



'BJP-JD(U) ALLIANCE IS
LIKE SACHIN-SEHWAG'

P5



A COWBOY ASTRIDE
TWO HORSES

P7



MARKET RECOVERY
BROAD-BASED

MANCUNIANS
OWE IT TO
RASHFORD

P12



WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 34 and 15 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 89% Min: 26%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 33.8°C (+1) Min: 13.7°C (-4)
SUN RISES SUN SETS
06:27 hrs 17:45 hrs
MOON RISES MOON SETS
13:09 hrs 22:43 hrs

THUMBNAILS



The Commemoration Day Parade at New Police Line Ground, Kingsway Camp, in the Capital on Wednesday.

DEEPAK

EC notice to Kamal Nath on 'item' jibe: The Election Commission on Wednesday issued a notice to former MP chief minister and Congress leader Kamal Nath on his "item" jibe at BJP candidate Imarti Devi, saying his remarks were found to be in violation of the model code in place in the state due to the assembly by-election. "Now, therefore, the Commission gives you an opportunity to explain your stand in making the above said statement within 48 hours of receipt of this notice, failing which the ECI shall take a decision without further reference to you," the notice said.

Uddhav blocks CBI in fake TRP case: The Maharashtra government on Wednesday withdrew the general consent given to Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation in the state in connection with the fake Television Rating Points (TRP) case. The CBI had registered an FIR in the case on Tuesday on the basis of a reference from the Uttar Pradesh police.

HC modifies Puja order

Allows drummers inside Puja pandals in Bengal in partially revised order

SNS & PTI
KOLKATA, 21 OCTOBER

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday partly modified its order on community Durga Puja, allowing drummers to perform within the no-entry zones of the marqueses and raising the number of people who can be present in big puja from 25 to 60.

Hearing an appeal submitted by 'Forum for Durgotsab', a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court comprising Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Arijit Banerjee, retained its earlier order declaring all Durga Puja marqueses no-entry zones and erecting barricades in front of the pandals to prevent visitors from entering to prevent burst of cases.

Counsel for the forum submitted before the CHC that as Durga Puja is the biggest festival of the Bengalis and emotions are attached to it, the number of people who can enter the marqueses be increased for offering "anjali" and also during "sandhi puja".

The Bench ordered that



the number of people who can stay inside the marqueses be increased from 25 to 60 for big-ticket puja but retained it at 15 for the small ones.

The CHC allowed 'dhakis' (drummers), an integral part of the celebrations, to stay within the no-entry zones of the marqueses but they will have to maintain all safety protocols.

The list of 60 people who can stay inside the pandals for big-ticket puja will have to be put up daily, the court said.

The court also said a

maximum of 45 people can be present inside the marqueses at a time.

For small Puja, the maximum number of people who can stay inside the pandals at a time is 10, the court said.

The court had on Monday declared all pandals across West Bengal no-entry zones to prevent the surge of Covid cases in the state.

The Division Bench had also ordered that no visitors would be allowed to enter the marqueses.

Understandably, doctors' fraternity in Bengal has

hailed CHC's order of no-entry for visitors inside pandal and appealed to Durga Puja organisers to follow the restrictions to stem a possible surge of infections in the state during the festivities.

Describing the order as "historic", doctors said that if clubs and puja committees adhere to the directive, Covid-19 transmission would definitely be restricted to a certain level.

"This is a revolutionary and historic verdict of the Calcutta High Court. Understanding the situation and realising the importance of the verdict, people must adhere to it. Nobody is against any festival but we must understand that avoiding gatherings is the safest option to stem the transmission," Protect the Warriors (doctors' forum fighting the pandemic) secretary ENT consultant Dr Abhik Ghosh said.

Doctors have been issuing warnings that the state might see a tsunami of Covid infections if people are not restricted from gatherings during this year's Durga Puja festival.

India's new cases below 60K mark for third day in a row



SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

case fatality rate due COVID-19 has dropped to 1.51 per cent.

The active cases of coronavirus infection remained below 8 lakh for the fifth consecutive day.

There are 7,40,090 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 9.67 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28 and crossed 70 lakh on October 11. According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 9,72,00,379 samples have been tested up to October 20 with 10,83,608 samples being tested on Tuesday.

The 717 new fatalities include 213 from Maharashtra, 66 from Karnataka, 61 from West Bengal, 50 each from Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu, and 41 from Delhi.

Total of 1,15,914 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 42,453 from Maharashtra followed by 10,741 from Tamil Nadu, and 10,608 from Karnataka.

2016 and 2018 respectively.

With BECA, the two countries will be able to share geospatial information and intelligence helpful for defence-related issues. This, for example, may help Indian missiles to be more accurate.

The dialogue between the two countries comes at a time when India is locked in a tense military stand-off with China at eastern Ladakh. The US has solidly backed India in the face of the border row with China.

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Corona claims 47 more lives in Delhi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

Delhi today logged 47 Covid-related fatalities, which pushed its coronavirus toll to 6,128, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The city identified 3,686 fresh coronavirus cases, which took its Covid caseload to 34,436 so far, the health bulletin said. These

fresh Covid cases were detected out of 59,064 tests conducted the previous day.

The positivity rate was calculated to be 6.24 per cent. The tally of active cases in the national capital rose to 24,117 from yesterday's 23,922, the bulletin said.

Today's bulletin stated that the number of recovered Covid patients discharged from various city healthcare facilities during the past 24 hours was 3,444.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

India will host the third India-US '2+2' ministerial dialogue on 27 October in New Delhi, it was officially announced here tonight.

U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark T. Esper will be visiting India on 26-27 October to participate in the dialogue, the External Affairs Ministry said. From the Indian side, Defence Minister

Jaishankar will lead the delegations to the dialogue. This will be the third foundational agreement to be signed between the two countries after the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement and the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement in

2016 and 2018 respectively. With BECA, the two countries will be able to share geospatial information and intelligence helpful for defence-related issues. This, for example, may help Indian missiles to be more accurate.

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2016



On Police Commemoration Day, my best wishes to @wbpolice @kolkatapolice, and their families, for their tireless service during the pandemic to keep people safe. From this year, we are celebrating September 1 as Police Day to honour our brave forces

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Kejriwal govt rolls out drive against vehicular pollution

Gopal Rai appeals to people of Delhi to switch off vehicle engines at traffic signals to curb air pollution

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

The national capital's vehicular pollution could be reduced by 15-20 per cent if people turn off their vehicle engines while waiting at traffic signals, Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai said.

Rai today launched the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government's "Red Light On, Gaadi Off" campaign to create awareness about controlling air pollution in the city. He appealed to all the residents of Delhi to join the government's drive as part of the "war against pollution".

Kicking off the 26-day "Red Light On, Gaadi Off" campaign in the city from the ITO traffic signal, Rai appealed to the people of Delhi to act responsibly and stop burning fuel at traffic signals.

"The campaign is an attempt to reduce vehicular pollution. Delhi has around one crore registered vehicles. Altogether, vehicles burn fuel at traffic signals for around 15-20 minutes every day. This campaign aims to stop fuel-burning at signals," the minister said.

"If the city's two crore population joins this campaign and does its bit, then we can reduce around 15-20 per cent pollution from vehicles. This campaign is voluntary. I appeal to the people of Delhi to make it a success," he said.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's campaign, which will continue till 15



Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai kicks off 'Red light On, Gaadi Off' campaign at ITO in the Capital on Wednesday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

November.

aims to spread public awareness through 100 traffic signals across the national capital. A total of 2,500 civil defence volunteers will be standing with placards, asking drivers to switch off the engines of their vehicles at these signals.

Launching the initiative at the ITO intersection, Rai gave

a flower to a commuter while requesting him to turn off the engine of his car.

He said Delhi could become pollution-free only if the government and the public work together.

"We have started the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign today in Delhi. So far, the Delhi government and other agencies have been

working to control pollution.

But now, Delhi's population of two crore people is being made a part of it to fulfil their responsibility in the fight against pollution. To make Delhi pollution-free, the government and the public must come together to fight it," Rai told reporters.

Civil defence volunteer Geeta, a resident of Sadar

Bazar, said she received a good response from the commuters, who are turning off their vehicle engines when asked to do so.

"The response is very good till now. People are switching off their engines when we are asking them. No one argued or refused to do so," she said.

Another volunteer,

Himanshu Wadhwa, a resident of Burari, said people were acting responsibly.

"We have noticed that people are aware about the deteriorating situation of pollution in the national capital. Many of them are already switching off their engines. They understand their responsibility," he said.

The minister said, "I request the people of Delhi today that this entire campaign is on your shoulders. Nearly 2,500 civil defence volunteers have been deployed on the ground in collaboration with the traffic police at 100 major traffic signals. These volunteers will make people aware of this campaign through placards.

Their duty will be in two shifts; the first shift will be from 8 am to 2 pm and the second shift from 2 pm to 8 pm."

Rai also said: "On behalf of the Delhi government, we have requested all the MPs, MLAs, councillors, trade organisations, industry organisations and officers' associations to join this campaign. We are also in touch with the Eco Club of Delhi, RWAs, etc. Let us together

explain to our families that the car should be stopped at red lights. We are confident that with the people's participation, we will successfully run this campaign and bring down vehicular pollution considerably."

He has maintained that this campaign is "only an awareness drive and nobody will be issued a challan".

Delhi riots: Court directs police to supply FIR to ex-JNU student leader Umar Khalid

PTI
NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

A court here has directed the Delhi police to supply to former JNU student leader Umar Khalid a copy of the FIR of the case related to the north east Delhi riots in which he was arrested saying it is a settled proposition of law that no person shall be detained in custody without being informed of the grounds for such arrest.

The court referred to the provisions of the Constitution and criminal law and said fundamental right of protection against the arrest and detention is safeguarded under Article 22 and section 50 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

provided that relevant grounds for the arrest must be informed to the person by police official.

Khalid was arrested in the case related to the riots in Khajuri Khas area on October 1, while he was in judicial custody in another case related to larger conspiracy in the communal violence of February this year.

The court also directed the police to supply him the remand application and order of October 1 by which he was sent to three days police custody and reports of the medical examination conducted during police custody.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Prashant Pathak said that the remand application and remand order and the medical reports did not contain any material which may not be disclosed due to sensitivity of the matter or for any other reason.

The court said that Article 22(1) of the Constitution stipulated that no police

official can arrest an individual without informing the grounds of his arrest and Article 22 of the Constitution guaranteed the fundamental right of protection against the arrest and detention.

It further said section 50 of the CrPC provided that every police official with authority to arrest someone without warrant, must inform the person getting arrested about the crime for which he is arrested and other relevant grounds for the arrest.

It is settled proposition of law that no person shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest. The provisions of Section 50 of the Code are mandatory. The police official must inform the arrested person all his rights after detainment and this is the duty of police official which he can not refuse.

Arrested person is entitled to full particulars of the offences for which he is arrested or other grounds for such arrest and his detention will be illegal if he has not been communicated the particulars of the offence, the court said in its order passed on October 20.

The court was hearing an application moved by Khalid's counsel seeking copies of the FIR related to the Khajuri Khas violence case, remand application moved by the police for his police custody, remand order and medical report, so as to know the grounds of his arrest.

His counsel also sought a copy of the reply filed by the investigating officer (IO) to an application filed earlier with the same prayers.

Criminal held after shootout with police in Noida

PTI
NOIDA (UP), 21 OCTOBER

An alleged criminal was held after an encounter with police in Uttar Pradesh's Noida, officials said on Wednesday.

The shootout took place near Sector 34 metro station late on Tuesday night when the accused and his partner were intercepted for checking by a Sector 24 police team, they said.

"The scooter was with out a number plate and it was intercepted for checking. But the riders sped away. The police control room was alerted and the information was immediately relayed to all nearby patrol units which then tracked down the riders," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Noida, Ranvijay Singh said.

Sisodia asks labour dept officials to install CCTV cameras, check activities of touts

PTI
NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday directed officials of labour offices to install CCTV cameras, conduct surprise visits, and check activities of touts, a day after he witnessed various "flaws" at the Pushp Vihar office here while inspecting workers registration and verification.



Display Boards outside each labour office would be put up which shall clearly explain the process of registration and verification to construction workers, he directed the labour department officials.

"Delhi government will not tolerate any discrepancy which hinders the welfare of construction workers," he warned, asking officials

to streamline the registration system, so that no labourer has to pay any money or face difficulty of travelling to offices.

Sisodia had last week taken charge of the labour department and set up a target of registering 10 lakh workers with the Construction Workers Welfare Board so that they can get benefits of various government schemes.

"Sisodia directed the officials to install CCTV cameras inside the office premises, in the corridors and other public gathering areas with live coverage accessed through internet directly inside the office of the deputy chief minister and other labour officials," the statement said.

These steps would help in keeping touts and middlemen who exploit the workers while getting them registered with the board at bay, it said.

Sisodia has also directed commissioner (labour) to take up the matter with the police and Anti Corruption Branch (ACB) to conduct surprise checks to eliminate the operation of middlemen and touts, it added.

AAP govt agrees with plea in HC against appointment of SPPs in Delhi riot cases

PTI
NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

The AAP government Wednesday agreed with the plea filed in the Delhi High Court against the appointment of special public prosecutors (SPPs) in cases pertaining to northeast Delhi riots in February, saying that what the petitioner association has said is right.

A senior lawyer appearing for the Delhi government told the high court "we are also saying what the petitioner has said is right".

"There are judgements of constitutional bench of the Supreme Court which cover the issue (raised in the plea)," the senior lawyer told Justice Navin Chawla.

The court, however, did not hear the matter as the counsel for the petitioner -- Delhi Prosecutors Welfare Association (DPWA) -- sought a passover which could not be granted as there were several matters on the board of Justice Chawla.

The court said the matter would be heard on November 9 and gave liberty to the association's lawyers -- Kushal Kumar and Aditya Kapoor -- to file additional documents on record.

DPWA, in its plea, has sought



quashing of Delhi government's June 24 notification appointing the SPPs, including Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, on the ground that it was issued on police recommendations, in violation of the scheme provided under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

The court, however, did not hear the matter as the counsel for the petitioner -- Delhi Prosecutors Welfare Association (DPWA) -- sought a passover which could not be granted as there were several matters on the board of Justice Chawla.

It has sought that the appointment of independent SPPs be done by "respecting the principles of fairness and impartiality".

The plea has claimed that the appointment of the 11 SPPs, including the SG, on the

recommendations of Delhi Police is a divergence from the principles of free and fair trial which is part of Article 21 of the Constitution".

According to the petition, the proposal of Delhi Police to appoint SPPs was initially rejected by the Delhi government which decided to appoint SPPs from the empanelled advocates.

In view of the Presidential approval, Delhi government issued the June 24 notification appointing the SPPs recommended by the police, the petition also said.



We have started the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign in Delhi. So far, the Delhi govt and other agencies have been working to control pollution.

GOPAL RAI
DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2020

03

Punjab farmers unions lift blockade of goods trains

CM Capt Amarinder welcomes agitating farmers unions' move a day after the Punjab Assembly passed Bills to negate the Centre's farm laws; urges them to also lift blockade of passenger trains

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 21 OCTOBER

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh today welcomed the decision of agitating farmers' unions to allow the movement of goods trains in the state, saying it was in the interest of the state's economy and its revival.

The Punjab Assembly had yesterday unanimously passed a resolution and three new state Bills to negate the Narendra Modi government's "anti-farmers" agriculture sector laws. Punjab thus became the first state in the country to formally reject the Centre's controversial farm laws.

Thanking the farmer unions for heeding his appeal, the CM today said the farmers had shown their love and concern for the people of Punjab



with this move, as it will allow the state to get its much-needed coal supplies.

He pointed out that the people of Punjab had been facing a total power shutdown as a result of coal shortage due to the train blockade, and the

decision of the unions had come as a major relief to them.

Capt Amarinder said the farmers organisations, with this decision, had also ensured that the industry would not have to suffer more but would get

back on the path to revival. The "Rail Roko" (train blockade) stir of the Punjab farmers bodies — which has been going on across the state for several weeks in protest against the Centre's contentious farm laws — has caused huge financial losses to the industry, thus compounding the crisis triggered by the Covid pandemic.

The CM said the easing of goods trains' blockade will help Punjab replenish its "critically low" urea supplies, thus catering to the urgent need of the farming community for fertilisers. Capt Amarinder noted that the farmers had not let down the state and that he would personally ensure that his government never lets them down. He iterated his commitment to save their livelihood and lives, both of which were facing acute dan-

ger as a result of the Centre's "black farm laws", he said.

The CM, however, urged the farmers unions to also lift the blockade of the passenger trains, which were meant to provide transportation to tens of thousands of Punjabis every day, especially during these festival times.

The people of Punjab want to come back home to celebrate the festival season with their families. Capt Amarinder said, appealing to the agitating farmers to allow the movement of passenger trains too in the interest of Punjabis.

The CM said his government would continue to support the farmers in their fight against the central laws, which they could continue through dharnas and other democratic means without causing inconvenience to the people of their state.

HP Gov unveils cut-out for Covid awareness

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 21 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatraya on Wednesday unveiled a cut-out, prepared by Shimla Police for social awareness on COVID-19, at Raj Bhavan here.

Superintendent of Police, Shimla, Mohit Chawla and his other team members of District Police Administration were also present on the occasion.

The Governor appreciated the initiative and said that during the Corona pandemic, the police personnel have done an excellent job in fighting COVID-19 as frontline warriors. He said the Police friendly attitude during this period has changed the mindset of the people towards the police.

He said the police personnel have earned a lot of respect from the people of the state for their role in assisting people during Covid-19 pandemic.

While staying away from their homes and families, even



when people celebrate the festival, a policeman has to be on duty, he added.

The Governor said that the fight against Corona pandemic was yet not over. "Therefore, we have to be cautious until its medicine is available, he added and urged the people to wear masks and make a habit of washing hands with soap.

Maintain physical distancing in public places and like a responsible citizen, follow these guidelines and be a participant in the victory from Coro-

na," he said.

He exhorted the people to cooperate in the Prime Minister's mass movement appeal against COVID-19.

Dattatraya appealed to intensify the police campaign against drugs and said that the police could play an important role in protecting youth from drug addiction. On the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, the Governor paid tribute to all the police personnel who have laid down their lives for the country.

SJVN starts work for 1320 MW Buxar thermal power plant

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 21 OCTOBER

The Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) on Wednesday started infrastructural work for 1,320 MW Buxar Thermal Power Plant at Chausa in Buxar in Bihar.

SJVN Chairman and Managing Director Nand Lal Sharma today laid foundation of infrastructural works of first boiler of Buxar Thermal Power

Plant video conferencing and also inaugurated the newly constructed administrative building at the project site. Informing about the project, Nand Lal Sharma said the project was based on Super Critical Technology, a closed cycle water recirculation system for zero discharge concepts.

The project will have two units of 660 MW each and generate 9828 million units

of electricity annually.

For these two units two boilers are to be erected and the State Transmission Utility, Bihar has already approved a power evacuation system for this project. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 10,439 crores at January 2018 price levels and it is being implemented by SJVN Thermal Private Limited (STPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of SJVN Limit-

ed," he added.

He further stated that in terms of the Power Purchase Agreement with the Bihar government of Bihar, the project will provide at least 85 percent of power generated to the state which will improve the demand supply of power in Bihar.

The project is crucial for the industrial development of Bihar which would also act as a multiplier for employ-

ment generation as the project will result in direct and indirect employment to around 2,400 persons.

Sharma said although pandemic COVID-19 had greatly impacted construction works worldwide but it will be completed as per originally defined milestones i.e. first unit to be commissioned by June 2023 and second unit by December 2023.

"The project will be an

important step towards achieving the shared vision of SJVN of becoming 5,000 MW Company by 2023, 12,000 MW by 2030 and 25,000 MW Company by 2040," he added.

It is worthwhile to mention here SJVN's present installed capacity is 2016.51 MW and projects of 5674 MW are under various stages of development.

SJVN has a presence in var-



SJVN CMD Nand Lal Sharma laying foundation of infrastructural works of Buxar thermal power plant.

SNS

ious sectors of energy generation which includes hydro, wind, solar and also in the field of energy transmission.

Biomass plants to buy 8.58 lakh tonne of stubble in Haryana

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 21 OCTOBER

A new portal has been launched on which the information of contractors and industries that will purchase the paddy stubble will be made available. The farmers who want to sell their stubble can directly contact them



sidized rates of up to 80 percent through the Custom Hiring Centres. Besides this, 50 percent subsidy for such machines will also be provided to every individual farmer. For the same, a provision of Rs 216.21 Crore

is likely to be reported this year in the state.

He said the state government has already made provision to allocate an amount of Rs 152 Crore to provide machinery for stubble management at sub-

sidized rates of up to 80 percent through the Custom Hiring Centres. Besides this, 50 percent subsidy for such machines will also be provided to every individual farmer. For the same, a provision of Rs 216.21 Crore

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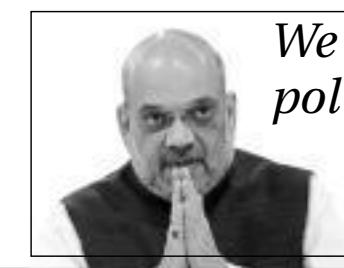
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We have prepared a comprehensive modernisation programme for police to tackle new challenges of security, crime

UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH
ON THE OCCASION OF POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY

India

TENDER

Office of

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER B&R DIVISION HP.PWD. JOGINDER NAGAR
HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MANDI-175015**

Phone & Fax No. 01908-222033 E-mail:- ee-jog-hp@nic.in

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (ITB)

The Executive Engineer, B&R Division, HPPWD, Joginder Nagar on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invited the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HPPWD department:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of contractor	Time limit
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1	Construction of Machiyal-Ropri-Treimbri road Km: 0/0 to 10/0 under OTMNP (Sub Head:- Providing and laying wearing gear-4/6 & tarring from Km. 4/710 to 5/210).	5,16,391/-	10,300/-	350/-	All classes deal with bituminous work	Six months (180 days)
2	Periodic maintenance of Suan to Pantehar road (VR-0096) (other than PMGSY road) under Annual Maintenance Plan 2020-21 Additional (Sub Head:- Providing and laying built-up spray grout, bituminous concrete in Km 0/0 to 1/0)	9,06,135/-	19,400/-	350/-	All classes deal with bituminous work	Six months (180 days)
3	Periodic maintenance of Suan to Pantehar road (VR-0096) (other than PMGSY road) under Annual Maintenance Plan 2020-21 Additional (Sub Head:- Providing and laying built-up spray grout, bituminous concrete in Km 1/0 to 2/0)	9,06,135/-	19,400/-	350/-	All classes deal with bituminous work	Six months (180 days)

2. Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://hp.tenders.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <http://hp.tenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:-
 1. Date of online Publication: - 21/10/2020 10:00 Hrs.
 2. Document Download Start and end date: - 28/10/2020 10:00 Hrs upto 11/11/2020 17:00 Hrs
 3. Bid Submission start and end date: - 28/10/2020 10:00 Hrs upto 11/11/2020 17:00 Hrs
 4. Physical submission of EMD and cost of tender document on or before the time and date of submission of bids: - 12/11/2020 upto 11:00 A.M.
 5. Date of Technical Bid opening will be 12/11/2020 11:30 AM. Evaluation of technical bid opening and financial bid opening will follow on accordingly.

4. Tender Details:- The tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 cover:- Shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility information. i) Cover 2:- Shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bids" where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. Submission of Original Documents:- The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) Original bid security / Earnest Money Deposited (EMD) and other technical Documents in O/O the Executive Engineer, B&R Division HP.PWD. Joginder Nagar District Mandi (HP) on or before the time and date of submission of bids failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date & time of submission of bids.

6. Bid Opening Detail:- The bids shall be opened on 12/11/2020 11:30 Hrs. in the office of Executive Engineer B&R Division HP.PWD. Joginder Nagar District Mandi (HP) by the authorized officer in their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents as specified in Key dates at Sr. No. 4. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delay due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

9. In addition to instructions for use of standard form in bidding documents the bidder should upload the following information also.

(i) Total annual volume of Civil Engineering construction work executed and payment received in the last five year proceeding this year duly verified by the Chartered Accountant

3827/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Executive Engineer,
B&R Division HP PWD,
Joginder Nagar, Ph. 01908-222033
District Mandi (HP) on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

"HP.PWD.TENDERS"

Sealed item rate tender on form PWD-8 are hereby invited on behalf of Governor of H.P. by the Executive-Engineer, Rohru Division, HPPWD., Rohru for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HPPWD., so as to reach in the office of the Executive-Engineer, Rohru Division, HPPWD., Rohru on or before 12-11-2020 upto 10:45AM and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 AM. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender form documents can be had from his office (Rohru Division HPPWD., Rohru) against cash payment(Non refundable) on any working day during the office hours upto 3:00 PM 11-11-2020 on. No application for issue of tender forms will be received on 11-11-2020 after 3:00PM. If the Office happens to be closed on the above mentioned dates, the tenders will be sold/ opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

The earnest money in the shape of National in the name of the XEN, must accompany each tenders. Conditional tenders and application (for purchase of tender-forms) received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The Offer of the tenders shall be kept open for 120days. The XEN. Reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

The copy of the latest renewal/enlistment, sale-tax clearance certificate must also accompany the application for the purchase of tender-documents. Saving certificate /Time deposit account/Saving bank account in any of the post offices in HP. duly pledged.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	E/Money	Time/cost of forms
1	C/I Link road Shahid Yeshwant Singh Marg Redi Farm to Kewli k.m. 0/0 to 4/230;(S:H- F/C 5/7 mtr wide road at R.D. 0/00 to 0/615)	Rs 4,63,619/-	Rs. 9300/-	02 month
2	C/I Link road to village Shardu k.m. 0/0 to 1/700 (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at R.D. 1/105 to 1/123 in PCC 1:3:6)	Rs. 2,90,921/-	Rs. 5,900/-	02 month
3	C/O Khopri Nallah Shardi road k.m. 0/0 to 2/500 (S.H:- C/O 900mm dia HPC at R.D. 0/765 & 1/00 with wing wall side in 7.00 mtr length)	Rs. 3,88,196/-	Rs. 7,800/-	02 month
4	C/I Deoli Khali Dharkupur road km 0/0 to 0/765 (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at RD 3/690 to 3/705)	Rs.186841/-	Rs.3700/-	02 month
5	Improvement of Kansakot Kutara Daigaon road km 0/0 to 15/0 (S.H:- Providing and fixing W-metal Beam crash barrier at RD 0/750 to 0/870)	Rs.336821/-	Rs.6700/-	02 month
6	A/R & M/O link road to village Kamroon (S.H:- P/L GSB in various reaches km 0/0 to 2/00)	Rs. 433050/-	Rs. 8700/-	02 month
7	R/R Damages on Udhoniwas Jakhar road km 0/0 to 5/0 (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at RD 4/155 to 4/175)	Rs.192761/-	Rs.4000/-	02 month
8	R/R Damage on TKHR road km 0/0 to 80/500 (S.H:- Removal of slips various RD 72/895 to 78/750)	Rs.243598/-	Rs.5000/-	02 month
9	C/I Link road to village Atgona km 0/0 to 6/0 (S.H:- C/O Cross Drainage work 900 mm dia hume pipe culvert at RD 0/245)	Rs.201516/-	Rs.4000/-	02 month
10	C/I Link road Sua Deori Bashlog Shekh road km 0/0 to 5/0 (S.H:- C/O 900mm dia hume pipe culvert at RD 2/980 and P/L Kharanja stone soiling various RD 0/0 to 0/350)	Rs.482524/-	Rs.9600/-	02 month
11	C/I Gawas Naloti to Dunga road km 0/0 to 1/10 (S.H:- F/C 5/7 mtrs. Wide road at RD 0/480 to 0/735)	Rs.498493/-	Rs.3800/-	02 month
12	R/R damages on Machoti Paddanallah road (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at RD 2/205 to 2/225 & 2/510 to 2/530)	Rs.305320/-	Rs.7000/-	02 month
13	C/I Link road to Karaphather Balokhar Gangana teer Nahar Sheetaval Kalgaon teer km 0/0 to 4/500 (S.H:- C/O 900MM dia hume pipe culvert at RD 1/220,1/545)	Rs.427527/-	Rs.8200/-	02 month
14	C/O Siryan Nalla Meithi Kupri Butnali Kalgaon road km 0/0 to 6/0 (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at RD 5/640 to 5/660)	Rs.497458/-	Rs.10000/-	02 month
15	C/O Siryan Nalla Meithi Kupri Butnali Kalgaon road km 0/0 to 6/0 (S.H:- C/O 900MM dia hume pipe culvert at RD 0/420,0/900)	Rs.281889/-	Rs.5600/-	02 month
16	C/I Link road to village Shalot km 0/0 to 1/0 (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at RD 0/120 to 0/127 and 0/435 to 0/448)	Rs.198980/-	Rs.4000/-	02 month
17	C/I Kotu Karala Khanglari road km 0/0 to 3/500 (S.H:- C/O B/Wall at RD 3/0 to 3/060)	Rs.450466/-	Rs.9000/-	02 month
18	R/R damages on Link road to village Astani km 0/0 to 1/0 (S.H:- R/Wall at RD 0/705 to 0/721)	Rs.233421/-	Rs.4600/-	02 month
19	C/I Mehandi Sandhaur Lahsa Chamsi road km 0/0 to 8/0 (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at RD 0/735 to 0/753.50)	Rs.199751/-	Rs.4000/-	02 month
20	R/R damages Link road to Astani km 0/0 to 2/0 (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at RD 0/900 to 0/918)	Rs.134689/-	Rs.2600/-	02 month
21	C/I Sheel Gangangan Kalgaon Kupri Melthi road km 0/0 to 8/165 (S.H:- R/Wall at RD 1/330 to 1/355)	Rs.332274/-	Rs.6600/-	02 month
22	C/I Missing X-drainage work on Khadra Nakselli road km 0/0 to 11/390 (S.H:- C/O 900 mm dia hume pipe culvert at RD 7/960, 9/510 & 10/200)	Rs.282330/-	Rs.8200/-	02 month
23	C/I Link road koli Dogra Sohi Naal road km 0/0 to 1/0 (S.H:- F/C 5/7 mtr. Wide road at RD 0/225 to 0/810)	Rs.312810/-	Rs.6300/-	02 month
24	R/R damages on Sharog Kainchi Kanda road km 0/0 to 4/0 (S.H:- C/O B/Wall at RD 3/285 to 3/295 & 3/330 to 3/340)	Rs.195163.00	Rs.3000/-	02 month
25	R/R Damages to Banoti Lalpani road km 0/0 to 2/360 (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at RD 0/920 to 0/940)	242685.00	Rs.2500/-	02 month
26	C/I Road to Khadra Nekseli km 0/0 to 11/330 (S.H:- Improvement of Black spot at various RD 0/270 to 0/285, 1/085 to 1/105, 1/930 to 2/240, 2/270, 3/480 to 3/510 and 7/200 to 7/215)	Rs.284903/-	Rs.5600/-	02 month
27	A/R & M/O Sharog Kanchi Kanda Rohru road km 0/0 to 4/0 (S.H:- C/O Unlined Surface drain & Maintenance of HPC)	Rs.121838/-	Rs.2000/-	02 month
28	A/R & M/O Rohru Arhai Bashla road km 0/0 to 12/300 (S.H:- C/O Unlined Surface drain & Maintenance of HPC)	Rs.374334/-	Rs.6400/-	02 month
29	C/I Dalgaon Bratti Kanani road km 0/0 to 1/0 (S.H:- C/O RCC Slab culvert at RD 0/490)	Rs.462165/-	Rs.9200/-	02 month
30	C/O Dhawana Kupri Rappad road km 0/0 to 3/00 (S.H:- C/O B/Wall at RD 1/600 to 1/615/0,360 to 0/380 & 0/320 to 0/340)	Rs. 387351/-	Rs. 7800/-	02 month
31	C/O Dhawana Kupri Rappad road km 0/0 to 3/00 (S.H:- F/C 5/7 mtr wide road at RD 2/435 to 3/00)	Rs. 311284/-	Rs. 6300/-	02 month
32	R/R damages to Joghdi Nallah Anderothi road km 0/0 to 6/0 (S.H:- C/O B/Wall at RD 5/290 to 5/350)	Rs.416805/-	Rs.8300/-	02 month
33	C/I Link road koptu Karla Khanglari road km 0/0 to 3/0 (S.H:- C/O B/Wall at RD 2/942.5 to 3/0)	Rs.270080/-	Rs.5400/-	02 month
34	C/I Link road to village Hingoli Km 0/0 to 2/500 (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at RD 1/20 to 1/045)	Rs.400075/-	Rs.8000/-	02 month
35	C/I Bye Pass Road Anupam Hotel to Chirgaon Junction (S.H:- C/O B/Wall at RD 0/175 to 0/195)	Rs. 177658/-	Rs. 3600/-	02 month
36	C/I Basha Antapu road km 0/0 to 7/0 (S.H:- C/O Unlined surface drain km 0/0 to 7/0)	Rs. 196980/-	Rs. 4000/-	02 month
37	C/I Machoti Padanallah road km 0/0 to 8/0 (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at RD 3/570 to 3/585)	Rs. 141798/-	Rs. 2900/-	02 month
38	R/R damages on Machoti Paddanallah road (S.H:- C/O R/Wall at RD 2/205 to 2/225 & 2/510 to 2/530)	Rs.305320/-	Rs.7000/-	02 month
39	C/I Shalawat Wali Kereley road km 0/0 to 2/500 (S.H:- C/O B/Wall at RD 1/180 to 1/220)	Rs.309059/-	Rs.7000/-	02 month
4				



BJP government is holding a Khat Sammelan ... against the farmers interest, but is not listening to their pain...

CONGRESS LEADER PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA
SLAMMING GOVERNMENT OVER FARM BILLS

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2020

THUMBNAILS



Civil volunteers hold a banner during a government initiative asking commuters to switch-off the ignition of their vehicles at traffic red lights to control pollution levels, near India Gate in New Delhi on Wednesday. APP

BJP MP says President's Rule in Bengal by Dec: West Bengal BJP Yuva Morcha president and MP Saumitra Khan has claimed that law and order has collapsed under the Trinamool Congress government and President's Rule will be imposed in the West Bengal by December. Khan also cautioned the Mamata Banerjee government over the killing of the BJP workers in the state.

SNS

Offender walks out of PS: A 50-year-old man, who was arrested for sexual assault of a teenaged boy, walked out of a police station in Mumbai and fled in a cab, an official said on Wednesday. A search was underway, he added. PTI

Bano gets minister rank: Anti-triple talaq crusader Shayara Bano, who recently joined the BJP, has been given minister of state status by the Uttarakhand government. CM Rawat's media coordinator Darshan Singh Rawat said, Bano is among three women, who were appointed vice presidents of the State Women's Commission besides being accorded MoS status. PTI

Matrys fund: Uttarakhand chief minister Trivedi Singh Rawat on Wednesday paid tribute to police and paramilitary personnel martyred in the line of duty and announced an allocation of Rs 75 lakh for the martyrs fund on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day.

PTI

'BJP-JD(U) alliance in Bihar is like Sachin-Sehwag pair'

Rajnath says alliance govt provided basic facilities which state lacked for decades



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KAHALGAON (BIHAR), 21 OCTOBER

Calling the BJP-JD(U) partnership in Bihar as "superhit" as the opening pair of Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag in cricket, defence minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said one can debate on the quantum of development done by Nitish Kumar, but no one can point a finger at the chief minister on the issue of corruption.

Singh also attacked the Opposition, saying the people had also witnessed the 15-year tenure of the RJD government in the state and can well understand the difference between the "misrule" of that time and the good governance of the Nitish Kumar-led alliance government.

Addressing a rally here in

'Indian soldiers have done miraculous job at LAC'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BARTARA, 21 OCTOBER

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said Indian soldiers have done a "miraculous job" in their standoff with the Chinese in Ladakh and asserted that no power can capture even an inch of Indian land under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong leadership.

Addressing an election rally here, the senior BJP leader also said he salutes mothers of the Bihar Regiment bravehearts who sacrificed their lives during avion-lent stand-off with Chinese

soldiers at the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

He also attacked Congress and the opposition party leader Rahul Gandhi on the China issue, saying that they should introspect on the records of their own governments in the past before making tall claims that a Congress government could have pushed out Chinese soldiers within two or three days.

"Opposition is running a propaganda on this issue. Rather than doing politics by misguiding people, Rahul Gandhi should do politics by looking into their eyes and

Bhagalpur district ahead of Assembly polls. Singh said the alliance government has provided basic facilities of electricity, road and water, which Bihar lacked for decades.

Praising Nitish Kumar and his deputy chief minister Sushil Modi of BJP, Singh said there are no charges of corruption against them.

Addressing a rally here in

Taking potshots at the RJD, Singh, speaking in local Bhojpuri language, said "lalten" has cracked and its oil has leaked and nothing will work now.

He also spoke at length about various welfare schemes of the Modi government such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. Singh said welfare

schemes of the Modi government not only empowered the poor and the down-trodden but also raised their standard of living.

Polls for the 243-member Bihar assembly will be held in three phases - 28 October, 3 November and 7 November - and the counting of votes will take place on 10 November.

Cong-RJD alliance with CPI(ML) will revive Maoism in Bihar: Adityanath

JAMUI/TARARI/PALIGANJ (BIHAR), 21 OCTOBER

The Congress-RJD combines poll pact with ultra-left CPI(ML) in Bihar is deplorable and unfortunate as it can lead to a resurgence of Maoism in the state which has reeled under Maoist violence for long. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet on Wednesday approved the extension of a scheme under which cooperative NAFED will procure 12 lakh tonnes of apple in Jammu and Kashmir during the current 2020-21 season.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) has also been allowed to use the government guarantee of Rs 2,500 crore for this operation.

The losses, if any, will be shared between the Centre and Jammu and Kashmir government on a 50:50 basis.

BJP leader Eknath Khadse to join NCP: Maha minister

MUMBAI, 21 OCTOBER

Disgruntled Maharashtra BJP leader Eknath Khadse will join the NCP on Friday, state minister Jayant Patil said on Wednesday, ending speculations about the senior saffron party leader jumping the ship.

Khadse was sulking since he was made to resign as minister in 2016 in the then Farooq-Abdullah-led BJP government over corruption allegations.

Patil, the state NCP chief, said with the joining of a seasoned leader like Khadse, who is a former minister and ex-leader of opposition in the Assembly, the Sharad Pawar-led party will be strengthened, particularly in the Khandesh region. PTI

India hands over captured PLA soldier to China

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

In a goodwill gesture in the mid-stretch of the Sino-Indian military stand-off, India handed over to China early this morning a PLA soldier who was apprehended on Monday after he strayed into Indian territory in the Demchok sector of eastern Ladakh.

Corporal Wang Ya Long had informed Indian agencies that he had crossed the disputed border to retrieve a yak that had strayed into India. He was hand-

Cong manifesto promises 10L jobs, farm loan waiver, ₹1,500 unemployment allowance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, 21 OCTOBER

The Congress on Wednesday released its manifesto for the Bihar assembly polls, promising 10 lakh government jobs, farm loan waiver and a monthly unemployment allowance of Rs 1,500 if voted to power.

It also assured the farmers of 50 per cent rebate in electricity bills and repeal of the three farm laws brought by the Centre.

Actor-turned-politician Raj Babbar released the manifesto titled 'Badlav Patra 2020' (The Document of Change) here at the party's state headquarters Sadguru Ashram in the presence of national general secretaries Randeep Singh Surjewala and Tariq Anwar and AICC Bihar in-charge Shakti Singh Gohil.

Brushing aside chief minister Nitish Kumar's mockery

of the Mahagathbandhan's promise of sanctioning 10 lakh government jobs, Babbar asserted the commitment will be fulfilled at the very first meeting of the alliance cabinet.

The senior Congress leader said those who fail to land jobs will get a monthly unemployment allowance of Rs 1,500.

Babbar accused Nitish Kumar of repeatedly "ditching" the youth, and added that during his tenure as the chief minister his government could have easily given 4.5 lakh government jobs to young men and women.

Apart from jobs and unemployment allowance, the party promised a loan waiver for farmers having small and medium land holdings but did not quantify it.

The alliance government will repeat the three "anti-farm

laws" brought in by the Centre in the very first session of the state assembly, Gohil said, citing the example of Punjab where the Congress government passed new bills to override the central law.

Besides, it will also provide financial assistance to farmers having less than two acres of land under 'Rajiv Gandhi Krishi Nyay Yojna', he said, adding that 50 per cent rebate will be given to farmers on their electricity bills.

The grand alliance government will introduce a health insurance scheme for farmers which will cover the entire family, he added. Promising free education to every girl child right from "KG to PG", party general secretary Tariq Anwar said every girl student who passes 12th standard with 90 per cent and above marks will be gifted a scooter as an incentive.

K'taka CM conducts aerial survey of flood-hit districts



Landslide before Jagan's Durga temple visit



Hours before the visit of Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to the Kanak Durga Temple a landslide caused by the recent heavy rain resulted in a huge boulder falling on the Ghat road injuring three policemen and crushing a temporary iron structure.

The city has witnessed 700mm rainfall in just a week while the average rainfall in Hyderabad for the entire year was 800mm causing breaching of tanks and lakes, flash floods and widespread destruction.

The temple atop Indrakiladri hill witnesses huge crowds during Dussehra celebrations and the CM visited the temple to present new clothes to the goddess. It was due to Reddy's visit police personnel had restricted the crowds at the foot of the hillock but it turned out to be a blessing as it helped in averting casualties during the landslide. The CM toured the landslide spot and directed officials to ensure safety of pilgrims. SNS

JKCA money scam: ED summons Farooq Abdullah second time

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 21 OCTOBER



On his birthday when he turned 84 on Wednesday, sitting MP and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah was again summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) within three days and questioned in its Srinagar office in connection with the Rs 43 crore 'scam' in the J&K Cricket Association (JKCA) when he was president of the sport body.

Annoyed over the summons, former CM Omar Abdullah tweeted: "This is on a day when my father turns 84!" This is for the second time after Monday that Abdullah has been grilled by the ED.

Summoning Abdullah on his birthday has evoked sharp response from the National

of "cornering any voices of dissent".

NC spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar alleged that the coercive measure is aimed at curtailing Farooq Abdullah's efforts to weave unity among the mainstream political parties in J&K on the issue of restoring the Articles 370 and 35A that were abrogated by the government on 5 August last year.

The government and its agencies, the spokesperson said, has no consideration for a law-abiding citizen who is severely immunocompromised and diabetic. Dr Abdullah being treated like this is a proof that the BJP is not even interested in a face-saving act and is completely comfortable with being seen as a "bully" by the nation, Dar said.

The party lambasted the government for its agenda

disgruntled Maharashtra BJP leader Eknath Khadse will join the NCP on Friday, state minister Jayant Patil said on Wednesday, ending speculations about the senior saffron party leader jumping the ship.

Khadse was sulking since he was made to resign as minister in 2016 in the then Farooq-Abdullah-led BJP government over corruption allegations.

Patil, the state NCP chief, said with the joining of a seasoned leader like Khadse, who is a former minister and ex-leader of opposition in the Assembly, the Sharad Pawar-led party will be strengthened, particularly in the Khandesh region. PTI

India hands over captured PLA soldier to China

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

In a goodwill gesture in the mid-stretch of the Sino-Indian military stand-off, India handed over to China early this morning a PLA soldier who was apprehended on Monday after he strayed into Indian territory in the Demchok sector of eastern Ladakh.

Corporal Wang Ya Long had informed Indian agencies that he had crossed the disputed border to retrieve a yak that had strayed into India. He was hand-

over to the Chinese side at Chushul Moldo meeting point after completion of formalities.

After his detention by the Indian army, the Chinese soldier was provided medical aid, food and warm clothes to protect him from the extreme altitude and harsh climatic conditions. The Indian gesture is significant ahead of the eighth round of corps commander-level talks between India and China later this week with focus on disengagement process in eastern Ladakh as the region enters harsh winter season.

Rivers Bhima, a tributary of river Krishna that originates in Maharashtra, had wreaked havoc in Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Raichur districts due to the torrential rain in the catchment areas for the past 10 days. Yediyurappa said heavy rains and floods have caused inundation in several villages in Kalaburagi and Vijayapur districts, damaging crops and houses. To a query, the CM said a Central team would carry out an inspection after the state government submits the complete report, which may take at least four to five days.

He, however, maintained the Prime Minister was aware of the prevailing situation and has assured him of assistance. Later talking to reporters at Kalaburagi after the survey, the chief minister said he cannot make any fresh announcements due to the model code of conduct in place in the state in the wake of MLAs elections and bypolls to two Assembly segments - Sirsa in Tumakuru and Rajarajeshwari Nagar in Bengaluru urban district.

Sonowal opens Kaziranga National Park for tourists

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 21 OCTOBER



While opening the world famous Kaziranga National Park (KNP) on the south bank of the mighty Brahmaputra for both domestic and foreign tourists for the year 2020-21 today, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal expressed hope that the state's tourism sector would be revived after the Covid-19 induced lockdown situation for many months.

He also stated that the unemployed youths in and around KNP would find employment again through jeep & elephant safari and other tourism activities. The

jeep safari at Kohora and Bagori ranges started today while other two ranges would be opening by November.

Referring to one time financial assistance provided to people engaged in jeep safari by the government to alleviate their economic stress brought by the pandemic, Sonowal assured more such initiatives in future.

He called on the people of the five districts covered by KNP and the local communities residing in the surrounding areas of the park to extend full hospitality to the visitors coming from outside so that the best picture of the state could be presented to the outside world. At the same time, he asked everyone to maintain all Covid-19 protocols while visiting the park and other such places of tourist

interests. Highlighted the achievement of the government in stopping rhino poaching in all forest reserves of Assam to a great extent in last four and half years, Sonowal thanked the people of the nearby areas for extending their full cooperation in the endeavour. He also urged the media persons to spread the news of opening of KNP for the season so that tourists from India and abroad could arrive and enjoy the natural beauty of the park.

It may be mentioned that KNP in central Assam is widely acclaimed as it gives shelter to over 2,400 rhinos (officially known as Indian rhinoceros and greater one-horned rhinoceros), which amounts two third of world one-horned rhino populations.

Rhinos are recognised as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and India's wildlife protection Act gives enormous power to the rangers for protecting the grass-eating pachyderm.

After the formal opening of the park, Sonowal took a jeep safari with the local legislator & state agriculture minister Atul Bora, State water resources minister Keshab Mahanta, State industries & commerce minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, PCCF (wildlife) AM Singh with others. (Photograph courtesy: DIPR Assam).

Anand Vihar-Bhagalpur-Anand Vihar Suvidha (Superfast) Festival Special train CANCELLED

84406/84405 Anand Vihar-Bhagalpur-Anand Vihar

Suvidha (Superfast) festival special train which was scheduled to be run w.e.f. 23.10.2020, is to be treated as cancelled. Chief Passenger Transportation Manager EASTERN RAILWAY

04404/04403 ANAND VIHAR-BHAGALPUR-ANAND VIHAR (SUPERFAST) FESTIVAL SPECIAL

To clear extra rush of passengers during Festival Season, following fully reserved festival special train will be run as per following abstract timings, dates of run, stoppages and composition:-

| 04404 Anand Vihar - Bhagalpur | | Station | 04403 Bhagalpur-Anand Vihar | |
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Necessary caution

To a nation that views announcements of an address by the Prime Minister with a degree of apprehension, Wednesday's speech by Mr Narendra Modi was salutary. It should come as both a breath of fresh air as well as a sincere caution. In warning Indians on the pitfalls of ignoring basic public health measures, the Prime Minister sent a simple message - that while India might draw comfort from its relatively low fatality rate and the significant numbers of its recoveries, there is absolutely no room for complacency.

Certainly, news reports from around the country suggest that Indians have either shed their fears, or chosen to ignore them, as they have jumped headlong into festivities in West Bengal, electoral campaigns in Bihar and shopping extravaganzas elsewhere. Coming as it did on the eve of the extended festival season - Dussehra, Durga Puja, Diwali, the Prophet's birthday, Gurpurab and Christmas - the message was timely and thus must be heeded by citizens. Drawing attention to photographs and videos that exhibit recklessness of people in public places, the Prime Minister cautioned: "This is absolutely not right. Those who have become negligent and are moving about without masks are putting themselves and their families, including children and the elderly, at risk." While affirming that resumption of economic activity was necessary, and was taking place, Mr Modi warned that the Covid management position which was stable could not be allowed to deteriorate. "We must keep in mind that while lockdown may have ended, the virus is still there. This is not the time to be negligent, this is not the time to believe that corona is gone or there is no danger from it," the Prime Minister said.

Viewed in perspective, Mr Modi's message is important. With the exception of China, which somehow manages to present a picture of normality, countries around the world that had seemed to control the spread of the disease are reporting fresh waves of afflictions. In Europe, for instance, many countries have been forced to re-impose restrictions in the past few days, after the virus re-surfaced with considerable severity. While India has managed to augment its healthcare infrastructure in the past few months, there certainly isn't any room for a casual approach, or indeed for the kind of negligence that has been on display. News media outlets have in recent days reported how people have made themselves believe that they are somehow immune to the virus and are seen flouting distancing requirements as well as giving up on the use of face masks. These are worrying signs for they suggest that as people find excuses to leave home - to partake of festivities, or to join poll rallies - they expose themselves to risk and the country to the possibility of a public health emergency that may easily spiral out of control. The Prime Minister's caution must be heeded - by every Indian, and without hesitation.

Farmer travails

While opposition to the three major changes in farm laws in Punjab - and to a lesser extent in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh - may be deemed political for all three states are ruled by the Congress, the outcomes of a survey conducted by a NGO on farmers' response to the legislations suggests that the Government may not have conveyed their import effectively enough. The survey conducted by GoanConnections shows that more than half the farmers in the country oppose the legislations, but over a third of those who oppose them have no knowledge of their provisions. Forty-six per cent of the respondents believe that the legislations favour private players who will exploit farmers while almost a similar number believe that the government is working in favour of multinational corporations and big business. Major opposition to the proposals comes from three factors - first, the belief among 32 per cent of the respondents that the government wants to end the Minimum Support Price mechanism; second, the belief among 57 per cent of farmers that they will be forced to sell their produce at a lower price and finally the concern voiced by 38 per cent that the changes will increase their dependence on private players. A not insignificant number - 32 per cent - also believe that the proposals will make farmers bonded labourers for big business. These findings are startling not in the least because the fears voiced by farmers have been addressed by the Government, but not effectively enough as it now appears. The survey also shows that the greatest opposition to the legislations comes from the states of North-western India, essentially Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, and the greatest support comes from the Western region. This may be in part be explained by the fact that up to 77 per cent of the farmers in the North-western states sell their produce through Government mandis and APMCs, as opposed to 41.8 per cent in the West.

While the resolutions adopted by the Punjab Assembly, and the threat of legal recourse issued by the state's Chief Minister, will have to be met politically and in courts should the matter reach there, the Union government would be well advised to directly address farmers and meet their concerns. For the survey makes it clear that a substantial part of the opposition to the legislations is born out of either ignorance, or wrong perception. The government may also like to take a cue from the finding that an overwhelming majority - 59 per cent - believe that the MSP mechanism should be made mandatory through the enactment of a law. Note must also be taken of the fact that generally farmers believe that governments - both at the Centre and in the states - are supportive of their community. Overall, the government has its work cut out in the coming days and weeks.

Castrate the rapist

A rape convict should be punished by no other means than surgical castration. A death penalty ends with the hanging. The guilty individual does not survive to regret. Capital punishment has very little utility as a deterrent to other men



Rape is not beastly though it certainly is barbarian; it is an indefensible crime. Yet India has not been able to prevent rape, not to speak of controlling the crime. There cannot be so many policemen watching every possible contact of a male or a female. If at all, the law courts could move much faster when a case is filed. Even that acceleration will not help to abolish the incidence of rape.

Many a punishment has been suggested, including the death sentence. Once a convict is executed, he is forgotten. All that is achieved is that the same man cannot repeat a rape. In my view, the most effective deterrence should be to punish the convicted by castration, a punishment which has been suggested by a few citizens. Its virtues are several. The state does not take the life of the guilty. The biggest motivation of the man to rape is to prove that he is virile, that he can bring a woman to instant submission and to give himself a perverse sense of triumph. The imaginary sexual satisfaction could be better achieved with the help of a sex worker but the young criminal might not know. The older criminal is unquestionably a perverse maniac plus a coward.

In India, as a society, citizens feel embarrassed but not adequately ashamed. Only a few years ago in Uttar Pradesh, a father-in-law raped his daughter-in-law and the supposed compensation to the woman was to marry the old man. In the bargain, her young husband had to divorce her, which incidentally, rendered her children somewhat orphaned. According to the laws of their community, a rape is severely punishable provided the victim can produce four witnesses to the crime before the dar-ul-qaza. How practical that

could be questionable.

Over the centuries, India has faced many a conquering invasion. It was customary for the invaders and their soldiers to convert or enslave defeated enemies, rape their womenfolk and often force them into their harems. Historically, this happened often enough to reconcile society to rape being seen as disgraceful, but not abominable or inhuman. Although in the world context, we must realize that it is an unforgivable black mark on our civilization.

The sentence for rape in China for example is death in most cases. In North Korea, rapists are sentenced to death by firing squad. In Afghanistan, convicted rapists are shot in the head or hanged within four days. In Egypt, rapists are hanged, as they are in Iran, where they are occasionally put to death by stoning (Wikipedia).

It is to be hoped that the Indian conscience will be aroused enough to enable drastic action to be taken. This means not only drastic punishment to the guilty but also an enduring deterrence for others to keep away from this heinous crime.

In some African tribes, rape is heavily punished, because it is considered a violation of property rights, the women being considered belonging to either her father or her husband. Strangely enough, the Red Indians of America considered gang-rape as a means of punishment of an adulterous wife. In some countries like France, there is distinction between statutory rape and

rape as is commonly understood. Statutory rape means taking sexual advantage of a person in a subordinate or a subservient position, for example, an employer forcing himself upon his secretary. In such cases, even at 18, the victim would be considered a child. My own conclusion is that a rape convict should be punished by no other means than surgical castration so that he realizes for the rest of his life his inadequacy and suffers the lack of potency which he was so proud of. A death penalty ends with the hanging. The guilty individual does not survive to regret. The rest of the world hardly would remember the particular crime, nor the guilty or the victim. Capital punishment has very little utility as a deterrent to other men. On the other hand, surgical castration of a young man will make him a eunuch. In the bargain, he would be a walking advertisement for society to see what happens to a rapist. Chemical castration is not recommended for our country, because it would leave open the door for mistakes or corruption.

Indonesia's parliament in October 2016 had passed a law authorising chemical castration following a number of high profile cases of child sexual abuse in the country. The first man sentenced to chemical castration in 2019 said he would prefer an increase in prison time or even the death penalty. The Czech Republic practices surgical castration for sex offenders. The law was introduced in 1966. According to official figures, 85 people

underwent surgical castration in the Czech Republic between 2000 and 2011. However, this practice has drawn strong criticism from human rights groups.

Ukraine's parliament in July 2019 had approved a measure to chemically castrate rapists. The legislation will potentially apply to individuals aged between 18 and 65 found guilty of raping or sexually abusing minors.

Sometime ago, Nigerian lawmakers approved surgical castration as punishment for those convicted of raping children under the age of 14, which however, needs to be signed by the country's rulers for it to become the law. The Nigerian move followed public outrage over a wave of rapes, which prompted the nation's state governors to declare a state of emergency.

Castration as punishment has been introduced as a law even in the USA. In June 2019, the American state of Alabama enacted a law that would require, as a condition of parole, that some convicted child sex offenders undergo chemical castration. Renowned American media house The Atlantic had written: "The new law will mean that those who abused children under the age of 13 will be injected with hormone-blocking drugs before leaving prison. The state of Oklahoma too, mulled over passing a similar legislation. A similar bill was proposed last year in Oklahoma but met strong opposition." The US newspaper had added: "Unlike castrating a bull, chemical castration does not involve removing a person's testicles though the Alabama bill initially advocated the surgical approach. Instead, the procedure uses various drugs to render the testicles irrelevant. In most cases, medication triggers the pituitary gland to reduce testosterone to prepubescent levels."

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Keep the change

In a Bollywood comedy flick released a few years ago, the protagonist, a jobless man, hires a small time actor as an accomplice to help portray him as a highly paid engineer in the city. But the overzealous actor does more than what he is told to do, nearly ruining the entire act. Once the act is over, the protagonist orders that Rs50 be deducted from the actor's fee for overacting. The movie's name is Phir Hera Pheri, which loosely translates as 'monkey business again'. Recent announcements by lawmakers from various parties to return Dashain allowances reek of Bollywood-style overacting.

The Members of Parliament have decided to forfeit Rs64,070 each, equivalent to a month's salary, claiming it wouldn't be appropriate to take the allowances amid the pandemic. They have given the impression that they are guided by conscience - a commitment to ensuring that they do not keep pocketing money when the people are facing a zillion problems. They may also be guided by guilt for having made close to zero effort to better the lives of the people. Whatever the reason, the announcements expose their hypocrisy.

The opposition Nepali Congress has been a no-show right since the beginning of the lockdown as if we were in a 'Congress-mukta Nepal' already. The party has remained silent even as the government began to flounder in its response to the pandemic and abdicated its responsibility to feed the poor hit hard by the lockdown and to upgrade health facilities across the country.

Enough has already been said about the ruling Nepal Communist Party that has spent most of the time and energy since the beginning of the lockdown in managing its internal politics. Frankly, people have spent all adjectives to describe the ruling party

THE KATHMANDU POST
that has crossed all limits of apathy, recklessness, ruthlessness and criminal negligence as people lay hungry, angry, bedridden and dying.

The announcement by the major parties and their lawmakers to return the Dashain allowances is just eyewash, even a political drama, enacted not by a genuine will to help the people. Rather, it is a result of a huge public outcry on mainstream and social media.

If they have not listened to the people of the lowest strata of society who have died of hunger and lack of medical care, they would as well avoid listening to the media and social media warriors. Let fake gestures be forbidden during these tough times.

Although Rs64,070 may sound like huge money for the people dying of hunger or illness, it is not too big a sum if we consider the amount of money the lawmakers receive each year just for putting salt to the wounds of the people. Their returning a month's salary to the government is not going to make much of a difference.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Kashmir question

SIR, My letter is complementary to Samresh Bandyopadhyay's letter headlined "Nefarious", published yesterday. The UN is in its 75th Year and India is struggling with the Kashmir problem since 1947. In the solitude of the Covid jail my memory takes me to Inder Malhotra's Indira Gandhi: A political biography.

The highly regarded journalist had mentioned that in 1948 during a private conversation with Warren Austin, US delegate to the UN, it emerged that Sheikh Abdullah had in mind an "independent Kashmir."

I can recall that Sheikh Abdul-

lah was a member of the Indian delegation to the UN when the Security Council discussed India's complaint against Pakistan in 1948. This may sound sweet to the ears of the Gupkar Caucus.

India had gone to the UN in 1947 on the advice of Lord Mountbatten who was the last British Governor General of India and was appointed the first Governor General of Independent India.

Sardar Patel was against the referral of the Kashmir question to the UN. The draft of the Indian complaint was shown to Gandhiji who had made some changes in it. It was also thought then that the

draft should be shown to Liaquat Ali Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan.

As per Inder Malhotra's version, the Defence Committee of the Cabinet took over the duties of the Indian Cabinet with full knowledge of Prime Minister Nehru.

The Governor-General was the Chairman of the Defense Committee prior to 15 August 1947 in his capacity as Head of Government. When Mountbatten was appointed the first Governor General on 15 August, his status legally changed to Head of State but he continued to function as the virtual Head of Government.

This was doubtless an anomalous situation from which various other complications sprang in the aftermath of independence. The reasons which weighed in choosing Mountbatten as the first Governor-General arouse curiosity and light needs to be shed on them.

In passing, it is worth recall that at one stage there was a proposal to appoint Mountbatten as the common Governor-General of the newly born dominions of India and Pakistan. This did not work out as Mohammed Ali Jinnah was appointed as the first Governor-General of Pakistan.

That said, there is a shadow of exceptionality looming over these events. This can be removed by a peep into the classified documents of that period. Such a step may also help disabuse the minds of Gupkar Caucus. Over to Home minister Amit Shah.

Yours, etc., RC Jain,
Kolkata, 20 October.



PLAYING WITH LIVES

SIR, 'Treat all pandals as containment zones' is a welcome mandate by the Calcutta High Court. There is no denying the fact that this direction will enhance public faith in the judiciary of the country. The High Court has correctly observed and said "it is surprising and unfortunate that in spite of having told the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and Police on Friday to submit a plan to implement the guidelines, it was not done."

After all, the photographs which are coming out in the newspapers are horrifying". Puja committees would not have been interested in celebrating Durga puja this year due to pandemic had chief minister Mamata Banerjee refrained from donating Rs 50,000 to each puja committee across the state. She should have advised them to celebrate with a nominal 'Ghat puja' (pot worshipping). The State government should have seen the price being paid by Kerala and Maharashtra where after the celebration of festivals, the cases surged. The same would have happened had the Court not intervened. We cannot play with the lives of people. Hopefully, the state government will abide by the court order strictly.

Yours, etc., Mihir Kanungo,
Kolkata, 20 October.

Woke and the Right-Wing

SUNIL SHARAN

Just a couple of weeks ago, the popular American TV show Saturday Night Live was hosted by a white comedian. Woke denotes a left-wing movement demanding fair play and justice in the US. The comedian stated, correctly, that wokeness was actually meant for people of colour in the US. Until white women hijacked it and came to stand right on top of the woke grievance line.

What grievances did white women have, asked the comedian? Amongst them, and primarily, oh, my SUV seats are not heated enough, he said. For four centuries said the comedian white women have been soaking in blood money. And now they are suddenly so aggrieved. He went on to say that whenever a white woman sneaked out to have sex with a black man, and she was caught in the act, she would claim that it was non-consensual sex. Guess what happened to the poor black man.

An Indian publisher was visiting the US and wanted my book to appeal to liberal whites, that is white wokes. I told him that there is no difference between the white left and the white right. For them, we Indians are just dark people. That comment resonated with the publisher. I, an American citizen of Indian descent, have often wondered about my status in America.

In 1984, my brother was thinking of going to America. He also had the option of joining an IIM in India. He was conflicted, and so met one of our cousins, who had got his master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley. My brother asked my cousin, will I be treated as a second-class citizen in America? My cousin raised his right eye-brow.

Twenty-five years in America and I am not even considered a citizen of the country, even if I put my real status in bold black letters on top of my resume. So forget about being a second-class citizen. I am just second-class. Or maybe third?

As a writer, one is often asked by publishers and literary agencies what your platform is. One way of making a platform is by writing for national



newspapers. But American papers carry articles related to India only when they bash India. At the outset of the pandemic, the most eminent American paper carried two articles critical of India when India was handling it much better than America (and still is).

Even if I were to write an India-bashing article, my Indian Hindu name is a turn-off for the editors of American papers. Fed up, I have taken on a Christian nom de plume, but just yesterday I was accused by an American literary agent of stealing someone's identity, which is a federal crime and can land me in jail. I have no idea whose identity it was that this agent was talking about.

The Black Lives Matter movement has become intensely contro-

versial in the US. Donald Trump has made it into some sort of a black panther movement, of violent black men who will invade American suburbia and hurt white women. Actually the aim and the activities of the movement are noble. They are only protesting, mostly non-violently, injustices against blacks in America.

But here too, white wokes have hijacked the movement. They want to protest with the black BLM protesters. The black BLM protesters are suspicious of such white woke allies. After the police officer Derek Chauvin slayed George Floyd in Minneapolis, the expectation, after a crime so heinous, was that a majority of whites would atone and initiate police reform. But the out-and-out right-winger Donald Trump keeps praising his cops and

exhorts them to commit more atrocities. Faced off against him is the woke duo of Biden-Harris, or should I say Harris-Biden? Kamala Harris is woke. Biden is more moderate.

Biden is promising the earth, police reform and a green new deal and a lot more. Actually a green new deal is much closer to a white woke heart than any sort of police reform. So if Biden wins, expect a green new deal to go through and police reform to fall by the wayside.

Trump's tenure has been a disaster for India. China is bullying India and Trump has said nary a word against China. Barack Obama too did not do anything for India. George W. Bush, with the Indo-US nuclear deal, is the only US president to have done something substantive for India.

Expect Biden to do little for India, even though Harris is of Indian descent. Harris practically hides her Indian origins, playing up her black heritage instead. India has gone into a tizzy over her, but she doesn't seem to have gone into a tizzy over India. Nor will she be she and Biden to win. Biden has said very little about India, or even foreign policy in general, even though he has decades of experience in it. Just don't expect a Biden-Harris administration to do anything for India. India will have to learn to cope with China on its own. And there will be no permanent seat on the UN security council for India under Biden.

The writer is an expert on energy and contributes regularly to publications in India and overseas.

A cowboy astride two horses



MATTHEW FLINDERS

Have you heard the story about the cowboy who tried to ride two horses at the same time? Everything is fine while the horses happily gallop along in the same direction but as time goes on, each horse wants to head in a different direction. It becomes harder and harder for the cowboy to hold them together. After a while the pressure to part company becomes too great and a painful rupturing occurs. The cowboy falls to the ground and the horses run off into the sunset, never to be seen again.

The more I see Boris Johnson looking befuddled and bewildered as he grapples with the Covid crisis, the more I think of him as that cowboy

sitting astride two horses. He is hurtling down a rocky pass knowing that the challenge beneath him risks ripping him apart.

In Johnson's case, his horses are two key areas of national policy – a healthy economy weighed up against the health of society. Johnson, a man who is (in)famous for trying to have his cake and eat it, has jumped on both horses and is now whipping them frantically for fear of allowing either one to lose.

The problem is that no politician can triumph in the "cowboy challenge". Those who attempt such risky rides are almost always destined to come a cropper.

And Johnson has indeed come a cropper. His attempt to foster public

clarity through a new three-stage framework succeeded only in sowing more confusion. His dealings with the regions left Liverpool feeling cheated, Lancashire feeling bullied and Manchester angrily determined not to be the "canary in the coal mine" used to test the toxicity of the social and economic impacts of further tight restrictions. In the past week, territorial fissures and fault lines that have, if we are honest, existed for decades, cracked wide open.

The government's strategy of seeking to protect both the public's health and the economy is a political hybrid that does not suit the moment. Politics in normal times is defined by compromise and the messy accommodation of competing pressures.

But in times of crisis, the most efficient response is to pick a clear objective and to focus upon it with unwavering energy. In trying to protect the economy and the public's health Johnson risks heading for a painful fall, fulfilling neither ambition. The challenge of balancing both has already been seen in the whiff-whaff, flip-flop, stop-start tendencies of the government, which have in turn led to falling levels of public confidence and growing evidence of crisis fatigue.

Whether you view the government's position from a charitable perspective and as reflecting the inevitable muddle and mistakes that will come with coping with crisis, or you more harshly see a confederacy of dunces who don't quite know where they're going or why, is neither here nor there. What matters is that a route from chaos to clarity is mapped out soon. When Britain was first put in lockdown in March, Boris Johnson was explicit: the government would "follow the science". A few months later, the talk was more of being guided by the science.

Now it not only appears that the government is becoming distrustful of "the experts" but the broader scientific base is itself fundamentally divided, with an increasing polarisation appearing between those who favour a focus on herd immunity, and those who suggest that this is dangerously flawed and instead favour tighter social restrictions.

The problem is that Johnson's need to be liked means taking tough decisions and seeing them through is not his forte. And yet when it comes to Covid, there are no technological solutions, no silver bullets or simple answers to complex questions.

Major decisions will have to be taken on the basis of imperfect information and with no guarantee of suc-

cess. There's no guarantee a vaccine will be found, and "vaccine hesitancy" might ensure that an insufficient proportion of the public will agree to take it. This is the real world of hard life-or-death politics, but doing nothing is not an option.

The trick that Johnson has for some reason failed to master is how to turn a disaster into an opportunity. Adopting an emphasis on "herd immunity" is just too dangerous, but for a prime minister whose political life and legacy is now so clearly intertwined with making sure the new "blue wall" in the midlands and north of England does not revert to its traditional colours, the opportunity revolves around somehow linking the Covid strategy with the "levelling-up" agenda. Labour voters "lent" Boris their support – as he fully knows – on the basis that he would tackle economic inequalities across England.

Grasp the opportunity to come good on that bargain. Give Manchester mayor Andy Burnham his money, listen to Sheffield mayor Dan Jarvis, engage with Liverpool mayor Steve Rotherham, sprinkle the financial fairy dust and facilitate a tough lockdown in a way that nurtures a vibrant economy. The choice is therefore less about choosing one horse over another, so much as defining a thoroughbred policy in which financial investment is used to "lock" lockdown tightly but in a manner that protects the most vulnerable, listens to communities, and looks to shape a very different post-Covid Britain.

I've always thought that Johnson was a bit of a cowboy but the time has come to replace chaos with clarity.

The writer is Founding Director of the Sir Bernard Crick Centre for the Public Understanding of Politics, University of Sheffield. This article was published on www.conversation.com

NO 28112



ACROSS

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- 3 Control station in two stops (10)
- 9 Zombie, regularly drinking – a bit of Oliver Reed is probably in it (4)
- 10 Cliff Richard initially invested in Manx getaway, intended to spend advance (10)
- 12 Devious spy to go legit – perhaps Carter? (12)
- 15 Personnel concealing anger for employer (5)
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- 18 Ignorant hunk, now in gardening trousers (9)
- 21 Space Professor's way of putting things (3-2)
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- 27 Foresight of Trump's running mate defining Republican key initiative at the start (10)
- 28 Heard any gas (4)
- 1 princess first (9)
- 2 Following concert, Sue comes back over the moon (10)
- 22 Harry, Meghan and Vicar have a little stress at the start – some people take it on the chin (7,5)
- 25 Explosive journal on Van Gogh discovered (10)
- 26 Pine for a girl (4)
- 27 Foresight of Trump's running mate defining Republican key initiative at the start (10)
- 28 Heard any gas (4)
- 8 Metatarsal's so long (2-2)
- 11 Heroic Peston broadcast on two channels (12)
- 13 There's important information here concerning a corrupt male on the inside (6,4)
- 14 Craftsman's expression of astonishment, wiping bottom and, simultaneously, leg (10)
- 17 Trendy name for a pub (3)
- 19 Bill's arrived with agency (7)
- 20 For example, Hoover's sweeping (7)
- 23 This will make 26 sound like fiction (4)
- 24 Spots a knight in church (4)

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

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The report mentioned by Reuter as emanating from the Newcastle Exchange to the effect that Chinese coal companies are competing for European business is not unlikely to be pooh-poohed as a mere stock exchange rumour, even though it is supported by the statement that the Danish State Railways have already purchased Chinese cargoes. Nevertheless the British coal monopolists, who are now the trade union leaders, would do well not to neglect the possibilities even of Chinese competition, in foreign markets at least. Mr. Coggan Brown has told us something about coal-mining in China in the course of the monograph giving some of the results of his travels in Yunnan, published by the Geological Survey of India as the latest volume of its Memoirs. There is not much chance of competition from Yunnan, if only in view of its land-locked geographical position. Moreover, so far as Chinese coal-mining methods are exemplified in this remote province, they were found by Mr. Coggan Brown to be of the most primitive description. Still, Yunnan is not the only Chinese province where coal is found, nor, for that matter, is China the only country whence competition may come, provided transport is available. Mr. Coggan Brown remarks incidentally, in the course of his very valuable work, that the coal production of Japan now exceeds that of India, and that production in Japan has always exceeded home requirements so that a large tonnage is available for export and sale at fairly cheap rates.

NEWS ITEMS

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS IN 1919-20

Col. W.D. Waghorn, replying to Mr. Chanda's question re. number of railway accidents and collisions in 1919 and 1920 said: The Hon'ble Member is referred to the statement placed on the table by Sir Arthur Anderson in answer to a question asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha on the 25th September 1919, giving particulars of serious accidents involving loss of life or injury to passengers which occurred up to 1st September in that year. A similar statement giving information regarding accidents which occurred between 2nd September, 1919 and June 1920 is placed on the table. In all cases of accidents involving loss, danger or injury, notice of the enquiry is sent to the District Magistrate and to the Senior Government Inspector both of whom attend the enquiry if the importance of the case requires it.

ARMoured CARS FIRED ON

The War Office announces that in Mesopotamia there is little change in the situation. The Baqubah area, as far as the neighbourhood of Khanikin, is still in revolt. Defences have been established at the Baqubah railway bridge, and a column has been sent to clear up the situation. The British post at Sakiya, 25 miles south of Neifri, is invested. West of Bagdad, on the middle Euphrates, an armoured car section which was fired on en route from Feluja, has succeeded in reaching Bagdad. The Bagdad-Feluja Railway has been tampered with but not seriously. The railway from Hillah to Bagdad has been secured at both ends by lines of block houses. Operations are being considerably impeded owing to the heat, and the unusual lowness of the river is rendering communications and supply services by water most difficult.

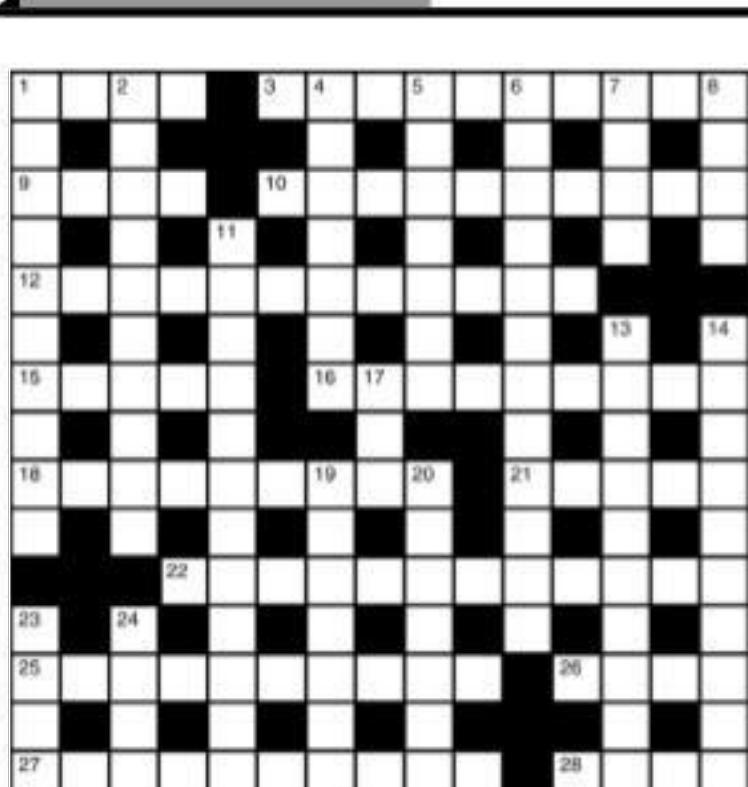
INDIAN FORCES

The following is the full text of the despatches from the Commander-in-Chief published in yesterday's Gazette of India, dealing with minor operations undertaken from June, 1918, to April, 1919. They relate to operations in Aden, South Persia, operations of the Bushire Field Force, Assam and Burma, Transcaspia and East Persia, and the protection of the Indian coasts. The roll assigned to the Aden Field Force was to maintain an active defence, and to harass the enemy. This was successfully maintained with the cooperation of the Royal Air Force. A successful attack near Hindley Hill and the subsequent operations are noticed. On the 31st October news of the Armistice granted to Turkey was received and on the 2nd of November the terms were communicated to General Ali Said Pasha commanding the Turkish forces at Lahej.

KATTOWITZ

A telegram from Kattowitz says that despite martial law, which had been proclaimed by the Inter-Allied Commission, a fresh disturbance occurred yesterday. A huge crowd made a demonstration outside the headquarters of the Polish Plebiscite Committee, where they suspected that weapons were stored, and demanded its surrender. The arrival of the police was the signal for firing, and a heavy fusillade ensued. Fire subsequently broke out in the building, which was then surrounded and the seventeen inmates surrendered. The Allied troops of occupation are confined to barracks.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1 Finally help India reassess colonialist history (4)
- 3 Control station in two stops (10)
- 9 Zombie, regularly drinking – a bit of Oliver Reed is probably in it (4)
- 10 Cliff Richard initially invested in Manx getaway, intended to spend advance (10)
- 12 Devious spy to go legit – perhaps Carter? (12)
- 15 Personnel concealing anger for employer (5)
- 16 Antagonise cult; capturing a very strong
- 18 Ignorant hunk, now in gardening trousers (9)
- 21 Space Professor's way of putting things (3-2)
- 22 Harry, Meghan and Vicar have a little stress at the start – some people take it on the chin (7,5)
- 25 Explosive journal on Van Gogh discovered (10)
- 26 Pine for a girl (4)
- 27 Foresight of Trump's running mate defining Republican key initiative at the start (10)
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Independent directors have an important role to perform as they are voice of the minority shareholders

AJAY TYAGI
SEBI CHAIRMAN

THUMBNAILS

SBI home loans: State Bank of India on Wednesday announced concession of up to 25 basis points (bps) on its home loan rates. With this, SBI's customers would get an interest concession of 25 bps on a home loan of above Rs 75 lakh, based on their Cibil score and if they are applying through Yono, a release said.

PTI

ICAI-MICPA pact: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the mutual recognition agreement between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA).

PTI

BMW launch: BMW Motorrad India has launched the new BMW G 310 R and BMW G 310 GS in India. India is the first country to witness the launch of the new models, the company said, adding both motorcycles are available at BMW Motorrad India dealerships with immediate effect, said the company.

SNS

Samsung: Samsung on Wednesday announced the global launch of Galaxy F41, a smartphone suited for the lifestyle of young Gen Z and millennial consumers, the company said. Galaxy F41 is Samsung's first smartphone under the F Series, and has been developed in close partnership with Flipkart, it added.

SNS

Nokia phones: HMD Global, the home of Nokia phones, on Wednesday announces the launch of Nokia 215 and Nokia 225 ~ the two latest additions to the Nokia feature phone family. Both phones come with 4G connectivity, the company said in a statement.

SNS

PhonePe: Digital payments platform PhonePe on Wednesday announced multiple exciting offers that customers can avail this festive season. These offers can be availed on gold purchase, online recharges, gift cards, fashion purchases and much more, according to a Press release.

SNS

Malabar Gold & Diamonds: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the leading gold and diamonds jewellery retail chains in India, rolled out 'One India One Gold Rate', a unique initiative which offers uniform gold rate across all stores in the country. It offers customers an opportunity to buy 100 per cent BIS hallmark Gold at fair price, according to a Press release statement.

SNS

SoLEGAL raises \$4 mn: SoLEGAL, an online platform, that allows visitors to seek lawyers and law firms for counsel, announced that it has raised \$4 million. The company had raised \$5 from private investors and family offices since 2014. SoLegal will use the funds to enhance its existing platform by investing in technology and research to introduce features including SAAS-based legal expert system to manage the law practice, says a Press release statement.

SNS

KVIC launches khadi footwear, eyes 2% share

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER Khadi and Village Industries Commission today launched khadi fabric footwear and said it aims to capture 2 per cent of the Rs 50,000-crore Indian footwear market.

Speaking at the launch event of footwear via video conferencing, Union MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) minister Nitin Gadkari said each pair of shoes and sandals is priced between Rs 1,100 and Rs 3,300.

Initially, 15 designs for female footwear and 10 designs for male footwear have been introduced.

Gadkari also launched

Plan to extend PLI scheme to 7-8 more sectors: DEA secy

Government is considering an extension of the scheme to promote domestic manufacturing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

Enthused by initial response of the industry with regard to the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, economic affairs secretary Tarun Bajaj today said the government is considering an extension of the scheme to 7-8 more sectors to promote domestic manufacturing.

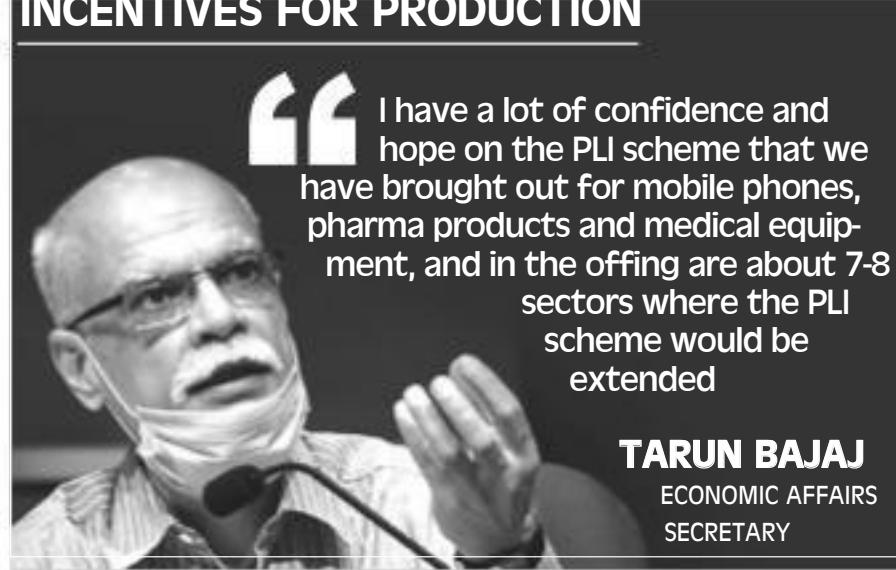
With the view to make India a manufacturing hub, the government recently announced the PLI scheme for mobile phones, pharma products and medical equipment sectors.

"I have a lot of confidence and hope on the PLI scheme that we have brought out for mobile phones, pharma products and medical equipment, and in the offing are about 7-8 sectors where the PLI scheme would be extended," Bajaj said while addressing a virtual CII conference.

The PLI scheme, unlike other schemes, is an outcome- and output-oriented programme where manufacturers get cash incentives for over 5-7 years for production.

facturers get cash incentives for over 5-7 years for production, he said.

"So, the kind of response that we received on the mobile phones where we have finalised the contours gives me a lot of confidence that there is demand in the world now, to have a diversification of supply chains, and India can



INCENTIVES FOR PRODUCTION

I have a lot of confidence and hope on the PLI scheme that we have brought out for mobile phones, pharma products and medical equipment, and in the offing are about 7-8 sectors where the PLI scheme would be extended

TARUN BAJAJ
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY

► With the view to make India a manufacturing hub, the government recently announced the PLI scheme for mobile phones, pharma products and medical equipment sectors.

► The PLI scheme, unlike other schemes, is an outcome- and output-oriented programme where manufacturers get cash incentives for over 5-7 years for production.

definitely take advantage," he said.

For global manufacturer, he said, the country provides a large domestic market other than the exports potential.

"So, this is a scheme that will give cash incentives for over 5-7 years, and all the sunrise sectors and important sectors

are proposed to be covered in these areas," Bajaj said.

He added that "so, I think that with all these efforts and as finance minister (Nirmala Sitharaman) said we are seeing what all other things can we do to boost manufacturing and economy."

Speaking about raising infrastructure spending, Bajaj said the government is trying to cajole CMDs (chairman and managing directors) of public sector enterprises to meet their capital expenditure (capex) plan for the current financial year.

The government has been doing review meetings at all levels to push infrastructure spending, he said, adding that the finance minister recently announced another tranche of Rs 37,000 crore going into the infrastructure spend.

"While we are in the process of making our Budget for the next year, we are also looking at what has been the expenditure this year and what is the extra requirement that is required by various sectors," he said.

PSE policy: The Union Cabinet will soon consider a new public sector enterprises policy that will define strategic sectors which would have not more than four state-owned firms, economic affairs secretary Tarun Bajaj said.

As part of the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" package, the government in May had announced that there will be a maximum of four public sector companies in strategic sectors, and state-owned firms in other segments will eventually be privatised. Under the policy, a list of strategic sectors will be notified where there will be at least one and a maximum of four public sector enterprises apart from private sector companies.

In other sectors, CPSEs will be privatised, depending on the feasibility.

"The other important thing which is slightly delayed I would say and it is testing the patience of all of you and ours too, is the policy that we have to come out... (for) privatisation of our public sector units," he said.

and Trend ~ are not covered under the offer.

The Mumbai Bench of NCLT has clubbed the 15 group companies together to speed up the resolution process as well as ensure better value.

"I expect the final decision to be taken within the next 30 to 60 days," Dhoot said.

Under Section 12A of the IBC, the tribunal can permit withdrawal of an ongoing insolvency process against a company subject to certain conditions.

The resolution professional concerned has to move a proposal for withdrawal of insolvency process with the approval of 90 per cent members having voting rights in the committee of creditors (CoC).

Dhoot said the latest proposal under Section 12A is similar to the one which was made in October 2017 and approved by joint lenders' forum and recommended to the Reserve Bank of India.

"As per our original proposal of October 2017, the total debt for which restructuring was considered was for Rs 31,289 crore ie. without any haircut in the original proposal," he said.

Videocon insolvency: Dhoot offers to pay ₹30,000 cr to lenders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

The Dhoot family has offered to pay Rs 30,000 crore to lenders to settle their outstanding loans and pull out 13 Videocon group companies from the insolvency proceedings. A proposal for paying the amount has been forwarded to the committee of creditors (CoC) of the Videocon Industries, Venugopal Dhoot said.

Venugopal Dhoot was the chairman and managing director of the suspended board of Videocon Industries. The company's board was suspended following initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). The Dhoot family ~ erstwhile promoters of the group ~ expects a final decision on the settlement offer by the end of this year, provided the lenders and the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) agree to it.

The settlement offer has been made for 13 out of the 15 Videocon group companies that are currently under CIRP. Two group companies ~ KAIL and Videocon Group ~ are still in the original proposal.

The Reserve Bank of India has accepted the proposal.

Equity indices up on robust buying in banks & financials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 21 OCTOBER

Equity indices closed in the green for the fourth successive session today as robust buying in banking and finance stocks outweighed profit booking in IT counters.

After gyrating 225.54 points in a highly volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 162.94 points or 0.40 per cent higher at 40,707.31 points.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 40.85 points or 0.34 per cent to finish at 11,937.65 points.

PowerGrid topped the Sensex gains chart, climbing 4.13 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, NTPC, HDFC Bank, Kotak Bank, UltraTech Cement and HDFC.

HDFC twins accounted for over half of the benchmark's

gains. On the other hand, TCS, Reliance Industries, Nestle India, HCL Tech and Bajaj Finance were among the main laggards, shedding up to 2.30 per cent.

"Till date the results are good while any weakness or shortfall in the future will impact the market going forward. Western markets are trading in the negative due to decreasing optimism over US stimulus. We expect the market to remain volatile in the near future as market has digested a lot about the results and as we near the US election date," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

BSE realty, telecom, metal, utilities, power, bankex and finance indices rallied up to 4.39 per cent, while energy, FMCG, IT and auto indices closed with losses.



Measures to check rising price of onion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

The government today relaxed import norms till 15 December to facilitate the early shipment of onion to boost the domestic supply and check the retail prices of the key kitchen staple.

Many market watchers, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, have spoken out about the apparent disconnect between the surging stock prices and the pandemic-hit economy, and diagnosed it to be a result of easy liquidity conditions the world over.

"While one repeatedly hears that the liquidity and low interest rates are the only prime factors driving up the markets, and that there is a

disconnect between the market and the real economy, I would like to place before you certain positive aspects of the market recovery.

"We have observed that the recovery in the market has been broad-based," he added.

There was a heavy sell-off in the equity markets in the

India at doorstep of economic revival: RBI Govt

NEW DELHI, 21 OCTOBER

India retail price of the commodity to Rs 51.95/kg, which was 12.13 per cent higher than the last year's price of Rs 46.33/kg.

The retail price of onion has shown a marked increase from August-end 2020, though the price level was below that of last year till 18 October, it said.

To facilitate import of onion, the ministry said: "The government has on 21 October relaxed the conditions for fumigation and additional declaration on Phytosanitary Certificate (PSC) under the Plant Quarantine Order (PQ), 2003 for import up to 15 December 2020.

The Indian High Commissions have been instructed in the relevant countries to contact the traders to push for greater onion imports to the country.

Many of them have already raised capital and others are planning, he said, adding they would certainly do so in the coming months.

Cathay Pacific to cut 8,500 jobs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, 21 OCTOBER

The Cathay Pacific Group today announced ending its Cathay Dragon airline operations and massively reducing its workforce, due to continued heavy losses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

As part of what it called "corporate restructuring" due to the pandemic impact on the aviation industry, Cathay Pacific will let go approximately 8,500 jobs across the entire group.

"The global pandemic continues to have a devastating impact on aviation and the hard truth is we must fundamentally restructure the group to survive," Cathay Pacific chief executive officer Augustus Tang said. "We have to do this to protect as many jobs as possible, and meet our responsibilities to the Hong Kong aviation hub and its customers," Cathay Pacific executives explained in a statement from its website.

This is Cathay Pacific's biggest crisis since it began

operations in 1946, as an airline born out of the flying adventures of two ex-Air Force pilots Roy Farrell and Sydney de Kantzow.

The group will create a more focused, efficient and competitive business, Cathay Pacific declared, including by leveraging the potential of its low-cost carrier HK Express.

Cathay Dragon, the group's 35-year old wholly-owned regional subsidiary, will end operations with immediate effect as part of the restructuring.



There will be no salary increases for 2021, the airline added, nor the payment of the annual discretionary bonus for 2020 across the board for all employees. Outport employees will be subject to local arrangements.

Cathay Pacific assured it will be offering severance packages "that go well beyond statutory requirements".

It promised to extend medical benefits and staff travel entitlements, as well as providing counselling and job transition support services. There will be no offset against pension contributions.

Coal India recovers production shortfall

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 21 OCTOBER

State-run coal major Coal India Ltd has been able to recover the shortfall in production recorded during the first quarter of this financial year due to nationwide lockdown imposed to arrest the spread of Covid-19.

"Coal India Limited (CIL), for the first time in the ongoing fiscal, on 20 October neutralised the negative growth in coal production for the year. The coal production of 265.69 million tons as of date was at level with last year's output on the same date with the company posting a marginal 0.04 MT increase in volume terms," CIL said in a statement issued here.

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited with progressive coal production of 71.17 MTs as on 20 October this fiscal, which is a 9.61 MT increase on year-on-year comparison, and Northern Coalfields Limited at 60 MTs, logging a jump of 3.15 MTs during the referred period, have played catalytic role in wiping off CIL's negative production trend.

Coal India, induced by Covid-stifled slowdown during first quarter of financial year 2020-21, suffered 11.6 per cent growth contraction in production and 21.5 per cent slump in off-take. Considering this huge setback, the company came back strongly in expunging the negative trend in output on 20 October.

Beginning August this year, CIL began posting strong growth in production and off-take. Scripting a new high, the company recorded the highest-ever production and off-take growth in September, clocking 31.6 per cent and 31.7 per cent, respectively. For

October as well till 20 October, CIL recorded around 20 per cent growth in output and 24.3 per cent in off-take.

"From now on ramping up coal production would not be a problem, especially with coal seams exposed and ready for production, due to a phenomenal growth of 71 per cent in over-burden removal in

September and 22.3 per cent during first half of the fiscal," said a senior executive of CIL.

a phenomenal growth of 71 per cent in over-burden removal in coal off-take by November and grow from there on, especially with thermal power plants and non-regulated sector customers showing keenness to lift increased quantities of coal. There is also a spike in the auction sales," said the referred executive.



In the Indo-Pacific, we can achieve the peace and prosperity only by fully implementing rule of law that allows anyone freedom and openness

JAPAN PRIME MINISTER YOSHIHIDE SUGA
PLEDGES TO HELP SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS TO INCREASE THEIR MARITIME CAPABILITIES

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2020

09

Amnesty: Credible reports protesters shot dead in Lagos

Video shown on Nigeria's Channels Television appeared to capture audio of live rounds being fired at the scene

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LAGOS, 21 OCTOBER

Amnesty International said late Tuesday there was credible but disturbing evidence that security forces in the megacity of Lagos had fatally shot protesters who were demonstrating against police brutality despite a new curfew going into effect.

The Lagos state commissioner for information, Gbenyi Omosotor, said in a statement Tuesday night only that there have been reports of shooting at the Lekki Toll Plaza following the 24-hour curfew imposed on Lagos. "The state government has ordered an investigation into the incident," he said.

Video shown on Nigeria's Channels Television appeared to capture audio of live rounds being fired at the scene.

While we continue to investigate the killings, Amnesty International wishes to remind the authorities that under international law, security forces may only resort to the



A general view of a building on fire near the Lekki-Ikoyi Toll Gate in Lagos on Wednesday. AFP

use of lethal force when strictly unavoidable to protect against imminent threat of death or serious injury, Amnesty tweeted.

The development came just hours after Lagos state Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu warned on Twitter that the growing protests against police brutality in Nigeria had degenerated into a monster that is threatening the well-being of our society.

A police statement also had warned that security forces would now exercise the full powers of the law to

prevent any further attempt on lives and property of citizens. The reports of fatal shootings in Lekki come after two chaotic weeks of mounting protests leading to more widespread social unrest. On Tuesday, authorities said nearly 2,000 inmates had broken out of jail after crowds attacked two correctional facilities a day earlier. The Inspector-General of Police said it was deploying anti-riot police across Nigeria, which is Africa's most populous nation, and ordered forces to strengthen security

around correctional facilities. The governor of Lagos state said the new curfew would cover the entire city of some 14 million people and surrounding areas. The announcement came after a police station was burned down in the city and two people were shot dead by police.

Lives and limbs have been lost as criminals and miscreants are now hiding under the umbrella of these protests to unleash mayhem on our state, the governor said.

Lagos has been the epicenter of the protests, with demonstrators at times blocking access to the airport and barricading roads leading to the country's main ports.

A curfew also went into effect in Benin City after a pair of attacks on correctional facilities that left 1,993 inmates missing. Interior Ministry spokesman Mohammed Manga said large, armed crowds had attacked the two prisons, subduing the guards on duty. It was unclear what the prisons' exact populations had been before the

attack.

Most of the inmates held at the centers are convicted criminals serving terms for various criminal offenses, awaiting execution or standing trial for violent crimes, he said in a statement.

The protests began two weeks ago after a video circulated showing a man being beaten, apparently by police officers of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, known as SARS. Young protesters marched in cities across Nigeria, under the banner #End-SARS.

In response, the government announced it would ban the anti-robery squad,

which for several years human rights groups have blamed for widespread abuses, including torture and killings.

The demonstrators have not been satisfied with the disbandment of the SARS unit and are demanding an end to abuses and respect for human rights in all parts of the police force. The protests have stopped traffic in Lagos, the capital Abuja and many other large cities in Nigeria. AP

Thai protesters ask court to revoke order

BANGKOK, 21 OCTOBER

Student activists applied to a court Wednesday to revoke a state of emergency the government declared last week to try to rein in Thailand's growing protests.

Demonstrations have continued daily in a movement that calls for Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha to step down, for a more democratic constitution and for reforms to the monarchy, a revered institution traditionally treated as sacrosanct in Thailand.

Protesters were gathering Wednesday for an eighth straight day, even though many of their top leaders have been detained and the state of emergency bans public gatherings of more than four people. Even the forcible dispersion of a rally by riot police backed by water cannons in Bangkok last week failed to faze protesters, who appeared in equal or greater numbers on subsequent days.

The six university students who went to Civil Court on Wednesday are suing Prayuth, Deputy Prime Minister Pravit Wongwisan and national police chief Suwat Chaengyodruk. AP

Lankan govt to move five amendments to 20A in Parl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, 21 OCTOBER

The Sri Lankan government will move as many as five amendments to the proposed 20th Amendment to the Constitution that aims to bolster the powers of the President during the two-day parliamentary debate on the bill that begins on Wednesday.

The government on September 2 gazetted 20A, a new proposed legislation that would replace the 19th Amendment introduced in 2015 that curtailed the powers of the president and strengthened the role of Parliament.

Protesters were gathering Wednesday for an eighth straight day, even though many of their top leaders have been detained and the state of emergency bans public gatherings of more than four people. Even the forcible dispersion of a rally by riot police backed by water cannons in Bangkok last week failed to faze protesters, who appeared in equal or greater numbers on subsequent days.

The six university students who went to Civil Court on Wednesday are suing Prayuth, Deputy Prime Minister Pravit Wongwisan and national police chief Suwat Chaengyodruk. AP

stitutional except for the 4 clauses which needed a referendum. It said that Clauses 3, 5, 14 and 22 in the amendment in their present form are inconsistent with Article 4 of the Constitution and requires a referendum.

The Attorney General, on behalf of the government, had pledged that amendments would be made at the committee stage so that no referendum would be required.

We will make three of the amendments asked for by the Supreme Court while adding two more of our own, Gammapnila added.

We will start at 10 am on both days and the debate will continue till 7 pm on both days. A vote will be taken at 7:30 pm on Thursday, the Leader of the House of Parliament and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dinesh Gunawardena said.

Ranjith Madduma Bandara, a spokesman for the main opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) said, the government could not go the distance they wanted to. They had to roll back most of it due to mounting opposition from within their own ranks and from Buddhist clergy.

CAUTIOUS MOURNING



People mourn by a grave at the Behesht Zahra main cemetery of Iran's capital Tehran on Wednesday. AFP

Pakistan unlikely to exit FATF's grey list: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 21 OCTOBER

Pakistan may remain on the greylist of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as it has been unable to comply with six of the 27 points in the global terror financing and money laundering watchdog's action plan, a media report said on Wednesday.

The Paris-based global watchdog will hold its virtual plenary session from October 21 to 23. It will review Pakistan's progress on the 27-point action plan. The FATF had placed Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financ-

Pakistan needed 12 votes out of 39 to exit the grey list and move to the white list.

ing by the end of 2019, but the deadline was extended later on due to the pandemic.

"The country will succeed in exiting the FATF's grey list by June next year," The Express Tribune reported, quoting diplomatic sources.

The report said Pakistan is unlikely to exit the FATF grey list, but the country has managed to avert being blacklisted.

It said that the country had completed its legal formalities and informed the watchdog that it had managed

to comply with 21 of the points in the action plan. Pakistan has succeeded in making 20 per cent progress in the remaining six points of the action plan, it said.

The country has complied with the points related to money laundering.

The remaining six points pertain to terrorism financing. The International Cooperation Review Group of the FATF has acknowledged that

Pakistan had complied with 21 points of the action plan, the report said.

Seeking to wriggle out of the FATF's grey list, debt-ridden Pakistan in August imposed financial sanctions on 88 banned terror groups and their leaders, including

26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

Pakistan won a three-month further extension to complete FATF's 27-point action plan because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The deadline was June this year, but the FATF extended it due to the postponement of its plenary. Pakistan needed 12 votes out of 39 to exit the grey list and move to the white list.

To avoid the blacklist, it needs the support of three countries. China, Turkey and Malaysia are its consistent supporters.

Arthritis drug improves survival in critically ill Covid patients: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BOSTON, 21 OCTOBER

specifically inhibits the receptor for the pro-inflammatory cytokine, IL-6.

The researchers led by Shrusti Gupta and David E. Leaf from Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital investigated the effects of the tocilizumab on critically ill patients with laboratory-confirmed Covid. They found that when tocilizumab was administered within the first two days of intensive care unit (ICU) admission, there was

a 30 per cent relative decrease in mortality compared to patients whose treatment did not include early use of tocilizumab.

"Tocilizumab has been used for several years to treat a condition known as cytokine release syndrome, which can be observed in cancer patients receiving certain types of immunotherapy," said Leaf, the senior author of the study published in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine.

"In the setting of Covid, it has been observed that much of the morbidity and mortality that occurs may be due to our own body's inflammatory response to the virus as opposed to the virus itself," Leaf said.

Tocilizumab is currently approved to treat rheumatoid arthritis and giant cell arteritis, an inflammatory condition affecting large blood vessels. The study utilized data

accumulated from over 4,000 critically ill patients with Covid admitted to ICUs at 68 sites across the US.

Of the 3,924 patients included in the analysis, 433 received tocilizumab in the first two days of ICU admission. The risk of death at 30 days was 27.5 and 37.1 per cent among tocilizumab-treated and non-tocilizumab-treated patients, respectively, the researchers said.

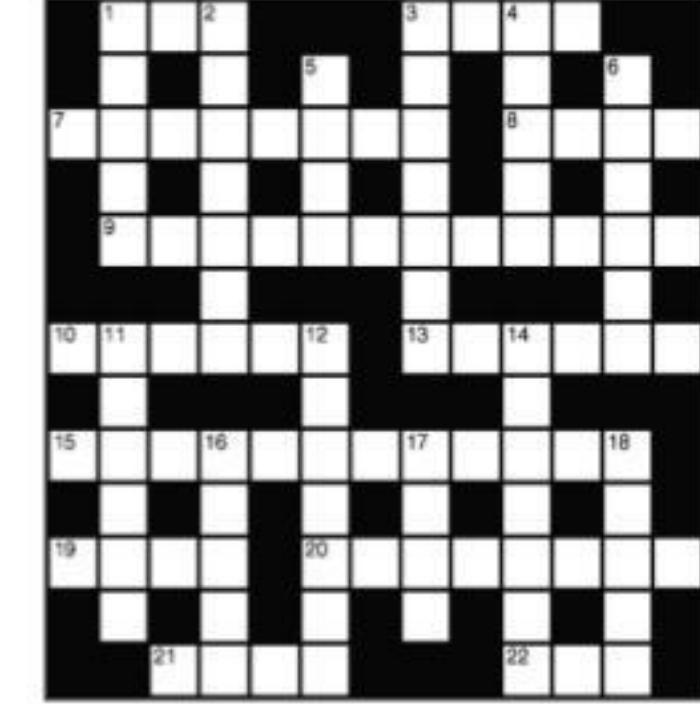
The beneficial effect of tocilizumab on survival was

consistent across categories of age, sex, and illness severity, and was also observed in patients who either did or did not receive corticosteroids, they said. Patients with a more rapid disease trajectory, defined as three days or fewer from symptom onset to ICU admission, benefited from tocilizumab to a greater extent than patients with a slower disease trajectory, according to the researchers.

"Though there are conflicting data from clinical trials regarding the efficacy of tocilizumab in Covid, our study differs from these trials in several important ways," said Gupta, lead author of the study. "We specifically focused on critically ill patients. We focused on early use of tocilizumab (defined as the first 2 days of ICU admission), and we included a much larger number of patients (4,000 compared to approximately 400)," Gupta added.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Inlet (3)
3 Cut with a tool (4)
7 Frightening (8)
8 Chew (4)
9 Broadcast (12)
10 Facet (6)
13 Promote the development of (6)
15 Travel document (8,4)
19 Frosted plant (4)
20 Search among rubbish (8)
21 Depend (4)
22 Fold (3)

DOWN
1 Lamb's cry (5)
2 Golf course length (7)
3 US lawman (7)
4 Pay (5)
5 Auction items (4)
6 In abundance (6)
11 Floor (6)
12 Desirous of drink (7)
14 Radical reorganisation (5-2)

16 Wash out (5)

17 Pleased (4)

18 Drooping (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Reek, 11 Excuse,
3 Lane, 13 Tissue,
(reclaim), 19 Criticism,
8 Inlet, 20 Via,
9 Flip chart,
10 Conscientious,
21 Kept,
22 Envy.

DOWN
1 Ripe, 12 Chalice,
2 Effects, 14 Inhuman,
4 Meadow, 15 Toxic,
5 Discrepancy,
6 Given,
7 Stashed.

By arrangement with The Independent
Figures in parentheses denote
the number of letters in the words required

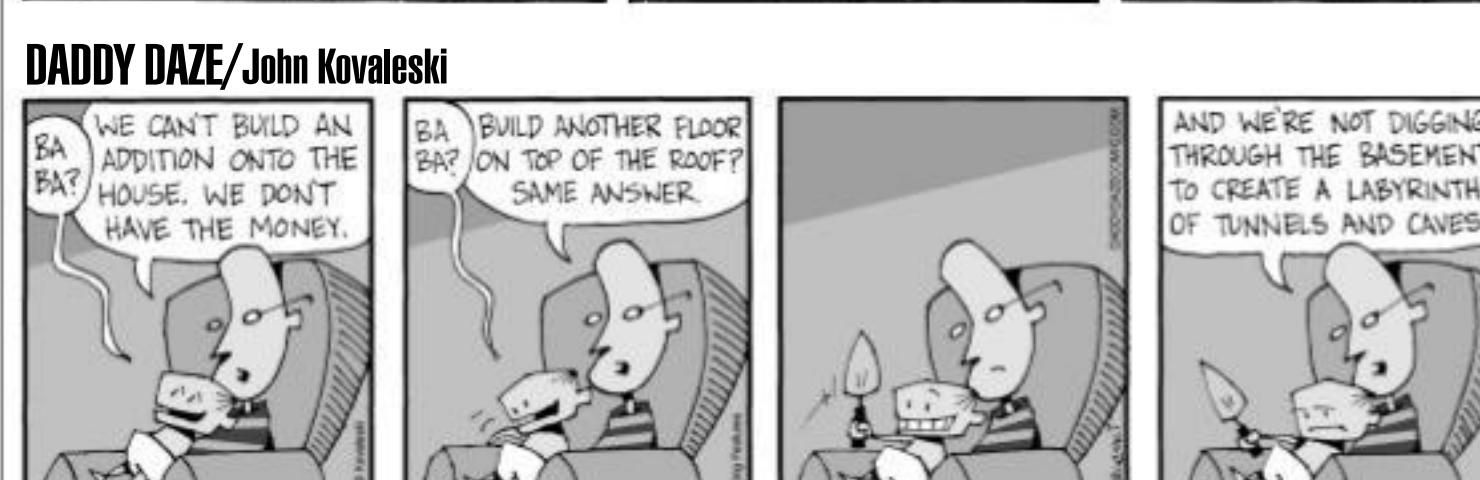
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The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged human civilization and governance systems across the world. The priority is to sustain the scope of livelihood and uphold the sanctity of laws relating to employment and social security. Health care must reinvent itself with more research and inclusiveness. In the post-pandemic world, law reforms will play a major role.

Labour Laws: Three laws, namely the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, 1946 and the Trade Unions Act, 1926 regulate the employer-employee relationship in the organized sector in India. During the lockdown, we saw the plight of our work force in unorganized sector and more specifically of migrant workers. Non-implementation of laws including the Unorganized Worker's Social Security Act, 2008 was the order of the day.

A State has no reliable data on how many of its citizens have migrated to other states for work and how many workers from other states are working within its borders. Starting with the Delhi Anand Vihar misgovernance in March 2020, a narrative has been created to prioritize the need to be more proactive and sensitive. During this lockdown, every day, Articles 19 and 21 and the Directive Principles and judicial activism of Supreme Court upholding the fundamental rights of these workers to life and livelihood have mocked us.

There are crores of workers in the domestic sector, shops and establishments, small offices and on the streets as hawkers and vendors who are beyond the scope of any substantial law. We need a reform in the mind-set of our policymakers. There is no evidence or proof that absence of bargaining power of labour will attract investment or will regenerate industries.

India has so far ratified 43 conventions of ILO including four core human rights Conventions like forced Labour Convention (C-29), Equal Remuneration Convention (C-100), Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (C- 105) and Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (C-111).

The Prime Minister has the vision for a self-reliant India but without a framework of rational labour laws and without integrating more than 40 crore workers of unorganized sector meaningfully into stable employment, this will not be a reality.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour has submitted its Report to the Lok Sabha Speaker on the Code on Social Security, 2019 with recommendations for creation of a welfare fund for inter-state migrant workers, a national data base of unorganized workers and establishing a Social Security Fund to help them cope with hardships that have been aggravated by the pandemic. This Code amalgamates nine labour Acts relating to compensation, insurance, provident fund, maternity leave, gratuity and unorganized labour. All labour laws have been subsumed into four Codes - the Code on wages, Code on Industrial Relations, the Occupational Health, Safety and Working Conditions Code and the Code on Social Security. The Committee made important suggestions in law-making regarding the unorganized sector to address their sufferings during lockdown. The Report has laid a lot of emphasis on

Law and the Pandemic



In the journey towards a self-reliant India, laws will play a critical and revolutionary role, says ALOK RAY

creation of a national data base to be managed by the Central Government. This data would be useful in providing social security benefits to migrant workers even when they relocate.

The Government should also incorporate unemployment Insurance in the Code on Social Security to take care of retrenchment and other unforeseen labour market situations. The New Education Policy is another major reform to empower emerging India. This policy will develop skills, ideas to transform, confidence, flexibility, uniformity and excellence to strengthen the basics of development. This policy requires discussion at every possible level to end the legacy of the colonial education system.

Amendments to Essential Commodities Act, 1955: After independence, a policy has been adopted to support farmers through large subsidy programmes and loan waivers while the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 disincentives investment in crop warehouses and storage. The ECA was a successor of a series of war-time laws enacted by a colonial Government during World War II to regulate the supply of goods essential to the war. NITI Aayog recommended its amendment and suggested to remove agri-

cultural commodities from the Essential Commodities Act and a shift towards organized trading wherein lower number of traders with enough capital will reform the market.

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 was promulgated on 5 June 2020. The ordinance seeks to increase competition in the agriculture sector and enhance farmers' income. It aims to liberalize the regulatory system while protecting the interests of consumers. The Act empowers the Central Government to designate certain commodities, such as food items, fertilizers, and petroleum products as essential commodities. It provides that the Central Government may regulate the supply of certain items including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils only under extraordinary circumstances. The Central Government also promulgated an Ordinance the same day called The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020. It will provide a framework for the protection and empowerment of farmers with reference to the sale and purchase of farm products. From now on, any farmer may enter into a contract with any person or

company to sell his produce. This law removes the lack of competition from the intermediary/trader market. Both these ordinances are now laws, having been passed by Parliament.

Enforcement of Contract: Indian Contract Act, 1872 nowhere expressly refers to the term 'Force Majeure'. However, Section 32 provides for contingent contracts. It says: "Enforcement of contracts contingent on event happening. Contingent contracts to do or not to do anything if an uncertain future event happens, cannot be enforced by law unless and until that event has happened." The pandemic itself may not be sufficient to interpret as a Force Majeure condition as Courts seek to interpret contracts strictly in terms of stipulated provisions of the agreement. Another defence may be doctrine of frustration as embodied in Section 56. The performance of an act may not be literally impossible, but it may be impracticable and useless from the point of view of the object and purpose of the parties. The doctrine of frustration is really an aspect of the law of discharge of contract by reason of supervening impossibility or illegality of the act agreed to be done and hence comes within the purview of Section 56. We have to understand the language of a

contract, facts in the context of the pandemic and the governing law to avoid or delay performance and for an equitable sharing of the burden of the pandemic. While appreciating the experiences, our future contract may include such pandemics as a Force Majeure condition with liquidated damages in case of non-performance.

The nationwide lockdown impacted the business environment due to the suspension of markets. At the regulatory level, amendments in corporate laws brought changes to Section 4 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs raised the threshold of default to Rs. 1 crore from Rs 1 lakh as a response to the pandemic. Section 10 A has been inserted to suspend fresh bankruptcy proceedings against persons impacted because of Covid for at least six months, and up to a maximum of one year. The new rule came into effect on 1 June 2020.

Amendment of Consumer Protection Law: Digitization has transformed the market and posed opportunities and threat to the customers. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has come into force with effect from 20 July 2020. It amends the old law and introduces the concept of product liability and covers e-commerce within its ambit. The pandemic has compelled consumers to adopt online mode of purchase and the law has to protect their interest against evil forces playing in the market. The new law has recognized offline and online transactions and a consumer can now institute a complaint from her or his place of residence or where the consumer works for gain. The Act includes rules for the establishment of a Central Consumer Authority to protect and enforce the rights of consumers.

The CCPA will be empowered to conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights and institute complaints and prosecution, order recall of unsafe goods and services as well as discontinue unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements. It will also have powers to impose penalties on manufacturers, endorsers and publishers of misleading advertisements. A Central Consumer Protection Council will be constituted as an advisory body on consumer issues with a three-year tenure. Several changes have been introduced in the dispute resolution process, including the pecuniary jurisdiction of Commissions, and empowering them to review their own orders.

Corporate Governance: In the post-pandemic era, corporate governance has to redefine its parameters to calculate its impact on interests of stakeholders, market and public policy. Now the board and management of a company have to exercise their responsibility for oversight of corporate management and business strategies, consistent with the goal of long-term sustainability. Pandemic has created space for greater Board Management. Boards of health care entities must reorganize their functioning to face fundamental challenges. Covid-19 has validated the need for a vital Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) function. The effectiveness of current ERM is required to be evaluated to elevate the scope of the ERM Committee. In the post pandemic situation, oversight of work culture, compliance of governance rules, upgradation of technology are factors that the Board must critically analyse and plan.

Foreign Direct Investment: Foreign Direct Investment has been a major

non-debt financial resource for economic development in India. The favourable policy regime and amicable business environment has multiplied opportunities and possibility of foreign investment. On 17 April 2020, India amended its Foreign Direct Investment policy to protect Indian companies from "opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions" due to the pandemic under the FEMA law. While the new FDI Policy does not restrict markets, the policy ensures that all FDI will now be under scrutiny of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Department of Economic Affairs, under the Ministry of Finance has ensured that foreign capital keeps flowing into the country. The Central Government has initiated many reforms to relax FDI norms across sectors such as defence, PSU oil refineries, telecom, power exchanges and stock exchanges, among others. In the post pandemic era, India is going to be one of the most attractive destinations for FDI.

Road Ahead: In a far reaching move part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) Mission, the Defence Ministry on 9 August brought out a list of 101 items that would be placed under import embargo to boost indigenous production of military equipment. The decision is expected to result in contracts worth almost Rs. 4 lakh crore being placed with the domestic industry over the next 5-7 years. The list includes not just simple parts but also high-technology weapon systems like artillery guns, assault rifles, Corvettes, sonar systems, Light Combat Helicopters, transport aircraft, radars, missile destroyers and other items to fulfil the needs of our defence services.

Moody's Investors Service had observed in August 2020 that the pandemic would likely accelerate fundamental shifts in trade relationships and global supply chains in a protectionist global economy. Moody's is of the view that as the global trade system becomes more regionally focussed, each major region - Asia, Europe and the US - would likely have its own suppliers for strategically important products. In the post-pandemic era, our law makers have a challenging task to enact and amend laws for a nation still in the developing stage, but with a determined will to prosper and to be self-reliant.

The Central Government has initiated reforms in capital market, taxation and labour laws. The amendments to the Essential Commodities Act have opened the market for farmers as private players may enter to change the dynamics. Now we need radical land reform to integrate skilled youth in progress and to ensure a sustainable land policy for industrialization. Speaking on the occasion of Independence Day, the Prime Minister announced the launch of the National Digital Health Mission Scheme which will empower every citizen with a health card and this scheme along with the new National Medical Commission Law will revolutionise the health sector. Prime Minister has also announced a new Cyber Security Policy to address the challenges of the digitized era. In this journey towards self-reliance, the law is destined to play a transformative, conciliatory and at the same time, a bloodless revolutionary role.

The writer is a lawyer and an author.

TURNING TO THE COURTS

If the US Supreme Court again has to decide who should be President, it will only diminish its stature and accentuate fissures in the country, argues

AUSTIN SARAT

Throughout American history judges have generally tried to avoid getting involved in political questions, including litigation about elections. They followed Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter's famous advice to avoid "embroilment" in the "political thicket" of "party contests and party interests."

This tradition began to erode in the 1960s, when courts took up cases involving legislative redistricting and gerrymandering. And since the Supreme Court's 2000 Bush v. Gore decision, which effectively decided that year's presidential election, political parties have increasingly turned to the courts in search of electoral advantage. Prior to 2000, an average of 96 election law cases were brought every year in state and federal courts. By 2004, that average jumped to 254, most of them filed at the state level.

This year, the Stanford-MIT Healthy Elections Project reports that as of October 15, 365 such cases have been filed in 44 states.

Many of those cases arise from state efforts to respond to the difficulties of campaigning and voting during the Covid-19 pandemic. Democrats generally have supported efforts to making voting easier, such as in Michigan, where they were successful in getting the courts to extend the period during which late-arriving mail ballots could be legally counted. Republicans generally have opposed those efforts.

This year's election-related litigation began to emerge in the spring as

states tried to cope with the pandemic's first wave during the political primary season. Those cases fell into two major categories. Some were filed to try to change the date when people voted in presidential primaries. Others focused on how people voted in those primaries and the general election. Sixteen states changed the dates of their primaries, and most did so without resorting to litigation.

Nonetheless, some states faced lawsuits over the timing of presidential primaries, filed by political candidates and public officials, including in New York and Wisconsin.

In April, Andrew Yang, then a Democratic presidential candidate, sued the New York State Board of Elections after it effectively cancelled the Democratic presidential primary. He argued that doing so was illegal since he already had met the requirements for having his name to appear on the ballot. One month after the suit was filed, a judge agreed with Yang and ordered the state to proceed with its presidential primary.

Wisconsin proved to be a particularly fertile ground for litigation over its April primary. In one case, the Wisconsin legislature prevailed in challenging the governor's executive order postponing in-person voting.

In another Wisconsin case, the U.S. Supreme Court sided with the Republican National Committee and the state party when it blocked a plan to extend the period to return absentee ballots in the primary election.

In cases concerning the ways people could vote, Democrats in Kansas sued to force Secretary of State Scott Schwab to implement a law permitting voters to cast ballots from any polling station within their home county. Schwab argued that the complexity of developing necessary administrative regulations prevented him from doing so in time for this year's election.

A state court judge dismissed the suit but said that county officials could, if they wished, implement the Kansas Vote Anywhere Act on their own without waiting for the state to act. In Ohio, a federal judge also dismissed an American Civil Liberties Union suit seeking to extend the deadline for absentee voting for the state's presidential primary and move from in-person to universal mail balloting. The plaintiffs claimed that the state's inefficient absentee-voting system would disenfranchise people through no fault of their own unless the deadline was changed and that in-person voting during the pandemic would pose a health risk.

Many of this year's election-related cases have focused specifically on mail-in ballots. This is not surprising given President Donald Trump's well-publicized but baseless attacks on voting by mail. Some of this litigation has been brought to expand opportunities to cast that kind of ballot or to ease the requirements for doing so. Other cases have been filed by groups opposing such changes and raising concerns



about voter fraud.

Recent rulings in some of those cases have made voting by mail more difficult; others have made it easier.

In the first category, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on 5 October that South Carolina could require people voting by mail to have another person sign their ballot as a witness. However, over the objection of Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas, the court declined to invalidate the more than 20,000 ballots that had been cast prior to its ruling. Three days later, in a victory for Wisconsin's

Republican Party, a federal appeals court upheld that state's requirement that in order to be counted, mail-in ballots must be in the hands of election officials by 8 p.m. on Election Day. But, also on October 8, Justice Elena Kagan turned down a request from Montana Republicans to block some counties from proactively mailing ballots to voters starting the next day. In another victory for supporters of mail balloting, a federal judge in Pennsylvania dismissed a lawsuit filed by the Trump campaign seeking, among other things, to block the use of

drop boxes as receptacles for mail ballots. November 3 is unlikely to end litigation to resolve election-related disputes. In fact, both the Biden and Trump campaigns have assembled armies of lawyers who will be ready to bring lawsuits in the election's aftermath. President Trump already has indicated that he expects the Supreme Court to again resolve a contested presidential election.

For someone who studies the complex intersections of politics and law, the use of litigation to resolve electoral disputes that we are seeing this year is a reminder of what the famous French aristocrat and author Alexis de Tocqueville observed early in the 19th century: namely, that "Scarcely any political question arises in the United States that is not resolved, sooner or later, into a judicial question."

Nonetheless, when courts and judges take sides in cases that shape the outcome of a hotly contested election, they open themselves up, as Frankfurter warned, to charges that they are making purely partisan decisions rather than strictly following the law. That is why public confidence in the Supreme Court took a hit in the aftermath of its Bush v. Gore decision.

Whatever decisions judges make this year, the rush to the courthouse to shape the 2020 election will pose real challenges for their legitimacy, which ultimately depends on the public's belief that they are not simply political actors.

And if the Supreme Court again decides who becomes president, it may further weaken its already diminished standing with the American public and deepen the divide in an already dangerously polarized nation.

The writer is Associate Provost and Associate Dean of the Faculty and Cromwell Professor of Jurisprudence and Political Science, Amherst College. This article was published on www.theconversation.com



THE GOD THAT FAILED

Pep Guardiola (photo, left) feels responsible for Manchester City's failure to win the Champions League last season and their quarter-final loss to Olympique Lyonnais. Despite appointing him four years ago in the hope of winning the club's first European Cup, City have yet to reach the semi-finals under his stewardship.

For more updates

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THUMBNAILS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 21 OCTOBER

The inexperienced young boys of both Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad should like to put their hands up in testing times when the teams square off in a must-win Indian Premier League game here tomorrow.

Whether it is Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad of the Sunrisers or Kartik Tyagi and Rian Parag of the Royals, the youngsters will be feeling the pressure of attempting something out of the box in case their illustrious seniors fail in that pursuit.

The Sunrisers are currently second from the bottom in the eight-team table with just six points from nine games while the Royals are just a notch ahead with eight points



after their comprehensive win over Chennai Super Kings in their previous game.

While SRH cannot afford to slip up with five games remaining, RR would be hoping to retain the winning momentum and hope that their foreign recruits continue to do well after winning the CSK game.

With IPL reaching its business end, the road ahead is definitely going to be a tough and tricky one for both the teams, and they know they cannot afford any lapses now.

Rajasthan got their campaign back on track after two heavy defeats and would also have the edge over SRH, who lost to Kolkata Knight Riders

in the super over in their previous game. Losing super-over contests often pushes teams back as KXIP found out after their opening loss to Delhi Capitals.

While Jofra Archer continues to be the backbone of the Royals' bowling attack, the wrist-spinning duo of Shreyas Gopal and Rahul Tewatia were terrific in the middle overs against CSK and skipper Steve Smith would be hoping for an encore.

In batting, Jos Buttler looked in ominous form the other night, forcing Smith to play the second fiddle but RR need more consistent partnerships.

All-rounder Ben Stokes has yet to fire and Robin Uthappa

pa has been their weakest link so far, which just might prompt Smith to give someone like Punjab dasher Manan Vohra a go. The other thing that

has hurt them is Sanju Samson's form, which is quite uncertain.

SRH, on the other hand, could still be smarting from the super-over loss to KKR on Sunday.

David Warner and Co would definitely be hurt by that loss but they need to get over the shock quickly and bounce back.

With injuries ruling out pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, the Orange Army is facing a combination conundrum: whether to strengthen their batting unit or the bowling one, a fact that skipper Warner has already acknowledged.

The team rely heavily on their batting unit, with Jonny Bairstow, Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson at the top of it.

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SRH & RR in must-win encounter

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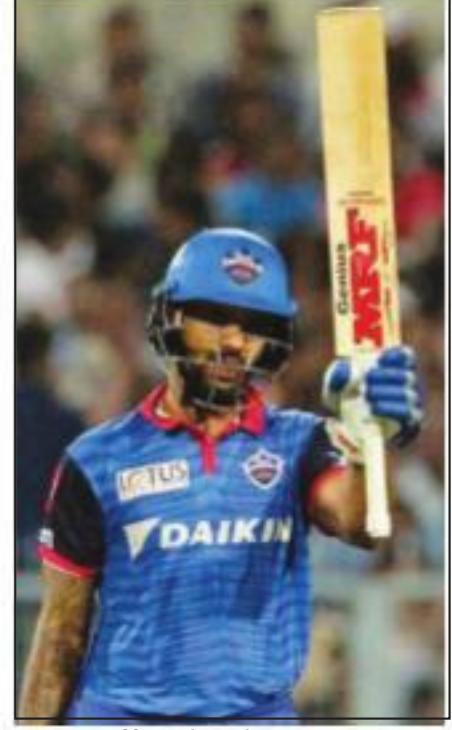
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It's a wake-up call, says Iyer after losing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 21 OCTOBER



Iyer conceded that the 26 runs taken off the fifth over bowled by Tushar Deshpande had really changed the momentum in KXIP's favour.

"The fifth over of the powerplay definitely changed the momentum towards them but other than that we really played hard and took the game to the last run," he said.

"We missed some run-outs and catches but that's a part and parcel of the game. We will train hard over the next few days."

Deshpande, Iyer's Mumbai Ranji Trophy team-mate, was taken to the cleaners by Chris Gayle, who hit him for three fours and two sixes in an over.

Shami praised

Mohammad Shami has bowled with a clarity of mind in the current IPL, which has helped him deliver near-perfect performances this season, feels Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul.

Shami, a world-class Test bowler, has been in his element, taking 16 wickets for KXIP in 10 matches so far and playing a big role in the past three games that the team have won.

"Look we all know that what Shami can do on a given day. He has been doing that for many years now. I think this year, there is a lot more clarity and he has put his hand up as a senior bowler," Rahul said after KXIP had beaten Delhi Capitals by five wickets at a time.

"The way he planned was amazing and we just need these sort of innings from him everyday. So, a little bit of partnership in powerplay from our openers (Prithvi Shaw) and we will get a big

one-off setback."

"Other than that, I feel all the batsmen are in a really good frame of mind and a few matches can go wrong here and there as fatigue creeps in. Keeping that aside we need to focus on our strengths," he said.

Iyer didn't blame the Dubai tracks as he felt that it had played the same in both innings.

Asked about what Dhawan was doing that the others were not able to do, Iyer spoke of clarity of mind and planning.

"The wicket played the same in both innings. The way Shikhar is batting, his mindset has been amazing, it has been great throughout and the needs that quick start that keeps him going."

"The way he planned was amazing and we just need these sort of innings from him everyday. So, a little bit of partnership in powerplay from our openers (Prithvi Shaw) and we will get a big

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI, 21 OCTOBER



Mohammed Siraj and Yuzvendra Chahal (in photo) wreaked havoc in a stunning display of swing and spin bowling as Kolkata Knight Riders could just manage a paltry 84 for eight against Royal Challengers Bangalore in their IPL match, here on Wednesday.

Siraj (4-2-8-3) ran through the KKR top order to trigger a stunning batting collapse and became the first bowler in the history of IPL to bowl two maiden overs while Chahal (2/15) stymied their revival hopes.

It is KKR's second-lowest total after their 67 all-out against Mumbai Indians in

2008.

Playing without Windies star players Sunil Narine and Andre Russell, KKR struggled to get going after electing to bat and it was all over for them after skipper Eoin Morgan was dismissed by

Washington Sundar for 30.

It was a masterstroke from skipper Virat Kohli to include Siraj in place of spinner Shahbaz Nadeem keeping in mind a fresh strip.

Siraj began with a double wicket maiden over in which he dismissed opener Rahul Tripathi (1) and Nitish Rana (0) off successive deliveries.

He followed it up with another wicket-maiden over, getting rid of Tom Banton (10) in the process. His figures read an astonishing 2-1-0-3 at that time.

Tripathi nicked one straight back to AB de Villiers behind the stumps and in the next ball Siraj ran through the gates of Rana for a golden duck.

In his next over, he accounted for hard-hitting English

batsman Tom Banton (10) with a scrambled seam delivery to cap the best ever opening two overs in the IPL.

In between, Navdeep Saini (1/23 from three overs) dismissed the in-form opener Shubman Gill (1) after the young opener mis-timed a pull to be caught by Chris Morris as KKR looked in shambles with 14/4 inside four overs.

KKR had their most-experienced batsmen in Morgan and Karthik in the middle. But Chahal exposed latter's woes against leg-spin bowling as he trapped him leg before following a successful review.

Brief Scores:
Kolkata Knight Riders: 84 for 8 in 20 overs. (Eoin Morgan 20; M Siraj 3/8, Y Chahal 2/15).

Siraj, Chahal tear apart KKR batting line up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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