activist and several other members of an opposition council in Belarus went missing Monday and their colleagues feared they were detained as part of the authorities' efforts to squelch nearly a month of protests against the re-election of the country's authoritarian leader.

Maria Kolesnikova (photo), a member of the Coordination Council created by the opposition to facilitate talks with President Alexander Lukashenko on a transition of power, was reportedly put on a minibus in the capital, Minsk, and driven away by unidentified people.

Her disappearance follows a massive rally Sunday that drew an estimated 100,000 protesters pushing for the resig-



nation of Lukashenko, who extended his 26-year rule in the Aug. 9 election that the opposition sees as rigged.

A council member, Maxim Znak, said Kolesnikova's colleagues fear she was detained. Two other members of the council also couldn't be reached on Monday, according to Znak.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius tweeted that Kolesnikova's disappearance is part of the Belarusian authorities' effort to cyn-

ically eliminate one by one and called for her immediate release.

The Belarusian Interior Ministry said it hasn't detained Kolesnikova, while other law enforcement agencies have kept mum.

After a brutal crackdown in the first few days after the vote that stoked international outrage and swelled the ranks of protesters, the authorities have switched to threats and selective arrests of opposition activists and demon-

strators.

Sunday's demonstrations in Minsk and other cities went on despite the authorities' warning that participants could face reprisals. The Interior Ministry said 633 people were detained Sunday for taking part in unsanctioned protests. Targeting the protest leaders, Belarusian prosecutors have opened a criminal probe of the Coordination Council that opposition activists set up after the election to try to negotiate a transition of power. Two of its members were given 10-day jail sentences on charges of staging unsanctioned protests last week. One of them, Olga Kovalkova, said she was pressured to leave for Poland over the weekend after being threatened with a longer jail term.

Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the main opposition challenger in the election, who moved to Lithuania a day after the vote under pressure from authorities, said Monday that Kolesnikova's disappearance marked another attempt by the government to intimidate the opposition. It's an attempt to derail the work of the Coordination Council, but we will not be stopped, she said. The more they try to scare us, the more people will take to the streets. We will continue our struggle and push for the release of all political prisoners and a new, fair election.

Last week, Kolesnikova announced the creation of a new party, Together. She said the move will help overcome the current crisis, but the party founders' call for constitutional changes has stunned some other opposition council members, who argued that it could divert attention from the main goal of pushing for Lukashenko to step down.

Journalists for US media face possible expulsion from China

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, 7 SEPTEMBER

China is delaying the renewal of press cards for at least five journalists working at four US media outlets, an organisation of foreign correspondents said on Monday, making them vulnerable to expulsion in apparent retribution for Washington's targeting of Chinese reporters working in the United States.

China's foreign ministry responded by saying applications for renewal were being processed and those reporters involved would not have their lives in China affected in any way. However, ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian also accused the US of being arrogant and unreasonable in talks about the matter and not addressing China's normal and reasonable concerns and demands at all.

If the U.S. government truly cares about journalists, it should extend visas for all Chinese journalists as soon as possible,

instead of taking journalists from the two countries as hostages for the certain politicians' political interests," Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing. Atlanta-based CNN said its China correspondent was among those given a letter authorizing him to continue reporting for the next two months instead of the usual one-year press card.

He was told the move was unrelated to his reporting but was merely a reciprocal measure in response to the actions of the US administration toward Chinese media, making it the latest manifestation of the deteriorating state of US-China relations that have fallen to their lowest level in decades. The Foreign Correspondents' Club of China, or FCCC, said The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg have also been targeted. It did not name the fourth outlet, but said more foreign journalists are expected to receive similar treatment. While the targeted outlets are all American, the journalists involved are of various nationalities. Zhao did not say

what future actions China might take, but said all options are on the table, and the US side knows that very well. If the US insists on going down the wrong path and continuously making mistakes, China will have to make the necessary and legitimate responses to firmly safeguard its legitimate rights," he said.

China's move comes after the US capped the number of Chinese citizens who could be employed by Chinese media outlets and placed them on 90-day visas. China first responded in March by expelling reporters from The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post. Those affected have been both US and non-US citizens. Official press cards are used to obtain residency permits usually for one year, while the letters issued by the Chinese foreign ministry could be revoked at any time, thus putting (the journalists) at constant threat of expulsion, the FCCC said in a statement.

Typhoon lashes South Korea after battering Japanese islands

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ATHENS, 7 SEPTEMBER

A powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea on Monday after battering islands in southern Japan and injuring dozens of people.

The Korea Meteorological Administration said Typhoon Haishen was passing waters off the eastern coastal city of Sokcho on Monday afternoon after barreling through South Korea's southern and eastern regions.

The typhoon was weakening, with its maximum winds measured at 108 kilometers (67 miles) per hour after blowing at 144 kilometers (80 miles) in the morning, and it was forecast to be downgraded to a tropical storm within 12 hours. Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency said at least 38 people were injured, five of them seriously, after Haishen lashed southwestern Japan over the weekend with strong winds and rain. Schools and department stores were closed in Hiroshima and other cities in the country's southwest.

In South Korea, cars struggled to navigate flooded roads in Ulsan and other coastal cities such as Busan, Sokcho and Gangneung. Emergency workers scrambled to clean up toppled trees and damaged traffic signs, buildings, and other structures.

Greece to boost military amid tension with Turkey

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ATHENS, 7 SEPTEMBER

Greece will be bolstering its military with new armament programmes, a boost to military personnel and the development of the country's defence industry, the government spokesman said Monday, as a tense stand-off with neighbouring Turkey has led to concerns of open conflict between the two NATO allies.

Ankara is currently facing off against Greece and Cyprus over oil and gas exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean. Greece and Turkey have deployed naval and air forces to assert their competing

claims in the region. The Turkish leadership is unleashing, on a near daily basis, threats of war and makes provocative statements against Greece, Greek government spokesman Stelios Petsas said.

We respond with political, diplomatic and operational readiness, determined to do whatever is necessary to protect our sovereign rights. Petsas said PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis would be announcing plans to upgrade the country's military, during his annual state of the economy speech on Saturday. We are in contact with friendly countries in order to reinforce the equipment of our armed forces, Petsas said.

NEW NORMAL



Ultra-Orthodox Jews are pictured praying outside a synagogue in the religious Israeli city of Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv, amid measures to stop the spread of Covid-19 on Monday. ■ AFP

UNICEF to lead global procurement, supply of Covid-19 vaccines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS, 7 SEPTEMBER

In what could possibly be the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind, UNICEF has announced that it will be leading the procurement and supply of coronavirus vaccines to ensure that all countries have safe, fast and equitable access to initial doses when they are available.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is the world's largest single vaccine buyer, procuring more than 2 billion doses of various vaccines annually for routine immunisation and outbreak response

on behalf of nearly 100 countries. With several vaccine candidates showing promise, the UN agency, in collaboration with the Revolving Fund of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), will lead efforts to procure and supply doses of Covid-19 vaccines on behalf of the COVAX

Global Vaccines Facility for 92 low and lower middle-income countries, whose vaccine purchases will be supported by the mechanism. "We are ready for an immense challenge: to lead the global supply of COVID-19 vaccines and help end the worst stage of this pandemic,"

UNICEF tweeted on Saturday. "UNICEF is the world's largest single buyer of vaccines for diseases like measles and polio, procuring over 2 billion doses on behalf of nearly 100 countries each year. Thanks to our supporters, we now have the experience and expertise to deliver a Covid-19 vaccine to the world," it said.

UNICEF will also serve as procurement coordinator to support purchases by 80 high-income economies, which have expressed their intent to participate in the COVAX Facility and would finance the vaccines from their own budgets, it said. The vaccine procurement and distribution

effort, involving over 170 economies, has the potential to become the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind.

"This is an all-hands-on deck partnership between governments, manufacturers and multilateral partners to continue the high-stakes fight against the Covid-19 pandemic," UNICEF executive director Henrietta Fore said.

"In our collective pursuit of a vaccine, UNICEF is leveraging its unique strengths in vaccine supply to make sure that all countries have safe, fast and equitable access to the initial doses when they are available," she said.

complaint over the matter, adding that both her children were fined under virus-related laws against gatherings. Pro-democracy legislator Claudia Mo said the incident "showed how unnecessarily jumpy trigger-happy Hong Kong police had become". The Guardian reported.

Sunday's protests marked the day that legislative elections would have been held, had Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam not postponed them for a year due to the danger of fuelling the city's Covid-19 outbreak. She has been accused of using the pandemic to suppress opposition.

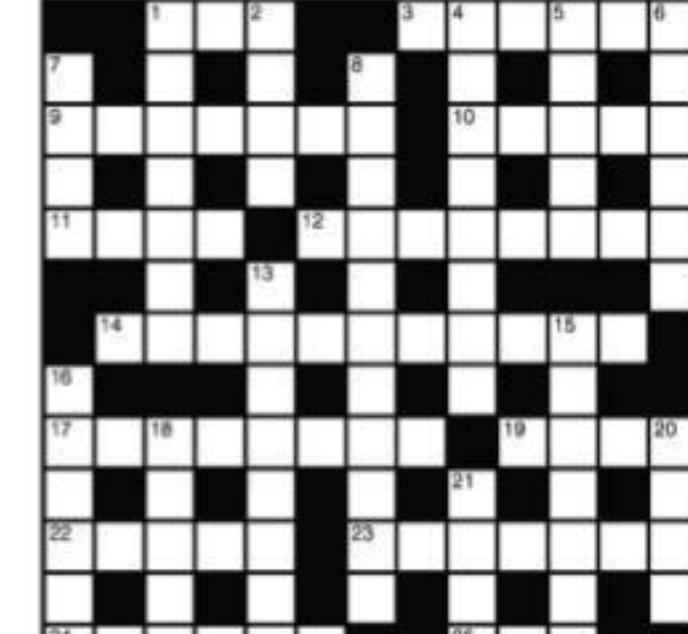
At Sunday's demonstrations, protesters also called for the release of 12 Hong Kongers arrested by Chinese coastguards while trying to flee to Taiwan in a speedboat.

The group had been intercepted some 70km southeast of Hong Kong on 23 Aug. They were handed over to police in neighbouring Shenzhen and have since disappeared into China's opaque judicial system. Lawyers representing some of them on Monday said they had been denied access to their clients.

"They said I can't prove that the instructions I have come from family members, even though I have provided my client's birth certificate issued in Hong Kong," said Mr Ren Quanniu, a lawyer who travelled 1,500km from central China to Shenzhen.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Tavern (3)
3 Bobbed down (6)
9 Radioactive element (7)
10 Waste pipe (5)
11 Cricket fielder (4)
12 Almost (4-4)
14 Require (11)
17 Flying (8)
19 Ring of light (4)
22 View (5)
23 Because of that (7)
24 Movable frame (6)
25 Behold (3)

DOWN
1 Picture (7)
2 Fastening device (4)
4 Have a wavy form (8)
5 Military fabric colour (5)
6 Small boat (6)
7 Weapons (4)
8 Pretend to be (11)
13 Add ornament to (8)
15 Circus swing (7)
16 Tent fabric (6)
18 Part of a step (5)
20 Banded gemstone (4)
21 Optical device (4)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD
1 Crayon, 16 Tonight, 18 Cabal, 20 Infelicitous, 21 Pampas, 24 Extra, 5 Zoology, 6 Manifesto, 8 Dauntless, 11 Embody.
DOWN: 1 Kabul, 14 Recline, 15 Ethics, 17 Gee up, 19 Booty, 21 Ely, 22 Granola, 23 Embodiment.
Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

By arrangement with The Independent

Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800125151

U.P. Roads 23868709

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

■ AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 08001801407

■ INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383383, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 43513186

FLIGHT INQUIRY

■ AIR CANADA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 1528181

■ KUWAIT AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25652294 (Airport)

SCRABBLE® BRAND

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Scrabble® is a registered trademark of Hasbro Inc. © 2013 Hasbro Inc. All rights reserved.

Sc



We had a human being in need of help, in need of compassion. We have to own the fact that in the moment we did not protect him.

ROCHESTER MAYOR LOVELY WARREN

World

WEATHER

CITY	MAX (°C)	MIN (°C)
SINGAPORE	29	26 R
HONG KONG	31	27 H
TOKYO	33	26 H
LONDON	23	17 H
DUBAI	37	29 S
SAN FRANCISCO	29	14 H
NEW YORK	29	21 H
MOSCOW	18	10 R

S=sunny, CL=clear, H=hazy, R=rainy...

THUMBNAILS



Students arrive to school on the first day of classes, amid measures put in place to stop the spread of Covid-19, in Sale, Morocco on Monday. **APP**

Militants killed in attack: At least 25 militants were killed and eight others injured after Afghan security forces repelled a Taliban attack in Laghman province, a government spokesman said on Monday. Reportedly, the militants stormed security forces' position in Jai Bon locality in the north of provincial capital Mehtarlam at midnight. The forces called in an air support, and the Air Force struck the militants. **IANS**

Australia reports lowest spike in Covid cases: Australia on Monday recorded nine new Covid deaths and 47 fresh cases, the lowest single-day spike in the last two months, health officials said. All fatalities and 41 of the new cases were reported from Victoria, which is in lockdown since 2 August. **APP**



Demonstrators protest outside the Old Bailey court in central London on Monday, as the extradition hearing for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange resumed again. **APP**

Assange in UK court to fight US extradition bid

American prosecutors have indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 18 charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret US military documents

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 7 SEPTEMBER

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange appeared in a London court on Monday to fight a US extradition request, at a high-stakes hearing that was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Assange, who has spent almost a year and a half in a British prison, sat in the dock at the Old Bailey criminal court and formally refused the US's demand he be extradited to face trial on espionage charges. He wore a dark suit, white shirt and maroon tie, with glasses perched atop his neatly trimmed white hair.

Several dozen supporters, including fashion designer Vivienne Westwood and Assange's partner, Stella Moris,

gathered outside the court house, chanting, banging drums and calling his prosecution a threat to press freedom. Julian Assange is the trigger, he is shining the light on all the corruption in the world," Westwood said.

American prosecutors have

indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 18 espionage and computer misuse charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret US military documents a decade ago. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.

American authorities allege

that Assange conspired with U.S. army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to hack into a Pentagon computer and release hundreds of thousands of secret diplomatic cables and military files on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a new indictment filed in June, US prosecutors also say he conspired with members of hacking organizations and sought to recruit hackers to provide WikiLeaks with classified information. That indictment expanded the U.S. case against Assange but did not add any new charges.

Assange's lawyers say the prosecution is a politically motivated abuse of power that will stifle press freedom and put journalists around the world at risk. They argue that Assange is a journalist entitled to First Amendment protection, and say the leaked doc-

uments exposed US military wrongdoing.

Among the files released by WikiLeaks was video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists.

Journalists and whistleblowers who reveal illegal activity by companies or governments and war crimes such as the publications Julian has been charged for should be protected from prosecution, Assange's attorney Jennifer Robinson said before the hearing.

Assange's legal troubles began in 2010, when he was arrested in London at the request of Sweden, which wanted to question him about allegations of rape and sexual assault made by two women. He refused to go to Stockholm, saying he feared extradition

or illegal rendition to the United States or the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In 2012, Assange sought refuge inside the Ecuadorian Embassy, where he was beyond the reach of U.K. and Swedish authorities but also effectively a prisoner, unable to leave the tiny diplomatic mission in London's tony Knightsbridge area.

The relationship between Assange and his hosts eventually soured, and he was evicted from the embassy in April 2019. British police immediately arrested him for jumping bail in 2012.

Sweden dropped the sex crimes investigation in November 2019 because so much time had elapsed, but Assange remains in London's high-security Belmarsh Prison as he awaits the extradition decision.

Supporters say the ordeal has harmed Assange's physical and mental health, leaving him with depression, dental problems and a serious shoulder ailment. The hearing is expected to include expert psychiatric evidence about his mental state. Journalism organizations and human rights groups have called on Britain to refuse the extradition request. Amnesty International said Assange was the target of a negative public campaign by U.S. officials at the highest levels.

The extradition hearing opened in February but was put on hold when the UK went into lockdown in March to slow the spread of the coronavirus. It is resuming with social distancing measures in court and video feeds so that journalists and observers can watch remotely.

Trump looms large over campaigns for control of Congress

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 7 SEPTEMBER

The battle for control of Congress is solidifying into a race about President Donald Trump, as Republicans hitch their fortunes to their party's leader and Democrats position themselves as a bulwark against him and as partners in a potential Joe Biden White House.

So far, voters are signalling they want to finish the job they started in 2018 by installing Democrats for House majority control. Now, they're on track to potentially do the same in the Senate.

"The president continues to overshadow and impact the races for the Senate and the House," said Nathan Gonzales, the editor of Inside Elections, which tracks the campaigns.

Usually, a president at the top of the ticket boosts his

party's chances, but Trump's slump is shifting the congressional map, strategists said. House Democrats are expected to easily retain the majority, without too many losses. The Senate, now in Republican hands, could almost as easily flip to Democrats. Together, the congressional races provide a snapshot of an American electorate ahead of a voting season unlike any other.

The coronavirus crisis, a shattered economy and a new civil rights era are forcing a reassessment of the way the federal government approaches longstanding problems.

In a volatile political climate, health care, jobs and even what the parties are calling the soul of the nation are all on the ballot. As Democrats gain momentum, Republicans are digging in, echoing Trump's harsh criticism of the nation-

wide protests over police violence, particularly against Black people. He sounds dire warnings about the demonstrations happening in some cities. It's an opening for the GOP, an attempt to win back wary suburban voters, particularly white women, who voted for Trump in 2016 but have since drifted away.

It's a winning message, said Bob Salera, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee, the House GOP's campaign arm.

The NRCC used Trump's visit to Kenosha, Wisconsin, to unleash a flurry of attacks against vulnerable Democrats, primarily those freshmen who built the House majority in 2018 from districts the president won in 2016.

One television ad claimed a Democrat was choosing criminals over cops.

We do have two systems of justice in America: Harris

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, SEP 7

The US has two systems of justice for Black and White Americans, Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris has said, as the Indian-origin Senator rebuked President Donald Trump and his Attorney General for denying there is systemic racism in the country's justice system.

The strong criticism from Harris, the first Black and Indian-American woman on a major party vice presidential ticket came less than two months before the US presidential election.

Democratic Party's presidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Harris are challenging incumbent President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence of the Republican Party in the November 3 election.

Harris, 55, strongly criticised President Trump and Attorney General William Barr for deny-

ing there is systemic racism in the US justice system, saying they are "spending full time in a different reality." The reality of America today is what we have seen over generations and, frankly, since our inception, which is, we do have two systems of justice in the country's justice system.

The strong criticism from Harris, the first Black and Indian-American woman on a major party vice presidential ticket came less than two months before the US presidential election.

But she said their administration would invest in communities and their economic strength, but doing it all recognising that there are huge disparities in the country based on race. "And it does us no good if we want to solve those disparities to pretend they don't exist," she said.

Harris also suggested that Trump was not a "real leader" on racial justice and was trying to "pretend that he has been a leader" on the coronavirus pandemic. "I don't think that most reasonable people who are paying attention to the facts would dispute that there are racial disparities and a system that has engaged in racism in terms of how the laws have

been enforced," said Harris, a California senator and former state attorney general.

"It does us no good to deny that. Let's just deal with it. Let's be honest. These might be difficult conversations for some, but they're not difficult conversations for leaders, not for real leaders."

Barr, America's top law enforcement official, dismissed the idea of "two justice systems" told CNN on Wednesday. "I think we have to be a little careful about throwing the idea of racism around," he said. "I don't think it is as common as people suggest."

Asked specifically about systemic racism during his visit to Kenosha, Wisconsin, last week, Trump refused to acknowledge it, saying, "Well, you know, you just keep getting back to the opposite subject. We should talk about the kind of violence we've seen in Portland and here and other places."

Russian delegation in Syria to expand trade, economic ties

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DAMASCUS, 7 SEPTEMBER

dented economic crisis after nearly a decade of civil war and Western sanctions.

The economic and financial situation has been worsened by the financial crisis in neighboring Lebanon, Syria's main link with the outside world and where many Syrians have their money.

Syria is also grappling with a coronavirus outbreak.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who is visiting Damascus for the first time since 2012, also attended the news conference.

Russia has been a close ally of Assad in Syria's devastating nine-year civil war, lending his government vital military, economic and political support. Russian troops have been fighting alongside Syrian government forces since 2015, and President Vladimir Putin has visited the war-torn country twice, including in January this year.

With the help of Russia, as well as regional ally Iran and its proxy Lebanese militia Hezbollah, Assad has largely succeeded in crushing the

armed rebellion against him.

The rebels are confined to the northern Idlib province, where a truce has been in place for months. But Syria has been ruined, the economy has spiraled out of control, and the country remains divided. Turkey-backed forces control a sliver of territory along the border, and US-backed Kurdish forces control an oil-rich area in the northeast.

We have to admit that most of the areas rich in oil and gas are outside the control of the Syrian government, Borisov said Monday.

This fact prevents the Syrian government from trading in oil, given that it is an important source of revenue."

The same applies to agricultural lands," he added.

After Syria used to export grain, it now imports it ... This harms food security."

Borisov blamed the United States for the economic deterioration in Syria, which risks reversing the government's recent military gains, calling US policies unconstructive. The most important reason for

the tragic situation in Syria is the devastating situation of the United States of America, in addition to the Kurds' unwillingness to communicate with Damascus and hand over control to the legitimate government over agricultural areas and oil fields, Borisov said.

Lavrov also criticised US and Western sanctions on Syria, saying they are trying to strangle the Syrian people.

Our visit to Syria focuses on the prospect of cooperation to develop relations between the two countries in light of new developments in the region," he said.

The Syrian pro-government Al-Watan newspaper earlier quoted Syria's ambassador to Russia, Riad Haddad, as saying that the Russian delegation's visit is of special importance, given the political and economic files that will be discussed."

Those include progress by a committee discussing possible amendments to the Syrian constitution and Western sanctions on Syria, as well as efforts to fight terrorism.

Russia's Alexei Navalny out of coma, is responsive: Hospital

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, 7 SEPTEMBER

Poisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny's condition has improved, allowing doctors to take him out of an induced coma, the German hospital treating him said Monday.

Navalny, a fierce, high-profile critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was flown to Germany last month after falling ill on Aug. 20 on a domestic flight in Russia. German chemical weapons experts say tests show the 44-year-old was poisoned with a Soviet-era nerve agent, prompting the German government last week to demand that Russia investigate him.

The patient has been removed from his medically-induced coma and is being weaned off mechanical ventilation," Berlin's Charite hospital said in a statement. "He is responding to verbal stimuli. It remains too early to gauge the potential long-

term effects of his severe poisoning." It added that the decision to publicly release details of his condition was made in consultation with Navalny's wife. Navalny had been in an induced coma in the Berlin hospital since he was flown to Germany on Aug. 22 for treatment.

News of his gradual recovery came as German Chancellor Angela Merkel's office indicated that she might be willing to rethink the fate of a controversial German-Russian gas pipeline project, a sign of Berlin's growing frustration over Moscow's stonewalling about the case.

German authorities said

last week that tests showed "proof without doubt" that Navalny was poisoned with a chemical nerve agent from the Novichok group.

British authorities identified the Soviet-era Novichok as the poison used on former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England in 2018.

Russia has denied that the Kremlins was involved in poisoning Navalny and accused Germany failing to provide evidence it asked for in late August.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Sunday that the Russian reaction could determine whether Germany changes its long-standing backing for the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which brings Russian gas to Germany under the Baltic Sea, bypassing Ukraine.

"The chancellor also believes that it's wrong to rule anything out," Merkel spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters Monday after being asked about Maas' comments.

Saudi court issues final verdicts in Khashoggi killing

DUBAI, 7 SEPTEMBER

A Saudi court issued final verdicts on Monday in the case of slain Washington Post columnist and Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi after his family announced pardons that spared five of the convicted individuals from execution.

Saudi Arabia's state television aired few details about the final verdicts issued by the Riyadh Criminal Court against the eight Saudi nationals. Their names were not made public. The court ordered a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for five. Another received a 10-year sentence, and two others were ordered to serve seven years in prison.

The trial was widely criticised by rights groups and an independent UN investigator, who noted that no senior officials nor anyone suspected of ordering the killing was found guilty. The independence of the court was also brought into question.

Barnier and the trade committee at the European Parliament, which must also endorse any agreement, insist that the negotiations must conclude before the end of October.

Britain's environment secretary, George Eustice, sought to downplay concerns that the government is seeking to tear up its treaty obligations and argued that the Internal Market Bill, due to be published Wednesday, aims to tie up some loose ends where there was a need for legal certainty."

ASEM calls for concerted international cooperation to combat COVID-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BRUSSELS, 7 SEPTEMBER

Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit and the ASEM Regional Coordinators, in consultation with ASEM partners, express deep concern over the COVID-19 pandemic, which is an unparalleled global health crisis that has caused grave disruptions to the world economy, trade and travel,

and travel, led to unprecedented job losses as well as impacted heavily on the lives of people, the ASEM said in a joint statement.

It said that access to transparent, timely, reliable and fact-based information is crucial for an effective global response to the pandemic and underscored the importance of sharing information about potential



Striking a balance

VIDYA YERAVDEKAR & SHOBHA MISHRA GHOSH

The National Education Policy 2020 is progressive in its aims to disrupt the existing Indian education system with transformative and generational reforms to meet 21st century skills and education needs. It has struck a proportionate balance by integrating the Indian education system with global trends and patterns on one hand, and instilling conviction and pride by highlighting that the rich heritage of ancient Indian knowledge will be the guiding light of the policy, on the other hand. It has clearly articulated that the rich Indian legacies must not only be nurtured and preserved but also researched and put to new uses through our education system.

The underlying principle of the policy is to create an enabling framework that helps in doing away with rote-learning and facilitates acculturation of an enquiry-based, project-led ecosystem of education that not only enhances the learning outcomes but also helps in rendering a more rounded and holistic development of individuals. There is a strong emphasis on promoting digitisation, technology integration and its effective adoption to achieve the ambitious target of Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to 50 per cent by 2035 from the current 26.3 per cent.

To deal with 21st century opportunities and challenges and with the

rapidly evolving exponential technologies, the policy has focussed on developing an integrated liberal education endowed with multidisciplinary approach. It further envisions flexible curricular structures that will enable creative combinations of disciplines. While emphasising on the need for liberal education, it clearly highlights the significance of liberal arts education that helps in developing all capacities of human beings in an integrated manner, viz intellectual, aesthetic, social, physical, emotional and moral. This is indeed a significant step forward.

Further, for multi-disciplinary liberal education to be practised in letter and spirit, one needs to move away from rigid regulatory framework and allow autonomy to the universities and higher educational institutions, besides developing a robust and independent accreditation system, separate standard setting body, and a distinct funding mechanism to remove biases. The move to set Higher Education Commission of India in the education policy is a right step in this direction. Heci will function as a single overarching body with four distinct functions under its ambit, viz regulation (NHERC), funding (Higher Education Grants Council), accreditation (National Accreditation Council) and setting of academic standard (General Education Council). The four institutions will carry out their functions independent of each other.

It needs to be highlighted that the

Indian universities that have been provided greater autonomy have demonstrated innovative approaches in adopting some of the suggested changes mentioned in the new policy, especially with regards to integrating liberal education, flexible programme structures with majors and minors, effective internship, etc. Government should encourage such universities and HEIs to handhold state universities in particular and other institutions in general, through a mentor-mentee relationship. This would further lead to collaboration amongst institutions (through Hub and Spoke model), industry and optimal resource sharing.

The policy document prominently highlights the significance of Online and Distance Education against the backdrop of Covid-19 pandemic and the compelling need to increase access and equity. To ensure efficient utilisation of resources and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, the policy has indicated that all content developed for ODL will be included in an online digital repository. However, appropriate IPR guidelines must be developed, implemented and adhered to, that are in line with the international best practices.

One of the other important aspects of this new policy that is set to fundamentally transform the research landscape of the country is the creation of a National Research Foundation (NRF) that intends to fund all kinds of research proposals having

a strong bearing on nation's interest. NRF provides a level playing field as it will be open to both public and private sector institutions. This is in line with our recommendation to the government of creating a National Science, Humanities, and Technology Research Foundation akin to National Science Foundation of USA.

While focussing on internationalisation, the policy has taken care of some of the important elements that the federation has been suggesting the government in the recent past. However, it is important that the execution plan (that will be laid out through a legislative framework), should entail inter-ministerial collaborations to develop a conducive ecosystem that will encourage cross mobility of students, faculty and researchers, Indian institutions with foreign campuses and global institutions with campuses in India. Effective industry engagement with opportunities for apprenticeships and employment, safe and secure living environment, state of art infrastructure, etc are some of the other critical pre-requisites that will not only boost international mobility of foreign students to India but will also develop India as a global destination of higher education.

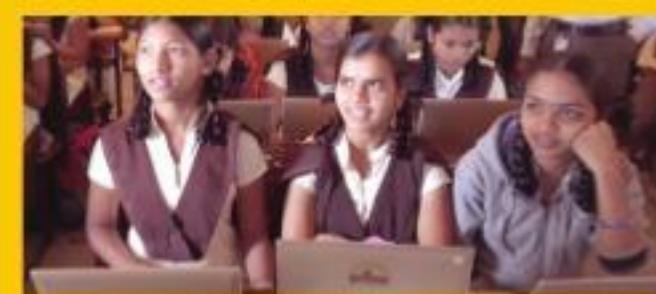
Last but not the least, all these transformations would need financing that cannot be met only through public funding or philanthropic initiatives. According to UNDP estimates, the total financial requirement for India to reach Sustainable Devel-

opment Goals 4 by 2030 is USD 2258 billion, which for the years 2017-2030 averages USD 173 billion per year. This far exceeds the current government budget of USD 76.4 billion a year on education.

The federation has been recommending opening up of sector to private investments. The formalisation of sector would help in attracting committed and credible education providers, private equity and foreign direct investments and bring in the much needed transparency and disclosures with a culture of reasonable profits. The increase of supply of quality universities and higher education institutions and less dependency on fees for self-financing educational institutions will keep a check on the cost of higher education in the country.

The writers are chairperson-FICCI higher education committee and assistant secretary general, FICCI, respectively

The National Education Policy suggests that rich Indian legacies must not only be preserved but also researched and put to new uses through education



SAIJU ARAVIND

E-learning is revolutionising our education system as it remains the only option during the ongoing crisis. Internet of Things (IoT) is playing a bigger role in schools everyday and holds tremendous potential in terms of creating smarter and more connected schools.

Much has been written about digital classrooms and how schools are transforming from chalk-and-talk to click-and-learn. One of the earliest studies in this context was done jointly by Google and KPMG, in which they had projected that the market for online education in India would be around \$2 billion, with 9.6 M paying subscribers by 2021. That was fine, till the pandemic broke out today; we are looking at a crunching of time, with expectations that these numbers would be reached well before 2021.

So what has changed when the school system is concerned? Let us explore some obvious changes.

E-learning supports a better-connected and more collaborative future for education. Smart classrooms are not only transforming education in private schools, but it is rapidly making inroads in government schools as well. With scholars, politicians and academicians supporting the need for reinventing our education system, schools are now becoming technologically advanced and equipped with new-age tools and techniques. This gives students better access to learning materials, communication channels and also, enables the teachers to measure student learning progress in real-time.



RISE OF A NEW ERA

Smart classrooms are not only transforming education in private schools but are also rapidly making inroads in government ones as well

The pandemic that forced the shutdown of schools has accelerated digital adoption by educational institutions across the country. Schools have switched to online courses and e-learning platforms are temporarily offering free classes to help parents and students during school closures. What happens to be a great inconvenience for many, the pandemic has created a spike in demand and popularity of e-learning.

Many schools are leveraging the crisis as an opportunity to deploy digi-

tal technology and make education delivery meaningful, to be more productive and efficient while developing new skills through online learning and assessment. The IoT enabled transformation from teacher-centric education to student-centric education is reinventing education in our country.

Efficient management

Automating routine tasks or day-to-day school operations saves time and efforts and helps academicians

focus more on imparting knowledge, rather than indulging in mundane tasks. For example, the digital attendance system eliminates the need for taking attendance manually. Similarly, digitisation helps track students' performance and also, track school resources such as projectors and lab equipment.

Concrete learning

When students and teachers are unable to access physical school infrastructure, e-learning is helping

them with academic instruction as usual. In many cases, blended learning has proven to be more beneficial than traditional learning as advanced technologies like augmented and virtual reality, adaptive learning, analytics etc facilitate educators to integrate real-world experiences in teaching modules and analytics-based intervention to impart concrete learning to students.

Interactive sessions

E-learning provisions students to interact with teachers and fellow students and also, define their speed of learning. The delivery cycles are quick; lessons can start in no time and also, wrap up in a single learning session. There's no peer pressure.

Tracking performances

In online classes, it is very easy for teachers to track every student's performance, learning ability and assessment.

Moreover,

the analytic tools provide detailed reports of every student's progress, which help the teachers to design teaching modules according to the learning patterns of students.

The rapid influx of technol-

ogy in the education system amidst the crisis might give rise to a new era wherein the students will have access to the best of faculty from across the globe. It is expected that e-learning will leave a lasting impact on the way education is delivered in schools. There will be an increased focus on the quality of faculty and IT infrastructure and the need for faculty to be familiar with digital teaching methodologies.

The writer is founder, EduBrisk Knowledge Solutions

PLUS POINTS

Futuristic approach



An IP-driven incubation lab in India BridgeLab surveyed engineering graduates to gain insights into the prevalent learning and employment landscape. The survey themed "Current trends in jobs and up-skilling of engineering graduates" reveals interesting patterns.

Out of the 1100+ respondents, 94 per cent unanimously say they considered learning a new skill during this lockdown. Leveraging extra time at home and a gamut of online up-skilling programmes, engineers are solidifying their resume to sail through the new normal. While 42 per cent of freshers find live sessions with mentors best for on-the-spot query resolution, 21 per cent find offline classroom based training to be a viable learning option. Overall, the survey indicates that learning new skills and finding a full-time job are the top priorities for engineers.

Career counselling



Education Interface 2020, an education fair by Career Planner Edu Fair had recently been conducted virtually. The fair was attended by many dignitaries like Partha Chatterjee, minister-in-charge, department of higher education and school education and parliament affairs, government of West Bengal, Purnendu Bose, minister for agriculture, government of West Bengal, Saikat Maitra, vice-chancellor, MAKAUT, West Bengal and many others.

The fair is an initiative taken to ensure safety of everyone while providing career solutions to the students. Bringing together top universities and engineering colleges across West Bengal, it served as an opportunity to explore career and education options across business management, engineering, genetic engineering, pharmacy, human resources, operations and logistics, risk management, retail management, aviation and many other emerging fields.

Shaping the future



Microsoft created a new programme to build quantum computing skills and capabilities in the academic community in India recently. As part of this initiative, Microsoft Garage organised a "Train the Trainer" programme in collaboration with electronics (E) and ICT academies at Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur and National Institute of Technology (NIT), Patna. It trained 900 faculties from universities and institutes across India through E& ICT academies at institutes such as IIT Kanpur, IIT Guwahati, NIT Warangal and many others, equipping academics with the required skills to start building their quantum future.

Key themes that were covered included - an introduction to quantum information, quantum concepts, processing of information, an introduction to quantum machine learning and quantum programming.

Guiding learners

WhiteHat Jr-an EdTech startup in the field of teaching online coding to children, is rigorously ramping up its women-only teacher base in India at a rate of 220 teachers a day, with a plan to cross a milestone of 20,000 teachers by the end of 2020. Further, the company launched a new campaign, on the occasion of Teacher's Day, celebrating the 7000 plus women-only teacher base, featuring former female world amateur boxing champion and incumbent Member of Parliament Mary Kom.

Currently, the platform has 84 per cent teachers under the age of 35 years, teaching coding to kids from their house. The ongoing ramp-up is to match the growing base of students across multiple countries including India, USA, Canada, UK, Australia and New Zealand.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Boxer Vikas eyes Pro bouts in USA: Olympic-bound boxer Vikas Krishan is set to leave for the United States for professional training under the Target Olympic Podium scheme (TOPS) to prepare for the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games. Vikas is now waiting for the official confirmation from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Director General Sandip Pradhan. Speaking to IANS, Vikas (69kg) said his proposal has been accepted by TOPS CEO Rajesh Rajagopalan.

PV Sindhu to join Indian squad for Thomas & Uber Cup: World champion PV Sindhu, who had earlier communicated her absence in the Thomas and Uber Cup for personal reasons, has consented her availability for the Indian team after a call from Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma today. Sindhu's presence in the squad for October 3-11 2020, the event will bolster Team India's chances. "I have requested @Pvsindhu1 to join the team as we have a favourable draw and have the best chance to take a shot at a medal at the ThomasUberCup. She has agreed and will prepone her family function so that she can be part of the Indian Team and play for the country," the BAI President Himanta Biswa Sarma informed through his Twitter handle today.

England drops Foden, Greenwood for COVID-19 rule breaches: England players Phil Foden and Mason Greenwood were sent home and dropped for Tuesday's game against Denmark after breaching coronavirus rules in Iceland. Foden and Greenwood both made their England debuts in the 1-0 victory over Iceland in the Nations League on Saturday. Unfortunately this morning it was brought to my attention that two of the boys have broken the COVID guidelines in terms of our secure bubble, England coach Gareth Southgate said.

DDCA employee tests positive for COVID-19: The Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) office at the Feroz Shah Kotla premises has been shut down after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19 and reported to work without a "negative test report". DDCA joint secretary Rajan Manchanda, the only active office-bearer in the absence of president and secretary (Vinod Tiwari under suspension), has given instruction to shut down Kotla till further notice as multiple employees will now have to go for quarantine and contact tracing needs to be done. Manchanda is peeved that despite statutory instructions that no employee should rejoin work without a COVID-19 negative certificate, rules were flouted.

FAVOURITE POSITION

Wicketkeeper batsman Jos Buttler (in photo, left), who guided England to a comprehensive win against Australia in the second T20I of the ongoing three-match series, has said he loves opening the batting. "It probably is my favourite position to bat in T20 cricket," said Buttler. "I've had most of my success in T20 at the top, but that's natural - if you bat in the top three in T20, it's the best place for everyone. On Sunday, Buttler played an unbeaten knock of 77 runs as England comprehensively defeated Australia by 6 wickets.

ACGENIES
NEW YORK, 7 SEPTEMBER

Naomi Osaka (inphoto) stood firm after a parade of champions exited the U.S. Open on Sunday, blasting her way into the quarter-finals with a 6-3 6-4 win over Anett Kontaveit. Naomi Osakastood firm afteraparadeofchampionsexited the U.S. Open on Sunday, blasting herwayintothequarterfinals with a 6-3 6-4 winover Anett Kontaveit.

In his cool mid-match against Pablo Carreno Busta, Osaka was mindful of keeping her emotions in check.

Osaka's left thigh was heavily strapped as she continues to manage a hamstring injury but the 22-year-old moved superbly against Kontaveit to set up a clash against unseeded American Jennifer Brady.

Rogers advances to quarters

World No.93 Shelby Rogers continued her stellar campaign at the ongoing US Open as she defeated No.6 seed Petra Kvitova to enter the quarterfinals in the women's singles event.

On Sunday, US Rogers saved four match points as she beat Kvitova 7-6(5), 3-6, 7-6(6) to make it to the quarter-finals at her home Grand Slam event for the



first time at the Flushing Meadows. "Day 72 in the bubble," Rogers joked to laughter from the media during her post-match press conference as per the WTA website. "It's been a long time here in New York. I'm happy to be sticking around for some more."

"The tiebreaker, the whole match actually, was a little bit of a roller coaster for both of us," said Rogers. "The first set, you know, a tiebreak. (Kvitova) upped her level a little bit in the

second there. I was up a break in the third, she breaks back. She's just hitting misses. She served unbelievable."

Shapovalov advances

Denis Shapovalov overcame a terrible first set tie-break to beat David Goffin 6-7(0) 6-3 6-4 6-3 on Sunday and become the first Canadian man to advance to the U.S. Open quarter-finals in the Open era. Shapovalov will next face Spain's

Pablo Carreno Busta in the quarter-finals after the 20th seed was awarded his fourth round match against Novak Djokovic by default when the world number one hit a line judge with a ball.

It will be Shapovalov's first Grand Slam quarter-final and could lead the way for a Canadian charge into the last eight with compatriots Vasek Pospisil and Felix Auger-Aliassime playing their fourth round clashes on Monday.

Djokovic fate a warning for others

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, 7 SEPTEMBER

The men's world number one was eliminated from the Grand Slam after inadvertently hitting a ball into a line judge's throat during his fourth round match on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court.

Two-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osakafungerher racket in frustration after losing a second-set tiebreak against Marta Kostyuk in her third-round match on Friday.

Asked in her on-court interview on Sunday if Djokovic's fate would serve as a reminder, the Japanese former world number one said: "I guess yes. For me, that's definitely like a warning to never do that." "I wasn't watching the match live because I was sleeping, but knowing that, of course, I think puts a little bit of - what's it called - you're more aware of it, of course," the former U.S. Open champion told reporters later.

"For me, I try not to slam my racket anyways. Of course,

I probably do a couple times. But I definitely think it's making people a bit more aware."

Canadian Denis Shapovalov had suffered the same fate as Djokovic during a 2017 Davis Cup tie when he, after an unforced error, smashed a ball in frustration with his racket and hit chair umpire Arnaud Gabas in the face.

Shapovalov called Djokovic's incident unfortunate as did German Alexander Zverev, who has taken out his frustration several times in the past by smashing his rackets.

"I don't think I have ever gotten defaulted yet in my career or in my life," Zverev said after his win on Sunday. "No, I haven't been in a situation like that."

Spain beat Ukraine in Nations league

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
MADRID, 7 SEPTEMBER

Ansu Fati (in photo, right) became Spain's youngest-ever goalscorer and Sergio Ramos scored twice as Spain cruised past Ukraine 4-0 in Madrid in the ongoing UEFA Nations League.

In just the third minute of the first half on Sunday, 17-year-old Fati drew a foul from Serhiy Kyrivstov to earn a penalty that Sergio Ramos converted clinically, reports Xinhua news agency. The captain scored his and Spain's second by looping a header over Andriy Pyatov just before the half-hour mark, only for Fati to steal his thunder with a wonderful strike just three minutes later.

The Barcelona wonderkid cut inside from the left flank

again before fizzing a spectacular finish beyond Pyatov from outside the area. Ferran Torres later completed the scoring for Spain. Spain now move top of Group A4, one point ahead of second-placed Ukraine. Germany are third on two points after they lost 0-1 to Switzerland. Also on Sunday, Wales

edged Bulgaria 1-0 to top the second-tier Group B4, while Ireland lost 0-1 at home to Finland.

Russia maintained their winning start in B3 with a 3-2 triumph in Hungary to build on their opening success over Serbia, who were reduced to 10 men in a 0-0 draw with Turkey.

Boxer Manoj, rower Bajrang among Olympians applying for SAI's coaching course

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

claimed his CWG gold in 2010, is also a multiple-time continental medallist, Bajrang is a three-time Asian Games medalist. The course is due to start in mid-October.

"As many as 33 eminent sports personalities across 15 sports disciplines have applied for direct admission for the diploma course in Sports Coaching at the Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports (NSNIS) Patiala," a SAI statement read. "They (the Olympians), along with the other sportspersons, have applied for the diploma course under the A(I) Direct Admission category and hence are automatically qualified to apply for the course," the SAI statement said.

PTI

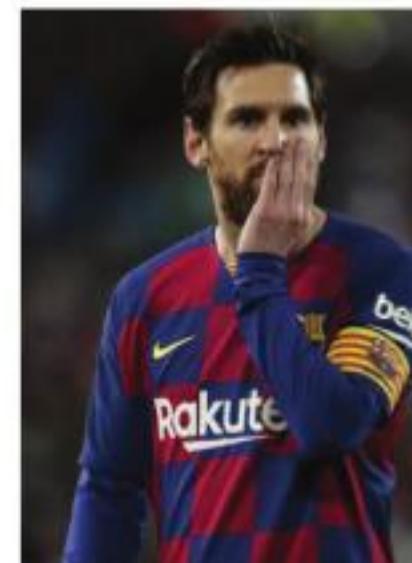
SAI had stated that 46 eminent athletes (1 male, 1 female coach in each discipline) across 23 sports, will get direct admission to the diploma course.

Muhammed is a 2017 Asian champion in the 4x400m event, besides being an Asian silver-winner. Rani was part of the 2014 Asian Games bronze-winning Indian team.

"The criteria of winning a gold medal in the Asian or Commonwealth Games also has been replaced by winning a medal -- gold, silver or bronze -- in either of the events. Elite athletes who have participated in Olympics are automatically qualified to apply for the course," the SAI statement said.

PI

Frustration with failure led Messi to seek Barca exit

AGENCIES
BARCELONA, 7 SEPTEMBER

Lionel Messi (in photo) and Barcelona cast a rare successful mixture for greater than a decade till cracks with in the foundations of the soccer dynasty grew, main the Argentine nice to doubt his future on the membership.

Now that Messi is staying for yet another 12 months, after an unseemly dispute with membership executives, one clear end result seems like being an ungrainy season forward at Camp Nou.

The marriage between participant and membership appeared good. Messi introduced one-of-a-kind expertise for darting previous defenders, together with good passing and scoring purpose after

spectacular purpose. Barcelona supplied the teaching minds, world-class teammates, and a taking part in model completely suited to assist Messi blossom into arguably the perfect participant the sport has ever seen.

But the group's dominant kind dipped as seasons glided by and Barcelona's 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich final month within the Champions League quarterfinals extinguished Messi flickering hopes that might flip issues round at his boyhood membership. It was the more severe defeat in Messi's profession.

After a number of days of silence, Messi made public what he known as the painful choice to tell Barcelona that the time had come to go away the membership, his house since he was 13. Tellingly, after six Ballon d'Or trophies, a membership document 634 objectives, and 34 titles, Messi felt his finest possibilities for achievement lie elsewhere.

Barcelona demanded that he end the contract that runs

till June 2021. It claimed that the clause invoked by Messi to go away had expired on June 10 and mentioned that he needed to pay a buyout clause of 700 million euros (round \$830 million) if he wished to depart now. It was a payment too excessive even for Messi, now 33 and preventing off the twilight of his golden profession.

Messi argued that his contract allowed him to opt-out after the prolonged season however relented on Friday when he mentioned that he would keep since I might by no means think about taking Barca to court docket since it's the membership I really like.

Now many followers hope new Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman can persuade Messi to remain past this season.

Best I've felt since 2016 season, never been so calm: Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, 7 SEPTEMBER

have felt about (the) squad," the Indian skipper said on RCB's YouTube show 'Bold Diaries', sharing his thoughts on the upcoming edition starting September 19 in the UAE.

Kohli said that both he and AB de Villiers feel that this could be the "breakthrough season" when tables will turn for the franchise which has flattered to deceive on many occasions. "I (have) never felt so calm going into a season before. He (ABD) is coming from a very different space and he is enjoying his life and is very relaxed and fit as ever. I feel I am in a much better space, much more balanced, when it comes to environment of (the) IPL,"

Despite the presence of champion players like Kohli and AB de Villiers, RCB, in the last three seasons, has failed to even qualify for the play-offs. The team last played the final in 2016, a season in which Kohli struck an unprecedented four hundreds.

"The 2016 IPL, we all loved to be a part of (it). Since then, this is the most balanced I

have ever seen.

This is the first time he feels

that he isn't carrying any baggage. "Disconnecting with things that have happened in the past and not taking that baggage, as we have done that way too many times," he responded to a query on what has changed for him this season.

"Just because we have a bunch of players that are so skilled, people like seeing them play is the reason people have

had so much expectation as well."

Kohli also feels that Mike Hesson being roped in as the head of coaching staff is a great move as the former New Zealand in-charge can act as a bridge between "management and players".

"They (RCB owners) have had a great balance of knowing when to have a conversation and (also) knowing at times 'okay these guys (players) know what they are doing,'" he said. "...the reason they got someone like Mike (Hesson) (as they know) that he can be a mediator. Communication is very nicely designated this time. If I feel they (owners) are taking their responsibility and we as players will take our responsibility as usual."

'Kolkata football isn't really going professional'

PULAKESH MUKHOPADHYAY
KOLKATA, 7 SEPTEMBER

"It's amusing to think that Kolkata is once again mistaking corporate entry into its big Maidan clubs for the ushering in of professionalism in football," a sport industry source told The Statesman today, adding: "Vijay Mallya took over both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan in the previous millennium without either the clubs or the system that underpinned the football on the Maidan undergoing any substantive change. The difference today is that while Mallya permitted the dominating duo of Kolkata football the sort of administrative independence they sought and relished, the new dispensation, reducing the clubs' shareholding quantum, leave them marginalised. Also, the clubs are quite outnumbered on their boards of directors. This is the price the clubs pay for the bailout."

They were not the sort of football teams East Bengal or Mohun Bagan were.

The Kolkata clubs carried on, but that their operational method was self-defeating was now quite clear. "No matter who come in and in whatever capacity, Indian football will always be miles adrift of professionalism because, unlike in Europe, it hardly gets any money from television, one of the biggest sources of revenue in the game's advanced world. India, as a whole, follows a football business pattern which doesn't help the game grow in any way," he said.

Why does big business get into it then? "It has its corporate social responsibility and owning a high-visibility club is an image-booster that obviously helps in terms of takings," the source said. Well, that is not how the rest of the world went about it when it began to go pro.

Germany's Vetter produces 2nd best javelin throw in history

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
WARSAW, 7 SEPTEMBER

Germany's Johannes Vetter (in photo) came close to breaking the javelin world record, throwing 97.76m at the Skolimowska Memorial, a World Athletics Continental Tour Gold in Poland.

Vetter's effort on Sunday is the second farthest throw of all time, just 72 centimeters behind Jan Zelezny's 98.48m world record set 24 years ago.

"I just don't know what to say, it was really close to a perfect moment," said Vetter, who threw more than three metres farther than he's ever thrown before, as quoted by World Athletics.

PI

"You can feel it in your body when you have a good throw," the 2017 world champion said. "Mostly you feel the whole energy behind it, from the right toe to the chest to the hands. In the javelin you need your

Back in IPL after six years, a lot wiser Neesham looks to make it count

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 7 SEPTEMBER

Back in IPL after six years, New Zealand all-rounder James Neesham (in photo) says his much "steadier head" and international success should help him immensely in his stint with Kings XI Punjab this season. By his own admission, Neesham did not know much about his game when he made his IPL debut with the Delhi franchise six seasons ago, having earned his New Zealand cap in December 2012.

Since then, it has been quite a journey for the witty 29-year-old who was not picked for the 2015 World Cup, considered retirement after the 2017 Champions Trophy before becoming an integral part of the Black Caps ODI team and almost getting his team hands on the elusive World Cup trophy last year.

With KXIP spoilt for choice with their overseas recruits, Neesham is not sure how many games he would get to play but he could not be more excited for his IPL comeback.

"It is my first time getting involved in a long time. It is exciting to come as an older player and as an experienced player. Last time I played for Delhi, I was young and talented but didn't really know much about my game," Neesham told PTI from Dubai where he is in the middle of his six-day quarantine.

It was a long and "unusual" flight from New Zealand and Neesham had the company of his skipper Kane Williamson, who plays for Sunrisers in the IPL.