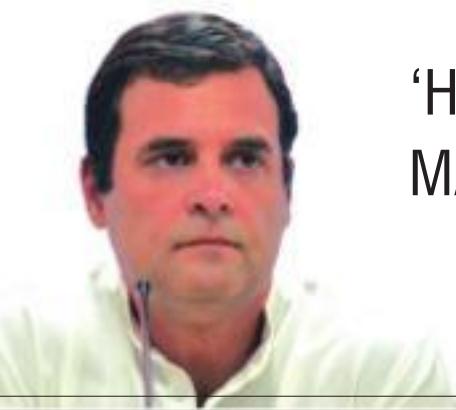




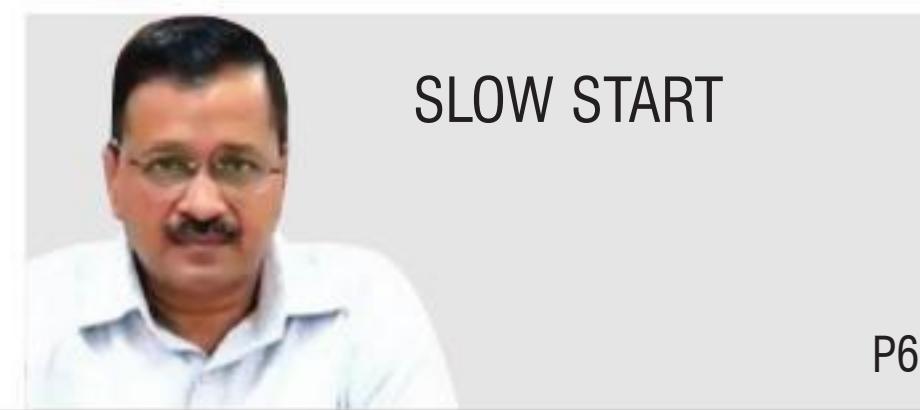
The Statesman

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



'HATHRAS HORROR
MAJOR TRAGEDY'

P4



SLOW START

P6



PAK OPP RALLY ON
16 OCTOBER
AGAINST IMRAN

P10



ASHWIN WON'T
ALLOW ANY
LET-OFFS NOW

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 36 and 18 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 90% Min: 37%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 36.4°C (+3) Min: 18.2°C (-4)
SUN RISES 06:18 hrs SUN SETS 18:00 hrs
MOON RISES 21:31 hrs MOON SETS 11:45 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Indian Air Force troops perform during a full-dress rehearsal for the 88th Indian Air Force Day, at Hindon Airbase, in Ghaziabad on Tuesday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

New SBI chief: Government on Tuesday appointed Dinesh Kumar Khara as chairman of State Bank of India for three years effective from 7 October. The country's largest lender, SBI, is headed by chairman with four managing directors to assist. Khara will replace SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar, whose three-year term comes to an end on October 7. Interestingly, Khara was among the contenders for the chairman's post in 2017 as well.

DGCI nod to phase-1 human trials of 'antisera': The Drugs Controller General of India has given permission for conducting Phase-1 human clinical trial for an 'antisera' that was developed by injecting inactivated SARS-CoV-2 in horses and can be a potential treatment for Covid-19, ICMR officials said on Tuesday. The 'antisera' has been developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in collaboration with a Hyderabad-based bio-pharmaceutical firm.

Active cases only 13.75 pc of total caseload

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI/KOLKATA, 6 OCTOBER

the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

So far 56,62,490 people have recovered from the disease in the country and exceed active cases of coronavirus infection by 47,43,467 as on date, it stated. "The declining trend of the percentage of active cases is commensurate-

ly supported by the rising percentage of recovered cases," the ministry underlined. A higher number of recoveries has aided the national recovery rate to further improve to 84.70 per cent, the ministry said.

A total of 75,787 people have recovered from

COVID-19 and discharged in a span of 24 hours whereas 61,267 new infections were reported during the same period, according to the data updated at 8 am. The new recoveries have exceeded the new confirmed cases in 25 states and UTs, the ministry highlighted.

Bengal cases: West Bengal today recorded a single-day spike with 3,370 fresh Covid cases and 63 deaths due to the infection. Till now, 2,77,049 people have been detected positive, 5,318 died and 2,43,743 recovered of which 3,036 patients were discharged.

Delhi past peak of 2nd Corona wave: Kejriwal



A health worker collecting swab samples for Covid testing in the Capital on Tuesday.

DEEPAK

No festive events in containment zones: Health ministry

SNS & AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 6 OCTOBER

The Health Ministry on Tuesday issued the standard operating procedures (SOP) on preventive measures to contain the spread of coronavirus during ensuing festivities and urged people in containment zones, and vulnerable populations to celebrate festivals at their homes.

"Festive events shall be permitted only outside the Containment Zones. Organisers, staff and visitors from Containment Zones shall not be permitted. People residing inside Containment Zones may be encouraged to observe all festivals inside their homes and not move out," the ministry added.

It said that the festivals, fairs, rallies, exhibitions, cultural functions, processions and concerts associated with the

Guidelines for cinema halls

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 6 OCTOBER

Cinema halls are allowed to operate with 50 per cent occupancy so as to maintain adequate physical distance between people. "Seats not to be occupied" have to be marked for the purpose.

Show timings of the screenings will also be staggered and a sufficient number of box office counters shall be opened to avoid overcrowding, the ministry has said. They have also advised the audience to avoid movement during the intermission.

Festivities are mass events and advised the administrative requirement such as identification of spatial boundaries and preparation of a detailed site plan in compliance with thermal screening, physical

distancing, sanitisation etc.

"In case of events that run for days or weeks, the crowd density doesn't remain the same throughout and usually peaks around certain hours of the day and some previously

known auspicious days. Planning for the event should specifically factor this so that crowds are regulated and managed to ensure physical distance and frequent sanitisation," the guidelines added.

In case of rallies and immersion processions, the number of people should not exceed the prescribed limit and proper physical distancing and wearing of masks must be ensured. In any case, the number of such rallies and the distance covered by them may be kept within manageable limits.

The Health Ministry said that the events such as rallies, and processions spread over long distances would require support of ambulance services.

Events planned to last for many days or weeks such as exhibitions, fairs, puja pandals, Ramlila pandals or concerts and plays should have adequate measures to ensure a cap on physical numbers.



Veteran actor Soumitra Chatterjee contracts Covid

KOLKATA, 6 OCTOBER

Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee has tested positive for Covid, his daughter Poulomi Basu said on Tuesday.

He has been admitted to a private hospital in Kolkata in the morning, she said.

The 85-year-old actor had fever for the last three days and he tested positive on Monday night, she added.

"Baba (father) is stable now. He is fully conscious. He is under observation due to his advancing age," Basu said. Chatterjee has been shifted to a cabin, as per the hospital's suggestion. In the last two months, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award-winning actor had been shooting for a biopic.

PTI

hospitals. The number of new coronavirus cases has remained below the 3,500-mark over the last 10 days.

Several experts also said that Covid cases have dipped in Delhi in the last few days and that the city has crossed the peak of the second Covid wave. Strict surveillance of home isolation cases, aggressive contact tracing, creation of containment zones at micro level and efforts for human behaviour changes through extensive campaign will be part of Delhi's "revised Covid management strategy" discussed by the DDMA today.

Meanwhile, Delhi today conducted 53,591 tests and identified 2,676 fresh Covid cases. The city's Covid caseload thus climbed to 295,236.

The national capital today recorded 39 Covid deaths, which pushed its coronavirus toll to 5,581.

(SEE PAGE 2)

3 scientists share Nobel physics prize for work to understand black holes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOCKHOLM, 6 OCTOBER

The 2020 Nobel Prize for physics has been awarded to Roger Penrose for black hole discovery and Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez for discovering a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy.

It is common for several scientists who worked in related fields to share the prize.

Last year's prize went to Canadian-born cosmologist James Peebles for theoretical work about the early moments after the Big Bang, and Swiss astronomers Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz for discovering a planet outside our



solar system.

The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and prize money of 10 million Swedish kronor (more than USD 1.1 million), courtesy of a bequest left 124 years ago by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. The amount was

increased recently to adjust for inflation.

On Monday, Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice were awarded the Nobel prize in physiology or medicine for seminal discoveries that led to the identification of Hepatitis C virus.

Bihar: NDA backs Nitish, snubs Chirag; JD-U gets 122 seats, BJP 121

SNS & PTI

PATNA, 6 OCTOBER

The ruling NDA in Bihar on Tuesday announced its seat-sharing formula for the assembly elections under which JD(U) will contest in 122 seats and BJP 121 out of a total of 243 seats.

BJP stoutly backed Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's leadership to the hilt and snubbed LJP chief Chirag Paswan who has raised a banner of revolt.

At a joint press conference of the top leadership of the JD(U) and the BJP where Kumar who heads the former was also present, it was declared that the two partners have clinched a deal where both will have an almost equal share of the pie.

"The JD(U) has got 122 seats out of which we have set

aside seven for the Hindustani Awam Morcha (headed by former CM Nitish Kumar). The CM told reporters, adding "There is no confusion concerning the fact that in Bihar the NDAs leader is Nitish Kumar. Our alliance with his party is airtight (unbreakable).

Responding to a query about a post-poll scenario, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modo asserted "we have said unequivocally that Nitish Kumar will be our Chief Minister. It does not matter which party gets how many seats in the elections".

Kumar Modo did not mention Chirag by name but remarked sarcastically, "I believe in doing my job. If some people derive pleasure out of saying

something inconsequential, they are most welcome to do so. It does not bother me".

However, he sought to repudiate Chirag's allegation that the JD(U) has not treated its alliance partners in the state well and asked: "Did Ram Vilas Paswan get elected to the Rajya Sabha without JD(U)'s support?"





Contempt Petition has been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court today against Karnataka for illegal diversion of #Mhadei water. We will continue to fight for our right

PRAMOD SAWANT
GOA CHIEF MINISTER

Capital past peak of second Covid wave: Arvind Kejriwal

Delhi CM says the Covid-19 situation has been 'controlled to a large extent' in the city which identifies 2,676 new coronavirus cases, logs 53,591 tests, and records 39 fresh fatalities

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 6 OCTOBER

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today said the city was past the peak of its second wave of coronavirus infections (Covid-19) and that the situation has been "controlled to a large extent".

He said the Delhi government ramped up the Covid testing sharply to detect the cases.

"Delhi hit the peak of the second wave of Covid-19 on September 17 when 4,500 cases were reported across the city. The situation has been controlled to a large extent," the CM told reporters, adding "I hope the second wave will slowly pass".

The testing in the national capital hit nearly 60,000 per day during September as compared to about 20,000 tests per day earlier.

Delhi is possibly the first state in the country to have claimed that it is past the peak of the second Covid wave.

Kejriwal said 10,000 beds were now unoccupied in city hospitals. According to official data, 5,802 beds were occupied in hospitals.

Delhi recorded over 4,000 new Covid cases between September 9 and September 19, barring September 14 when 3,229 people tested



A health worker collecting swab samples for Covid testing, in the Capital on Tuesday.

coronavirus positive.

The highest number of cases (4,473) were reported on September 16. According to the Delhi government's data, 4,432 cases were recorded a day after, 4,127 on September 18 and 4,071 on September 19.

The number of new coronavirus cases has remained below the 3,500-mark over the

last 10 days.

The health authorities reported 1,947 new cases yesterday, 2,683 last Sunday, 2,258 on Saturday, 2,920 on Friday, 3,037 on Thursday, and 3,390 last Wednesday. They recorded

32 Covid-related deaths yesterday, 38 on Sunday, 34 on Saturday, 37 on Friday, 40 on Thursday, 41 on Wednes-

day, and 48 last Tuesday which was the highest since July 16 when the city had recorded 58 coronavirus fatalities. The average death rate for the last 10 days was stated to be 1.41 per cent.

Several experts also said that Covid cases have dipped in Delhi in the last few days and that the city has crossed the peak of the second Covid

wave.

"We had a similar experience at the hospital. We had a peak, and then it came down. The number went up again but now we are seeing a decline in admissions. If the numbers persist for a week, we can safely say that we are past the second peak," said Dr Rajesh Chawla of Indraprastha Apollo Hospital.

Suresh Kumar, medical director of LNJP Hospital, said: "We can say that the second peak is over now. The number of cases is expected to decrease further."

Strict surveillance of home isolation cases, aggressive contact tracing, creation of containment zones at micro level and efforts for human behavioural changes through extensive campaign will be part of Delhi's "revised Covid management strategy" discussed by the DDMA today.

The cinema halls, theatres and swimming pools will remain closed in the city as no decision could be taken at a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), chaired by Lt Governor Anil Baijal, today. The authorities are also yet to take a decision on Ramlila.

The meeting also decided that given the pandemic crisis, focused attention should be on containing transmission, strengthening medical infrastructure, improving recovery of patients and reducing Covid

fatalities.

Last month, Baijal had asked a six-member expert panel to come up with suggestions to deal with the current Covid situation and ramp up health facilities in the national capital.

In the DDMA meeting, the panel submitted several suggestions which include strict surveillance of home isolation cases, creation of containment zones at micro level and aggressive contact tracing.

The panel also felt that there is need for human behavioural changes which can be made through extensive campaign," a source said.

The source said that as Delhi has been witnessing a decline in the number of cases, the current Covid management strategy could not be entirely changed.

Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia, NITI Aayog member V K Paul, AIIMS director Randeep Guleria and others attended the DDMA meeting.

Meanwhile, Delhi today conducted 53,591 tests and identified 2,676 fresh Covid cases, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. The city's Covid caseload thus climbed to 295,236. The positivity rate was 4.99 per cent.

The national capital today recorded 39 Covid deaths, which pushed its coronavirus toll to 5,581.

With rise in coronavirus deaths, ITO graveyard makes extra burial space

PTI
NEW DELHI, 6 OCTOBER

In view of the recent increase in the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in the national capital, the Muslim graveyard at central Delhi's ITO has readied 5-6 acres of extra space for burials of casualties caused by the virus.

On an average, two-three burials of the virus' victims have been taking place daily but the number has increased in the last few days, said Haji Mian Faiyazuddin, secretary of Qabristan Ahle Islam near Delhi Gate.

"In the last 2-3 days, the number of COVID-19 victims brought to the graveyard for burial has gone up from earlier 2-3 per day to 4-5 now," he said.

According to official data, the number of deaths due to COVID-19 was 32 on October 5, on October 4 it was 38 deaths, on October 3 - 34 deaths, October 2 - 37 deaths, October 1 - 40 deaths, September 30 - 41 deaths, September 29 - 48 deaths, September 28 - 37 deaths, September 27 - 42 deaths.

The COVID-19 burials at the ITO graveyard started in April and so far, funerals of over 700 such bodies were performed there. The graveyard is spread over an area of about 40-50 acres, said Faiyazuddin.

"We have readied 5-6 acres of extra burial space by clearing bushes on a part of the graveyard that can accommodate another 100 or so graves for COVID-19 protocol burials," he said.

He warned that after one

In the last 2-3 days, the number of Covid-19 victims brought to the graveyard for burial has gone up from earlier 2-3 per day to 4-5 now.'

or two months, the graveyard may have problems in finding space for burials of more COVID-19 casualties due to paucity of land.

We have sought help from Delhi government as well as the Central government to solve the problem of land but have yet to receive their reply," he said.

According to Delhi government data, 1,947 new cases on Monday increased the cumulative count of COVID-19 cases to 2,92,560, while 32 fatalities took the number of deaths to 5,542.

Forty-eight deaths were reported on September 29, the highest in a day since July 16 when the city had reported 58 deaths.

The average death rate for the last 10 days stands at 1.41 per cent.

Faiyazuddin said a problem faced by the graveyard management is that it also has to provide space for burial of COVID-19 patients from neighbouring cities like Noida, Gaziabad and Meerut who die while undergoing treatment in Delhi.

"Due to limited space available, it is very difficult to provide graves for burial of those from other cities but it has to be done because no one can be denied decent last rites," he said.

Delhi govt to start spraying Pusa solution on farmland from 11 Oct

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 OCTOBER



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and environment minister Gopal Rai visit 'bio-decomposer process' centre at a village in Najafgarh on Tuesday.

The Delhi government will start the process of spraying the solution with effect from October 11 as the liquid solution being prepared would take a few days. Kejriwal also met farmers and scientists to discuss the working and efficacy of the process.

The Chief Minister said,

"The harvesting of paddy leaves behind hard stubble on farm fields. One of the main issues faced by farmers has been to get rid of the stubble owing to very little time available between the harvesting and sowing processes.

The farmer then used to

resort to stubble burning due to which even healthy bacteria on the farm fields used to get perished. The smoke came as a health hazard for people living in the villages, and this used to cover the entire North Indian region."

Addressing the media, Kejriwal said the entire cost of the process of creating the liquid solution for spraying it on Delhi's 700 hectares of farmland would be just Rs 20 lakh - a cheap alternative for farmers that could be adopted by all neighboring states too.

The Delhi government will start the process of spraying the solution with effect from October 11 as the liquid solution being prepared would take a few days. Kejriwal also met farmers and scientists to discuss the working and efficacy of the process.

The Chief Minister said,

"The harvesting of paddy leaves behind hard stubble on farm fields. One of the main issues faced by farmers has been to get rid of the stubble owing to very little time available between the harvesting and sowing processes.

This is going to be a very cost-effective alternative for the farmers, improve their

crop produce and they will not have to burn the stubble. The institute had been researching and conducting pilot projects for the last three-four years."

Kejriwal was accompanied by Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai.

Rai said, "In Delhi, stubble burning is significantly lesser than in the neighboring states.

Stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and other states contributes nearly 45 per cent of air pollution in Delhi.

Keeping this in mind, the Delhi government and the Pusa Agricultural Institute have come up with this new idea of bio-decomposers. We want to make Delhi a role model so that other states can make no excuses for avoiding stubble burning."

In the last meeting with Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, it was requested that every state government and the Central government should adopt this new technique by which stubble burning could be completely avoided, Rai pointed out.

Over 480 Corona patients given plasma at 2 Delhi govt hospitals

PTI
NEW DELHI, 6 OCTOBER

Over 480 COVID-19 patients have been administered convalescent plasma therapy at the Delhi government-run Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital and Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital over the last few months, officials said on Tuesday.

LNJP Hospital and RGSSH are dedicated coronavirus facilities.

Plasma therapy was started at the LNJP Hospital, the largest under the Delhi government, in June. Later, Delhi's second plasma bank was set up at the hospital in July.

The national capital's first plasma bank was inaugurated at the state-run Institute of Liver and Biliary Science (ILBS) on July 2 by Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal.

The LNJP Hospital has 2,000 beds, of which 432 were occupied as on Monday. Of these, 258 patients are in the ICU, said Stresh Kumar, medical director of the hospital.

"Till a couple of days ago, about 286 patients had received plasma therapy. Males outnumber females, and mostly people aged above 60 need it," he told PTI.

Kumar said only serious patients whose condition is deteriorating are administered this therapy.

Initially, people's response to calls for donating convalescent plasma for COVID-19 patients in Delhi was "lukewarm". Doctors had attributed it to apprehensions about associated health risks and the tendency to put off donation for any future need of family members in case they get infected.

However, with increased awareness and the situation getting somewhat better in terms of daily cases, the number of donors has risen, according to officials.

"Each person can donate 250-500 ml of plasma. We give the first dosage of 250 ml to the recipient, and if needed, the second dosage of 250 ml after 24 hours," Kumar said.

At RGSSH in east Delhi, over 200 patients have been administered the plasma therapy till date, its Medical Director B L Sherwal told PTI.

"We have been combating COVID-19 for a long time now, and there have been several learnings too. The plasma therapy is a trial and it is administered with the assumption that it will help. Also, old

and young both may need it depending on a patient's condition," he said.

RGSSH has 650 beds out of which 119 are occupied. Ninety-one patients are in the ICU and five of them on invasive ventilatory support, Sherwal said.

"We have also created a place to cryogenically store donor plasma which we get from the ILBS," he said.

For donors, people who have recently recovered from COVID-19 and developed antibodies, there are some strict criteria. Counselling and screening is done for them before the actual donation process begins. The process for each donor is completed within two to two-and-a-half hours.

A donor's antibodies are transferred to the recipient through plasma.

TENDERS

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY Sealed tenders are invited for Tender No.: JU / NIT / EQUIP / 02 / 20-21 for Pharm. Technology. Details are available on the website at www.jaduniv.edu.in under tender link. Registrar

The Statesman

KOLKATA

Statesman House,
4, Chowringhee Square
Kolkata-700 001

Tel: (033) 22127070-76,

(033) 41071700

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

Email: thestatesman@vsnl.com

thestatesmanclassified@gmail.com

Sd/-

BENFISH

G.N. 31, Block, Sector-V

Salt Lake City
Kolkata-700091

CORRIDGUM 1 & 2 OF

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Ref-NIT No. BENFISH /

MD-03(e) / 2020-21

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The injustices being meted out to Telangana in river water allocation has resulted in separate Telangana statehood movement. The newly-formed Telangana state has every right to get its lawful share in the inter-state water allocations.

K. CHANDRASEKAR RAO
TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 07 OCTOBER 2020

03

Pb Assembly session soon to scuttle farm laws: Capt

CM asks if farmers are happy with Centre's agri laws, why are they protesting on the streets; asserts that Punjab's 'war against anti-farmers laws' will continue till they are rolled back

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, 6 OCTOBER

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said his government will soon hold a special session of the state Assembly in order to scuttle the Narendra Modi-led central government's contentious farm legislations.

Addressing a press conference along with top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on the third day of the Congress party's "Kheti Bachao Yatra" in Punjab, held against the Centre's controversial agriculture laws, the CM charged that these new farm laws were brought to "destroy" not just the farmers but the entire agricultural system and the state.

Earlier at a public rally at village Francelwala near Sanaur in Patiala district ~ the culmination point of the tractor rally of the Congress ~ Capt Amarinder, while castigating the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre,



said that farmers all over the country have risen against the Modi regime and warned that "these oppressors will be decimated in the next elections".

The Punjab CM charged that the Union government was "hell-bent on finishing" those very farmers and agri labourers, who had given

food to the nation all these years including during the Covid pandemic crisis, and was also trying to do away with public distribution system, Food Corporation of India, grain markets and commission agents.

"If the farmers are really happy with these laws, as the Modi Government claims, then why are they out on the streets protesting?" asked Capt Amarinder, asserting that till these "anti-farmers laws" are rolled back, Punjab's war against them will continue.

This is a fight for "roti" as 65 per cent of the country's population is dependent on the agriculture sector for survival, he pointed out, extending his full support to the agitating farmers. Both Rahul and Amarinder said they will "not budge even an inch" from their stand in support of the farmers.

At the rally, Rahul lashed out at the Modi-led government at the Centre for "inflicting atrocities upon atrocities on the people of all sec-

tions" over the past six years. The poor have become poorer and the rich are getting richer, Rahul said, slamming Prime Minister Modi while accusing him of serving the interests of corporate houses at the cost of small businessmen, farmers, arthiyas and farm labourers.

"But the farmers would die rather than bow their heads before these unjust and barbaric laws," said Rahul, adding that the mandi and procurement system, which the Centre's farm laws would destroy, was the protective shield for the farming community.

"These laws would make farmers bonded labourers in the hands of Ambani and Adani," said Rahul, calling upon the farmers to act so that they do not have to repent later.

"This is not a fight only for Punjab but for the entire country," said Rahul, warning that once these laws are implemented, farmers would not be able to knock at the doors of administration for help.

'Delhi air to worsen due to spike in farm fires'

PTI

NEW DELHI, 6 OCTOBER

The national capital's air quality was recorded in the moderate category on Tuesday, but it is likely to worsen in the coming days due to a spike in the incidents of farm fires in Punjab, Haryana and neighboring border regions.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the city's air quality index (AQI) will remain in the moderate category on Wednesday as well and is expected to deteriorate to the lower end of the poor category by Friday.

The city recorded a 24-hour average AQI of 178 which falls in the moderate category.

casting and Research (SAFAR) said.

"Boundary layer wind direction is favorable for transport (of pollutants).

Farm fires will start impacting Delhi in the coming days," it said.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the number of Corona cases had increased to 16,106 in Himachal with 73 more persons testing positive.

The state had so far reported 223 deaths from viral disease and there were 3,027 active Corona cases while 12,831 persons had been cured of the disease.

HP CM's advisor tests positive for Covid-19

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 6 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur's advisor and Principal Private Secretary R N Batta on Tuesday tested positive for COVID-19.

Batta had accompanied Thakur during Manali tour to attend inauguration ceremony of Atal Tunnel Rohtang in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Defence minister Rajnath Singh among others were present.

Batta was reportedly suffering from cold and flu for the last few days and he was tested for COVID-19 on Monday.

Earlier on Monday, Jai Ram Thakur had isolated himself after Banjar MLA tested positive for COVID-19.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the number of Corona cases had increased to 16,106 in Himachal with 73 more persons testing positive.

The state had so far reported 223 deaths from viral disease and there were 3,027 active Corona cases while 12,831 persons had been cured of the disease.

Lahaul tribals warm up to hopes ahead of this winter

ARCHANA PHULL
KEYLONG (HP), 6 OCTOBER

"We have lived our lives in all sorts of hardships in this cold desert. But certainly, this time we are not that fearful of winters," said Shanti, 58, while digging out potatoes from a field at Kubibidi village in Lahaul valley of the tribal Lahaul Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.

Non-literate Shanti and her matriculate husband Ramesh used to shift to Manali during the winters ahead of the closure of the snowbound Rohtang Pass every year earlier and sur-

vived with whatever money they earned by cultivating seed potatoes in a small area in Lahaul in a season. Their children are studying in Kullu.

"Our village and a number of villages around Koksar face avalanche threat in winters that damages our houses. We can't stay back in winter months even after the construction of Atal Tunnel. But we are relaxed and there is no panic as we can travel back home to look for our belongings as per need through this tunnel," Ramesh, 54, said.

The cold desert of Lahaul Spiti has the toughest terrain under

very harsh weather in Himachal Pradesh.

The two valleys ~ Lahaul and Spiti ~ are separated by over 14000 feet high Kunzum Pass.

Spiti is connected to the other side of Himachal through the tribal district of Kinnaur, while travel to Lahaul from Manali involved crossing over a 13050 feet high Rohtang Pass (which remained closed for five months due to heavy snow in winters).

The travel to Lahaul will now be much shorter (by 3-4 hours) and much easier throughout the year from this all weather-tunnel.

"This had to happen as the medical facilities in tribal Lahaul

Despite much progress over the last two decades in terms of road and phone connectivity, the Lahaul valley saw majority locals migrating to Manali and Kullu in winters to avoid the harsh life back home all these years. The others staying back to look after homes had to prepare in advance for winters, especially in terms of food stock.

A large number of people left the area to settle outside permanently that contributed to some drop in population growth in Lahaul Spiti from 2001-2011.

"This had to happen as the medical facilities in tribal Lahaul

Spiti have been very poor. There are no specialists to handle emergencies. The facilities for higher education are nil here. We had to send our children outside for education to keep pace with times," said Jagannath, 49, who runs a hotel in Keylong.

"The connectivity will make our life easier from now on. But for two-three months in winters, it snows heavily and is extremely cold as the temperature dips to 15-20 degree Celsius in many areas, so people, especially elders and women, may still have to stay out," he added.

The tribals find that the all weather connectivity will ultimately change the course of development in Lahaul in terms of health, education and overall economy with its mainstreaming.

"The government employees also won't evade postings in this area with round the year connectivity. The farmers will now have easy mobility to market cash crops like peas, potatoes and vegetables outside Lahaul. Many times, our harvest used to rot due to road block in uncertain weather," said Krishan, 52, a farmer in Keylong.



Sumit Deb
CMD, NMDC Limited

Dear Shareholders,

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the 62nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NMDC Limited, which is being organised via video conferencing. Organising AGM through video conferencing have given us an opportunity amidst Covid 19 pandemic challenges to get closer to digitalization. Another advantage is, a larger number of shareholders are able to participate in the AGM from safety of their respective locations. I request all of you with your near and dear ones to stay safe and healthy.

This is my first address to our shareholders since accepting the role as Chairman and Managing Director of NMDC Ltd. I am honoured and humbled to be leading our great company with more than 60 years of rich legacy in responsible mining along with a great team. The Director's Report and the audited Balance Sheet of your Company for the period ended 31st March, 2020 have already been mailed to the shareholders of the Company. With your permission, I take them as read.

To begin with let me delve upon our FY20 performance and the key factors leading to the financial performance.....

As the largest iron ore producer in India we are steadily progressing as an environment friendly miner with a positive thrust on economic and social development of our country. We continue to advance in our mission to acquire and operate various iron ore, coal and other mineral assets in India.

During the year all the five mining leases of Balalila Iron Ore Mines in Chhattisgarh have been extended.

Under Section-5 of the Coal Mines (Special Provision) Act, 2015 Ministry of Coal has declared NMDC as successful allottee of Tokisud North Coal Mine (Non Coking Coal) & Rohne Coal Mine (Coking Coal).

CY2019 has been a challenging year for the global as well as Indian economy. Global growth in CY19 recorded its weakest pace since the global financial crisis a decade ago. This global slowdown has common influences across countries along with country-specific factors. Rising trade tensions and associated uncertainties weighed on business sentiment and economic activities in emerging market economies such as India, Brazil, Mexico and Russia.

From manufacturing steel components to infrastructure development, steel is the key reinforcing element in the economic growth. In 2019, India had become the second largest crude steel producing country in the world, with a crude steel production of 111 Mt. However, the growth rate was much lower compared to the previous year. In CY19 and Q1 of CY20 the growth in the construction and infrastructure sector weakened due to falling investments in fixed asset formation. Abrupt plunge in the private consumption led to weaker growth in automotive and consumer durables. Adding to that the tighter liquidity conditions impacted credit availability in the manufacturing sector. The unfavourable economic conditions were further impacted due to the onslaught of Covid 19 pandemic and subsequent national lockdown.

As India's largest Iron Ore mining company and as a key stakeholder in the mining value chain, our company was impacted which reflected on our FY20 performance. Turnover of the company for the year under review declined 3.74% year on year as it stood at Rs.11,699 crores as against Rs.12,153 crores in the previous financial. Our margins were also impacted. Profit before tax (PBT) from continuing operations was Rs.6,123 crores compared to Rs.7,199 crores in the previous financial year 2018-19, a decrease of 14.95%. Profit after tax (PAT) was Rs.3,610 crores compared to Rs.4,642 crores in the previous financial year 2018-19 a decrease of 22.23%. However I am confident of our company improving the performance in the coming quarters as we are taking advantage of all our operational capabilities and pointing our strategies for an improved outcome in FY21.

Note : The above statement does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the 62nd AGM of NMDC held on 29-09-2020.



Responsible Mining. Sustainable Growth.

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH
62ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I have a positive update on the latest developments related to Dommalai mine.... While stepping into Q3 of FY21, we are closer to resuming our mining operations at Dommalai. As most of you are aware, our company has been in discussions with both Government of Karnataka and Government of India on Dommalai Mine lease extension to resolve certain unviable terms in the lease agreement. On 15th of this month the Karnataka Cabinet has cleared our application to start mining operations at Dommalai. This is indeed a positive culmination of the dialogue between our

company, Government of Karnataka and Government of India. However, the actual resumption of mining operations in Dommalai mines is expected to be started in the month of October, 2020 which will add production of 5-6 lakh tonnes/month.

Our external Scenario continues to be challenging yet opportunities are clearly visible in the horizon

Our operating environment consists of Iron ore production and demand from the steel industry. India is the 4th largest Iron ore producer in the world. India's iron ore production is estimated to have risen by 17.8% in FY20, to reach 245 MT, owing to the acceleration in mine production from 208.3 MT. However, production in FY21 is expected to come down significantly owing to delays in operationalization of auctioned mines in Odisha on account of the COVID-19. Steel industry and its associated mining and metallurgy sectors have seen major investments and developments in the recent past. According to the data released by Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the Indian metallurgical industries attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the tune of US\$ 13.40 billion in the period April 2000 - March 2020. The growth in the Indian steel sector has been driven by domestic availability of raw material such as iron ore and skilled labour. Consequently, the steel sector has been a major contributor to India's manufacturing output.

Steel has contributed immensely towards India's economic growth. This is evident from the similar growth patterns of India's GDP and steel production in the country, which also highlights the economy's dependence on steel. National consumption of finished steel rose from 6.5 MT in 1968 to 101 MT in 2018, while GDP grew from USD 0.25 trillion in 1968 to USD 2.94 trillion today. Steel-making capacity is expected to reach 300 million tonnes per annum by 2030-31. Crude Steel production is expected to touch 255 MTPA by 2030-31 from 142 MTPA in FY18-19. As a result, per capita steel consumption is expected to rise 160 KG from the current 74.1 KG. This growth will be predominantly fuelled by the increasing consumption in the construction & infrastructure sector and capital goods.

To make these projected steel consumption growth a reality, India's iron ore production needs to increase simultaneously.

In March 2019, the Indian government came up with a new National Mineral Policy (NMP) that replaced the earlier 2008 Policy. NMP 2019 aims to hike mineral production by 200 per cent in seven years and increase the share of mining in India's GDP.

Going Forward

India's steel consumption in first 4 months of FY 2020-21 declined by 42% YoY. India's apparent steel consumption in 2019 was estimated at 101 million tonnes. However during the period steel exports increased. A drop in domestic demand,

disruption in supply chain and acute shortage of construction labour led several top steelmakers to export more than 50-60% of their sales volume during May-June period. Iron and steel recorded more than 100% growth in exports during June 2020 with shipments of \$1.32 billion against \$653.52 million in the same month last year. Finished steel production declined by 0.8% in FY20 to reach 101.3 MT, over FY19 when the production stood at 102.1 MT. While, the steel demand in the most developing economies is expected to fall in FY21, India is likely to face a larger decline in steel demand.

Though the domestic consumption is expected to be impacted in the subsequent months, demand for steel has picked up since August as normalcy is returning in the infrastructure sector, MSME and specialty steel sectors. Government's thrust on rural development is also driving the demand for steel. The trend from August 2020 shows exports of steel decreasing and the domestic demand for steel increasing. As the economy is showing signs of recovery, almost all steel plants have resumed production at an average 75-80 pc of capacity.

Against the backdrop of the increasing demand we are able to increase the domestic prices of Iron Ore for September to a 22-month high as the removal of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions boosts demand.

I am delighted to inform you that since July 2020, we have recorded a rise in overall production and sales as compared to the corresponding period in July 2019, despite the current uncertain situation due to COVID-19. Our company has been able to achieve excellent physical performance through its continual push towards higher volumes which saw production of 2.19 MT and sales of 2.57 MT that grew by 13% and 7% respectively over the corresponding period last year. Total production stood at 1.62 million tonnes (MT) in August 2020 compared to 1.41 MT in August 2019. Total sales stood at 1.79 MT in August 2020 compared to 1.49 MT in August 2019.

Further, the Board of Directors of the company has accorded in-principle approval to the proposal to demerge NMDC Iron & Steel Plant (NISP) Nagmar located in Chhattisgarh.

Technology Upgradation is key enabler for making the mining operations economically competitive...

In line with the vision plan of augmenting its production & evacuation capacity, technological upgradation, diversification & value-added products, our company has taken up many ambitious projects. Some of the projects have been completed and others are nearing completion. Details of our new projects and technology upgradation initiatives are detailed in our Annual Report.

As I mentioned in the beginning of this address, we are a great team at NMDC....

We continue to progress on our Human Resource Development and Industrial relations. The human capital of NMDC has been its key asset. The company has made concerted efforts in keeping the workforce highly engaged and motivated through various training programmes. I am delighted to say that our team consisting of 5635 people are completely aligned with our vision to make the company a globally acclaimed iron ore company. We have inclusiveness based human resource development plan driving our human potential development initiatives.

Sumit Deb



States should stand firm, reject Centre's options
on GST compensation cess

SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER P CHIDAMBARAM

SAYING STATES SHOULD NOT BORROW AS LIABILITY TO PROVIDE GST COMPENSATION

Kerala gold smuggling case accused Faisal, Rabins arrested in Dubai: NIA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

T'PURAM, 6 OCTOBER

The National Investigation Agency on Tuesday informed the special NIA court in Kochi that Faisal Fareed and Rabins, two key accused in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case have been arrested by the United Arab Emirates Police.

NIA revealed the arrest of the duo in an affidavit filed before the court opposing the bail plea of the accused, including Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair.

The NIA informed the court that Faisal, who owns a luxury gymnasium in Dubai, was arrested by the UAE Police after Interpol, on the request

of the Indian government, had issued a Blue Corner notice against him. The NIA had charged Faisal with forgery, aiding and abetting terrorism, and complicity in smuggling.

Blue corner notices were issued against Faisal Fareed, Rabins Hameed, Siddique Akbar, Ahammad Kutty Rathesh and Muhammad Shammer. NIA pointed out that these six people were engaged in activities which may cause to destroy the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Rabins was nabbed after Customs learned of his involvement in aiding Faisal to smuggle gold. It was learnt that he had hawala transactions in Dubai.

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work with its location	30-Elect-26-T-2020-21-E3 Electrical work in connection with urgent replacement of indoor in important Rooms and non repairable VRF ODU's at Rail Bhawan.
Approx. Cost of the work in :	₹31.24 lacs
Address of the office :-	Sr. Divil. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money (?)	₹62500.00
Date & Time of submission of tender :-	02.11.2020, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender :-	02.11.2020, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board :-	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
	2154/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

1 Name of work & details of tender and opening of tender	Hiring of artisan & Helper for day to day maintenance of colonies and service building under Sr. DEN-IV.
2 Approx Cost of Work	Rs. 96,05,861.57
3 Earnest Money	Rs. 1,92,100.00
4 Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Bidding Start date for work no. Up to 15.00 hrs. on 23.10.2020, opening of e-Tender at 15.00 hrs. on 06.11.2020.
5 Website particulars published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/NIT 21-W-IV/29-21/W-IV	No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/NIT 21-W-IV/29-21/W-IV
Date: 06.10.2020	2153/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

ANNEXURE-B

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Thunag invites tender on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractor for the following work(s) through offline process:-

Work No.1 C/O Residential colony at Baggachanogi in GP Baggachanogi Tehsil Thunag Distt Mandi (SH: C/O Retaining wall from RD 0/0 to 16 Rmt (E/cost 352780/- E/Money 7060/- Time two months cost of form 250/-

Work No.2 A/R & M/O various Hand pump under Jal Shakti Section Dhartot Tehsil Chachiot Mandi (SH: C/O 13 Nos. Plate form for hand Pump in various Locations) (E/cost 113808/- E/Money 2780/- Time Three Months cost of form 250/-

Work No.3 Providing WSS Dhansal/Jawali to Village Kandha, Surahar and upper Sangrar in GP Kandha Baga said Tehsil Chachiot Distt. Mandi (HP) (SH: WSS Kalwach & Replacement of gravity main rusted GI pipe line 25 mm dia from RD 0 to 1250 ±1250 Rmt and Laying, jointing and testing of GI pipe 32 mm dia RD 0 to 1250 Rmt) at Village Banour, Bijahi, Chamton, Daraya, Ghat, Ghulaach & Nouani (E/Cost 216413/- E/Money 4330/- Time Three months cost of form 250/-

Work No.4 A/R & M/O WSS Dhansal nallah to Village Kaligrah Bara Tehsil Chachiot Distt Mandi (SH: - Providing, laying, jointing sand testing of GMS tube 15 mm dia RD 1370-1580=210 Rmt and 20 mm dia RD 580-1370 =790 Rmt in Village Jhani in place of rusted / damaged pipe line) (E/Cost 107636/- E/Money 2160/- Time Three months cost of form 250/-

Work No.5 Aug. of WSS Pandi Chunani, Kuklah, Baggi, Khudagi in GP Kashoud and Kuklah Tehsil Balichowki Distt Mandi (SH: Laying, jointing and testing of GI pipe in distribution system at point G-G1, RD 0/0 to 1100) (E/cost 15822/- E/Money 3170/- Time Three Months cost of form 250/-

Work No.6 Providing various water supply schemes for schedule caste Village Jhundi, Keoli and Balinda in Tehsil Thunag Distt. Mandi (SH: - Laying, jointing and testing of GI pipe in distribution system at line B-E, RD 0/0 to 2300) Phase 1st (E/Cost 327053/- E/Money 6550/- Time Six months cost of form 250/-

Work No.7 Providing various water supply schemes for schedule caste Village Jhundi, Keoli and Balinda in Tehsil Thunag Distt. Mandi (SH: - Laying, jointing and testing of GI pipe in distribution system at line A-B D 0/0 to 2500) Phase 1st (E/Cost 355493/- E/Money 7110/- Time Six months cost of form 250/-

Work No.8 Aug. of WSS Pandi Chunani, Kuklah, Baggi, Khudagi in GP Kashoud and Kuklah Tehsil Balichowki Distt Mandi (SH: Laying, jointing and testing of GI pipe in distribution system at point C5-C6, RD 0/0 to 2500) (E/Cost 39556/- E/Money 7920/- Time Three Months cost of form 250/-

Work No.9 Restoration of rain damages of WSS Janjhi in Tehsil Thunag Distt Mandi (SH: - Laying, jointing and testing of GI pipe 15 mm dia and 20 mm dia) (E/Cost 110942/- E/Money 2220/- Time three months cost of form 250/-

Work No.10 A/R & M/O WSS Khanyari Bah Batand Tehsil Chachiot Distt. Mandi HP (SH: - LStorage tank 10000 liters capacity) at Village Nachadhar) (E/cost 112886/- E/Money 2260/- Time Three months cost of form 250/-

Work No.11 Improvement of WSS Dhansal Dharwar & WSS Saryali Tehsil Thunag Distt. Mandi (HP) (SH: C/O intake chamber spring source 2 Nos., at Jawal and Sryali) CRF (E/Cost 116876/- E/Money 2340/- Time Three months cost of form 250/-

Work No.12 Improvement of WSS Kalwach in GP Kandha Baga said Tehsil Thunag Distt Mandi (SH: - C/O 2 Nos. intake chamber 1st Phase and 2nd Phase storage tank 1000-liter capacity 1st Phase Laying, jointing and testing of GI pipe 25 mm dia CRF) (E/Cost 216065/- E/Money 4330/- Time Three months cost of form 250/-

1) Last date of Submission of tender 14-10-2020 upto 12.30 PM.
2) Last date of sale of tender from Divisional officer 14-10-2020 upto 11.00 AM
3) The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website www.hph.org.in or from office of above Executive Engineer upto date specified above.

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Division,
Thunag Distt Mandi

3519/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

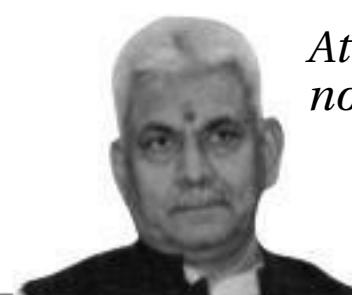
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Karchham Division, H.P.P.W.D. Bhabanagar District Kinnar Pin-172115 invite item rate tenders in sealed cover on the prescribed forms from the eligible Contractors on 02.11.2020 and shall be opened on the same day at 11:00 Hrs. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives who wish to be present at the time.

Sr. No.	Name of work.	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time	Cost of form
1	Construction of motorable road from Ralli to Mebar (Kayan) Km.0/0 to 2/300. (Sub Head:- Formation cutting 5/7 mtr. Wide road at Km.0/420 to 0/750).	469168/-	9400.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
2	Construction of Old H.T. Road from Tapri to kanaam Km. 0/0 to 24/00 Under TASP. (Sub Head:- Construction retaining wall with toe wall at Km 21/165 to 21/180), TASP.	349605/-	7000.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
3	C/O link road to village Sagni Km. 0/0 to 8/300. (Sub Head:- C/O retaining wall in wire crate at Km. 7/1105 to 7/125 & C/O retaining wall at Km. 8/137 to 8/155).	328371/-	6600.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
4	C/O road from Chhoti Kamba to Gharsu Km. 0/0 to 2/930. (Sub Head:- C/O B/wall and retaining wall in wire crate at RD. 2/835 to 2/850 and 2/865 to 2/885). Under TASP	203451/-	4100.00	Two Month	Rs. 350/-
5	Construction of road from Krabha to Surcho Km. 0/0 to 4/200. (Sub Head:- Formation cutting 5/7 mtr. Wide road at RD. 2/00 to 2/090). Under TASP.	382795/-	7700.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
6	Construction of link road from Nanospo to Upper Tranda Km. 0/0 to 3/500. (Sub Head:- C/O breast wall in R.R masonry 1:6 at RD 2/390 to 2/410).Under TASP.	114270/-	2300.00	Two Month	Rs. 350/-
7	Construction of Chagaon Saring road Km. 0/0 to 8/0. (Sub Head:- C/O Solid cause way at Km 1/930) Under TASP.	260263/-	5200.00	Two Month	Rs. 350/-
8	Construction of Jeapable road from NH-05 to forest house Chaura Km 0/0 to 3/500. (Sub Head:- Formation Cutting 3/5 mtr. Wide road at Km 0/45 to 0/600 & C/O B/wall in wire crate at RD. 1/118 to 1/122.50 and 0/310 to 0/325) Under TASP.	283282/-	5700.00	Two Month	Rs. 350/-
9	Construction of Jeapable road from Kattaon to Katgaon Kanda Km. 0/0 to 5/500. (Sub Head:- Construction of retaining wall at Km 1/135 to 1/165) Under TASP.	376703/-	7600.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
10	Improvement of link road to village Brua Km. 0/0 to 5/25. (Sub Head:- Construction of retaining wall at Km. 0/041 to 0/051.30) Under TASP.	177240/-	3600.00	Two Month	Rs. 350/-
11	C/O link road from baseri bridge to delkawa Km 0/0 to 1/250 (SH:-C/O R/wall at RD.0/062 to 0/069.50 and edge wall at RD. 0/042 to 0/062, 0/084 to 0/094 & P/F "metal beam crash barrier railing at RD. 0/042 to 0/062, 0/062 to 0/070 and 0/084 to 0/096). Under TASP.	340916/-	6800.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
12	Repair of Bus Stand at Tapri. (SH:- C/o two additional rooms, Painting and repair of urinals etc.)	286969/-	5800.00	Two Month	Rs. 350/-
13	C/O link road from NH-05 to Mini Secretariat Km 0/0 to 0/400. (SH:- F/C 3/5 mtr. Wide jeepable road from Km 0/00 to 0/165 (Km reckoned from mini Secretariat) Under TASP	451499/-	9100.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
14	C/O link road from Bhaba model to 1892 (Kandhar) Km 0/0 to 2/165 (SH:- C/O R/wall at RD.0/570 to 0/590). Under TASP.	311750/-	6300.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
15	C/O link road from Bara Kamba to village Shorangi Km 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- C/O 5/7 mtr wide road at RD.11420 to 1/510). Under TASP.	312595/-	6300.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
16	Improvement of KSC road Km 0/0 to 4/1500. (SH:- Widening of road at Km 18/860 to 18/950) Under TASP.	208946/-	4200.00	Two Month	Rs. 350/-
17	R/R damages on Wangtoo Kafnood road Km 0/0 to 2/00 (SH:- C/O R/wall in RR Masonry in 1:6 at RD 15/615 to 15/632)	333665/-	6700.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
18	C/O Jeapable road to village Rangme Km 0/0 to 1/200 (SH:- C/O R/wall at RD. 0/431.50 to 0/450 and 0/480 to 0/495) Under TASP.	442452/-	8900.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
19	C/O link road from Powari to Telangi Km 0/0 to 5/150 (SH:- C/O B/wall at RD 2/975 to 2/985.50 and Balance work of R/R wall at RD 2/945 to 2/977) Under BADP.	436765/-	8800.00	Three Month	Rs. 350/-
20	R/R damages on wangtoo kafnood road Km 0/0 to 2/00 (SH:- C/O R/wall at RD 7/480 to 7/500) Under TASP.	161931/-	3300.00	Two month	Rs. 350/-
21	R/R damages on wangtoo Yangpa road Km 0/0 to 5/0 (SH:- C/O R/wall in RR masonry in 1:6 at RD 3/625 to 3/645) Under TASP.	291519/-	5900.00	Two month	Rs. 350/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

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Attacks on flag-bearers of democracy will
not be tolerated

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LT-GOVERNOR MANOJ SINHA
IN A STERN WARNING TO TERRORISTS

The Statesman

05

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 07 OCTOBER 2020

THUMBNAILS



Traffic along a road past Bhalswa landfill in New Delhi on Tuesday

AFP

Rhea's judicial custody extended: A Mumbai court on Tuesday extended the judicial custody of actress Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik Chakraborty till 20 October. The special court had earlier rejected the bail pleas of the actress and her brother. They then moved the Bombay High Court to seek bail. The HC has reserved its order on their plea.

PTI

Cong declares 3 more names for MP polls: The Congress on Tuesday declared three more candidates for the upcoming Assembly bypolls to 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh, a party spokesman said. The Congress has also replaced its nominee for Badnawar seat Abhishek Singh Tinku Bana with Kamal Patel, he said.

PTI

Villagers detain 17 trucks: Local BJP MLA Raj Karan Kabir was allegedly attacked on Tuesday by some villagers in Banda (UP) who had detained 17 trucks used for illegal sand mining, police said. Senior officer immediately reached the spot and a probe is underway, he said, adding the trucks stopped by the villagers did not have valid documents for mining.

PTI

JKPC: Abrogation of Article 370 betrayal of people of J&K

JAMMU, 6 OCTOBER

The J&K Peoples Conference (JKPC), in its first meeting on Tuesday after 5 August last year, described abrogation of the Article 370 as 'betrayal of people of J&K.'

The meeting of senior leaders of JKPC presided by its chairman Sajad Lone termed abrogation of the special status of J&K as an "unconscionable act of betrayal of the people of J&K. We reject the humiliation served by Delhi on August 5. Their move was spiteful and meant to humiliate us. They have treated the Kashmiris very unfairly."

The JKPC leaders said: "It is our unanimous decision that the party will relentlessly struggle for the people of J&K."

A statement issued after the meeting said that all leaders expressed full confidence in the power of a collective mechanism to espouse the cause of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

SNS

'Quad' meeting: India discusses China's aggressive behaviour

Along with US, Australia, Japan to work to ease tensions, avoid worsening long-standing disputes

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 OCTOBER



Amid China's military muscle flexing in the Indo-Pacific, the foreign ministers of India, Japan, Australia and the US met today in Tokyo for their 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue' and called upon all countries to work to ease tensions and avoid exacerbating long-standing disputes, work to counter disinformation and refrain from malicious cyberspace activity.

The meeting was attended by external affairs minister S Jaishankar, Japan's foreign minister Toshimitsu Motegi, Australian foreign minister Marise Payne and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Sources said the four foreign ministers discussed at length China's growing assertiveness against its neighbours on territorial and maritime issues.

In a clear message to China, Jaishankar, in his address,

reiterated that India was committed to the shared vision of the US, Japan and Australia for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

He said the very fact the foreign ministers of the four countries were meeting in person, despite the global pandemic, was a testimony to the importance that these consultations have gained, particularly in recent times.

"Our world is significantly different today than what

it was when we last met in New York in September 2019. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about a profound transformation globally."

Jaishankar said the events of this year have clearly demonstrated how imperative it was for like-minded countries to coordinate responses to the various challenges that the pandemic has brought to the fore.

"As we collectively navigate these uncharted waters, we

seek to emerge from the pandemic more resilient than ever before."

Noting that India would assume membership of the UN Security Council next year, he said New Delhi looked forward to seeking collective solutions to global challenges, including global recovery from the pandemic and reform of multilateral institutions.

"As vibrant and pluralistic democracies with shared values, our nations have collectively affirmed the importance of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. We remain committed to upholding the rules-based international order, underpinned by the rule of law, transparency, freedom of navigation in the international seas, respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes," he said.

Jaishankar said India's objective remained advancing the security and the economic interests of all countries having legitimate and vital interests in the region.

The Indian foreign minister also said that it was a matter of satisfaction that the Indo-Pacific concept has increasingly gained wider acceptance.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar met Pompeo for a bilateral meeting.

"Began my Tokyo visit with a bilateral meeting with @SecPompeo. Pleased to see the progress of our partnership in so many fields. Will work together for stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific," Jaishankar tweeted. Pompeo also described the meeting as productive. During his two-day visit to Tokyo, Jaishankar will also hold talks with his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi and Australian foreign minister Marise Payne. "India is also expanding bilateral cooperation with Japan and Australia in the Indo-Pacific region."

The US has been pushing for a greater role for India in the Indo-Pacific which is seen by many countries as an effort to contain China's growing clout in the region.

said. Naqvi said that with the commitment to provide equal opportunities to all needy sections of the society, more than 34,000 infrastructure projects including school, college, hospital, community centre, ITI, polytechnic, girls hostel, Sadbhavna Mandap, Hunar Huk etc have been developed in backward and Minority concentrated areas across the country in the last years under the (PMJVK), he said.

Naqvi pointed out that only 22,000 such projects had been developed before 2014. While only 90 districts of the country had been identified for minority communities' development before 2014, the Modi government has expanded development programmes for minorities in 308 districts of the country, the minister said.

"More than 50 per cent of these beneficiaries of scholarship schemes are girls. Due to our concentrated efforts, school drop-out rate among the minority students especially girls have decreased and students from poor and needy families are receiving better education," he added.

the village as a ritual.

"Neither the Assembly by-polls dates were announced nor was the model code of conduct in force at that time," Singh claimed.

Bisahul Singh was one of the senior-most MLAs in the State Assembly when he won from Anuppur on a Congress ticket in the 2018 assembly polls. He had been a cabinet minister in previous Congress governments.

However, when CM Kamal Nath overlooked him and denied him a ministerial berth, Singh became disgruntled.

He eventually quit the Congress, influenced by the 22 Scindia-loyalist Congress MLAs, including some ministers, who quit the party following Scindia and joined the BJP in March this year.

Assembly by-elections would take place on 28 seats, including Anuppur, as 25 Congress MLAs have resigned and three seats are vacant due to deaths of MLAs.

Video of MP BJP minister giving money to girls goes viral

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Bhopal, 6 October



The ruling BJP in Madhya Pradesh suffered embarrassment, as a video of Congressman turned BJP minister Bisahul Singh went viral, allegedly showing Singh distributing currency notes to girl children in his Anuppur Assembly constituency of the state.

The Opposition Congress expressed strong objection to the video and lodged a complaint with the Election Commission (EC) on Monday to take necessary action against Singh, as the model code of conduct is in force in 28 State Assembly constituencies of MP, including Anuppur, where by-elections are to be held on 3 November.

Singh (70) is an almost certain candidate of the BJP for these by-polls, as he is a non-MLA minister and if the BJP wants to continue him as a minister, it would first have to ensure that he contests

these by-polls and hopefully wins them to become an MLA again.

In its complaint to the EC, the Congress has alleged that the ruling BJP's minister was trying to lure the people and voters of Anuppur constituency.

Congress party's EC related matters in-charge J P Dhanpala lodged the complaint alleging that Singh's act of distributing money to people amounted to corrupt practices aimed at influenc-

ing voters.

In the video, Bisahul Singh is seen giving away currency notes, appearing to be Rs 100 denomination, to girl children in Anuppur and people can be heard shouting pro-BJP slogans.

Singh, who is presently the cabinet minister for food and civil supplies in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP state government, countered the opposition's claims, saying the video was part of dirty politics. He rubbed the Congress' allegations arguing that the video was an old one.

Singh claimed that when he became a minister in the BJP state government, he had visited his constituency and following an old tradition he had performed 'kanya puja' on being welcomed by the people of his constituency.

The minister further reasoned that as part of the 'kanya puja' tradition, he gave the money to the girl children of

SSB nabs wanted former Assam Police DIG



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 6 OCTOBER

The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) today apprehended a former DIG of the Assam Police at the India-Nepal border in Panitanki near Siliguri.

PK Dutta, along with a BJP leader, was wanted in Assam in a case related to leaking of question papers for recruitment of sub-inspectors in the police force.

The SSB stopped Mr Dutta, who was entering India from the Nepal side with his son and son-in-law, while on questioning, the son-in-law failed to produce documents, sources said.

"We immediately took them to the immigration office and on checking their papers, we realized that the man was wanted in Assam and there was a look-out notice for him," the source said.

"Yes, SSB officials first apprehended and detained him and after confirmation that he was wanted by the Assam Police, he was handed over to a team of Assam Police in the afternoon," Shrikumar Bandopadhyay, the Inspector General, SSB, Siliguri Frontier, said. Sources said an Additional Superintendent of Police from Kokrajhar in Assam later reached Panitanki with a team and took Mr Dutta in their custody.

News reports have said that the Assam police have arrested 20 people so far in connection with the recruitment scam, and that Mr Dutta, along with a BJP leader, were the masterminds.

Actors, singers vie for tickets to contest polls in Bihar as Covid-19 hits film industry hard

MANOJ CHAURASIA
PATNA, 6 OCTOBER

Around a dozen actors and singers associated with the Bollywood, Bhojpuri and television industry have been vying for tickets to contest polls in Bihar as the film industry remains badly hit by Covid-19. The three-phase Assembly elections in the state are to begin from 28 October.

Reports said majority of the actors and singers have been left jobless due to suspension of film-related activities. Left with no or just few job options, these actors have turned to politics to cash in upon their popularity and turn a new chapter in their life.

The first in the list is Ali Khan who has acted in several Bollywood films such as Khuda Gawah, Khiladi (1992), Roop Ki Rani Chorona Ka Raja (1993) and Alibab Aur

et, though himself is not interested this time but is said to be lobbying hard to get a ticket for his wife, reports said.

Akhilesh Mishra who has done Bhojpuri films like Lagaan and Sarfarosh has been in touch with various political parties to contest elections. Reports said he wants to contest assembly elections from Amnour seat in Saran district.

Shekhar Suman, popular Bollywood actor who unsuccessfully contested LS elections on Congress party tick-

pandemic even as the masses are still to shed inhibition.

The major worry for the voters are the surging Covid-19 cases in the state at this time when the poll process is already set in motion with the Election Commission (EC) already announcing the dates for polling and the government staff being imparted training about how to conduct elections during Covid-19 and maintain the highest level of safety standard.

According to a report of the Bihar health department, Covid-19 has claimed 924 lives and infected around two lakh people till date. The EC's guidelines also state that quarantined Covid-19 patients will also be allowed to cast their votes at the polling booths during the last hour of polling under the supervision of health authorities. This has further panicked the voters.

Banerjee handed over the appointment letter to one person, a family member of whom died in elephant attack in the forests of Jhargram. She also announced that junior constables who have completed five years in service, numbering 4,284 this year, will be promoted as constables. She handed over pro-

motion letters to four of them.

Banerjee asked the state director general of police to hand over the promotion letters to others before the Durga Puja, to be held in the last week of October.

On the implementation of the central flagship health scheme, Ayushman Bharat, in the state, she said, "We already have our own Swasthya Sathi health scheme in the state. If the Centre wants us to implement the Ayushman Bharat, then it should be fully funded by them."

Billed as the world's largest government healthcare programme, Ayushman Bharat is funded with 60 per cent contribution coming from the central government and the remaining from the states.

Banerjee had also written to Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan last month saying that Ayushman Bharat would be implemented in West Bengal if it is fully funded by the Centre and the funds are routed through the state government.

"We have taken a policy decision that assistance will be provided to the families of those who die in elephant attacks and the next of kin of the victim will be provided with a job as a special home guard," she said. Addressing an administrative meeting at Kharagpur area of West Midnapore district, the chief minister said that people die in elephant attacks in some parts of the state, mainly in Jhargram, Purulia, Medinipur, Bankura and in some districts of North Bengal.

The chief minister said that with an aim to strengthen the existing system of disseminating information on various schemes, the state government has decided to set up around 2,744 'Bangla Sahayata Kendras' (BSK) across the 23 districts of the state in the first phase.

The BSKs will be set up in the offices of SDOs, BDOs and more than 800 libraries and all primary health centres. Each BSK will have two data entry operators with

computers, she said.

She said that tourism projects through private investment will create 8,000 jobs. With migrant workers returning to the state due to COVID-19 pandemic, these projects will provide much-needed employment to people.

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computers, she said.

She said that an initiative will be taken to ensure that women in red light areas, transgenders and backward people get ration cards.

Regarding the Ghatal Master Plan, which was formulated to overcome the perennial problem of floods in Ghatal block of the district, the chief minister said that sanction of this project by the central government has been pending since 2015. "I am tired of asking the Centre for sanction of the project," she said, adding that the state government has been working to complete the project on its own.

Felicitating the principal of Sabang College for introducing Santhali language in the curriculum, Banerjee said that the subject is being taught in eight colleges in Paschim Medinipur district.

News reports have said that the Assam police have arrested 20 people so far in connection with the recruitment scam, and that Mr Dutta, along with a BJP leader, were the masterminds.

Reports said majority of the actors and singers have been left jobless due to suspension of film-related activities. Left with no or just few job options, these actors have turned to politics to cash in upon their popularity and turn a new chapter in their life. The first in the list is Ali Khan who has acted in several Bollywood films such as Khuda Gawah, Khiladi (1992), Roop Ki Rani Chorona Ka Raja (1993) and Alibab Aur

Thumbnails

Thumbnails

Thumbnails

Slow start

While the campaign announced by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to curb air pollution in the national capital this winter is a welcome initiative, it is difficult not to wonder if the essay is being attempted rather late in the day, and after reports of stubble burning have already come in from Punjab and Haryana. In defence of the state government, it must be said it had its hands full with managing the coronavirus epidemic, a task it accomplished with some success. On the other hand, the fact that the virus affects lungs and could therefore be life-threatening for those whose bodies are already compromised by pollution ought to have been known a long time ago. While Delhi has promised to do what it can, and has appealed to neighbouring states to address the problems of stubble-burning, thermal power plants and brick kilns, it would be naïve to expect that these measures will make a significant difference to pollution levels in the region this winter. Already air quality in many parts of the capital has turned unhealthy, with remaining area reporting pollution levels that pose health risks to sensitive groups. While the matrix used by pollution control agencies and health authorities is different, it must be said that all of Delhi ~ with nearly 300,000 coronavirus cases, more than 5,500 deaths and nearly 3,000 containment zones ~ constitutes a territory populated by a sensitive group. This applies in equal measure to towns making up the National Capital Region. About the only saving grace is that more and more people ~ either because they are wary of the virus or of the fines being levied on violators ~ are wearing masks, as useful for evading infection as they are for countering pollution.

It must be said though that the efforts of the Union government have been somewhat lacklustre insofar as northern India's air pollution problem is concerned. While the Finance Minister had provided Rs 4,400 crore for fighting air pollution in the last Budget, the leadership role the Union government was expected to play has not been in evidence. Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi are ruled by three different and often antagonistic political parties. Additionally, all three parties have ambitions in the states they do not rule. In these circumstances, it was incumbent on the Union government to bring the state governments together on a bipartisan platform to evolve common prescriptions to tackle a problem that affects them all. This has not been attempted at the political level and is a cause of regret. While the challenges posed by Covid-19 and hostile neighbours may have kept national leaders engaged, the business of governance cannot be conducted in bits and pieces. More, much more should have been done but was not. Thus, while the winter of 2020 may see only marginal improvements in the air pollution situation, it is essential for all stakeholders to resolve that by 2021 at least they get their acts together. Or we will be back where we are next October.

Troubled strait

It is important for the world and especially Beijing to realise that for all intents and purposes Taiwan is an independent state where the writ of a democratically elected government runs. While as a result of treaty obligations or other considerations, many countries may recognise only the regime in Beijing, the reality of Taiwan being an entity that does not accept it is a part of China cannot be wished away. It is in this context that China's repeated provocations must be viewed by the global community. In the past few weeks, Chinese fighter jets have regularly crossed the mid-line of the Taiwan Strait, which is the traditional buffer between the mainland and the island. In a report to the country's parliament, Taiwan's defence ministry has said its air force was forced to scramble 4,132 times this year, 129 per cent more than all last year, after Chinese fighter aircraft encroached into Taiwan's air zone. The report, cited by a news agency, says China is "trying to use unilateral military actions to change the security status quo in the Taiwan Strait, and at the same time is testing our response, increasing pressure on our air defences and shrinking our space for activity." It adds that these incursions have been accompanied by other targeted actions. In short, the fragile peace in the region is one itchy trigger-burst away from degenerating into violence. Should that happen, and all sensible people must hope it does not, the world should know that China was responsible. Citing a historical claim over the territory is insufficient justification for seeking to change the status quo after 70 years of co-existence.

If China's actions are belligerent, its reasons are condescending. For Beijing claims to be angered by increasing American support for Taiwan, by itself a non sequitur. It has expressed its opposition to visits by senior US officials to Taipei, which is surprising given that as long back as 2001, then President George W Bush had gone as far as to say that should China attack Taiwan, the US had an obligation to defend the latter. In the years after World War II, Washington and Taipei have shared a warm relationship although the need to engage with China had forced the US to redefine it. Under President Trump, the relationship has become significantly stronger and his administration in 2018 passed the Taiwan Travel Act which allows high-level diplomatic engagement between Taiwanese and American officials and encourages visits between the two. While Beijing had reacted angrily to this enactment, its anger was restricted to harsh words until the world became consumed with the virus epidemic. That is when its rhetoric made way for provocative military actions. India especially ought to feel empathy for Taiwan, caught as it too is in the vortex of China's territorial claims, and such empathy must find tangible expression.

Integrating Farmers

The success of a collective hinges on many factors - the technical support it receives, its institutional base, social and professional composition, land access and cropping patterns of members and adaptation of the model to the local context



The Indian economy depends on the agriculture sector as its prime driver towards sustainable growth, development and poverty alleviation even though it accounts for only 15 per cent of India's gross domestic product (GDP). Not only does agriculture meet food needs of 1.3 billion Indians, it also provides employment and income for millions of small farmers ~ those who work on less than two hectares (five acres) of land ~ and their families.

One of the powerful ways to mitigate farm distress is through a livelihood and development strategy that collectivizes the smaller primary producers through locally-managed Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and integrates them into an inclusive value-chain. It is a sustainable, market-based approach in which resources of member farmers (for example, expertise and capital) are pooled to achieve more together than they can alone. It enables members to see their work through an entrepreneurial lens and confers economies of scale, better marketing and distribution, more investible funds and skills, greater bargaining power, access to credit and insurance, sharing of assets and costs, opportunities to upgrade skills and technology, and a safety net in times of distress. The best-known example of an FPO is that of Amul (Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd.) which is a dairy cooperative with over three million producer members.

In this model thousands of scattered small farms are systematically aggregated and provided centralized services around production, post-harvest, and marketing. This helps help reduce transaction costs of the farms for accessing the value chains and makes it easier for small farmers to access inputs, technology, and the market. It also opens opportunities to bring primary processing facilities closer to the farm gates and help producers gather market intelligence and manage the value chain better with digital agriculture tools.

An FPO is a hybrid between a private limited company and a cooperative society. Hence one can see it enjoy the benefits of professional management of a private limited company as well as reap the benefits of a cooperative society. Smallholder farmer-producer groups are a key medium to build scale on account of the confidence, support and buyer/ seller power they provide. They are able to achieve economies of scale through post-harvest infrastructure (collection, sorting, grading facilities), establishment of integrated processing units, refrigerated transportation, pre-cooling or cold stores chamber, branding, labeling and packaging, aggregation and transportation, assaying, precon-

ditioning, grading, standardizing and other interventions. The key benefit is the marketing support that links producers to mainstream markets through aggregation of subsistence-level produce into economic lots that can significantly raise the share that peasants get of the money people pay for their food.

The FPOs are owned and governed by shareholder farmers and administered by professional managers. They adopt all the good principles of cooperatives and the efficient business practices of companies and seek to address the inadequacies of the cooperative structure. The best way for these organizations is to leverage their collective strength through a full value chain from the farm to the fork. The underlying principle is similar to that of the full stack approach. This approach makes the sponsor, catalyst or promoter responsible for every part of the experience. In short, it is a whole-farm systems approach. It creates a complementary support ecosystem that boosts farm yields, reduces negative environmental impacts, and increases market access and smallholder farmer incomes. It also provides sustainability interventions including sustainable irrigation products and practices. Moreover, the value chain uses a business approach in order to make it viable.

Apart from the collective strength that group synergy generates, the support structures help in building the capacities of producers to deal with input suppliers, buyers, bankers, technical service providers, development promoting agencies and the Government (for their entitlements), among others. One of its important roles is linking them to reliable and affordable sources of financing in the funding ecosystem to meet their working capital, infrastructure, development and other needs. The collective works to reorient the enabling environment by influencing policies in this direction. The extension services available through the collectives include augmenting farmer capacity through agricultural best practices, agronomic advice, training on use of bio-fertiliser and pest management and modern harvesting techniques, and access to optimal environmental practices.

The success of a collective hinges on many factors - the technical support it receives, its institutional base, social and professional composition, land access and cropping patterns of members and adaptation of the model to the local context. Elite

farmers are significantly more likely to participate than the less privileged. They often become administrative members and use services substantially more than rank-and-file members. It is, thus, necessary to strengthen democratic processes in these institutions.

Most promoters of the value chain are now successfully using the subsector approach which allows for a focus on specific sub-sectors and helps in strengthening the ecosystem within which they are able to transition from a comparative to a competitive advantage. The value chain also facilitates capacity-building support and use of modern tools including technology that can help to improve weather forecasting, agricultural processing, soil health monitoring crop identification as well as damage control, and mapping of available water resources.

Some of these collectives are using digital tools to make farming climate-resilient, nutrition-sensitive, and inclusive. The farmers are also able to achieve increase in quantity, quality, and consistency of production of crops. For achieving better scale, the value chain needs to steward

limited resources and build production systems that natural systems can support over time. This logic embraces the use of soil management regimes that incorporate modest, targeted use of synthetic fertilizer to boost farmer incomes and production without affecting the quality of soil. The technical support is complemented by better water management through rainwater harvesting and recharging of ground water table; introduction of multi-cropping and diverse agro-based activities and use of low-cost and small plot irrigation technologies.

Consolidation of smallholders' land holdings through cooperatives can also create synergies, especially for the leasing of large equipment or bulk input orders. It also helps in creating cold storage for controlling post-harvest losses. Financing for setting up micro-irrigation facilities and rainwater harvesting modules would help create an infrastructure for sustainable water supply and hence aid farm productivity.

FPOs should also be encouraged to participate in MSP-based procurement operations. eNAM can connect farmers with distant buyers. However, the biggest limitation of eNAM and other similar programmes seems to be that most farmers are not tech-savvy. This is further compounded by low internet penetration and erratic electric supply. We need

robust farmer-producer institutions which will have capital and the risk-taking ability to set up processing zones which are critical for preventing losses on account of rotting of foodgrains.

There are several other structural barriers that have to be overcome. First and foremost is the capital constraint. FPOs are initially not able to raise share capital from their member-farmers. They also cannot go to the share market to raise capital unlike the privately-owned food processing companies.

The next is working capital. FPOs have to deal in cash as their member-farmers need the money desperately at harvest time to pay input suppliers and labour, repay crop loans and meet their household expenses. FPOs need higher working capital than the private sector. This is where dairy cooperatives score better since milk is produced and consumed daily and farmers can wait for a few days to get paid.

The third barrier is managerial capability. Many FPOs are struggling on account of lack of handholding support. Many FPOs lack professionalism. FPOs can hire well-paid professionals if they reach a certain scale as Amul and several other, large, successful cooperative dairies have done. But FPOs will have to reach adequate scale to pay appropriate salaries to these professionals. The inclusion of small farmers in supply chains requires substantial public investment in agronomic training, irrigation, soil-water conservation, and an overall improvement in the support ecosystem which small farmers cannot afford.

While FPOs remain the most trusted allies for farmers, they need to be revitalised by infusing modern design features without diluting their traditional ethos and philosophy. It would require innovative collaborations between state, civil society, and the private sector. In the light of new insights, we need to revisit the model and harness the basics; tweak the traditional design features instead of reinventing the wheel. Experience tells us that continuous training, capacity-building and member-awareness programmes can reinforce the key elements and help solidify the relationship between members, field staff, professional managers, financial institutions and directors and build a strong bond that can equip the collectives with the will to fight adversities and exploit opportunities.

FPOs can grow as viable, member-controlled, self-sustaining farmer businesses if they constantly work on reshaping the interaction of their members with themselves. The failure of cooperatives is often rooted in the inability of their promoters to understand this interaction. A self-regulatory body designed to protect the interest of FPOs and farmer members can serve a useful purpose.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

Vital, vigilant journalism

Facebook's shutdown of more than 250 fake accounts engaged in red-tagging and political disinformation and propaganda in the Philippines made headlines last week, and rightly so in an environment increasingly allergic to truth and accountability. The news was astounding not just for the sheer number of fake accounts but also for what they were designed to do, and for the discovery that a cluster of these fake accounts was traced to China's south-eastern coastal province of Fujian. Nathaniel Gleicher, head of Facebook security policy, said in an online press conference on Tuesday night that the fake accounts were shut down for engaging in "coordinated inauthentic behavior" (CIB), which violated the US social media network's community standards. This is not the first time Facebook shut down fake accounts related to Philippine politics. In March 2019, it shuttered over 200 bogus accounts belonging to a network managed by Nic Gabunada, Mr. Duterte's social media strategist for his 2016 candidacy. The takedown of these fake social media accounts is an important step in battling the scourge of fake news that proliferates online, and the more sinister government-sanctioned misinformation and propaganda used to harass dissenters and critics of government wrongdoing.

The weaponization of social media for the benefit of powerful political interests is why journalism has become even more vital and relevant today. In an age where all sorts of information are at people's fingertips, the work of journalists has become way more daunting but essential, a constant fight to shine the light of truth against those who have the motive and the means to suppress it. That the fake Philippine ~ and China-

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
based accounts sprouted during the debates on the anti-terrorism law, China's increasing aggression in the West Philippine Sea, and the government's closure of ABS-CBN, the country's biggest TV network, indicates a deliberate and well-funded campaign to use social media to push a certain narrative. The pandemic has only heightened the need for timely, accurate information from an independent press, as millions of people live with anxiety over a lethal virus, the loss of their jobs, and severe restrictions on their mobility and freedom imposed for their supposed safety and security. It is the job of journalists and media workers to sift through the clutter of misinformation and confusion ~ even contend with the lack of information, deliberate or otherwise ~ to provide the people the essential information they need to keep themselves safe, to know what their government is doing (or not doing) to stem the spread of the pandemic, to ensure that taxpayer money is being spent judiciously and transparently on their behalf, to bring their urgent stories to the attention of those in power.

Over the last months, as hundreds of billions of pesos were allocated to address the pandemic, journalists documented the stories of the poor folk who lined up for days to get their cash aid, or braved the elements and the virus threat to sleep on pavements outside the airport while waiting to be transported to their hometowns; of doctors, nurses, and other valiant frontliners who tended to the avalanche of cases in hospitals while enduring, on one hand, the lack of protective medical equipment and adequate government support, and on the other, public stigma over their work; of high officials in the state health insurance agency who allegedly went about their merry ways plundering at least P15 billion as the country was in the grip of the worst public-health crisis in its history; of a costly cosmetic beach beautification project launched amid a crippling economic recession.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Political games in Bihar

SIR, Please refer to your today's report 'LJP walks out of NDA in Bihar, targets Nitish, bats for BJP-led govt'. Citing ideological differences with Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) on Sunday quit the NDA in Bihar. LJP's exit is likely to clear the way for a 50:50 split of seats between BJP and JD(U) for the coming assembly elections in Bihar. Perhaps LJP's stand to fight JD(U) candidates but not BJP is good news for the saffron party. But it's a worry for Mr Kumar as it may dent his chances and thereby the opposition alliance of the RJD, Con-

gress and the Left may receive a boost.

Reportedly LJP was driving a hard bargain in negotiations over seat-sharing with arch-rival JD(U). In the 2015 polls, the LJP contested 42 seats but won just two. The party was hoping to get the same



number of seats this time too which could be a little difficult as last time the JD(U) was not part of NDA and the BJP had the luxury of offering it the maximum number of seats.

Hence LJP has decided to adopt the 'Manipur Model' where the party has gone to polls alone but after the results it supported BJP to form a government there.

Meanwhile, the BJP has announced that NDA will contest the polls under the leadership of Mr Kumar. Possibly JD(U) may now ask BJP to consider removing LJP from the alliance at the national level; else it will send a wrong message to the electorate.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das,
Kolkata, 5 October.

CASTRATE THEM

SIR, The day I read about the horrific incident of gangrape of the Dalit girl of Hathras, my blood started boiling. Once again this has happened and will continue to happen. When the culprits of Nirbhaya were hanged, I thought this would be the end in itself. Alas nothing stopped. The culprits of Hathras should be castrated and their hands chopped off. This will send a message to future offenders. But our justice delivery system is so weak that it will take years to punish the culprits.

Yours, etc., Nihar Chakraborty, Howrah, 5 October.

UNACCEPTABLE

SIR, The misbehaviour of a Uttar Pradesh policeman with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra by grabbing her kurta, when she was on her way to Hathras on Saturday afternoon to meet the family of a woman who died after she was allegedly gang-raped, is extremely condemnable. How can a male police officer lay his hand on the clothes of a woman even if she is a political leader? Law protectors must always be within their limits. Strict action should be taken against such police officials.

Yours, etc., BO Chang, West Bengal, 5 October.

When, realistically, should the world expect a vaccine?

WILLIAM PETRI

With Covid-19 vaccines currently in the final phase of study, you've probably been wondering how the FDA will decide if a vaccine is safe and effective.

Based on the status of the Phase 3 trials currently underway, it is unlikely that the results of these trials will be available before November. But it is likely that not just one but several of the competing Covid-19 vaccines will be shown to be safe and effective by the end of 2020.

I am a scientist and infectious diseases specialist at the University of Virginia, where I care for patients with Covid-19 and conduct research on the pandemic. I am also a member of the World Health Organization Expert Group on Covid-19 Vaccine Prioritization.

Phase 3 studies are underway for the Moderna and BioNTech/Pfizer vaccines, the Oxford/AstraZeneca viral vector vaccine and now the Johnson & Johnson viral vector vaccine.

Each of these vaccines uses the SARS-CoV-2 spike glycoprotein, which the virus uses to infect cells, to trigger the immune system to generate protective antibodies and a cellular immune response to the virus. Protective antibodies act by preventing the spike glycoprotein from attaching the virus to human cells, thereby neutralizing the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19.

In the case of Moderna's nucleic acid vaccine, the messenger RNA encoding the spike glycoprotein is encased in a fat droplet – called a liposome – to protect the mRNA from degradation and enable it to enter cells. Once these instructions are inside the cells, the mRNA is read by the human cell machinery and made into many spike proteins so that the immune system can respond and begin producing antibodies against this coronavirus.

The Oxford/AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines use a different strategy to activate an immune response. Here an adenovirus found in chimpanzee shuttles the instructions for manufacturing the spike glycoprotein into cells.

Phase 1 and 2 studies by pharmaceutical companies Janssen and Merck also use viral vectors similar to the Oxford/AstraZeneca and J&J vaccines, while vaccines by Novavax and GSK-Sanofi use the actual spike protein itself.

Studies in animal models of Covid-19 provide convincing evidence that vaccination with the spike

glycoprotein will protect from Covid-19. Experiments show that when the immune system is shown the spike protein – which alone cannot trigger disease – the immune system will generate an antibody response that protects from infection with SARS-CoV-2.

In studies in hamsters an adenovirus viral vector – the approach used by Oxford/AstraZeneca, for example – was used to immunize with the Spike glycoprotein. When the hamsters were infected with SARS-CoV-2 they were protected from pneumonia, weight loss and death.

In nonhuman primates, DNA vaccines – which deliver the gene for the spike glycoprotein – reduced the amount of virus in the lungs. Animals that produced antibody that prevented virus attachment to human cells were most likely to be protected.

Overall, vaccination has triggered a more potent neutralizing antibody response than even that seen in patients recovering from Covid-19.

This has also been the case for Moderna's vaccine currently in Phase 3 trials and for vaccines from CanSino Biologics and Oxford/AstraZeneca.

Physicians have recorded mild to moderate reactions when the subjects were observed up to 28 days after vaccination. These side effects included mild pain, warmth and tenderness at the site of injection, and fever, fatigue, joint and muscle pain.

But Phase 1 and 2 studies are by small by design, with just hundreds of participants. So, these trials will not be large enough to detect uncommon or rare side effects.

The emphasis on safety as the primary goal was recently demonstrated in the Phase 3 Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine trial where one vaccinated individual developed inflammation of the spinal cord. It isn't clear whether the vaccine caused this reaction – it might be a new case of multiple sclerosis unrelated to the vaccine – but the Phase 3 trial was halted in the U.S. until more is known.

The FDA has issued guidance for industry on the steps required for developing and ultimately licensing vaccines to prevent Covid-19 – these are the same rigorous safety standards required for all vaccines.

There are, however, ways to speed the process of approval that are centred on "platform technology." What this means is that if a vaccine is using an approach such as an adenovirus that has previously been shown to be safe, it may be possible for a company to use previously collected data on toxicity and pharmacokinetics to fast-track clinical trial approval.



While speed and safety may appear conflicting goals, it is also encouraging to note that the rival vaccine manufacturers have jointly pledged not to bow to any political pressures to rush vaccine approval, but to maintain the most rigorous safety standards. The FDA has set the bar for the primary endpoint of a Phase 3 trial of 50 per cent protection for approval of a Covid-19 vaccine.

Protection is defined as protection from symptomatic Covid-19 infection, defined as laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection plus symptoms such as fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting.

This means that an effective vaccine is considered one that will reduce the number of infections in vaccine recipients by half. This is the minimal protection that is anticipated to be clinically useful. That is, in part, because lower levels of efficacy could paradoxically increase Covid-19 infections if it leads vaccinated people to decrease mask wearing or social distancing because they think they are completely protected.

Since a vaccine might be more effective at preventing severe Covid-19, the FDA instructs that protection

from severe Covid-19 should be a secondary endpoint.

The current Phase 3 trials are enrolling 30,000–40,000 subjects. Most of these participants will receive the vaccine and some a placebo.

When, exactly, the results of Phase 3 studies will be released depends in large part on the rate of infection in the placebo recipients. The way that these vaccine studies work is that they test if naturally acquired new coronavirus infections are lower in the group that received the vaccine compared with the group receiving the placebo. So while it is good news that Covid-19 infections have dropped recently in the U.S. from 70,000 to 40,000 cases per day, this drop in new infections may slow the vaccine studies.

In an emergency such as the US is faced with the Covid-19 pandemic, with approximately 700 new deaths and 40,000 new cases per day right now, the FDA is authorized to allow the use of unapproved products for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. That includes a vaccine.

The standard approval process for vaccines can require more than one year of observation after vaccination. If the short-term safety is good and the vaccine works to prevent Covid-19, then the vaccine should be

approved for use under an Emergency Use Authorization while it is still being studied.

Under Emergency Use Authorization, the FDA will continue to collect information from the companies producing the vaccines for benefit and harm, including surveillance for vaccine-associated enhanced respiratory disease or other potentially rare complications that might be observed in only one in a million.

I expect that the FDA will approve several vaccines by the end of 2020 under its Emergency Use Authorization authority so that vaccination can begin immediately, starting with high-risk groups including first responders, health care personnel, and the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions.

This will be followed rapidly with roll-out of vaccination to the population at large, while all of the time the FDA and vaccine manufacturers will continue to monitor for side effects and work to improve upon these first vaccines. This process is expected to take months.

It may not be back to normal next year, but all signs point to a healthier 2021.

The writer is Professor of Medicine, University of Virginia. This article was published on www.theconversation.com

of churches, while all of them agree that the Supreme Court orders should be implemented. Recently, one group forced open a church in the wee hours and resumed their rituals. The other faction, that had a Supreme Court verdict in its favour, lodged a police complaint which resulted in the earlier occupants being remanded to custody.

The skirmish is not of recent origin. It has been going on for more than a century and with the passage of time, it has only become uglier.

What's sad is that the sanctity has been lost. The places of worship have been defiled. The New Testament has it that during the passover, Jesus drove the traders, merchants and money lenders out of the Temple in Jerusalem accusing them of turning it into "a den of thieves" through their commercial activities. "My temple is called the house of prayer, but you are making it a den of thieves" (Matthew 21: 12-14).

Will there be a Nathan (a prophet in the Old Testament) among us who can look at the church hierarchy and pointedly say "That man is you"...

The writer is a former Executive Director of SAIL.

NO 28096

100 YEARS AGO

OCASIONAL NOTE

Importance is attached to a movement which is said to have given a new turn to the Irish problem. A deputation of Irish professional and trading representatives has been received by the Premier and has submitted resolutions adopted by a conference of Unionists and Nationalists at Cork. These resolutions suggested a system of what is called Dominion Home Rule, with safeguards for Ulster. As the proposals appear to have been taken into serious consideration by the Cabinet, it may be presumed that here is at least a possibility of their acceptance, if not by extremists at any rate by the majority of the people. It is true that every conceivable method of seeking a settlement would seem to have been already exhausted in vain, but there is something new in a joint movement by Nationalists and Unionists in Cork. Everything, of course, must depend on the exact meaning given to the phrase "Dominion Home Rule," while Ulster's acceptance of the safeguards offered to her must be secured. It is idle to discuss proposals which are only indicated by a phrase, but the facts that a new effort has been set on foot to make peace in Ireland and that it is sufficiently promising to attract the consideration of the Government may be regarded as hopeful signs.

NEWS ITEMS

DELUGE IN CALCUTTA

It is a long time since Calcutta received such a drenching as on Thursday night and yesterday. Rain started to fall heavily while most people were at dinner on Thursday night, and it continued for a long time, with the inevitable result that most of the streets and lanes in the northern quarter, and many of the low-lying roads in the southern were flooded. Coming in the late evening, however, it did not cause so much inconvenience, although doubtless many who had intended to go to the theatres stayed at home, and business at all the places of amusement must have suffered considerably. The real deluge was, however, reserved for yesterday. People going to office were allowed to get there dry-shod, but shortly after business commenced the rain began to drop again, gently at first, but gathering in intensity until shortly after midday.

PRINCE JOACHIM'S SUICIDE

Prince Joachim's suicide in some measure bids fair to remain a mystery. He was found in the second-class waiting room at Potsdam, from which there is an exit to the street, with no ticket and no money, but thoroughly intoxicated. The officials are very reticent and anxious to keep strictly to the official account, according to which the Prince's suicide was due to temporary aberration. The Daily Express correspondent understands that the station staff are ready to affirm that the Prince was completely irresponsible in view of his alcoholic condition. On the other hand, he hears from a good source that the Prince's gambling debts and domestic sorrows were the principal sources of the desperate frame of mind which resulted in the tragedy. He is also said to have been greatly depressed by Germany's present condition.

BRITISH POLICY IN THE EAST

A remarkable anti-British outbreak in the French press is again imperiling the good relations of England and France. The basis of these attacks is against British policy in the East. It is declared that British policy in Turkey is deliberately aimed at the destruction of French Ottoman financial interests. The British are also accused of bad faith in Mesopotamia and Syria and are said to be secretly supporting the Emir Feisal against France. It is alleged that the British change of policy regarding Poland is endangering the peace of Europe, while the payment of five millions to Germany, and Mr. Churchill's suggestion that the Germans should be asked to help the Allies to fight Bolshevism, are denounced as giving a direct encouragement to the enemies of France.

INDIAN QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

In the House of Commons, replying to Colonel Yate, with regard to pensions of widows, children, and dependents of officers of Indian services killed in the great war, Mr. Montagu said that the benefits admissible had been substantially improved by the warrant, the main provisions of which would be applied to the Indian services. He undertook to do everything possible to expedite a decision with regard to the dependents of officers who had died before the war or whose death was not due to war service. Replying to Colonel Yate, Mr. Montagu said he was inquiring as to whether the new Army Regulations in India would include a clause disallowing a supply of ball ammunition to troops called out to suppress riots.

Whither church schisms?

GEORGE THOMAS

The more I read about the happenings in churches in Kerala, the more I am convinced that these religious establishments need a makeover. They need to be baptized again, by total immersion!

Reports are rife about priests and prelates suffering from excessive testosterone and running amuck. A recent case is that of a functionary in the US who had to flee overnight from stringent American rape laws. Without much ado, he was given an equivalent post in Kerala. Alas, nothing more was heard about it. There seems to be an Omerta code operating in the shadows of the Basilicas.

Most Christian establishments in India haven't covered themselves with glory and some have serious charges ranging from rape to malfeasance levelled against the clergy. A good number of them have landed up in courts.

Spirituality has been a casualty and places of worship have become revenue centres, with priests almost functioning as collection agents. Many in the religious hierarchy think



their work is done once they mouth pious words and cite the scriptures. They perform their roles as if it were a job, not a 'calling'. And to cap it all, their spiritual heads function like CFOs with an Argus eye on the profit and loss ledger.

Positions in the church are sometimes traded ~ the ones who can gar-

- anathema to the 'word of God' - forgetting the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

The higher hierarchy, who have pretensions to superior sanctity, prefer luxury cars and comfortable living and conduct rituals and ceremonies like baptism, marriages and funerals on prior payment. Humility, the essence of the Gospels, has been lost on them. They have also chosen to forget the words of St Peter who said that "Gold or silver have I none". The prelates possibly have plenty of it. Religious thought has been devalued. What is preached is seldom practiced. And what is worse is preaching by those whose lives are hardly a testimony.

There is absolutely no accountability in the set-up. How can 'divine plenipotentiaries' be answerable to mere mortals? There's a fear of divine wrath among the orthodox laity. In any case, dissent is put down with a heavy hand.

Meanwhile the two factions in the Orthodox Church have resumed their street fights with redoubled vigour over control of revenue-bearing churches with bishops observing dharna. There are murmurs in the Orthodox faction about its overbearing manner in forcing the handover

of churches, while all of them agree that the Supreme Court orders should be implemented. Recently, one group forced open a church in the wee hours and resumed their rituals. The other faction, that had a Supreme Court verdict in its favour, lodged a police complaint which resulted in the earlier occupants being remanded to custody.

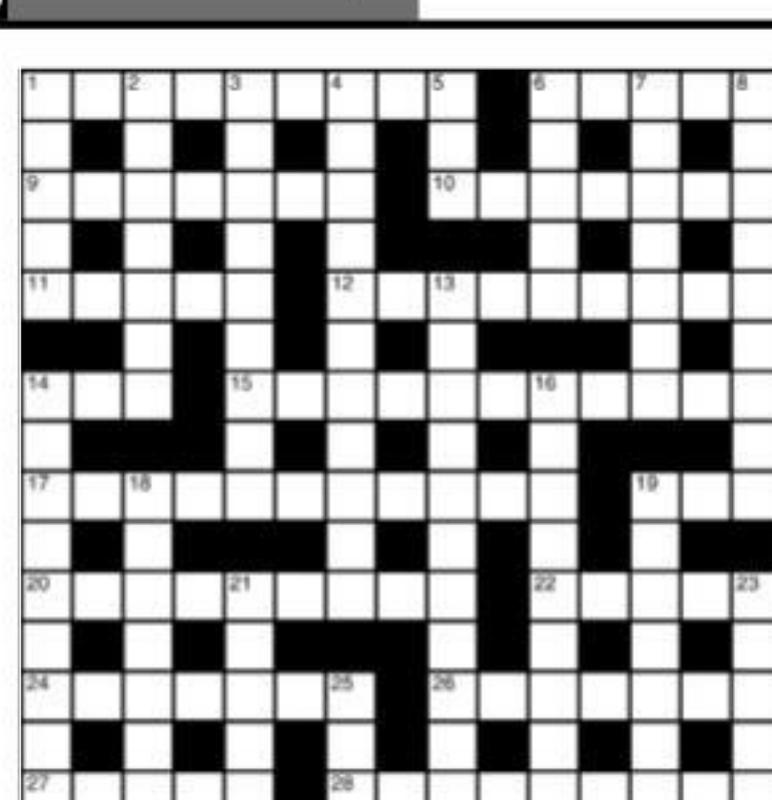
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CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1/9 Unhappy about own performance? Not if wheels get replaced by hybrid (5,4,7)
- 6 Thrown across line as hymns are (5)
- 9 See 1
- 10 Fuss around an essential component of life for a fighter (7)
- 11 In Germany, a large antelope (5)
- 12 Give more water to monster taking refuge in rotten tree (9)
- 14 See 25 Down
- 15 Picture new organ arriving soon (7,4)
- 17 Man with bow could be cheating (2,3,6)
- 19 See 5 Down
- 20 It's said complete article finishes
- 22 Turkey possibly caught fish (5)
- 24 Fruit essential to save delivery service (7)
- 26 See 28
- 27 Removing odd parts of degaussers makes things simpler (5)
- 28/29 Eats trendy fruits which could be fresher (5-4,7)
- 30 Royal regalia item changing hands for a risible figure (5)
- 31 Had too much time to open rigged vote (7)
- 32 Having broken desk, theologian (in drink) to make quick getaway (9)
- 33 Data processed as some people dance (11)
- 34 Laugh about gutless Trump (5)
- 35/36 Workplace where skates are useless (6)

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



Data protection is crucial because privacy and confidentiality of individuals is their right under the Constitution

T RABI SANKAR
RBI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THUMBNAILS

Govt removes export curbs on N-95 masks: The government on Tuesday removed export curbs on N-95 masks, which are in demand due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with a view to promote outbound shipments of the product. Earlier, exporters were required to seek licence from the government for export of these masks. "The export policy of N-95/FFP-2 masks or its equivalent is amended from restricted to free category making all types of masks freely exportable," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said. PTI

Motorola razr 5G: Motorola has launched its all-new motorola razr 5G, the refined, enhanced and powerful successor of the earlier generation razr in India. The razr 5G comes with an advanced selfie camera, an ultra-premium 3D glass and metal design with a 6.2" foldable OLED display and is a global 5G ready phone, the company said. It has been priced at Rs 1,14,999 and will be available from 12 October, the company added. SNS

Forex card: Vistara and Axis Bank on Tuesday launched a co-branded forex card that can load up to 16 currencies. The card has locked-in exchange rates and the card holder will accrue 3 award points on Club Vistara for every \$5 or an equivalent value spent, the airline said. PTI

Influential CMO: Ravi Santhanam, chief marketing officer (CMO), HDFC Bank, has been recognised in the Forbes list of "The World's Most Influential CMOs". Ranked at Number 39, he is the only CMO of an Indian company to be featured in the illustrious list which includes marketing heads of Apple, BMW, Lego, Adobe, Microsoft, P&G among others, the company said. SNS

Irdai warning: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India on Tuesday cautioned people against unauthorised entities professing to be selling health plans by offering discounts on medical treatments. In a public notice, the regulator said that only Irdai-registered insurance companies, or their authorised agents and intermediaries can sell insurance products. PTI

Festive offer: Ahead of the upcoming festive season, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest growing gold and diamond retail chains in the country, launched ZOUL- lifestyle jewellery, an exclusively designed contemporary lightweight jewellery collection for millennials, according to Press release. SNS

Samsung offer: Samsung has launched its festive season campaign "Home, Festive Home", offering exclusive deals and assured gifts to consumers across India, the company said. SNS

RBI's new policy panel to meet today, decision on Friday

Apex bank is likely to maintain status quo and keep rates unchanged in view of rising retail inflation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 OCTOBER

The newly-constituted monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank will begin its three-day deliberations on Wednesday amid expectations that the central bank this time around may refrain from changing the benchmark lending rates.

On 28 September, the RBI had postponed the meeting of the monetary policy committee (MPC), which must have a quorum of four, as the appointment of independent members was delayed. The meeting was scheduled to take place from 29 September.

Within a day of the government appointing three independent members of the MPC, the Reserve Bank announced that the rate-setting panel will meet from 7 to 9 October for the bi-monthly review of the monetary policy.

"...the next meeting of the monetary policy committee (MPC) is scheduled during 7

NEW MEMBERS OF MPC



► The government has appointed three eminent economists Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Shashanka Bhade as members of the MPC. The new members replace Chetan Ghate, Pami Dua and Ravindra Dholakia.

► Bhade is senior advisor at the National Council for Applied Economic Research, while Goyal is a professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

► The other three ex-officio members of the MPC are RBI Governor, deputy governor (in-charge of monetary policy) and one RBI officer to be appointed by the central board.

October to 9 October 2020," the Reserve Bank said in a statement. The decision of the rate-setting panel will be announced on 9 October.

The government has appointed three eminent economists Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Shashanka Bhade as members of the MPC.

The new members replace Chetan Ghate, Pami Dua and

Ravindra Dholakia. They were appointed on the panel for four years on 29 September 2016. As per the RBI Act, the external members can hold office for a period of four years and are not eligible for re-appointment.

Bhade is senior advisor at the National Council for Applied Economic Research, while Goyal is a professor at

the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research. Varma is professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

The other three ex-officio members of the MPC are Reserve Bank Governor, deputy governor (in-charge of monetary policy) and one RBI officer to be appointed by the central board.

The six-member MPC headed by RBI Governor has been given the mandate to maintain annual inflation at 4 per cent until 31 March 2021, with an upper tolerance of 6 per cent and a lower tolerance of 2 per cent.

The external members are appointed by the Central government from amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing, having knowledge and experience in the field of economics, banking, finance or monetary policy.

The last meeting of the panel was held during 4 to 6 August 2020. It was the 24th meeting of the rate-setting panel since it met for the first time in October 2016.

Experts, including bankers,

are of the opinion that the Reserve Bank is likely to maintain status quo and keep interest rates unchanged this time in view of rising retail inflation driven mainly by supply side issues.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had earlier said although there was headroom for further monetary policy action, it was important to keep "our arsenal dry and use it judiciously."

After the August meeting, the RBI had kept interest rates unchanged to help tame inflation that in recent times had surged past six per cent mark, and said that the economy is in an extremely weak condition following the pandemic. The RBI has cut interest rates by 115 basis points since February.

The government moved the interest rate setting role from the RBI Governor to the six-member MPC in 2016.

As per the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the central bank is required to organise at least four meetings of the MPC in a year.

Banks face tough operating environment in near term: Fitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 OCTOBER

bad loan recognition and provisioning, Fitch said.

"However, the exercise could leave the sector saddled with a high bad loan burden over the next few years if restricted loans do not perform according to agreed milestones," it added.

Fitch said the RBI data show that Indian banks wrote off nearly \$85 billion over FY14-FY19, of which state-owned banks contributed nearly 80 per cent.

"Indian banks face a tough operating environment in the near term, as stressed loans and write-offs increase as a result of the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic. It said limited room for fiscal support, fragilities in the financial system and a continuing rise in Covid-19 cases are hampering normalisation of activity."

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**REPUBLIC OF CHINA
TAIWAN**



President Tsai Ing-wen
REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

Taiwan and India are Natural Partners



The Double Tenth Day
Celebrating ROC Taiwan's 109th National Day

Tonight @ 7:00 p.m. and Tomorrow @ 5:30 p.m.
on WION TV Channel

Airtel 378/ Dish TV 765 /Tata Sky 615 /D2H 352/ SUN 562/ Asianet 428



WION



Every home in UK will be powered by wind energy in a decade as the govt kick-starts a green industrial revolution that will create thousands of jobs

BORIS JOHNSON
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C H
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C H
TOKYO	18°C	12°C CL
LONDON	17°C	9°C S
DUBAI	30°C	25°C S
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C C H
NEW YORK	10°C	07°C C S
MOSCOW	16°C	09°C H

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

THUMBNAILS



Youth enjoy a warm evening at an embankment of the Moskva river in Moscow on Tuesday.

AP

UK child sex abuse: An independent report said on Tuesday that the Church of England allegedly failed to protect children and young people from sexual predators for decades, preferring instead to safeguard its own reputation, and created a culture where abusers were able to hide. The report said sometimes sexual offenses were minimized.

AP

Helsinki N-arm's talks: The top U.S. negotiator in nuclear arms control talks with Russia held in Helsinki says a one-day follow-up meeting to earlier talks in Austria has yielded important progress.

AP

Don't be afraid of Covid: Trump

U.S. President returns to White House and climbed up the South Portico stairs to go to his residence, showing his fitness

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 6 OCTOBER



U.S. President Donald Trump removes his mask upon return to the White House from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Tuesday in Washington, DC.

DC govt unable to connect with WH on outbreak: Officials with the Washington, D.C., Department of Health have been unsuccessful in trying to connect with the White House to assist with contact tracing and other protocols regarding the outbreak that has infected President and several senior staff members. We have reached out to the White House on a couple of different levels, a political level and a public health level, Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser said. The lack of communication represents an unwelcome obstacle for the D.C. government, which has worked to contain the virus spread through mandatory mask requirements and limits on the size of gatherings. AP

oped some really great drugs and knowledge. WE WILL BEAT THIS, TOGETHER! he said.

The love and support from Americans from all over the world has been incredible and is something I'll never forget. When I saw many great Patriots outside of the hospital supporting me, I knew I had to drive by and thank them!

Trump added. His former White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the President was strong and upbeat. He's a fighter and will not quit battling this virus or surrender to the liberal mob and forces out to destroy our country, Sanders said in a tweet.

Before boarding Marine One at Walter Reed, Trump told reporters that he was feeling good. White House physician Dr Sean Conley told reporters at the Walter Reed National Military Center, Trump has exceeded all standard hospital discharge criteria and has received another dose of remdesivir drug in his treat-

ment of Covid.

Over the past 24 hours, the President has continued to improve. He's met or exceeded all standard hospital discharge criteria. He has received another dose of remdesivir and then we plan to get him home.

It's been more than 72 hours since his last fever. Oxygen levels, including ambulatory saturations and his work of breathing or all normal though. He may not entirely be out of the woods, yet the team and I agree that all our evaluations and most importantly, his clinical staff support the president's safe return home, where he'll be surrounded by world-class medical care 24 seven, Dr Conley said. Dr Sean Dooley, a pulmonary critical care physician, told reporters that the president continues to do very well. His vital signs this morning, temperature was 98.1, his blood pressure 134 and 78 and respiratory rate 17 per minute. His heart rate was 68 beats per minute and his last

Oxo hemoglobin saturation was 97 per cent on room air, he said.

He currently does not endorse any respiratory complaints, the physician said.

According to Dr Brian Garibaldi, director of Johns Hopkins Biocontainment Unit, on Sunday evening, the president received his third dose of remdesivir and he tolerated that infusion without difficulty. His kidney and liver function continued to be normal, he said. Our plan is to give the fourth dose of remdesivir this evening, before he goes back to the White House, and we've made arrangements, Garibaldi added. He continues on dexamethazone and again. The plan for today is to continue to be up and out of bed, eat, and drink and work as he is able, he added.

WH staff, Secret Service eye virus with fear, anger

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 6 OCTOBER

The West Wing is a ghost town. Staff members are scared of exposure. And the White House is now a treatment ward for not one but two Covid patients, including a president who has long taken the threat of the virus lightly. President Donald Trump's decision to return home from a military hospital despite his continued illness is putting new focus on the people around him who could be further exposed if he doesn't abide by strict isolation protocols.

As a reminder, read the letter from the White House Management Office, if you are experiencing any symptoms ... please stay home and do not come to work. Staff who develop symptoms were advised to go home immediately and contact their doctors rather than the White House Medical Unit.

Even when Trump was at the hospital, his staff was not immune to risk.

Trump had aides there recording videos and taking photographs of him. On Sunday evening, he took a surprise drive around the hospital to wave to supporters from the window of an SUV.

The Secret Service agents in the car with him were dressed in personal protective equipment. Appropriate precautions were taken in the execution of this movement to protect the president and all those supporting it, including PPE, Deere said.

WH nixes updated FDA guidelines on vaccine approval

WASHINGTON, 6 OCTOBER

The White House has blocked new Food and Drug Administration guidelines on bringing potential vaccines for Covid to market that would almost certainly have prevented their introduction before the election.

At issue was the FDA's planned instruction that vaccine developers follow patients enrolled in their trials for at least two months to rule out safety issues before seeking emergency approval from the agency. A senior administration confirmed the move Monday evening, saying the White House believed there was no clinical or medical reason for the additional requirement. The White House action was first reported by The New York Times.

The intervention by Trump officials is the latest example of the administration undercutting its own medical experts working to combat the pandemic that has killed more than 210,000 Americans. FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn has been attempting to shore up public confidence in the FDA's vaccine review for weeks, vowing that career scientists, not politicians, will decide if the shots are safe and effective for mass vaccination.

But President Donald Trump has repeatedly insisted that a vaccine could be authorized before Election Day, even though top government scientists working on the administration's vaccine effort have stated that that timeline is very unlikely. AP

Pence, Harris all set for vice-presidential debate

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 6 OCTOBER



Vice President Mike Pence and his Democratic challenger Senator Kamala Harris are all set for a debate in the Salt Lake City of Utah on Wednesday.

This will be for the first time in the American history that an Indian origin person will be taking up the podium for a vice presidential debate.

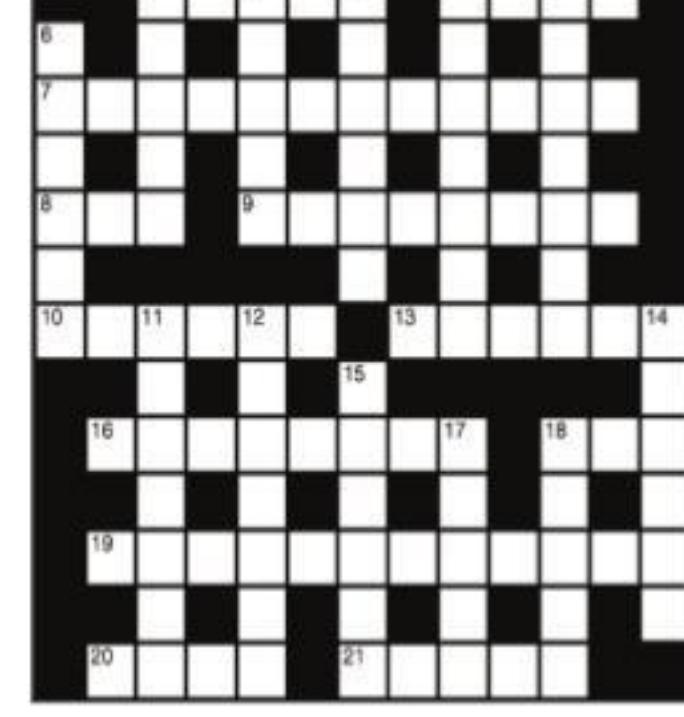
Political analysts believe that an aggressive Harris, 55, will easily prevail over Pence, 61, during the only vice-presidential debate and help her running mate Joe Biden, 77, to widen his lead over Trump, 74. Biden, in the last few days, has widened his lead over Trump by double digit. However, the Trump Campaign believes that Pence could come out with a stellar performance during the debate.

The debate gains added significance, given the Covid-19 infection of Trump, triggering speculations that Pence may be taking over the reigns of the country temporarily.

Also, many believe that

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Immature insect (5)
- 4 Ice sheet in the sea (4)
- 7 However (12)
- 8 Hair product (3)
- 9 Member of a radio audience (8)
- 10 Fashionable (6)
- 13 Run nakedly (6)
- 16 Photos, drawings, etc (8)
- 18 Plant fluid (3)
- 19 Shatter (12)
- 20 Malaria fever (4)
- 21 Frighten (5)
- 22 Don't (5)

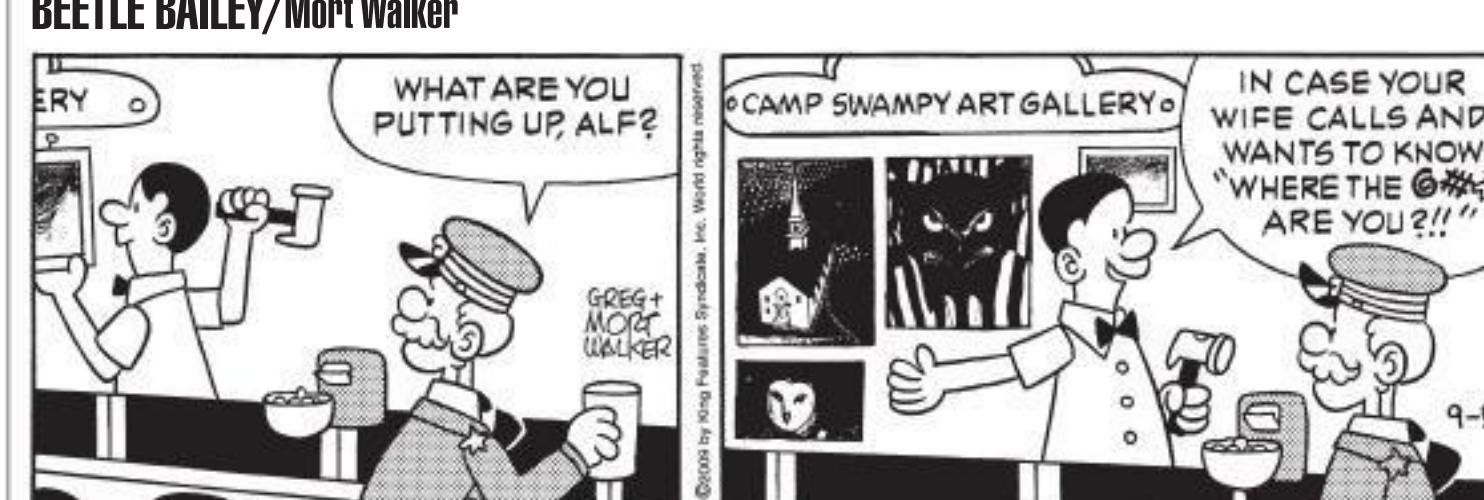
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 11 Come to, 13 Resent, 15 Disreputable, 17 Nick (Scenic), 18 Fire, 19 Aardvark, 20 Oval, 21 Here, 22 Don.
- 1 Down 12 Ondsel, 13 Seafood, 14 Stave, 16 Learn, 19 Ice.
- 2 Skimp, 3 Extreme, 4 Covet, 5 Handsome, 6 Prison, 10 Carousel,
- 12 Odysseus, 13 Seafood, 14 Stave, 16 Learn, 19 Ice.
- 15 Gap (5)
- 17 Greek letter (5)
- 18 Clay rock (5)

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



Top Israeli, UAE diplomats meet in Berlin for talks

BERLIN, 6 OCTOBER

Presidential Debate. The moderator will ask an opening question after which each candidate will have two minutes to respond.

The moderator will use the balance of the time in the segment for a deeper discussion of the topic, it said.

We're looking very much forward to the vice-presidential debate, Pence told reporters at the Andrews Joint Air Force Base here.

The stakes in this election have never been higher, the choice has never been clearer, and I look forward to the opportunity to take our case to the American people for four more years for President Donald Trump in the White House, he said.

Pence takes lead role in campaign: With President Donald Trump ill with Covid, Vice President Mike Pence took the lead role in campaigning on Monday, starting a swing through key states to bolster the president's chance for reelection. AP

Pak's Opp to hold 1st major rally against govt on 16 Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 6 OCTOBER

Pakistan's Opposition parties will hold their first combined rally against the Imran Khan-led government on October 16, weeks after launching an alliance to seek the "selected" prime minister's resignation and an end to the role of the powerful military in the country's politics.

On 20 September, the leaders of 11 major Opposition parties formed the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to launch a three-phased anti-government movement under an action plan starting with country-wide public meetings, protest demonstrations and rallies before a decisive long march towards Islamabad in January 2021.

Pakistan's Opposition parties have agreed to hold their first anti-government rally on 16 October in Gujranwala city with no role of armed forces and intelligence agencies.

The Opposition leaders had announced that they would use all political and democratic options, including no-confidence motions and mass resignations from Parliament to force the selected prime minister's resignation and an end to the role of the establishment in politics.

They also issued a 26-point declaration in the form of a resolution containing various demands, including the "end of establishment's interference in politics, new free and fair elections after formulation of election reforms

in Punjab province, Ahsan Iqbal said. They also demanded the release of political prisoners, withdrawal of cases against journalists, implementation of the National Action Plan against terrorism, speeding up of the projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and across-the-board accountability under a new accountability law.

The Pakistan Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy. They also issued a 26-point declaration in the form of a resolution containing various demands, including the "end of establishment's interference in politics, new free and fair elections after formulation of election reforms

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October 16 would be followed by a rally in Karachi on October 18, Quetta on October 25, Peshawar on November 22, Multan on November 30 and then in Lahore on December 13, according to the schedule unveiled by Iqbal.

The schedule announced earlier showed that the first rally would be held on October 18 in Quetta.

The change was made at the request of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) which commemorates October 18 to pay homage to victims of Karsaz bombing in 2007 that killed scores of people attending a rally in Karachi to welcome Benazir Bhutto.

The PDM leaders also condemned the registration of an FIR against deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif for allegedly defaming the state institutions. Earlier on Monday, a case was filed against Sharif in Lahore.

NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181

FLIGHT INQUIRY

AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407

SUDOKU

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines AP

SCRABBLE

G R A M M A S

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

SCRABBLE

TODAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

PAR SCORE 115-125

JUDD'S TOTAL 181

SCRABBLE

TODAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

Remains of Denmark's royal saint

Thanks to a unique method of radiocarbon dating, textiles in an 11th century crypt reveal the thread of events long past

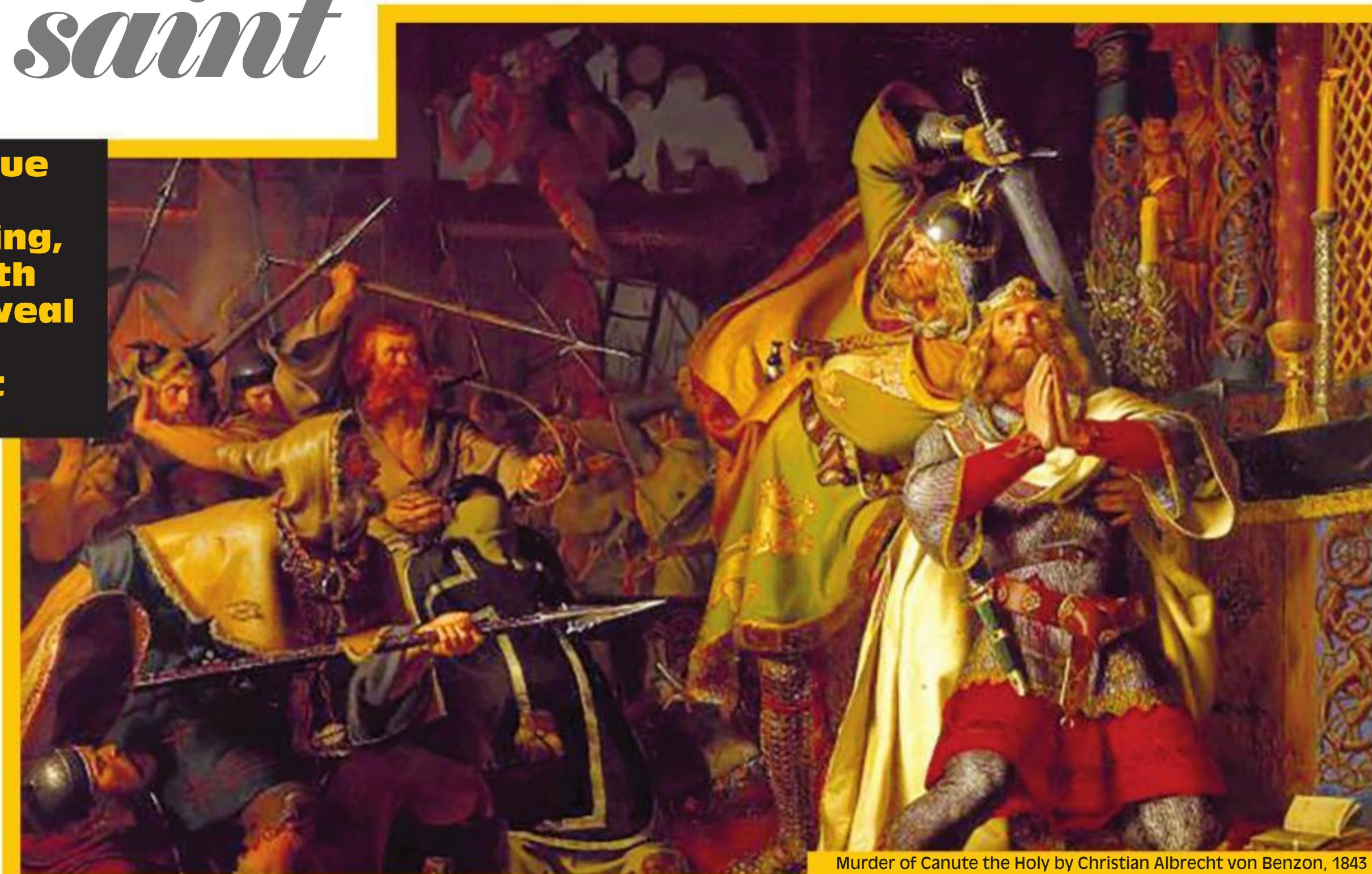
S ANANTHANARAYANAN

Science often ties up loose ends that historical records cannot bring together. Poul Grindberg-Hansen, Ulla Kjær Morten Ryhl-Svendsen, Maria Perla Colombini, Ilaria Degano, Jacopo La Nasa, Francesca Sabatini, Johannes van der Plicht and Kaare Lund Rasmussen, of National Museum of Denmark and Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, Università Di Pisa, Italy, Center for Isotope Research, Groningen and Leiden University, The Netherlands, and University of Southern Denmark, Odense, describe in the journal, *Heritage Science*, their work on the contents of an 11th century Danish crypt, which resolves a question of their antiquity.

The crypt in question is in St Canute's Cathedral in Denmark's Odense and it houses two 1.5 metre-long wooden coffins, or the shrines, with the remains of the Danish king, Canute the Holy (approximately 1040-1086) and his younger half-brother Benedikt. The coffins, over centuries, had been stripped of their original ornamentation and there was need to keep them hidden. When they were finally discovered, in 1694, they were found stored upright, with the bones, and the cloth that had covered them, in a heap at the bottom.

The paper in *Heritage Science* recounts the history of the Danish royal saint King Canute IV, or Canute the Holy or St Canute, was one of the many sons of King Sven Estridson, who reigned in Denmark around 1047-1074. When he died, five sons, one after another, became king, and King Canute was the second in the line. "His ideal was that of a strong royal power and his attempts to realise it in cooperation with the Church made him many enemies," the paper says. The result was that in July 1086, King Canute and his brother were killed, with 17 others. As the king had taken refuge in St Alban's Church, in Odense, when he was hunted down, he was killed on holy ground, a fact that helped remaining members of the royal family, in 1101, to have King Canute canonised as Saint Canute.

As the remains of a saint, King Canute's bones were moved to a stone coffin below a new church being built in his honour, and then to an ornated container in the newly built St Canute's Church. The paper cites records that say, "The royal bones were wrapped in silk and placed in a marvellous shrine forged of yellow shining metal and decorated by pre-



Murder of Canute the Holy by Christian Albrecht von Benzon, 1843

cious blue and yellow stones." There were other references, from time to time, that the shrine was venerated, placed on an altar and displayed, and taken out in procession in the town of Odense, in connection with the saint's day of martyrdom in July.

There are other records, the paper says, of demands from rebel leaders and from the king, for taxes and levies, and a mention, in 1536, of the monastery of St Canute having drawn on the silver from a shrine in the church to meet the dues. There are further references, possibly to the same crypt, when the church was rebuilt, in 1582, and in writings, and visits by foreign Catholics, including one in 1622. And then, in 1694, when the shrines were found again in a recess in the wall, there is a description of the state of the shrines and their contents.

It was in 1833, the paper says, that the shrines were fitted with new glass lids and properly displayed. More importantly, the paper says, the textiles, which were rich and rare silks, were taken out and moved to the National Museum in Copenhagen. Again, in 1875, the shrines, bones and cloth were restored and the cloth, which was considered fragile, was described in detail. And in modern times, recognising the effects of humidity and exposure, the relics are preserved in specially designed showcases.

As a result of the "chaotic" movement and handling of the relics, even before 1833, there has been some uncertainty about their identity and antiquity. There are suggestions that the bones are of a nephew of King Canute and that the textiles were added later. Whether the dates assigned to the bones and the wood are reliable, and whether the textiles

in the shrine are authentic, are questions to be answered, the paper says. And then, of the environment within the glass cases – how well the contents are conserved and the possibility of contaminants, which may have even affected the radiocarbon dating.

The current investigation used sensitive chemical analyses and radiocarbon dating using the method of Accelerator Mass Spectroscopy. Radiocarbon dating depends on the fact that the carbon atoms consist of different forms, for the most part in a form called ^{12}C , or atoms that have 12 particles in the nucleus, and for a minuscule part, in a form called ^{14}C , where the nucleus has 14 particles. Now, the ^{14}C part is radioactive, which is to say, it decays, and its presence in a sample would reduce with time. The ratio of the two kinds of carbon, however, have stabilised, so that processes that give rise to ^{14}C just compensate the rate of decay, and the ^{14}C component of carbon is constant.

This is true so long as the carbon is part of nature and the part that decays is being replenished. If the carbon is fixed in a piece of cloth, or in bones when the body dies, or wood, when a tree is cut, however, the ^{14}C content reduces with time. As ^{14}C is radioactive, we can measure the activity and assess how much ^{14}C there is left, and hence the age of the sample.

This is the conventional method of radiocarbon dating, which is useful to date the wood in ancient ruins, remains of animals, organic matter in artefacts or isolated geological samples. The trouble is that the method needs a reasonable quantity – 10 grams of wood or charcoal and 100 grams of bones and sediments – of the material to be dated. In AMS, on the other hand, the level of ^{14}C is



St Canute Cathedral

detected directly. The carbon in a tiny sample – as low as 20 milligrams – is extracted and irradiated with cesium ions. This generates carbon ions, or negatively charged carbon atoms, which are accelerated by an electric field. When a beam of speeding carbon ions is deflected by a magnetic field, the deflection depends on the mass, and the ^{14}C ions separate from the ^{12}C (and ^{13}C) ions and the dating can be more precise.

AMS established the dates of the textiles as 1045-1155 – a wide range, but it shows that all nine pieces of cloth were manufactured close to the date, 1100, of enshrinement. Radiocarbon dating of the bones again match the

year, 1086, of the death of King Canute and his half-brother. Analysis of the wood similarly shows that the timber was harvested around 1100.

As for protection of the relics,

through the action taken in 1833 or the current methods, analyses of the air surrounding the relics, as well as the exchange with the environment indicates that it can be improved.

That the relics are in sealed containers saves them from the environment, but the decay of the oak wood releases substances that could affect all the objects being displayed.

The writer can be contacted at response@simplescience.in

PERFORMING SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS

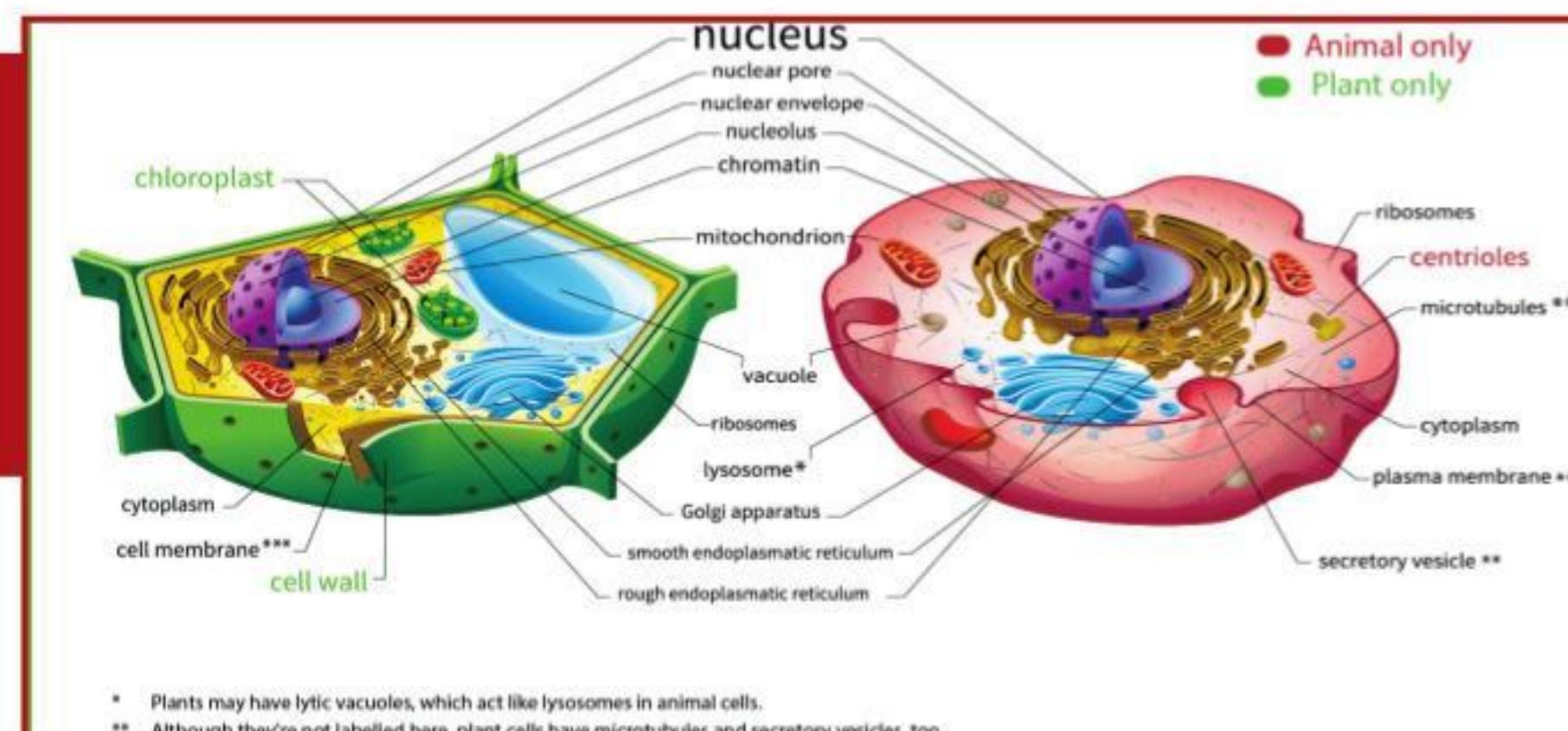
Cell specialisation demonstrates the unity and diversity of biology

TAPAN KUMAR MAITRA

In terms of structure and function, cells are characterised by both unity and diversity. By unity and diversity, one simply means that all cells resemble one another in fundamental ways, and yet differ from one another in important ways. A few aspects of structure and function are common to most cell types, and these are the features of cells that are of the greatest general interest. That virtually all cells oxidise sugar molecules for energy, transports across membranes, transcribe DNA into RNA, and undergo division to generate daughter cells.

Much the same is true in terms of structural features. All cells are surrounded by a selectively permeable membrane, all have ribosomes for the purpose of protein synthesis, and most contain double-stranded DNA as their genetic information. The fundamental aspects of cellular organisation and function are common to most, if not all, cells.

But sometimes, understanding cel-



As the tricarboxylic acid, or Krebs cycle.

Whenever one exploits the specialised functions of specific cell types, they are acknowledging the diversity of cell structure and function that arises primarily because of cellular specialisation. In general, the single cell of unicellular organisms such as eubacteria, archaea, protozoa, and some algae must be capable of carrying out any or all the functions necessary for survival, growth, and reproduction and cannot afford to overemphasise any single function at the expense of others.

Multicellular organisms, on the other hand, are characterised by a division of labour among tissues and organs that not only allows for, but actually depends on, specialisation of structure and function. Whole groups of cells become highly specialised for a particular task, which then becomes their specific

role in the overall economy of the organism.

All cells carry out many of the same basic functions and have some of the same basic structural features. However, the cells of eukaryotic organisms are far more complicated structurally than prokaryotic cells, primarily because of the organelles and other intracellular structures that eukaryotes use to compartmentalise various functions. The structural complexity of eukaryotic cells is illustrated by the typical animal and plant cells.

In reality, of course, there is no such thing as a truly "typical" cell; all eukaryotic cells have features that distinguish them from the generalised cells. Nonetheless, most eukaryotic cells are sufficiently similar to warrant a general overview of their structural features.

A typical eukaryotic cell has in essence at least four major structural features – a plasma (or cell) membrane to define its boundary and retain its contents, a nucleus to house the DNA that directs cellular activities, membrane-bound organelles in which various cellular

functions are localised, and the cytosol interlaced by a cytoskeleton of tubules and filaments. In addition, plant cells have a rigid cell wall external to the plasma membrane. Animal cells do not have a wall but are usually surrounded by an extracellular matrix, which consists primarily of collagen and a special class of proteins called proteoglycans.

The writer is associate professor and head, department of botany, Ananda Mohan College, Kolkata

PLUS POINTS

Beirut blast analysis



The explosion in the Port of Beirut was one of the biggest non-nuclear blasts in history – releasing enough energy in a matter of milliseconds to power more than 100 homes for a year – according to a new assessment of the disaster by engineers from the University of Sheffield in the UK.

Researchers behind the study, from the University's Blast and Impact Engineering Research Group, hope that the new assessment can be used to provide policymakers and the public with more accurate information on the blast, as well as to help first responders prepare for future disasters and save lives.

After analysing videos of the explosion posted on social media, the team of researchers has been able to estimate the power of the blast by tracking how the explosion's shockwave spread through the city. The new assessment, which has been published in the journal *Shock Waves*, found that the size of the explosion was the equivalent of between 500-1,100 tonnes of TNT – around 1/20th of the size of the atomic bomb that was used on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 and is one of the largest non-nuclear explosions ever recorded. The explosion also released the equivalent of around 1GWh of energy. This is equal to the hourly energy generated by three million solar panels or 400 wind turbines.

Sam Rigby, senior lecturer in blast and impact engineering at the University of Sheffield, said, "The reason why we decided to analyse the explosion is because as engineers it's our jobs to use the skills and resources we have at our disposal to solve problems and ultimately help people. By understanding more about the power of large-scale accidental explosions like the one that occurred in Beirut, we can develop more accurate predictions of how different buildings will be affected, and the types of injuries there are likely to be at different distances from the blast."

Using by-products



Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras are working with Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US, to develop a novel framework for high volume usage of by-products in structural materials. Industrial by-products are generated in huge quantities across the world and are now going into waste. This will be a major step forward towards a sustainable future.

The main outcome expected from this research is achieving a paradigm shift in material selection criteria for exploiting the usefulness of agricultural and industrial by-products. By successfully utilising vast amounts of otherwise undesired materials, the next generation of sustainable and durable building materials could be designed, like the prototype in the photo above. These novel building materials will be attractive due to lower cost and environmental impact than existing materials.

This project is being led by Piyush Chaunsali and Ravinda Gettu, department of civil engineering, IIT-Madras, with Elsa A Olivetti, Atlantic Richfield associate professor of energy studies, MIT. The research project was taken up under the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The problem being addressed by the researchers is that by-products such as biomass ash, coal ash, red mud, and copper slag, among others, are generated in large volumes and remain mostly underutilised due to their complex physico-chemical characteristics. The project aims to address growing challenges regarding the beneficial utilisation of voluminous industrial by-products generated in India. Infrastructure construction offers potential sinks for these source materials due to the enormous volume usages, in applications such as roads, buildings and bridges, among others.

This research project combines the principles of materials chemistry, structural engineering, and life-cycle analysis to develop load bearing, durable, sustainable, and economically viable cementitious binders based on industrial by-products in India.



THE RETURN WALLOP

Tottenham Hotspur's Jose Mourinho (in photo, left) has delivered a sharp riposte to critics of his "defensive" style, saying after their 6-1 Premier League win over Manchester United that they would have scored 10 if only they had a more attacking coach.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

NO RISK: The Serie A football season is not at risk, Italy's sports minister Vincenzo Spadafora said on Monday, one day after the Juventus-Napoli match had been abandoned owing to an apparent conflict over implementation of the Covid-19 health rules.

Partey time: Arsenal completed the £45.4m signing of Thomas Partey from Atletico Madrid on Monday after dramatically triggering the defensive midfielder's release clause within just hours of Monday's transfer deadline in a transformative moment for Mikel Arteta's side.

Enter Cavani: Manchester United have completed the signing of Edinson Cavani on a free transfer, with the former Paris Saint-Germain striker signing a contract until 2021 with the option of an additional year. He had been without a club since June after leaving PSG.

Diallo deal: Manchester United have agreed on a £21m fee with Atalanta for Amad Diallo, with an additional £20m in add-ons. Diallo, also known as Amad Traoré, will join in January subject to passing a medical, agreeing on personal terms and securing a work permit.

Smalling moves: Chris Smalling, Manchester United's longest-serving player, has completed his £20m move to AS Roma at the last minute. The defender spent last season on loan at the Serie A club and impressed during his time at the Stadio Olimpico.

Juve's gain: Juventus signed Federico Chiesa from Fiorentina in a 50-million-euro deal on Monday, hours before the end of the transfer window. He is the son of Enrico Chiesa who was in the team which won Fiorentina's last major trophy, the Coppa Italia, in 2001.

Turkey U-turn: Turkish Grand Prix organisers have performed a late U-turn on plans to welcome fans to Istanbul Park next month after deciding to stage the race behind closed doors because of a rise in coronavirus numbers, the Istanbul governor's office said.

Fitness tests: The Sports Authority of India has asked all its coaches to take fitness tests twice a year, with the records staying in their personal files. The tests will be based on the guidelines of the fitness protocol launched by Narendra Modi on 24 September.

Surprise elements: Legendary Dhanraj Pillay believes with Rani Rampal at the helm and Savita Punia under the bar, the Indian women's hockey team has the ability to spring a surprise in next year's Tokyo Olympics. The team is working really hard, preparing for the Olympics and I am confident of a good show," Pillay said on 'In The Spotlight' show hosted by padawan Mudit Dani.

Saina, Kashyap pull out of Denmark Open: Star Indian badminton couple Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap on Tuesday pulled out of the Denmark Open tournament, which will restart the international calendar at Odense from October 13.

Ministry aid: The Sports Ministry on Tuesday announced financial help of Rs 5 lakh each to boxer Sunil Chauhan and his brother Neeraj Chauhan, who is an archer, considering the hardships they were facing after their father lost his job in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. "We are really thankful to the Minister to helping us at the time of our need," Sunil said in a Sports Ministry release.

KKR take on resurgent CSK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI, 6 OCTOBER

Under-fire Kolkata Knight Riders captain Dinesh Karthik (in photo) will have to figure out urgent fixes for his star-studded team's faltering performances when it takes on a resurgent Chennai Super Kings in the IPL here on Wednesday. KKR acquired England's World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan but the management reposed confidence in Karthik and asked him to lead the side. However, a few of his baffling decisions apart from his own poor run with the bat – 37 runs from four matches – has put the Indian wicketkeeper-batsman in the line of fire.

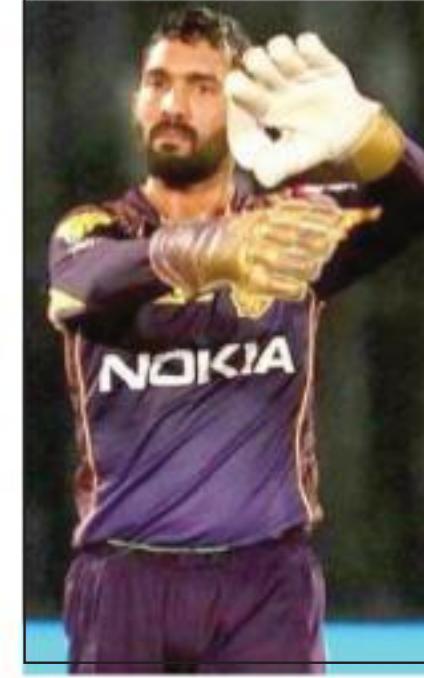
Sunil Narine in the opening slot over Big Bash sensation Tom Banton -- who has been compared with Kevin Pietersen -- has put 35-year-old Karthik in the dock.

Narine has looked woefully out of sorts, managing only 27 runs from four matches at 87.09 strike rate and it's high time that the team brings in the big-hitting English youngster. KKR have plenty of resources in bowling but Karthik, it seems, has not been able to manage them well

and their match against Delhi Capitals could be a case in point. Pat Cummins' not-so-impressive performance has added to the team's woes.

The pitch in Sharjah is a batsmen's paradise and both teams cantered past the 200-mark but it's the bowlers who made the difference in a close chase.

The pair of Morgan and Rahul Tripathi looked to seal it but Delhi's bowlers strangled KKR's batting at the death. Karthik will need to back



KKR vs CSK: Match begins at 3.30 pm IST.

overs after being dropped from the Delhi game.

Chennai, on the other hand, rediscovered some of the form that made them three-time champions. After three losses on the trot, the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side would look to make its ascent to top-four from being at the bottom.

Not known to tweak his side much, Dhoni persisted with Shane Watson and the Aussie veteran finally came to form with an unbeaten 83.

Chasing 179 against Kings XI Punjab, Watson and Faf du Plessis made light work of their bowlers in a record 181-run unbeaten stand to seal the chase. The coming to form of a mis-firing top order is what CSK needed to come out of a miserable start and having done that, they would certainly look favourites against a struggling KKR.

Team is executing plans perfectly, says Shaw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 6 OCTOBER

In-form opener Prithvi Shaw feels Delhi Capitals are doing everything "perfect" in all departments of the game after they climbed to the top of the points table with four wins out of five games in the ongoing IPL.

Shaw provided DC yet another blazing start against the Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday, smashing a quickfire 42 off 23 balls. The Delhi outfit went on to win the match comfortably by 59 runs.

"It is a very good start to this tournament and we have to carry this momentum. Whatever we do in practice sessions, we just have to execute ourselves in the match and rightly, we are doing perfectly," the 20-year-old said.

"Everything is going perfect, you know, the batting, bowling - skills-wise we are going in the right direction, so really happy for the team."

Shaw on Monday missed out what could have been his third fifty of the season. He is the second highest scorer for DC so far with 179 runs, behind his captain Shreyas Iyer (181).

"I would have carried on after the powerplay, but unfortunately I looted it. However, it's just a game and I think this has become history now, so I'll leave this over here itself and concentrate on the next game," said Shaw.

"Definitely, I think this is the momentum we have to carry throughout this tournament and this is the start we all wanted, especially in the powerplay, without giving any wicket away."

Podoroska becomes first female qualifier to reach French Open semis

AGENCIES

PARIS, 6 OCTOBER



Awkward deja vu: Djokovic

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS, 6 OCTOBER

Novak Djokovic (in photo) admitted he had suffered an "awkward moment of *deja vu*" after unintentionally hitting a ball which smashed into the head of a line judge at Roland Garros on Monday.

World number one Djokovic racked up his 35th win of 2020 and a place in the Paris quarter-finals for the 14th time with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 win over Russia's Karen Khachanov.

However, he had a heart-in-the-mouth moment when he stretched for a forehand in the first set and the ball flew off the frame of his racquet before spearing into the unsuspecting baseline judge sitting nearby.

The Serb went immediately to the official to check he was unharmed. The incident came just weeks after Djokovic was defaulted at the US Open in New York for swiping angrily at a ball which hit a female line judge, standing just behind him, in the throat. That disqualification remains the only defeat Djokovic has suffered all year.

"My gosh, it was very awkward *deja vu*. I'm actually trying to find the linesperson



and see if he's okay because I saw he had a little bit of a bruise, like redness, in that place in the head where the ball hit him," said 33-year-old Djokovic, who has now reached the quarter-finals for an 11th straight year.

"I hope he's fine. I mean, he definitely dealt with it in a very strong and brave way. But it was a hit because I was very close."

"Obviously because of what

happened in New York, people I guess are going to make the story out of this. It has happened to me and to many other players in the last 15 years that I've been on the tour. "I've seen it a lot when the ball ricochets from the racquet and the frame, hits someone in the stands, or someone that is close to you or line umpire. Yeah, it was a very awkward situation."

Gutsy Suryakumar's 79 not out propels MI to 193/4

AGENCIES

ABU DHABI, 6 OCTOBER



After an onslaught by Suryakumar Yadav (in photo) and Hardik Pandya in the death overs powered Mumbai Indians to post 193 runs against Rajasthan Royals in their allotted 20 overs here at Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Tuesday. Suryakumar Yadav remained unbeaten on 79 off 47 balls. The 30-year-old batsman hit 11 fours and two sixes, one of which was off Jofra Archer after he was hit in the head by a bouncer off the previous delivery by the English bowler.

MI were buoyed by a good start provided by openers Rohit Sharma and Quinton de Kock before the latter became Kartik Tyagi's debut IPL wicket in the fifth over. The opening partnership produced 49 runs.

Mumbai Indians smashed 19 runs in the 18th over and 17 in the final over to get past 190

run mark. The highlights of the game were Suryakumar's scoop shots that went for fours and six. Suryakumar then anchored the innings but MI kept losing wickets at the other end. Hardik Pandya, however, stuck with him and the pair blazed 76 runs in just 38 balls to propel MI close to the 200-run mark.

Opting to bat first, Mumbai Indians got off to a flyer as opening batsman Rohit Sharma and Quinton de Kock bludgeoned the Royals' bowling attack. However, Kartik Tyagi defeated De Kock with sheer

Gopal then dismissed Ishan Kishan on the very next ball to put a brake on Mumbai Indians' momentum. The team scored 90 runs for the loss of three wickets halfway through the innings. Jofra Archer dismissed Krunal Pandya in the 14th over after a brief 39-run stand for the fourth wicket. Meanwhile, Suryakumar continued his fine batting and smashed his eighth half-century. In the death overs, Suryakumar and Hardik Pandya whacked the ball all around the park to enable Mumbai Indians to get past the 190-run mark. For Royals, Tyagi and Archer picked one wicket each while Gopal scalped two in the match.

SCOREBOARD

Delhi Capitals innings:		30
Q de Kock (wk) Buttler b Tyagi	23	
R Sharma c Tewatia b Gopal	35	
S Yadav not out	79	
I Kishan c Samson b Gopal	0	
K Pandya c Gopal b Archer	12	
Extras: 14 (b 5, lb 2, w 5, nb 2, p 0)		
Total: 193 (4 wkts, 20 Ov)		
Bowling: Rajroot 3-42-0, Gopal 4-0-28-2, Archer 4-0-34-1, Tyagi 4-0-36-1, Curran 3-0-33-0, Tewatia 2-0-13-0		

Ashwin voices 'first and final' warning

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

DUBAI, 6 OCTOBER



Delhi Capitals off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (in photo, centre), who restrained himself from "mankading" Royal Challengers Bangalore batsman Aaron Finch, has stated that this was his "first and final warning" of Indian Premier League 2020 and he won't stop himself from running out a batsman at the non-strikers' end in the remaining part of the tournament.

"Let's make it clear!!! First and final warning for 2020. I am making it official and don't blame me later on. Ricky Ponting, #runout #nonstriker, Aaron Finch and I are good buddies by the way," Ashwin said in a tweet.

On Monday, during RCB's chase of 197, Ashwin stopped short of his run-up to wam Finch against stepping outside the crease a little too early. The incident happened before the fourth delivery of the third over. The off-spinner held onto the ball and did not complete

the delivery, pointing it out to the Australian at the non-striker's end that he could have got him out. Delhi Capitals' head coach Ricky Ponting was seen with a wry smile across his face in the dugout.

'Effective strategy'

Delhi Capitals' skipper Shreyas Iyer on Monday surprised Royal Challengers Bangalore as they chased 196/4 by pulling out his ace speedster Kagiso Rabada after just one over and bringing in spinners R Ashwin and Axar Patel for the third and fourth

overs of the innings.

RCB's batsmen, it seemed, were not prepared for this move. The result was that openers Devdutt Padikkal and Aaron Finch returned to the pavilion. The move resulted in a wicket in each of those two overs -- with Ashwin removing Padikkal and Patel getting rid of Finch -- as RCB could never recover. They were restricted to 137/9 in 20 overs. Rabada later said he would have loved to continue bowling but was fine with the decision as it eventually worked out well. "It was swinging a bit, so it would have been nice to

bowl the second over. I don't think it was a bad call to take me off after the first over. At the end of the day it worked out," he said.

"I think if you want to be the best you have to adjust to the conditions. I think the spinners did a really good job today. They set up the game for us in the powerplay. Axar and Ashwin actually won us the game," said the South African. Delhi Capitals suffered a blow when Amit Mishra was ruled out of the tournament on Monday with a finger injury. However, both Axar and Ashwin stepped up all right. "It is saddening when a senior player (Mishra) who was doing amazingly well gets injured, but we have got good replacements as well," said Iyer. Patel, who was declared Man of the Match for his bowling performance, said he had prepared himself to bowl in the powerplay. "I knew it was stopping on the wicket. I knew I would bowl in the powerplay and I had practised for it as well. I think I executed my plans really well."

Player welfare will not be compromised but winter tours hang in balance

VITHUSHAN EHANTHARAJAH

LONDON, 6 OCTOBER



has no exemption for elite athletes, though that could change given SLC can argue an England tour, even without the usual travelling support, will benefit the

economy. "What what is very clear is that the challenges are very, very different depending on who you're talking to with respect

to relationships between government and the board being in a very different state in every case," said Harrison. "And not everyone enjoys the very collaborative relationship that we've had with government over this year in order to secure for example waivers for visas for elite sports people coming into this country."

"We will not sign off plans that we are not comfortable with in terms of that number one priority which is the health and well-being of our players and staff going on those tours."

Another aspect of concern is the mental toll on those stuck in a bubble for extended periods of time. One of the takeaways from the bio-secure bubbles in Southampton, Manchester and Derby was how taxing it became for those involved, not just the players but backroom and staff required to put matches on.

It is something Nick Pearce, chief medical officer of the ECB, is wary of, not least because the demands and scale of quarantine will be heightened for England given there are over half-a-million confirmed cases in the UK and over 42,000 deaths.

"What will be difficult is if end up with endless bubbles for everyone to have to constantly stay in," said Pearce. "I don't think from a well-being point of view that's good, but more importantly I don't think what's helpful will be imposed: long

quarantines or unknown ways in which a government will handle a positive test or people who have come from a perceived higher-risk country. And unfortunately Britain is escalating in terms of the way it is perceived as a risk."

In the long term, the governing body is already mapping out what the 2021 season will look like, with a view to reducing the costs incurred to get international and professional cricket played in line with government guidelines.