



'LEAKED LETTER  
FAKE, BUT INFO ON  
HEALTH TRUE'

P4



MAYAWATI SUSPENDS  
7 BSP MLAs OVER RS  
CANDIDATE ROW

P5



UK LABOUR PARTY  
SUSPENDS  
JEREMY CORBYN

P10



OF ARCHER'S  
BIO BUBBLE  
EXPERIENCE

P12

## WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 32 and 12 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 93% Min: 31%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 32.2°C (+1) Min: 12.5°C (-3)

SUN RISES

06:32 hrs

MOON RISES

17:12 hrs

SUN SETS

17:38 hrs

MOON SETS

06:03 hrs

## THUMBNAILS



Lakshmi Idols being sold on the eve of Lakshmi Puja in Kolkata on Thursday. BISWAJIT GHOSHAL

**Saudi map:** India has lodged a strong protest with Saudi Arabia over the distortion of Indian boundaries in a global map printed on a new 20 Riyal currency note released by Saudi Arabia to commemorate the kingdom's presidency of the "G-20" grouping. The note features a world map highlighting G-20 nations in a darker shade on its reverse side. The map shows the entire Jammu and Kashmir, including Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK), as well as Ladakh, as a separate territory.

**Keshubhai Patel dead:** Former Gujarat chief minister Keshubhai Patel died in Ahmedabad on Thursday after a prolonged illness, family sources said. Patel (92) had recovered from Covid-19 recently and was rushed to a hospital in Ahmedabad Thursday morning following health complications, the sources said. The BJP veteran, who started his political career in the Jan Sangh, was the state chief minister in 1995 and again during 1998-2001. Narendra Modi had succeeded him as Gujarat chief minister.

P5

## Govt gets till 31 Dec on grant of PC to women Navy officers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 29 OCTOBER

The Supreme Court Thursday extended till December 31 for grant of PC to Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers in the Indian Navy.

The Centre moved the application in June for extending the deadline by six months citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

The top court had on March 17, maintaining that women and men officers should be treated equally, cleared PC for women in the Navy and asked the Centre to complete the modalities within three months.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Indu Mal-

hotra and Indira Banerjee said that it is extending time till December 31 for grant of PC to Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers in the Indian Navy.

The Centre moved the application in June for extending the deadline by six months citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

The bench also asked the Central to provide Rs 25 lakh compensation each in four weeks to five Naval women officers, who were not considered for the grant of permanent commission besides the pensioning benefits, which had already been given to them.

SC stays HC's 'drastic order' for CBI probe against U'khand CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN, 29 OCTOBER

The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Uttarakhand High Court's order for a CBI inquiry into graft charges against state chief minister Trivendra Rawat, saying it was passed without hearing him.

The Uttarakhand High Court in an 27 October judgment had asked the CBI to register a case and probe alleged graft charges levelled against the Uttarakhand chief minister.

Rawat had filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court and the



apex court stayed the High Court order, saying the "drastic order" had been passed without giving Rawat a chance to defend himself and had taken everyone by surprise.

The Supreme Court order came at a time when the main opposition party Congress was demanding the resignation of Trivendra Singh Rawat and staged a protest in Dehradun on Thursday.

Congress workers staged a protest walk to Raj Bhawan during the day and many of them were arrested (SNS photo).

The case is related to 2016. Petitioner Umesh Kumar had accused Trivendra Rawat of receiving a bribe indirectly from a person in Jharkhand for helping him get the post of chairman of the Gau Seva Aayog in that state, at a time when the chief minister was the in-charge of the BJP unit there.

## FACT FILE

TOTAL CASES	80,40,203
ACTIVE CASES	6,03,687
NEW CASES	49,881
NEW RECOVERIES	56,480
TOTAL DEATHS	1,20,527

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M.  
THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2020

## 3 BJP activists shot dead by terrorists in Kashmir

JAMMU, 29 OCTOBER

Three BJP activists, including a youth leader, were shot dead on Thursday evening by terrorists in Kulgam district of south Kashmir.

Police said they were travelling in a car when the terrorists fired at them at YK Pora area. Police identified them as Fida Hussain Yatoo, Umer Rashid Beigh and Umer Ramzan Hajam.

In a statement, police said: "Today at about 2020 hours, Kulgam Police received information about a terror crime incident at village YK Pora, where terrorists had fired upon three BJP workers. Senior police officers reached the terror crime spot. They were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment where they were declared as brought dead." SNS

## With 5,739 cases, Delhi sees highest Covid spike

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 29 OCTOBER

Delhi today logged 5,739 fresh cases of coronavirus infection (Covid-19) - its highest single-day coronavirus spike so far - even as the Delhi government cited its new strategy involving aggressive contact tracing and testing as one of the reasons for the recent

Covid surge in the city.

The Union health ministry said that social gatherings during festivities, the deteriorating air quality and rising incidence of respiratory disorders are among the factors causing spurt in Covid cases in Delhi now.

The national capital's 5,739 new Covid cases were today recorded out of 60,124 tests



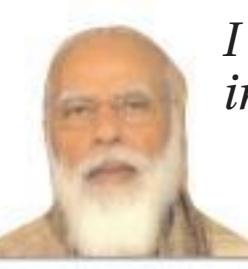
## New law to tackle air pollution in Delhi-NCR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 29 OCTOBER

In a bid to tackle the persistent problem of air pollution in Delhi-NCR, the Centre has introduced a new law through an ordinance which dissolves the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) and replaces it by a commission comprising over 20 members.

"The ordinance may be called the Commission for Air Quality Management In National Capital Region And Adjoining Areas Ordinance 2020. It shall apply to national capital region and also adjoining areas in so far as it



I strongly condemn the recent terrorist attacks in France, including heinous attack in Nice inside a church

NARENDRA MODI  
PRIME MINISTER

# Delhi govt has changed anti-Covid strategy: Jain

Delhi health minister says the govt's new 'aggressive tracing & testing' might be leading to the city's recent Covid surge; says it might be a 'third wave' but that could not be said conclusively now

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 29 OCTOBER

**D**elhi health minister Satyendar Jain today said that the Delhi government has changed its anti-Covid strategy by conducting "aggressive tracing and testing" in the city, citing it as one of the reasons for a sudden spike in coronavirus cases in the city over the past several days.

Jain said that this might be a third wave of Covid in Delhi but added that it was too early to say that conclusively. He said one should wait for another week to see the trends before declaring the surge a third wave.

Amid the festive season and rising air pollution levels, Delhi today recorded 5,739 new Covid cases, its highest coronavirus spike so far.



ed conducting aggressive tracing and testing of all family members and close contacts of those found infected with coronavirus.

"And, we are at times, testing them twice after a gap of 4-5 days. We don't want to leave any positive case...we have changed our strategy that's why the number of cases has gone up. I believe that this strategy would be successful," Jain said.

Asked if the government was earlier not conducting tests of family members of those found Covid positive, the health minister said that authorities would conduct tests of only those who had coronavirus-like symptoms.

Officials cited reasons including festive season, cold, increase in RT-PCR testing, and public complacency in following anti-coronavirus measures for the spike in cases.

results should be seen soon," he said.

On being asked about the figure of 15,000 cases per day projected by experts in coming months, Jain said, "Figures have been projected by experts on surge in daily Covid-19 cases, but it may not reach that level. However, we want to be fully prepared."

As per yesterday's health bulletin, 5,665 beds were occupied and 10,100 beds still vacant in Covid hospitals in Delhi, Jain said.

He said that the number of RT-PCR tests, which are considered the gold standard for Covid testing, was also rising in the national capital.

Officials cited reasons including festive season, cold, increase in RT-PCR testing, and public complacency in following anti-coronavirus measures for the spike in cases.

According to the government's bulletin, Delhi logged 40 Covid deaths yesterday, while 44 deaths were recorded on Tuesday, 54 deaths on Monday and 33 deaths on Sunday.

"Day-wise fatality is one thing, but if we look at the moving average of 10 days, death rate is 0.99 per cent and overall case fatality rate is 1.73 per cent," Jain said.

Yesterday, 5,673 fresh Covid cases were detected out of 60,571 tests conducted the previous day, with the Delhi government increasing RT-PCR tests to 17,284.

The spike of 4,853 cases was recorded in the city on Tuesday. The number of fresh cases recorded on Monday stood at 2,832 and 4,136 on Sunday, while the figures were 4,116 on Saturday and 4,086 last Friday.

lution level also makes those who have respiratory illness susceptible to COVID-19 infection too," he told PTI.

However, the Delhi government has significantly ramped up testing, especially the RT-PCR tests, and contact-tracing has been increased aggressively too, and family members and others of positive cases, also being tested.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Wednesday told reporters that this is festive season and slight cold weather already, "but we have also changed our strategy" and doing tracing and testing of all family members and close contacts of people found positive.

"And, we are at times, testing them twice after a gap of 4-5 days. We don't want to leave any positive case," he said.

"Yet, many people are just roaming around without masks with scant or no regard for safety norms which should be drilled in the psyche of the masses. Also, we just had Durga Puja and other festivals, and more are coming up, and add to it the increased pollution factor. It's a dangerous cocktail," he said.

## Festive season gatherings, pollution, lax behaviour fuelling Covid surge: Experts

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 29 OCTOBER

Milling crowd in festive season, increase in pollution level and laxity in behaviour by many people in observing COVID-19 safety norms have led to a massive surge in daily cases in the last few days in the national capital, experts said on Thursday.

Delhi on Wednesday recorded 5,673 cases, the first time when the number of daily cases here crossed the 5,000 mark. The experts feel the sudden spike in cases, among other factors, can also be attributed to "aggressive tracing and testing" done by the Delhi government.

Medical Director of the Delhi government-run LNJP Hospital Suresh Kumar said due to the festive season and reopening of theatres, over-crowding is happening in markets and other public places, which is leading to transmission of the virus.

"Besides, a large number of people are not observing safety norms, like wearing masks, hand hygiene or social distancing. And then rise in pol-

pancy rate of hospital beds has also gone up.

According to official data, 5,404 beds in COVID-19 dedicated hospitals had been occupied on October 26.

On October 27, the number rose to 5,453 and on October 28, 5,665 beds were occupied, it said.

The National Centre for Disease Control in a report drafted recently had warned that Delhi needs to be prepared for about 15,000 fresh cases of COVID-19 per day taking into account the upcoming winter season-related respiratory problems, large influx of patients from outside and festive gatherings. Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, senior consultant, Internal Medicine at Apollo Hospitals here said the projection by experts is "scary".

"So for this reason the rise in cases might have been seen, but this is 'the best strategy and results should be seen soon,'" Jain added, while asserting that ramping up of tests was one of the factors behind the rise in daily cases suddenly.

As the city is witnessing a surge in COVID-19 cases, occu-

## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION A' BLOCK 1ST FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.T.O., NEW DELHI-110002 No. FA 99/18 Dated: 27-10-2020 In the Matter of:

Smt. Roma Singh – Appellant Versus M/s. Nobel Institute of Professional Studies – Respondents

To, 1. M/s. Nobel Institute of Professional Studies (Franchisee of Aptech Ltd.), 71, 2nd Floor, Mall Road, Kingsway Camp, Above GTB Nagar, Metro Station, Delhi-110009.

Whereas an appeal/complaint against you has been made to commission for adjudication. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Commission in person or by a pleader or an authorised agent duly instructed and able to answer all the material question in relation to the appeal/complaint on or before 20/10/2021 at 10.30 a.m. sharp.

You are further directed to file complete record of your defence on or before 10th date and take note that in default of your appearance on the said date, the matter will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and Seal of this Commission on this 27th day of October 2020.

Registrar State Commission Seal of the court

IN THE COURT OF SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL AJC/CCU/ARC Room No. 03, Ground Floor Patiala House Courts, New Delhi Petition No. SC-28/2020 Mr. Nayan Gayatri & Anr. Versus The State –(Petitioner) FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925 To,

All concerned.

Whereas in the abovementioned petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased Late Mrs. Lily R.K. w/o Sh. Navan Gayatri, died on DT 06-02-2020 at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi. Are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Court, to be standing in the name of deceased.

Whereas the 23-11-2020 at 10 O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing and the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 28-10-2020.

ACJ/CCU/ARC Patiala House Courts, New Delhi, Seal of the court

IN THE COURT OF SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL AJC/CCU/ARC Room No. 03, Ground Floor Patiala House Courts, New Delhi Petition No. SC-40/2020 Shiva Kant Versus State & Ors. –(Petitioner)

FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925 To,

All concerned.

Whereas in the abovementioned petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased Late Ram Lal, s/o Late Jhurai, Died on DT 20-06-2018 at 50 Pure Thakurain Majre Jaudha Jaudha Salan Rae Bareli. Are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Court, to be standing in the name of deceased.

Whereas the 23-02-2021 at



(For 'Green Delhi' app) Citizens can click pictures or make a video of pollution causing activities, such as burning of garbage, industrial pollution, dust etc. and upload them on the application

ARVIND KEJRIWAL  
DELHI CM

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2020

03

# CM slams Centre's bid to put Punjab RDF on hold

Capt Amarinder questions 'timing' of the Modi govt's decision not to release to Punjab its due RDF funds to the tune of over ₹1,000 cr amid the row over the controversial central farm laws

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 29 OCTOBER

**T**erminating the Narendra Modi-led central government's decision to put Punjab's Rural Development Fund (RDF) on hold as "unfortunate", Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh today urged the Centre to review the decision as the move would "badly impact" the rural development works in the state.

Questioning the timing of the Centre's move, the Punjab CM said there was no precedent to not releasing the RDF that was due to the state during scrutiny of the utilisation of previous funds.

Capt Amarinder said he has asked his finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal to go to New Delhi to meet the Union minister for consumer affairs to resolve the issue, which has hit Punjab hard amid its current fiscal crisis.

The Punjab government, said Captain Amarinder, will submit all utilisation details sought by the Centre and that the state has done so in the past too.

While this was not the first time the Union government had gone for a scrutiny of the utilisation funds, this was,



however, a first as far as non-release of the RDF was concerned, the CM said, expressing serious concern over the development.

He said doubts were being raised in various quarters about the timing of the Modi government's decision not to release to Punjab its due RDF funds to the tune of more than ₹1000 crore at the

present juncture amid the controversy and crisis over the Centre's farm laws.

The "timing is suspect" and pointed to "dubious motivation" behind the move, Capt said, urging the Centre to immediately reconsider and give the state's RDF dues while the scrutiny continues, as has been the case in the past.

"The funds, as the Centre is well aware, are used for developing critical agriculture marketing infrastructure like construction of roads in the rural areas of the state, marketing yards," said the CM.

The Centre's failure to release the funds would obstruct the development of villages and could further aggravate the angst of the

farmers, who have been in a prolonged agitation against the central farm sector legislations, Captain added.

The Opposition Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)'s president Sukhbir Singh Badal has also said that the Modi government should not "victimise" farmers for agitating against the Centre's farm laws.

Sukhbir said yesterday that by refusing to pay the RDF component of ₹1100 crore on government paddy purchase and adding such mechanisms to "hurt" farmers and Punjab have confirmed fears that the process to finish the "mandikaran" (grain market) system has begun.

In a statement, the SAD president, while condemning the Union ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution for not making any provision for the RDF in the cash credit limit extended for the current paddy procurement season, said this would adversely affect the food grain procurement system in Punjab.

He said the money received by Punjab from the RDF, which was around ₹1850 crore per annum, was used to maintain 1800 mandis and 70,000 kilometres of rural link roads.

## Capt dancing to Centre's tunes over farm laws, alleges Sukhbir

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 29 OCTOBER

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal said on Thursday that the passage of a Bill making the entire state a single 'mandi' (market) by the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh had exposed the "fraud" played on farmers by Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh.

He said Amarinder played a fixed match with the Centre and refused to protect the farming community from the ill effects of the agri-marketing laws.

Addressing a virtual conference, the SAD president said even as Congress ruled Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan governments had passed similar laws to protect their farmers, Amarinder Singh had left the farmers of the state at the mercy of the Centre.

"The Congress government in Punjab has deliberately amended the Central Acts under the Trade subject which in on the concurrent list instead of bringing in legislation under the Agricultural head which is on the state list as was done by the Chhattisgarh government.

This amounts to selling off the interests of the State to the central BJP government", Badal added.

The SAD president said he had all along suggested that Punjab should bring in legislation to ensure its farmers



did not face exploitation at the hands of private players.

'It was mooted that a Bill be passed to make the entire state a single mandi (principal marketing yard) to negate the implementation of the three agri laws in Punjab. The CM rejected the proposal saying it was not feasible but his Chhattisgarh counterpart does not feel so.

This makes it clear Amarinder Singh is playing to Delhi's tunes and does not want to do anything which will upset the centre," the SAD chief said.

Requesting farmer organizations to recognize who was with them and who had backstabbed them, Badal said Capt Amarinder was directly responsible for the present state of affairs in Punjab including the economic blockade of the state.

If Amarinder had repealed the Central agri laws besides passing a Bill making the entire state a single mandi the future of the farming community could have been secured. Instead of doing this the chief minister chose to play into the hands of the Centre," he added.

## Delhi jails prepare for surrender of prisoners released amid pandemic

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 29 OCTOBER

Over 6,700 prisoners, who were released either on interim bail or parole in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, will now have to surrender in a phased manner at a temporary jail set up near Mandoli here after the Delhi High Court decided to put an end to the bail extensions granted to them.

Once the prisoners surrender, those who test negative for coronavirus will be quarantined for 15 days and those who test positive will be sent to a hospital or a COVID care centre.

The temporary jail has been set up in a police colony near Mandoli jail in northeast Delhi. It has 300 flats and can accommodate 2,000 people. At least six inmates would be put up in each flat which has two bedrooms with dining space keeping in mind social distancing norms, Director General (Delhi Prisons), Sandeep Goel, told PTI.

The Delhi High Court on October 20 had said that all undertrials whose bail per-



iod was extended prior to and during COVID-19 lockdown have to surrender in a phased manner between November 2 and November 13.

The court also said that the order would also be applicable to 356 prisoners who were granted bail by the high court and they would have to surrender before jail authorities on November 13.

Citing the high court order, Goel said that with inmates set to return, jail authorities have made massive arrangements and taken adequate precautions to ensure safe-

ty in order to combat the further spread of coronavirus.

"According to a high court order issued on October 20, we are expecting around 2,200 inmates to surrender in a phased manner from November 2 to November 13. Out of them, 356 prisoners are those who were granted bail by the high court and would have to surrender before jail authorities on November 13," he said.

Goel said all these prisoners who need to surrender from November 2 to November 13 would have to directly surrender at the temporary

jail.

"All prisoners who are set to return as per their date of surrender would be kept in a temporary jail in Mandoli for first 15 days. After their quarantine period is over, they would be shifted to their respective jails. While they surrender, they would be first tested for COVID-19 through rapid antigen test and if the results are negative, they would be allowed inside our temporary jail where they would be quarantined," he said.

In case anyone of them tests positive for coronavirus, the prisoner would be either shifted to a hospital or a COVID care centre by jail authorities under police guard and would still be considered surrendered, the officer said.

However, in case anyone of them tests negative for the virus but still has fever or is unwell, then that inmate will be kept in isolation, he said.

Delhi Prisons comprises Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli jails and the current population of prisoners lodged is around 16,000, the jail authorities said.

## Una Bulk Drug Park to boost pharma sector in HP: CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 29 OCTOBER

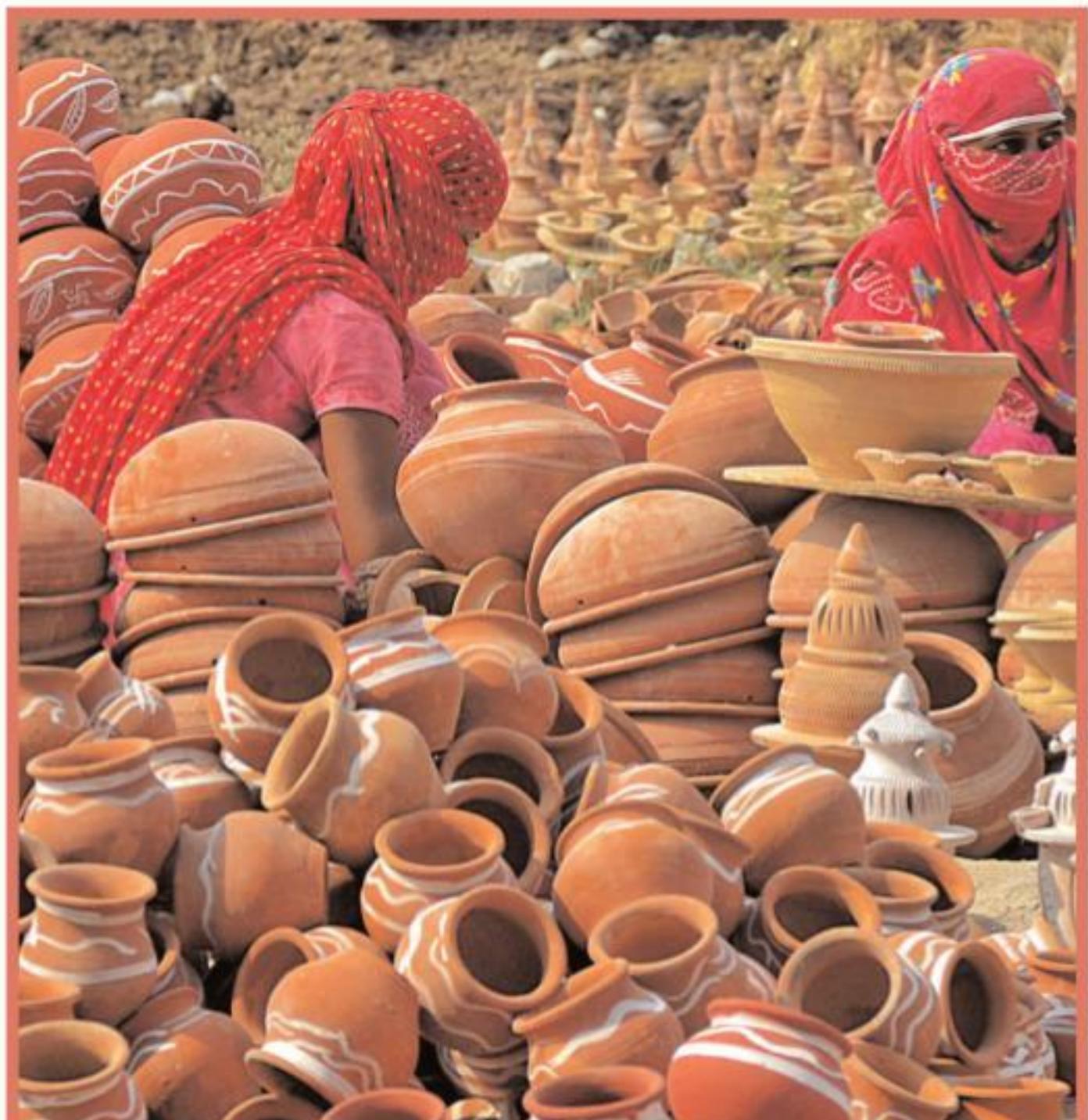
Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that the availability of water and power at low tariffs and existence of the industrial gas pipeline makes the state in general and the proposed Bulk Drug Park in Una district a "favourite place" for investment in the pharma sector.

Addressing a webinar of Pharma Industries on Bulk Drug Park in Una from Shimla, Thakur said Himachal had been ranked 7th best state in the country in Ease of Doing Business and 1st in Northern States on Human Development Index.

"Himachal has Asia's largest pharma hub manufacturing which is 49 percent of India's drug formulations.

The clean and green hydro power and better air, road and road connectivity gives added advantages to the proposed Bulk Drug Park site in Una district," he added.

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS BECKONS



Potters with their earthen lamps and pots ahead of Diwali, at Maloya in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

PARDEEP SAINI

## HP family lauded for cremating a destitute elderly Dalit man

SANJEEV KUMAR  
SHIMLA, 29 OCTOBER

Setting an example of social inclusion and equality in a state where there are separate cremation grounds for upper and lower caste people in many areas, a family in Arki in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh earned praises for cremating the mortal remains of a destitute elderly Dalit man.

And that too at a cremation ground meant for upper castes despite some opposition from the members of upper caste community.

The 87-year-old Kapuru Ram who belonged to the Scheduled Caste community, had died on 22 October after prolonged illness in Rauri village under Palog panchayat after which the family of Madan Chauhan, with whom he used to work in the past, decided to cremate him.

"As Chauhan's family started preparations for cremation of Kapuru Ram, some villagers raised the issue of cremating him at the cremation ground meant for Dalit families.



Ram was a resident of adjoining Jalana panchayat but he left his native place after the death of his father at the age of 13 years and started living in Rauri village where he used to work with Chauhan's family.

"Kapuru Ram, who also used to do small chores of locals, didn't have relatives in the village as he wasn't married.

Chauhan's family looked after him after he fell ill two years due to age related issues," Chauhan said, adding his two nephews had come to attend his cremation and last rites.

The Palog Panchayat pradhan added the villagers had decided that they would do away with the present system of two cremation grounds and there will only be one cremation ground in the panchayat from now on for both the communities. It is worth mentioning here that caste system and discrimination is still preva-

lent in many parts of the state, especially in the interior areas of Kullu, Mandi, Sirmaur and Solan districts where dictats of local deities reign supreme.

There are separate cremation grounds for upper and lower castes in these areas and any diversion from the age-old traditions results in confrontation between the communities.

In April 2019, upper caste men in Kullu district had prevented members of the Schedule Caste community from cremating an elderly woman at a cremation ground that was constructed by the district administration.

The upper caste men stopped the dalit family from cremation by saying that they would incur the wrath of the local deity if they performed last rites of the woman on the crematorium as it belonged to them.

This had resulted in widespread furore after which the then Governor Acharya Devvrat took cognizance of the issue and gave directions to the district administration to take strict action against the guilty.

## Defamation case closed against Kapil Mishra after unconditional apology to Jain

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 29 OCTOBER

A Delhi court has closed a criminal defamation case against BJP leader Kapil Mishra after he tendered an unconditional apology to AAP leader and Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain.

The complaint was filed by Jain against Mishra in 2017 for his defamatory statements against him and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The case was closed on Wednesday after Mishra agreed to tender an unconditional apology before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Vishal Pahuja.

"It is submitted by the accused (Mishra) that he is ready to make a statement before the court tendering unconditional apology. Complainant (Jain) also submitted that in case the accused gives his statement before the court, he shall withdraw the present complaint," the court said.

After recording the state-

ment of Mishra, as well as Jain, the Court disposed of the defamation complaint as withdrawn.

In a press conference held in 2017, Mishra had accused Jain of handing over a bribe of Rs 2 crore to Arvind Kejriwal. Mishra also claimed that Jain "settled a land deal worth Rs 50 crore of Kejriwal's relative".

On social media, Mishra went on to state that Jain would go to jail in a few days.

If convicted, the offence of defamation entails a maximum punishment of two years.



Congress 'misleading' farmers on farm laws, will quit politics if MSP system is dismantled

HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR

ADDRESSING A SERIES OF PUBLIC GATHERINGS IN DIFFERENT VILLAGES

i  
ndia

THUMBNAILS



A health worker collects a swab sample from a woman at a Covid-19 screening site in Amritsar on Thursday.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICES  
CHENNAI, 29 OCTOBER

**KCR opens Dharani portal:** Chief minister K Chandrasekhar on Thursday inaugurated the Dharani portal claimed to be one-stop solution to maintaining ownership records of all properties, land registration and further transfer of rights on sale or inheritance. The portal will allow biometric authentication of buyer and seller, band automatic calculation of stamp duty and registration fee.

**12 injured as minibus overturns:** At least 12 people were injured when a minibus overturned after losing control while trying to save two buffaloes in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, police said on Thursday. The incident took place on a state highway in Targhera forest on Wednesday night.

PTI

## Leaked letter is not mine; info on health true: Rajinikanth



days and now his clarification has opened a fresh debate again. Will he or won't he?

According to the letter, a convalescing kidney transplant patient, Rajinikanth's movement outdoors could be severely restricted even after the arrival of a vaccine for Coronavirus, given his continued immuno-suppressed state. The doctors, says the letter, have advised him to exercise utmost caution.

Rajinikanth, in the letter in question, tries to point out to his fans the travails they would face in case he formally enters politics and falls sick because of coronavirus. "I don't worry much about myself; but about those who are around me," the letters said.

On 31 December, 2017 Rajinikanth addressed his

cadres and said he would take a plunge into politics and float his own party to face 2021 Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu.

But in March this year, he announced he would not be the chief ministerial candidate and that the youngsters would be given a chance to contest on his party ticket.

But almost three years down the line, the star has remained a reluctant politician, not having made any progress in forming his official political party. His fan club RMM is acting as his political organisations prototype.

Expectations that he may announce his party heightened recently and there were speculations about the timing of the announcement as well in a section of the media.

Congress 'misleading' farmers on farm laws, will quit politics if MSP system is dismantled

HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR

ADDRESSING A SERIES OF PUBLIC GATHERINGS IN DIFFERENT VILLAGES

# Court grants ED 7-day custody of Sivasankar

Says he should only be interrogated between 9am & 6pm

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
29 OCTOBER

The special court of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases in Kochi on Thursday sent M Sivasankar, former principal secretary to Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan seven days custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Though the ED had requested a 14-day custody, the court allowed seven days. The court said Sivasankar should be given an hour's rest after every three-hour questioning and that he should only be interrogated between 9am and 6pm.

Sivasankar was taken into custody on Wednesday morning by the ED, minutes after his anticipatory bail plea was rejected by Kerala High Court in the sensational gold smuggling case. The ED recorded his arrest on Wednesday night after taking him to its Kochi office. According to ED, Sivasankar's involvement helped in the smuggling of gold 21 times from 2019 to 2020.

Sivasankar came under the scanner of national investigation agencies, including the National Investigation Agency (NIA), after his links with key accused in the gold smuggling case surfaced. The ED has said Sivasankar has major involvement in the crime and that he might be

the real beneficiary.

In the arrest memo, the ED said: "During the statement given to ED on 15 October, you accepted to have spoken to a senior Customs officer and made the request as per the wishes of Swapna Suresh. This clearly shows your active involvement in the offence committed by Swapna. This amounts to misuse of public office and interference in the official working of other government departments."

Meanwhile, Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of CPI-M Kerala secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, was arrested by the ED in Bengaluru in connection with a drug peddling related money laundering case. He was taken into ED custody on Thursday after questioning him for

three hours at its Bengaluru office and his arrest was subsequently recorded. Bineesh has been sent to ED custody for four days by a Bengaluru court, it has been reported.

Reacting to the two arrests in two separate cases, Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala accused the CPI-M of running underworld activities in the state.

He alleged that the CPI-M itself has been taken into custody in the state and that the party secretary's house has turned into a hub for narcotics business and underworld activities are taking place inside the CM's residence.

Cong, BJP seek CM's resignation:  
The arrest has given the

Opposition ~ Congress and BJP ~ an unexpected political weapon to attack Vijayan, heading the lone Communist government in the country, which has claimed to have implemented several people-friendly initiatives, adds PTI.

Both parties on Thursday staged protests across Kerala seeking the CM's resignation. The Congress and BJP's Yuva Morcha staged protests in front of the state secretariat and a few activists of the BJP's Mahila Morcha managed to enter the complex.

Police arrested and removed the activists from the north block area, where the chief minister's office is situated and in some places, the police had to use water cannons to disperse the protesters.

## TENDER

### NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	30-Elect-28-T-2020-21-E3
Repairing & rewinding of submersible & monoblock submersible pumps over Delhi division	Rs. 49.28 lac
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 98600.00
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earliest Money	27.11.2020, 12.00 Hrs.
Date & time of submission of tender	27.11.2020, 12.00 Hrs
Opening of tender	27.11.2020, 12.00 Hrs
Website & notice board	<a href="http://ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/ General, New Delhi.
	2386/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED	
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS	
Tender No.T20R220201: Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 66 KV GIS substation at 220 KV BTPS sub-station (Package "A"); 66 KV GIS substation at 400/220/66 KV GIS substation Dwarka Sector-5 (Package "B") and 06 Nos. 66 KV GIS Feeder Bays (extension of existing GIS) 400/220/66 KV sub-station Harsh Vihar (Package "C"), Delhi with complete civil works & automation on Turnkey basis.	
Last date for bid submission: 02.12.2020 at 1.30 p.m. For downloading of tender documents and further details please visit website Delhi Govt website <a href="https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in">https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in</a> Tender ID No.2020_DTL_193191_1, No.2020_DTL_193268_1 & No.2020_DTL_193270_1 respectively and DTL website <a href="http://dtl.gov.in">www.dtl.gov.in</a> Unique ID DTL-7940-291020.	
PR/20-21/27	

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/Date of Extension/Clarifications, if any, to the above tender/e-tenders would appear only on the above mentioned websites.

PR/20-21/27

After ending terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, it's time to wipe out Naxalism from across the country



ATTACKING OPP GRAND ALLIANCE FOR ALLEGEDLY TRYING TO BRING JUNGLE RAJ IN BIHAR

## THUMBNAILS



Labourers work at a construction site of a bridge in Mumbai on Thursday.

AFP

**Delhi riots case:**  
Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat of a Delhi court has dismissed the bail plea of Jaafar, arrested in a case related to the alleged murder of a local resident, Mohd Furkan, during the riots at Kardam Puri Pulia in the Jyoti Nagar area.

PTI

**Pothole-free highways:**  
Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday directed the officers of Public Works Department and National Highway Authority of India to ensure pothole free highways in the state to facilitate the commuters.

SNS

# Maya suspends 7 rebel MLAs, may vote for BJP

Says her party will leave no stone unturned to ensure defeat of SP candidates



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 29 OCTOBER

No plans to join any other party, say suspended BSP legislators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW, 29 OCTOBER

Seven BSP MLAs, who were suspended by party president Mayawati on Thursday, said they have no plans to join any other party.

"It is the prerogative of the party president to take whatever action she feels is right but we are not joining any other party," Aslam Raini, one of the rebels, told reporters here.

The legislators are said to have held a meeting here following the announcement of their suspension on Thursday morning. They had opposed the nomination of party's official candidate Ramji Gautam for the elections to the Raja Sabha, for anti-party activities.

Amidst speculation that the MLAs could switch sides in Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati also said to ensure the defeat of Samajwadi Party candidates in future MLC elections, her party will even vote for BJP or any other party's nominee.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said as soon as the rebel MLAs join any party, the BSP would take action against them under the anti-defection law. She also said

the party organisation has been informed that the suspended legislators should not be invited to any BSP function. Those suspended are Chaudhary Aslam Ali, Hakim Lal Bind, Mohammad Mujtaba Siddiqui, Aslam Raini, Sushma Patel, Hargovind Bhargava and Bandana Singh, according to a party statement.

She said the suspended lawmakers would not be fielded by the BSP in any future election. People from the castes and religion of the suspended MLAs would be fielded against them. BSP would continue to nurture people from the castes, communities and religions the suspended MLAs represented, Mayawati said. "Their communities would not be punished for their deeds."

Mayawati said her party would leave no stone unturned to defeat SP candidates in the future even if it meant voting for candidates of the BJP or any other party.

Any candidate who dominates over the Samajwadi Party's second candidate will get BSP MLAs' vote, she said in a statement.

In a jolt to the BSP on Wednesday, six party MLAs reportedly met Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and

later threw hints that they may switch sides. Four of the group of rebels also filed an affidavit, saying their signatures on the party candidate Gautam's nomination for the Raja Sabha polls had been "forged".

The move turned out to be futile with the Returning Officer still accepting Gautam's nomination as the Bahujan Samaj Party candidate for the 9 November biennial elections for the 10 Uttar Pradesh seats that are falling vacant. Mayawati claimed that when the Samajwadi Party fielded its senior leader Ram Gopal Yadav, BSP general secretary Satish Misra tried to contact SP chief Akhilesh Yadav over phone but failed. He later contacted Ram Gopal Yadav who said the SP would not field another candidate.

By ignoring Misra's attempts to contact Akhilesh Yadav, the SP has not only insulted the BSP leader but the entire Brahmin community of Uttar Pradesh, she said.

She also said she was of the view that in case Akhilesh Yadav fields his wife Dimple Yadav, then the BSP should not field a candidate. But the SP betrayed BSP by fielding an Independent, she said.

Mayawati said that dropping the 1995 guest house case against the Samajwadi Party and having an alliance with it in the Lok Sabha polls was a "big mistake". The decision was taken in a haste, she said. She alleged that in June 1995 an attempt was made on her life, but it failed.

As soon as the alliance was decided, SP leadership was pressing for the withdrawal of the case, Mayawati said, claiming, "The SP once again betrayed the BSP which his [Akhilesh's] father (Mulayam) had been doing all along." In a word of advice to the SP, she said the party should do politics of principles if it has to survive in the long run.

# Nitish faces twin challenge: Retaining power in Bihar and top-slot within NDA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMPUR/PATNA, 29 OCTOBER

It's a twin challenge for chief minister Nitish Kumar - retaining power in Bihar and keeping his party's top position within the ruling alliance - but a sense of uneasiness seems to be creeping in, including in his home district Nalanda.

While trying to keep the crowd engaged till the chief minister arrives for his election rally, one after another speaker has a common urge for the party's traditional support base of Dalits and extremely backwards that they should not get "misled" by the Opposition and keep their faith in Kumar.

Their plea underscores the task before the ruling JD(U) - that is to rally its traditional base of voters around Kumar in his twin fight.

The EBCs, which comprise of numerous small castes, account for around 28-30 per cent of the state's population, and the Nitish government has wooed them over the years with various initiatives.

Though they are not as politically active as some other castes, a section of EBCs has traditionally backed the JD(U), while so has been the case with 'Mahadalits' - a term for scheduled castes except for Paswans, who make up for around one-third of Dalits in the state. Political watchers believe there is an erosion in the support of upper castes for the JD(U), though they remain strongly behind its ally BJD, and its task has become all the more difficult in several seats due to Chirag Paswan-led LJP putting up its candidates against Kumar's party across the state.

Organisationally never as strong as the BJD or the RJD, the JD(U) has relied on the "sushashan babu" image of Kumar to power its politics, and it is this mojo of the chief minister, which has dimmed

'BJP's dream of expanding footprints in eastern India will be ended in Bihar'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA, 29 OCTOBER

Senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Thursday exuded confidence that the BJP's dream of forming governments in Eastern Indian states will be ended in the assembly election in Bihar as the Grand Alliance, of which his party is a constituent, will post a "historic victory" in the state.

He also said that the Grand Alliance is now setting agenda for Bihar's development as its promise of sanctioning 10 lakh government jobs at the first cabinet meeting after coming to power was followed up by the BJP which said it will offer to people 19 lakh employments.

The Grand Alliance consists of the RJD, the Congress and three Left parties.

"We (Grand Alliance) will post a historic victory in Bihar Assembly elections and it is going to have its impact on the country's polity. The BJP has plans to expand its footprint to the eastern part of the country

especially in West Bengal, Assam. But we will stop them firmly in Bihar itself," Pilot told reporters here.

The Grand Alliance is now setting agenda for Bihar's development as its promise of sanctioning 10 lakh government jobs at the first cabinet meeting. "The BJP later came out with a poll promise of 19 lakh jobs," the Congress leader said.

Pilot also raked up PM Narendra Modi's 2015 remark over Nitish Kumar's DNA to attack the Bihar chief minister whose party JD(U) is now contesting the Assembly polls in the state in alliance with the BJP.

now, critics say. "Nitish ji to kaam kiye hain. Lekin abhi badlaav ka hawa hai (Nitish has worked but there is a buzz of change)," Ranjan Ram says in a typical local accent.

Asked if he will vote for change, he says he has not decided yet. "He has built roads and given us electricity. But we need roti (employment) too. Why no new industry has come to Bihar?" asks Akash Kumar, a first-year undergraduate student.

Most of Kumar's achievements, be it boosting girls enrolment in schools, empowering women with quota in

local polls and jobs or augmenting road network, trace their origins to his earlier terms in power, and his initiatives like prohibition in his latest tenure do not seem to be eliciting many positive vibes on the ground.

The JD(U) has been winning more seats than the BJP in Assembly elections, but there is a view that this may change in these polls.

The JD(U) is fighting on 115 and the BJP on 110 seats in the elections to the 243-seat Bihar assembly with their two smaller allies contesting on the remainder 18.

## Former Gujarat CM Keshubhai passes away at 92

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, 29 OCTOBER

Former Gujarat chief minister Keshubhai Patel, who led the country's first ever BJP government on the party's own strength, passed away here this morning. He was 92.

Popularly known as 'Keshu Bapa', the former CM had recovered from Covid-19 earlier this month. He was rushed to hospital early morning with breathing trouble and died soon afterwards.

Keshubhai was unanimously elected as the chief minister when the BJP won absolute majority for the first time in the Gujarat Assembly in March 1995.

It was the first BJP Ministry on the party's own strength, the earlier ones in



Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh being supported by other parties.

The Keshubhai-led Council of Ministers in Gujarat was also the country's first all men, single community Ministry. However, this Ministry was short-lived as another BJP stalwart Sankarsinh Vaghela revolted against alleged 'back-

seat driving' of the Keshubhai government by state party secretary Narendra Modi. Keshubhai was back as CM in 1998 after two years of political turmoil and a mid-term Assembly election which brought the BJP back to power.

"Gokul Gram Yojana" to create self-sufficient villages

and rolling out red carpet for the IT industries to develop the Info-city in Gandhinagar are some of Keshubhai's ideas for all-round development of Gujarat.

Keshubhai had to step down again in October 2001 when the BJP top brass had sent Narendra Modi to replace him in an effort to retrieve the government's image that had taken a beating due to the slow and questionable rehabilitation process after the devastating earthquake with epicentre near Bhuj.

During his seven-decade political career, Keshubhai was a member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly for six terms and also a member of the Rajya Sabha for one term. He had quit the BJP in 2012 to float a new party which contested the Assembly elec-

tions making it a triangular contest and effectively preventing the anti-BJP votes from going to the Opposition Congress.

The deal was apparently brokered by the BJP's parent body and later Keshubhai's new party merged with the BJP in 2014, following which his son Bharat was launched into state politics with a nomination for the Assembly election. Keshubhai was also the Chairman of the Somnath Trust that manages the ancient temple town.

Expressing grief, chief minister Vijay Rupani said that Keshubhai had dedicated his entire life for service of nation and farmers.

"It is a big loss for Gujarat and BJP", Rupani said while speaking at a campaign for the Assembly by-elections due next Tuesday.

## Take back land from China, don't suppress Kashmiris: Mehbooba

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 29 OCTOBER

Outraged at being stopped from joining a PDP's protest against the new land law enforced by the Centre in Jammu and Kashmir, party chief and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said that the BJP government was silent on forcible land grab by China in Ladakh but was leaving no stone unturned to suppress people of Kashmir.

Earlier morning, the police stopped PDP activists in Srinagar from taking out a protest march from the party office and took into custody a couple of leaders. Mehbooba was stopped from joining the protest and asked to remain in her house, she said.

Mehbooba told media persons that she will not let anyone "loot" the land and resources of J&K. "We will not sit silent and will make efforts so that nobody

takes away our land and resources. We will not let it happen."

An angry Mehbooba alleged: "Kashmir has been turned into a jail. Nobody is allowed to express himself. Neither journalists nor civil society members are allowed to talk. Voices of dissent are curbed. People in Bihar demand jobs and food from BJP and this party tells them to go to Kashmir and purchase

land there. BJP can't think beyond elections. It isbefooling people and using Kashmir in every election."

"We can't sit silent on everything. If the government is so powerful, they should go and take the land back from China in Ladakh. They aren't able to take it back from them but will take our land. It is total lawlessness here," alleged Mehbooba.

"We had thought Modiji with such a big mandate will do bigger things, but it seems they haven't come out of the election mode," said Mehbooba.

She said that everyday new "edicts" were being passed by the Centre to pressurise people of J&K. She warned that she would hit the roads to protest against New Delhi's directives.

Mehbooba reiterated the demand of the People's Alliance for restoration of the pre-August 2019 status of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Do you want us to leave mainstream politics, asks Omar Abdullah

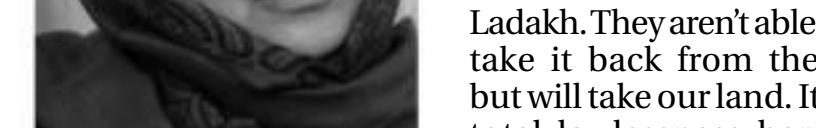
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 29 OCTOBER

Reacting to the Jammu and Kashmir UT administration's action of not allowing PDP activists to protest against the new land laws introduced by the Centre, former CM and NC leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday lashed out at the government, asking if it wants non-BJP political parties to shun mainstream politics in Kashmir.

"What do you want from us? Do you want us to leave mainstream politics here?" Omar asked while addressing NC activists in Srinagar.

He said that in states like Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Nicobar people from other parts of the country were not allowed to purchase land, but the protection of land granted in J&K by the Dogra rulers has been scrapped and everyone is allowed to acquire land.

He said that now all mainstream parties have joined ranks in the matter.



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Corporate office: Inox Towers, Plot No. 17, Sector 16A, Noida, U.P. - 201301  
Tel: +91 120 4634914; Fax: +91 120 4634999

Extract of Unaudited Financial Results for the half year ended 30 September 2020  
(All amounts are in INR million, unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	For the half year ended 30-Sep-2020	For the year ended 30-Sep-2019	For the year ended 31-Mar-2020
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1 Total income from operations	5,099	5,295	11,125
2 Net profit/(loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	1,435	1,187	1,480
3 Net profit/(loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	1,435	1,187	1,480
4 Net profit/(loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	1,071	772	1,065
5 Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	1,071	770	1,063
6 Paid up equity share capital (face value of INR 10 per share)	12,230	12,230	12,230
7 Paid up debt capital	2,130	2,230	2,230
8 Other equity	1,058	(305)	(12)
9 Net worth	13,289	11,925	12,218
10 Debt redemption reserve	-	-	-
11 Earning per share (in INR) (Basic and Diluted)- not annualised except for the year ended 31 March 2020	0.88	0.63	0.87
12 Debt equity ratio	1.75	1.70	1.79
13 Debt service coverage ratio	4.30	3.45	2.58
14 Interest service coverage ratio	5.00	3.45	2.76

Notes:  
1. The above unaudited financial results of HPCL-Mittal Pipelines Limited ('the Company') as at and for the half year ended 30 September 2020 ('Period') have been approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 29 October 2020.<

## Liberty and blasphemy

France might like to believe that its President's declaration of war on what he called "Islamic separatism" was a response to a local problem, one that was caused by two actions ~ the first a decision by a schoolteacher to show cartoons of Prophet Mohammed to his students and the second his beheading by a Muslim incensed by an act almost all his co-religionists would deem blasphemous. It is well known that imagery is proscribed in Islam and while the teacher's slaying might seem a disproportionate response, it must be admitted that French notions of liberty are deemed offensive by some sections of its own society. But by declaring war on Islamic separatism, and choosing a conservative to lead his campaign, President Emmanuel Macron might have bitten off more than France might enjoy chewing in terms of responses from the Muslim world. Overriding historical and sectarian differences, Muslims around the world have reacted with fury to Mr Macron's statement, with protests flowing from Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and a host of other nations. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan went as far as to tastelessly say Mr Macron needed mental treatment, asking "What problem does this person called Macron have with Islam and Muslims?" These remarks have been widely condemned, most recently by India which rebuked Mr Erdogan in sharp terms. The Turkish leader was quickly followed by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan who accused Mr Macron of deliberately provoking Muslims and encouraging "the display of blasphemous cartoons". Already, the controversy has sparked a diplomatic row with France having recalled its ambassador to Ankara.

But it is the backlash that will hurt French businesses that ought to worry Paris. Already, Mr Erdogan has called for a boycott of French goods in his country. Kuwait's cooperative stores have withdrawn all French goods from shelves. In Saudi Arabia, a hashtag calling for the boycott of supermarket chain Carrefour drew a huge response. And in Bangladesh, tens of thousands of people marched towards the French embassy in Dhaka calling for a boycott of French goods. There have been reports of protests and boycott calls in several other Muslim-majority nations, and already France has been forced to issue warnings to its citizens living there. The consequences of the controversy fanned by Mr Macron, though, will be felt most in moderate Muslim countries, for their leaderships will find themselves forced into a corner by hardliners. The other, and greater risk, of course, is that it will provide fodder to extremist groups such as ISIS that milk the "threat to Islam" theme. While France has asked its European allies to take measures against Turkey for the remarks on its President's mental health, and the EU Commission has warned that Turkish membership of the grouping is further away than ever, these measures will provide scarce reassurance to ordinary citizens of the world who will be caught in the crossfire between French notions of liberty and the Muslim world's anger.

## Taiwan's hopes

With the United States under President Trump increasingly critical of Chinese expansionism and with his Democratic rival Joe Biden having gone so far to call China a "thug", it is unlikely that the relations between the two countries will see a major transformation in the aftermath of the election. This will give considerable comfort to Taiwan, for while the US still follows the one-China policy bequeathed to it by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, there are signs from both political camps that an enhanced relationship with Taipei is on the cards. Despite Beijing's threat of sanctions against Washington for its arms supplies to Taiwan, the American administration is going ahead, saying it is bound by domestic law to provide Taipei the weapons it needs for self-defence. Indeed, the US has signalled it may even go beyond supplies, for as confirmed by a top official this week, "Taiwan's security is central to stability in the Indo-Pacific region." Stating that the US is committed to ensuring that Taiwan is not "bullied or overcome" by China, the official made it clear that there is bipartisan agreement in the United States for this position. Certainly, Mr Biden's comment in a journal targeted at the Chinese American community would confirm this. He called Taiwan "a leading democracy, major economy (and) technological powerhouse," while praising its remarkable handling of the Covid-19 epidemic that has seen it record 200 days without one local infection and just seven deaths in a population of nearly 24 million. In parallel, the abiding theme of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's brief Asia visit this week was to highlight Chinese excesses.

And while his hosts chose not to match his rhetoric, his words did strike a chord with large numbers of Indians, Indonesians and Sri Lankans. In India, he spoke of the threat to security and freedom posed by the Chinese Communist Party and in Indonesia he supported the rejection by Jakarta of China's "unlawful" territorial claims. In Colombo, he described the Chinese Communist Party as a predator, an obvious reference to the Chinese takeover of a deep-sea port in the island country. Analysts agree that a change in the White House will see no change in the situation. As one former top US official told the Guardian newspaper, "Regardless of who wins the US presidential election, we should expect to see increasing US-China tensions across a broad range of economic, political, geo-strategic, human rights and people-to-people issues for the years to come". This is a view widely held on either side of the Pacific, with some describing enhanced Washington-Taipei ties as a virtual abandonment of the one-China policy. As it lives under the shadow of enhanced threats from China, Taipei must hope that the US is able to create a wider consensus on its right to survive with dignity.

# After Trump?

The Occupy Wall Street movement, Black Lives Matter, the Bernie Sanders campaign enthusiasts and countless social justice groups are not going away and will continue to aim to move the members of the public from identifying with the aggressor to identifying the enemy, which clearly still has a way to go in Corporate America



"Identifying with the aggressor" is a notorious psychoanalytic syndrome referring to victims who out of abject powerlessness align themselves with, and often even imitate, captors who are the real sources of their suffering. By identifying with uncaring authorities whose whims control their fates, these desperate victims gain a false sense of possessing a particle of power themselves.

However crazy and odious it sounds, it is a well-documented tactic, highlighted especially in Nazi concentration camps where some inmates believed that by currying favour with camp guards, they would acquire a grubby sort of self-esteem and, of course, better treatment. The co-called "Kapos" were the worst of the lot, volunteering as brutal trustees to assist Nazis in degrading and murdering fellow prisoners. In such a hellish world the fantasy of becoming a camp guard, or at least a valued accomplice, offered a strange if self-destructive solace. These raw opportunists rarely came to good ends. They eventually perished in the gas chambers too. Still, this repulsive identification takes milder but no less disturbing forms as well.

The so-called "Stockholm syndrome" is perhaps a more familiar version where victims of kidnappers try to identify with the interests and concerns of their criminal keepers so as to win their favor and sympathy. In 1974 a weirdo gang, grandly named the Symbionese Liberation Army, kidnapped wealthy heiress Patty Hearst who apparently went so far as to join them afterward in staging armed robberies. When there seems no way out, some folks will resort to any means they imagine will help them survive. With the help of high-priced lawyers, the court was persuaded to acknowledge the extenuating circumstances underlying Hearst's actions. She's been a model tycoon ever since.

One cannot help but suspect that this insidious psychology affects far more people in many different ways than psychiatric textbooks can capture. Right now the US public, buffeted by Covid and its attendant lockdown costs, are poised to dump Donald Trump for Joe Biden, a proudly conservative



KURT JACOBSEN SAYEED HASAN KHAN  
The writers are well-known commentators and are the authors of *No Clean Hands, Parables of Permanent War* and other books

American voters, there is scant relief. Slowing down the hurtling of the American Republic into unashamed oligarchy is the best one can expect, since the Democratic National Committee and its rich donor base executed a well-coordinated move to sabotage candidate Bernie Sanders, who vowed to reverse the legalised swindle of the last 4 to 5 decades.

The top tenth of one percent of Americans now own more wealth than the bottom 90 per cent while one child in five subsists beneath a very mean poverty line. Shushing up details of that sort has been the foremost concern of the Biden camp, who will include many of the same Wall Street brokers who ran Obama's administration and allowed 10 mil-

lion Americans to be evicted from homes they profited from peddling to them in the first place ~ and were bailed out too.

Biden is pro-corporate, pro-big banks, pro-brokerage firms, pro-military waste, pro-private equity firms, pro-gig economy (versus well-paying secure jobs with benefits), anti-Green New Deal, anti-Medicare for all, anti-welfare for anyone but the rich, and, while Obama's vice president, vigorously supported legislation that incarcerated more working class minorities (especially Blacks) than ever. An opponent of Trump only embraces that package for lack of any choice.

If your stock portfolio is bulging but you also desire a dignified demeanor and civil mouth occupying the Oval Office, then there is plenty to celebrate. For the rest of the Amer-

ican voters, there is scant relief. Slowing down the hurtling of the American Republic into unashamed oligarchy is the best one can expect, since the Democratic National Committee and its rich donor base executed a well-coordinated move to sabotage candidate Bernie Sanders, who vowed to reverse the legalised swindle of the last 4 to 5 decades.

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A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**  
ASIAN VOICES

## Braving a possible second wave

It is a matter of grave concern that the numbers of new Covid-19 cases in the country are refusing to show any signs of significant decline. In fact, we have been warned by our Prime Minister of the possibility of a second wave, which is likely to worsen as winter approaches. The manner in which we are going about our daily lives amidst the ongoing pandemic would seem as if we are out of the woods, which we are not.

According to a recent report published in this daily, the government is aiming to implement and monitor a "no mask, no service" policy.

It has asked public and private organisations not to provide services to people without a face covering ~ made mandatory in all institutions, markets, schools, and social and religious gatherings. As the number of infected people nears 400,000, the reluctance to wearing a face mask remains worrying common.

Experts around the world have predicted that winter will exacerbate the spread of Covid-19, and there are widespread fears that the second wave will be even worse than the first. Countries across Europe are seeing a resurgence in cases after successfully slowing outbreaks earlier this year.

## The Daily Star

While the "no mask, no service" policy is surely an optimistic and prudent approach, why the government did not ensure the strict implementation of such directives earlier on remains a question.

Moreover, should we have to face a second wave, it will be wiser if we also put social distancing into practice ~ especially in packed mass transport and places of gathering. Hygiene practices too, seem to have become a thing of the past. The cautionary instincts which were once so apparent amongst the public seem to have lost its zeal.

In dealing with the pandemic, we must learn from our past mistakes and lack of control. We fear whether the new directives can be properly enforced as the government previously failed to implement them, including when people were warned that they would have to face legal action if they do not wear masks, maintain social distancing and follow health guidelines while outdoors. We need to revise our deficiencies in the healthcare system and prepare it for a second outbreak.

At the same time, the government must explore all possibilities for procuring Covid-19 vaccines as lagging behind in the global race for it is not an option, even more so with the possibility of a new outbreak. The first time, we failed to make the most out of early warnings; we simply cannot afford to do the same again.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

## Time to refresh souls

SIR, Amid the deadly epidemic and festive environment, it is an appropriate

urged the young generation to come forward voluntarily to extend help and coopera-

the office club, the person will invariably become an object of derision. Let us refresh our inner souls by preaching the inspired messages of our legends in the

enthusiastic attendance at RJD rallies disregarding the Covid contagion. Post-elections, a possible hung assembly scenario could see Nitish doing an Uddhav on BJP and bolting to the UPA. NDA's internal competition and attendant mind games may have put another Bihar election on a knife edge.

Yours, etc., Shovanlal Chakraborty,

Kolkata, 27 October.

### TALKS FUTILE

SIR, The Chinese are openly claiming that Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh belong to them. Some time back they had also claimed parts of Himachal Pradesh and of Assam.

We would not be surprised if the Chinese now claim that Sikkim and Darjeeling belong to them. Under such circumstances, it will be futile for India to continue negotiations with the Chinese.

It is high time for India to get its war materials ready to face the Chinese. The Chinese are a treacherous nation and can backstab India at any time like they did in the 1960s in the heyday of "Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai" coined by Jawahar Lal Nehru and Zhou En Lai.

The Chinese have no respect for the present boundary which is called the Macmohan line. They do not also adhere to LAC (Line of Actual Control) and have violated the border many

times. The Chinese have already started gathering war materials at Ladakh and its periphery which can be seen by any one. India should, therefore, get prepared to face the Chinese on the battlefield and not at the negotiating table.

India should be prepared to fight a long and arduous war with these war mongers.

Yours, etc., Abinash Chandra Dutta, Hooghly, 19 October.

### TROUBLED PUNJAB

SIR, The unfortunate stance of the Centre to keep suspended the movement of goods trains for Punjab is most reprehensible. Agit-

ing farmers' leaders having agreed to allow clear passage to such trains, starting of goods trains could have been a step towards reconciliation. The NDA government is losing its credibility fast after clearing the Farm Bills in Parliament in a cunning manner.

India should be prepared to fight a long and arduous war with these war mongers.

Yours, etc., Brij B Goyal, Ludhiana, 26 October.

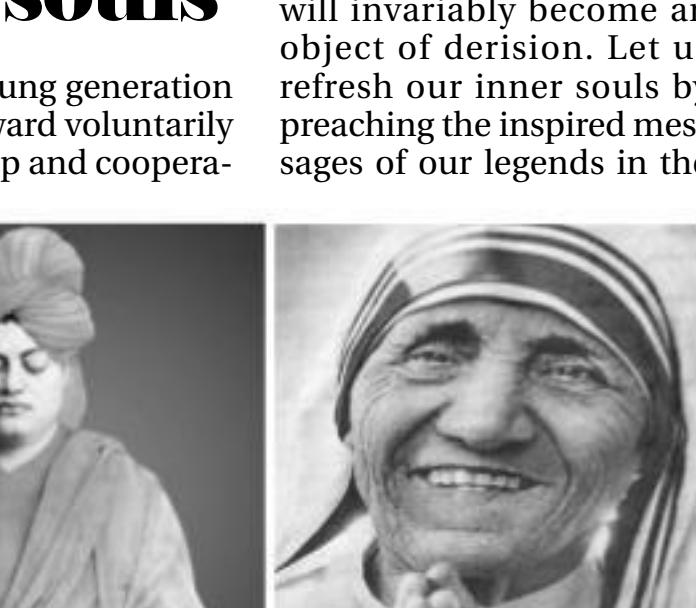
### BAN CRACKERS

SIR, This refers to your editorial, "Poisoned thought" (25 October). Recently, Faridabad was listed among the most polluted cities in the country in a bulletin issued by the Central Pollution Control Board. However, a ban on burning of effigies during Dussehra has contributed significantly to improving things. During the upcoming Diwali festival, it will be necessary to ban firecrackers.

The government has rightly banned stubble burning. Increasing plantation for air purification and tightening regulations to prevent smoke emission from vehicles has become the need of the hour. It is necessary to follow guidelines issued by the Supreme Court especially in respect of industrial establishments in order to prevent the poisonous effects of pollution, for the emission of toxic gases is harmful to human beings.

Besides following guidelines issued by the Environmental Pollution Control Authority, social organisations should come forward to control pollution and smog for encouraging environmental protection programmes launched by the Union and state governments.

Yours, etc., Yugal Kishore Sharma, Faridabad, 25 October.



time to confess candidly through your columns that we need to nurture our inner soul with the essence of humanity preached and crafted by our legends.

Legends like Sri Sri Radhanath Swami, Swami Vivekananda and Mother Teresa always preached and propagated by emphasising on humanity, exchange of love and affection among people without any discrimination.

Sri Sri Radhanath Swami's philosophy was: "God is everywhere, but He is most manifest in man. So serve man as God. That is as good as worshipping God."

His inspired messages are very relevant today.

In his books Swami Vivekananda has viewed the plight of India's poverty-stricken people. Swami Ji

tion to helpless people, the "nara-narayan", which is as good as extending service to Almighty.

Mother Teresa believed in service to the downtrodden. She wanted to give a little smile to people who were sick and almost half-eaten by worms lying on footpaths. Mother believed and lived with humanitarian philosophy. She wanted us to share the feelings from our inner soul. Such humanitarian thoughts are the need of the day. But there are many of us who are ashamed to discuss or strongly support this philosophical and ideological process. The real problems is that if any one wants to discuss these valuable precepts among friends and relatives or in the college/University common room or in

interest of our nation.

Yours, etc., Rupam Guha,

Kolkata, 26 October.

### ON KNIFE'S EDGE

SIR, Nitish Kumar's omission

from BJP campaign posters ahead of the Bihar polls is an indication of strains in NDA. Besides fighting the RJD-led UPA, a race to the finish line between BJP and JD(U) hots up. Bihar is the only state in the Hindi heartland not to have had a BJP Chief Minister. Thus, constituents within BJP and the Sangh Parivar may be hoping that pending their political investment in Nitish, Bihar too is now ripe for a takeover. Yet such a game plan to unseat Nitish without

# The double whammy of Covid and automation

VIKRAM KHANNA

**T**he automation of work through artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, 3-D printing and other new technologies has been a hot topic in recent years. But it has now got a second wind, courtesy of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Future of Jobs 2020 report published last week by the World Economic Forum (WEF), famous for its annual jamborees of the world's movers and shakers in the Swiss resort of Davos, points out that automation, combined with the pandemic, is creating a "double disruption" scenario for workers.

Besides inducing a global recession that is fueling unemployment, Covid-19 has also accelerated companies' plans to automate work processes, which could lead to even more job losses. In its October regional economic outlook for the Asia-Pacific, which was released last week, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) echoes this broad conclusion, noting that the deployment of robots and other labour-saving technologies tends to increase both after pandemics and during recessions - and we are in both.

Asian economies are especially vulnerable, it points out, given that about two-thirds of the world's operational stocks of industrial robots are in Asia, and that robot density is rising fast, from a low base in several Asian economies, many of which have a high dependence on labour-intensive manufacturing.

Think of the garment industry in Cambodia and Bangladesh, or the consumer electronic assembly plants in Vietnam and the Philippines, or the car factories in Thailand and India, not to mention the vast agricultural sectors across the region, which are also vulnerable to automation.

The news is not all bad, at least in the medium term, according to the WEF, which estimates that while 85 million jobs worldwide will be displaced by 2025, 97 million new roles will emerge. This is consistent with the usual outcome of technological advances, which have historically ended up creating more jobs than they destroyed.

But the story may be more complicated this time. There are many uncertainties and bumps along the way between now and 2025.

For one thing, amid the pandemic, job creation is slowing while job destruction is accelerating. Automation (which will add to job destruction in the short term) is easier than in the past. For instance, AI algorithms can be easily shared and deployed. Robots can be quickly installed in existing factories. So can 3-D printers; no major new infrastructure is required.

The rise of remote work, the demand for which is growing dramatically, has created further complications. The job losses are concentrated in rela-



tively "high-contact" and "non-tele-workable" industries such as hospitality, retail, mining, manufacturing and construction. The most affected are low-wage, less educated workers and youth - as well as women, many of whom have been forced to stay at home to manage child-rearing and household responsibilities, especially during lockdowns. Skill gaps - the difference between the skills that are available and those in demand - are high.

The WEF report points out that there is a growing demand for skills that include critical thinking and analysis, problem-solving, self-management, resilience, stress tolerance, creativity, originality, the ability to work with people as well as technology, management and communication skills and flexibility.

The new job openings are in areas that include AI, data science, cloud computing and the green economy, but also various sales jobs, management and administrative roles, and jobs in social sectors such as health.

In Singapore, the three top roles for which employers need workers, according to the WEF report, are data analysts and scientists, AI and machine learning experts, and digital transformation specialists.

Jobs that are becoming increasingly redundant as a result of automation include data entry clerks, accounting, bookkeeping and payroll clerks, administrative and executive secretaries, and accountants and auditors. The WEF is not altogether pessimistic about the capacity of displaced workers to make the transition into at least some of the

jobs in high demand.

Data from LinkedIn - which the report drew upon - indicates that data-related, AI, sales and even some engineering jobs have not proved difficult to break into.

Data from the report also shows that during the pandemic, workers are already making job and career transitions into unfamiliar areas. For example, around the world, many workers displaced from hospitality, retail, food and beverage (F&B) and entertainment industries have joined the health sector; retail and hospitality workers have become bankers, some from higher education have become software engineers, and F&B workers have become teachers.

Nevertheless, the WEF report points out that given the accelerated pace of both job losses and automation, "the window of opportunity to reskill and upskill workers has become shorter".

Therefore, there is an urgency for governments to monitor the new opportunities emerging in labour markets and support the retraining of displaced and "at-risk" workers, including through vocational programmes and online training platforms. The IMF also calls for governments to revamp educational curricula and encourage lifelong learning with a view to building more flexible skill sets. Many observers note that Singapore has been one of the early movers in all of these areas, having launched training subsidies and lifelong learning initiatives long before

Covid-19.

But over and above this, both the WEF and the IMF call for an expansion of social safety nets to protect the unemployed and to reduce inequalities - there is a high risk that job losses will be far more rapid than job creation, even with the best efforts put into reskilling, and inequalities are likely to rise. This is already evident in Singapore, where data from the second-quarter Labour Market Report shows that blue-collar workers have borne the brunt of the layoffs and furloughs.

The WEF report has its limitations. It is mainly based on feedback from a few hundred large companies - the WEF's corporate constituency. It did not survey small and medium-sized enterprises or firms in the informal sector, which employ far more people globally (and also in Singapore) and are both more likely to lay off workers and less likely to accelerate automation.

So, its projections of the total numbers of job displacements and new opportunities are based on a limited sample with a big-company bias.

Some economists are doubtful that the new opportunities will necessarily exceed displacements. Although this has been historically largely true of automation, it has not always been the case; history is not a reliable guide. For example, in a recent study, economists Daron Acemoglu of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Pascual Restrepo of Boston University found that within industries adopting automation in the US, the average "displacement" (or job loss) from 1947 to 1987 was 17 per cent

of jobs, while average "new opportunities" created was 19 per cent.

But from 1987 to 2016, it was a different story. The displacement was 16 per cent of jobs, while new opportunities represented 10 per cent. Not only that, but beneficiaries of the two separate waves of automation were different. Professor Acemoglu pointed out that technological changes from the 1960s to the 1980s benefited mainly low-skilled workers, but the automation thereafter, and especially since the 1990s when robotics began to take off, benefited more high-skilled workers, while displacing many of those with low skills.

Higher-skilled workers are also likely to be bigger beneficiaries of the new wave of AI and software-driven automation. Prof Acemoglu cautions that while many technologies are job-displacing, they are not necessarily job-creating. He gives the example of self-checkout counters at supermarkets and self-check-in kiosks at airports, which he calls "so-so technologies". They reduce costs for firms a little bit and displace some workers (because the customers do the work) but they don't increase productivity by much, or greatly benefit other workers, or lead to much job creation.

It is important therefore that companies are not encouraged to adopt technologies for technology's sake, but to adopt those that are job-and-productivity-enhancing rather than just job-replacing.

This is not always easy to predict because later innovations can disrupt earlier innovations. For example, the Internet and file transfers enabled radiologists to interpret X-rays remotely, yielding cost savings for hospitals and clinics and new jobs for radiologists in remote locations. But the later arrival of AI - which can interpret X-rays more accurately than humans - disintermediated the remote radiologists.

Similarly, Global Positioning System technologies enabled ride-sharing, creating jobs for millions of freelance drivers. But autonomous vehicles (in which ride-sharing companies like Uber are investing) will displace those drivers. Even data scientists and data visualisers, who have been among beneficiaries of the big data revolution, could be displaced by machine learning. So rapid is the pace of technological advance that which jobs are potentially at risk can be a tricky conundrum for individuals, companies and policymakers.

Just as important as keeping up with the curve of innovation will be to train for flexible skill sets, and to have strong safety nets to protect displaced workers, because there may be many of them, in several waves to come.

The Straits Times/ANN.

100 YEARS AGO

## OCCASIONAL NOTE

To the general public the most interesting point about the big deal reported by our London Correspondent in the purchase of the Austrian Transport Company's fleet on the Danube may be the statement that British influence virtually will be able to ensure the peace of Europe by the economic control of a great system of river navigation, at least 1,800 miles of the great river. There can be no doubt that a commercial link of this kind between Great Britain and Austria must be a powerful factor in the future relationships of Great Britain and Danubian countries, and there is every reason to hope that its influence will be all to the good. It will give to the Danubian navigation a financial strength which is doubtless needed, while the large British mercantile interests on the Danube which had grown up before the war will be benefited. The growth of British shipping traffic on the Danube is illustrated by the facts that in the old days, from 1847 to 1860, about 200 British vessels, averaging 193 tons each, entered the river in a year; between 1861 and 1889 the number increased to 486 averaging 796 tons; while in 1893 the number of ships was 905 and the tonnage over 1 and one fourth millions, making 68 per cent of the total traffic; and the growth was maintained up to the period of the war.

## NEWS ITEMS

### BISHOP ATTACKS GOVERNMENT

The Times publishes a letter from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Cork attacking the Government policy in Ireland particularly regarding the Lord Mayor of Cork and directly accusing the police of the murder of the late Lord Mayor, for which he states that Inspector Swany who was recently murdered in Lisburn was largely responsible. The Bishop declares that the fundamental trouble regarding the police is due to the fact that they have been converted into a military force instead of being left to perform real police duties. This has created such a situation that the only persons able to maintain law and order are the Sinn Fein Volunteer Police. This state of affairs has alarmed even moderate class in Ireland and has brought them together in an endeavour to agree upon an acceptable system of self-government.

### POLISH DECLARATION

The Government communicates the text of the declaration made by the Poles at Minsk, the transmission of which was delayed. The Poles maintained that the war was imposed upon Poland by the action of the Soviets, which after imposing a Soviet regime on White Lithuania and Ruthenia advanced against ethnographic Polish territory with the clear object of marching on Warsaw and imposing the Soviet system on Poland. The Polish Republic therefore was compelled to resist the Bolshevik invasion and occupied the former Polish territories, not with an imperialist object but in view of the right of the self-determination of peoples. The declaration concludes by emphasising that Poland sincerely desires peace on the condition that there is no interference with her internal affairs. She herself does not intend to interfere in the internal affairs of others.

### THE SILVER MARKET

Messrs. Montagu's report referring to the Ceylon Government sale of approximately 200,000 sovereigns lying in Treasury vaults at fourteen rupees to a well-known Pettah merchant conditionally that payment was made in the equivalent value of silver, points out that this bears out the recent statement that the sovereign does not possess legal tender value in India pending the new ordinance fixing it at ten rupees. The initial cause of silver reaching 63 and three fourth, the highest since May 4th, was the Chinese demands in America which drove quotation several points above the dollar. The effect on the market is intensified by the fall of American exchange and the fact that Continental sales are for the time being lacking.

### BRITISH PRISONERS IN RUSSIA

Captain W.J. Cowen, who has just arrived in England after his escape from the Bolshevik prison at Baku, where he had been confined with fifty-seven other British subjects, eight of them women, states that the women, and two of the men, have now been released but the others are still in rigorous confinement in the Bycöff prison. The building, he says, is verminous and indescribably filthy. Sanitary arrangements are practically non-existent, the food is bad and scanty, and the prisoners are allowed no water for washing. Many of them are compelled to sleep on a concrete floor but although they are abominably treated, they are not now put to any manual labour. They are, in fact, being held as hostages to enable the Bolsheviks to negotiate for terms when the need arises.

TARINI MEHTA AND LAKSHYA GUPTA

**G**lobally, diseases transmitted from animals to humans lead to about 2.7 million deaths per year. The number of cases reported every year crosses 2.5 billion (Global study by ILRI, the Institute of Zoology, Britain and Hanoi School of Public Health, Vietnam, 2012). About 60 per cent of emerging infectious diseases that are reported globally are transmitted from animals. Furthermore, 75 per cent of the over 30 new human pathogens that have been detected over the past three decades have originated from animals (WHO). A list of the top 20 geographical hotspots was arrived at through the 2012 Global Study. It reveals that Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania and India have the highest burden of such diseases.

These disease outbreaks do not just lead to a loss of life, they have far-reaching sociological and economic impacts as well. According to IMF, the Covid-19 pandemic is expected to cost the global economy \$9 trillion over the next two years. Poor and marginalised communities tend to

suffer the most. Such outbreaks further accentuate the rich-poor divide.

Maintaining ecosystem integrity can help regulate the spread of these diseases. However, policies adopted by nations often take a myopic view and reflect a tendency to prefer ex-post facto damage control rather than ex ante environmental risk management. Further, efforts to combat the spread of diseases are often fragmented. The prevention and mitigation of diseases transmitted through animals, however, requires an integration of policies related with animal and ecosystem health, human health, agriculture, food industry standards, import-export norms and so forth. In India, however, the legal and policy landscape related to animal disease control and prevention of the spread of contagious diseases in humans tends to be disjointed and fragmented.

With the frequent occurrence of such disease outbreaks, a more efficient system of response needs to be designed and implemented. Their spread needs to be dealt with from

the root. This requires an integrated, multi-dimensional response rather than a reactive approach. The need for global and multi-sectoral cooperation to achieve better health outcomes has led to the 'One Health' approach being encouraged by WHO, FAO, World Organisation for Animal Health, UNICEF, and the World Bank since 2008. It calls for human, animal, and environmental health to be treated as an interlinked subject.

There are several successful applications of the One Health approach – epidemiological links between bovine TB in humans and animals was established in Ethiopia, rabies was controlled in the Serengeti ecosystem, diagnosis of brucellosis was made in the case of febrile patients in Mali, adoption of good animal husbandry practices helped reduce the impact of food-borne animal-to-human diseases in Vietnam and managing effluent dairy waste led to cleaner drinking water in Montevideo. This was possible because of intersectoral collaboration and

pandemic management needs to adopt a multi-sectoral approach, incorporating ecology, biodiversity, the social sciences and agriculture as well. The Eco Health approach considers the health of human beings, animals and ecosystems. It also takes into account environmental sustainability and socio-economic stability. Furthermore, it moves towards an

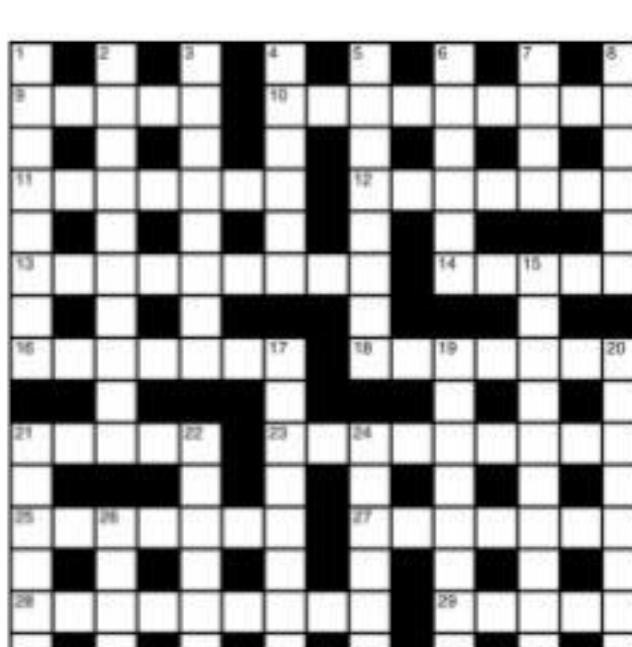
eco-centric approach wherein the protection of species is based on their intrinsic value, not only because of health impacts on humans. In this way, it is able to address the root of the problem.

On the other hand, the framework encouraged by WHO and other international organisations and adopted to some extent in India, fails to consider all stakeholders, which is vital if one has to address such diseases. For instance, to deal with certain diseases, wet markets and the illegal wildlife trade need to be controlled, which requires responding to the livelihood needs of local communities.

We need to formulate policy that considers ecosystem, human and animal health as intrinsically interrelated, and engage in multi-institutional policy formulation and implementation.

The writers are, respectively, Assistant Professor of Environmental Law and a fifth-year law student at the O P Jindal Global University.

## CROSSWORD



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

LOGJAM INTERNET EYR OAUG OSMIUM THEREMIN NSM ONBE THELOSTWEEKEND OIL RRD SPELLBOUND OSLO PYTOPW OOPS CHARLESTON NIA IRU GOODVIBRATIONS ENOA OEA OVERCAST EDWOOD FEER IUA FIRSTMAN SCIUTIUM

### ACROSS

- 9 Less welcoming here in Calais leading to hesitation (5)
- 10 Driver getting mostly hot in Calais following twisting street there (9)
- 11 Sales opportunity to the French heading for Calais - I will interrupt a great many (7)
- 12 Attempt to host elderly drama (7)
- 13 Refurbishing topic to involve furniture item as a direct consequence (4,5)
- 14 Legislation limiting Belgium's currency (5)
- 15 Tense searches producing unimportant stuff (7)
- 18 Has previously to accept one lead washer? (3,4)
- 21 Even bits of this would do for workers (5)
- 23 Possibly calmunous, nothing less, to describe a composer thus? (9)
- 25 Queen entering my hovel expressing puzzlement (7)
- 27 Senior board member in firm about to get shock? (2,5)
- 28 Even cigar going out may be source of complaint (9)
- 29 Ridiculous figure not initially correct (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Extensive lack of clarity about a union fraudster (8)
- 2 Setter ready to store earbone in haberdashery item (10)
- 3 University probing Drosophila, mostly with success (8)
- 4 Very significant couple caught hosting scam (6)
- 5 Observed as well most of the cutting edge (8)
- 6 Fling nothing skywards - OK? (6)
- 7 Distance, not time - simple (4)
- 8 No grey rocks in beach structure (6)
- 15 Late course supporter of African party, say, picked up after British left (10)

NO 28113

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

Bidding for Air India would be done on the basis  
of its enterprise value instead of equity valueHARDEEP SINGH PURI  
CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

## THUMBNAILS

Voda Idea loss narrows:  
Debt-ridden telecom firm Vodafone Idea on Thursday reported narrowing of its consolidated loss to Rs 7,218.2 crore for the quarter ended September 2020. The company had posted a loss of Rs 50,897.9 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal on account of making provisions for statutory due payments. Total income declined by about 3 per cent to Rs 10,830.5 crore during the reported quarter, from Rs 11,146.4 crore in the corresponding period of 2019-20. Vodafone Idea MD and CEO Ravinder Takkar said while challenges related to Covid-19 continue, the second quarter has shown signs of recovery with a gradual improvement in economic activities.

PTI

Record tea price: Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) on Thursday sold a specialty tea at a record price of Rs 75,000 per kg, the highest this year, an official said. After a gap of one year GTAC got another opportunity to sell Manohari Gold Speciality Tea in auction sale at Rs 75,000 per kg, Guwahati Tea Auction Buyer's Association (CTABA) secretary, Dinesh Bihani, said. The tea was sold by Contemporary Brokers Private Limited and purchased by Guwahati-based tea trader Vishnu Tea Company.

PTI

Steel wire industry: Steel Wire Manufacturers Association of India (SWMAI) chairman Nirmal Saraf, in a press conference held in Kolkata recently, said that the steel wire manufacturing industry, which is a major employment generator in the country, has been adversely affected by the acute shortage of raw materials (wire rods) and certain trade policies, which make it non-competitive.

SNS

HPCL buyback plan: The board of Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) will on 4 November consider a share buyback plan as the company management feels the share price is lower than the value it deserves. HPCL, a subsidiary of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp, has no immediate history of a share buyback.

PTI

Goodyear's foray: US-headquartered tyre major Goodyear forayed into automotive lubricants segment in India. The company collaborated with Assurance International, a part of Satya Group, for a new line of engine oils that will be manufactured, sourced and distributed in the country to complement Goodyear's tyre product portfolio in the region. The company's lubricants product portfolio would cater to all kinds of vehicles, including commercial and passenger vehicles and two-wheelers.

SNS

# Core industries' output contracts 0.8% in Sep

Decline in output during the month under review is lowest since March

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 29 OCTOBER

**C**ontracting for the seventh consecutive month, the output of eight core infrastructure sectors dropped by 0.8 per cent in September, mainly due to decline in production of crude oil, natural gas, refinery products and cement.

The production of eight core sectors had contracted by 5.1 per cent in September 2019, data released by the commerce and industry ministry showed today.

The decline in output during the month under review was lowest since March.

Barring coal, electricity and steel, all sectors – crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser and cement – recorded negative growth in September 2020.

During April-September, the sectors' output dropped by 14.9 per cent as compared to a growth of 1.3 per cent in the same period of the previous year.

The output of crude oil, nat-

## MIXED BAG

► The output of crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, and cement declined by 6 per cent, 10.6 per cent, 9.5 per cent, 0.3 per cent and 3.5 per cent, respectively.

► On the other hand, the coal, steel and electricity sector output grew by 21.2 per cent, 0.9 per

ural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, and cement declined by 6 per cent, 10.6 per cent, 9.5 per cent, 0.3 per cent, and 3.5 per cent, respectively.

On the other hand, the coal, steel and electricity sector output grew by 21.2 per cent, 0.9 per

cent and 3.7 per cent, respectively, during the month under review.

With improved mobility of people and goods, the contraction in refinery products halved in September 2020, an encouraging trend that may continue in the immediate term, she said.

"While many lead indicators have displayed signals of a strengthening economic recovery in September 2020, we caution that the sustainability of the upturn may not be universal, and await signs of its durability," she added.

The eight core industries account for 40.27 per cent in the IIP.



issues in some mines in September 2019.

With improved mobility of people and goods, the contraction in refinery products halved in September 2020, an encouraging trend that may continue in the immediate term, she said.

"While many lead indicators have displayed signals of a strengthening economic recovery in September 2020, we caution that the sustainability of the upturn may not be universal, and await signs of its durability," she added.

The eight core industries account for 40.27 per cent in the IIP.

**Fiscal deficit:** The government's fiscal deficit rose to Rs 9,14 lakh crore, about 114.8 per cent of the annual Budget estimate, during the first six months of the current financial year, mainly on account of poor revenue realisation.

The revenue realisation during the current fiscal suffered on account of the lockdown imposed by the government to check the spread of coronavirus pandemic.

In absolute terms, the deficit was Rs 9,13,993 crore, as per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The deficit at the end of the first six months of the previous financial year was 92.6 per cent of the annual target.

The fiscal deficit or gap between the expenditure and revenue had breached the annual target in July this year.

The government received Rs 5,65,417 crore (25.18 per cent of BE 2020-21 of total receipts) up to September, the CGA data said. The receipts were 40.2 per cent of the target a year ago.

# Nod to mandatory packaging of foodgrain in jute bags

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 29 OCTOBER

To help the jute industry, the government today decided to extend the norms for mandatory packaging of 100 per cent foodgrain and 20 per cent sugar in diversified jute bags.

The decision on the extension of norms for mandatory packaging in jute materials was taken at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved that 100 per cent of the foodgrain and 20 per cent of the sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags," said an official release.

Information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar, while briefing media after the Cabinet meeting, said the CCEA decision will benefit farmers and workers located in the eastern and north-eastern regions of the country, particularly in West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura.

Union textiles minister Smriti Irani said that the



The decision will benefit 3.7 lakh workers and 40 lakh farmers, especially in West Bengal.

SMRITI IRANI  
UNION TEXTILES MINISTER

decision will benefit 3.7 lakh workers and 40 lakh farmers, especially in West Bengal.

Government purchases over Rs 7,500 crore worth jute bags to sustain core demand of the sector. Decision to provide extension for mandatory package in jute material will further boost demand for jute and support livelihood of jute workers," Irani said in a tweet.

The decision also mandates that initially 10 per cent of the indents of jute bags for packing foodgrain would be placed through a reverse auction on the Gem portal, the release said.

"This will gradually usher in a regime of price discovery," it said, adding the government has expanded the scope of mandatory packing norms under the Jute

Packaging Material (JPM) Act, 1987.

**Ethanol price hiked:** The government on Thursday hiked the price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane for doping in petrol by up to Rs 3.34 per litre as it looked to ramp up the programme that has benefited farmers and also helped cut down oil import bill.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, raised the price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane juice to Rs 62.65 per litre from current Rs 59.48 per litre for the supply year beginning December 2020.

The rate for ethanol from C-heavy molasses has been increased from Rs 43.75 per litre to Rs 45.69 per litre and that of ethanol from B-heavy to Rs 57.61 per litre from Rs 54.27 per litre, I&B minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters here.

India, which is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs, allows dipping of up to 10 per cent ethanol in petrol with a view to cutting oil import and vehicular emissions as also offer a remunerative source for sugarcane farmers to sell their produce.

# Pidilite to buy Huntsman's India unit for ₹2,100 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 29 OCTOBER

arm ~ Huntsman Advanced Materials Solutions ~ for Rs 2,100 crore.

"The cash consideration excludes customary working capital and other adjustments, subject to certain pre-conditions being met prior to the closing of the transaction. The agreement was signed last night," Pidilite Industries said a statement.

The deal also includes the company's Indian subcontractor business, apart from a trademark licence for the Middle East, Africa and ASEAN countries, the statement added.

It can be noted that Fevicol is synonymous with adhesives to the millions here. Its other major brands include MSeal, Fevikwik, Fevistik, Roff, Dr.Fixit, Fevicryl, Motomax and Hobby Ideas.

Mistry family owning the balance 18.37 per cent," the Shapoorji Pallonji Group said in a statement quoting from its submission to the apex court.

The group has submitted a plan for separation from Tatas to the Supreme Court.

Tata Sons is the core investment company and is the holding company for the Tata Group and its value arises from its stake in listed equities, non-listed equities, the brand, cash balances and immovable assets. The value of 18.37 per cent stake of the SP Group in Tata Sons is over Rs 1,75,000 crore, it said.

In their scheme of separation, the SP Group said disputes over valuation can be eliminated by doing a pro-rata split of listed assets (share price value is known)

and pro-rata share of the brand (brand valuation already done by Tata and published). A neutral third-party valuation can be done for the unlisted assets adjusted for net debt.

As a non-cash settlement, the SP Group sought pro-rata shares in listed Tata entities where Tata Sons currently owns stake.

For example, while Tatas own 72 per cent of TCS, the SP Group's ownership of 18.37 per cent in Tata Sons translates to 13.22 per cent shareholding of TCS, which is worth Rs 1,35,000 crore at present market capitalisation, as per the statement.

Pro-rata share of brand value adjusted for net debt can be settled in cash and/or in listed securities, the statement said.

# IOC launches app to connect distributors & customers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, 29 OCTOBER

ical and petrochemical industry, according to Kamal Singhani, IBM's country managing partner for India and South Asia.

"We embarked on this journey not merely to deliver this landmark transformation, but also with a larger purpose to provide essential services to millions, making a massive social impact and contribute to nation-building," Singhani said.

The platform also presents a "unified customer experience" across various access devices such as mobile phones, tablets and desktops. Indian Oil's marketing director Gurmeet Singh expects Project ePIC to transform customer and business partner interaction through "customer-centricity", by adapting better to customer needs.

Indian Oil Corporation has launched its first mobile app "IndianOil One" and portal to connect its 12,400 distributors and more than 130 million consumers.

Developed by IBM, the IndianOil One app and portal are part of its Project ePIC (electronic platform for IndianOil customers) - an integrated platform for customer relationship management and distribution management systems.

Meanwhile, the rupee continued its downward journey today, sliding another 23 paise to settle at 74.10 against the US dollar.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened weak at 74.02 against the greenback, then lost further ground and finally closed at 74.10 against the American currency, showing a fall of 23 paise over its previous close.

As expected, the Indian stock market has turned its

wave of coronavirus cases. France announced a nation-wide lockdown to curb the rising Covid-19 cases, while Germany also imposed restrictions on economic activities.

According to traders, domestic market volatility was further heightened as October futures and options (F&O) contracts expired.

"As expected, the Indian stock market has turned its

focus from Q2 result driven rally to international developments as global market is worsening.

Markets across the world are volatile because of rising coronavirus cases impacting the recovery of economy and ambiguities over the US election and stimulus package. Additionally, today Indian indices ended weak following October monthly F&O expiry," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Meanwhile, the rupee continued its downward journey today, sliding another 23 paise to settle at 74.10 against the US dollar, tracking weak domestic equities and strong American currency amid global risk aversion.

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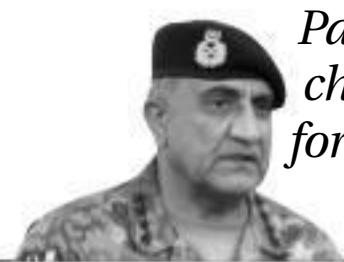
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Pakistan & Afghanistan cannot afford the risk of lawlessness and chaos as such a situation would have catastrophic consequences for both the countries

PAKISTAN ARMY CHIEF GENERAL QAMAR JAVED BAJWA  
AFTER THE PESHAWAR BLAST

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2020

09

# Nagorno-Karabakh conflict grinds on

Separatist authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh accused Azerbaijani forces of targeting many towns with Smerch multiple rocket systems

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
YEREVAN, 29 OCTOBER

Fighting over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh ground on for a fifth week Thursday as top diplomats from Armenia and Azerbaijan prepared for more talks on a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Separatist authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh accused Azerbaijani forces of targeting several of the region's towns with Smerch multiple rocket systems, a devastating Soviet-designed weapon intended to ravage wide areas with explosives and cluster munitions, and with military aviation.

In Stepanakert, the region's



Refugee women, who fled the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region due to the ongoing military conflict, make jingalov hats - traditional Karabakh flatbreads stuffed with greens - for sale in Yerevan on Thursday. ■ AFP

capital, civilians were killed and wounded, officials said without clarifying how many. Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry denied using aviation and accused Armenian forces of

shelling the Terter, Goranboy and Barda regions of Azerbaijan.

The ministry also reported downing two Armenian Su-25 warplanes, a claim Armen-

ian officials rejected as disinformation. Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a war there ended in 1994.

The latest fighting between regional Armenian and Azerbaijani forces began Sept. 27 and has involved heavy artillery, rockets and drones. It is the largest escalation of hostilities over the separatist region in the quarter-century since the war ended.

Hundreds and possibly thousands of people, have been killed in a little over a month.

According to Nagorno-Karabakh officials, 1,119 of their troops and 39 civilians have been killed in the clashes so

far. Azerbaijani authorities haven't disclosed their military losses, but say the fighting has killed 90 civilians and wounded 392. Russian President Vladimir Putin said last week that, according to Moscow's information, the death toll from the fighting was nearing 5,000, a significantly higher number than officially reported.

The hostilities have raged on despite international calls for peace and three attempts at establishing a cease-fire.

The latest U.S.-brokered truce frayed immediately after it took effect Monday, just like two previous cease-fires negotiated by Russia. The warring sides have repeatedly blamed each other for violations.

Russia, the United States and France have co-chaired the so-called Minsk Group set up by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to mediate in the conflict, but they have failed to score any progress.

The Minsk Group's co-chairs were set to meet with the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Geneva on Thursday, but the prospects for a breakthrough appeared dim.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has said that to end hostilities, Armenian forces must withdraw from Nagorno-Karabakh. He has insisted that Azerbaijan has the right to reclaim its territory by force since international mediators have failed.

China setting up world's highest-altitude data centre in Tibet

BEIJING, 29 OCTOBER

China is building the world's highest-altitude cloud computing data centre in Tibet that will meet the data storage needs of the country and South Asian nations like Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, official media reported on Thursday.

The data centre is located in a high-tech zone of the Tibetan regional capital city of Lhasa located at an altitude of around 3,656 metres, making it the highest-altitude data centre in the world, Xinhua news agency reported.

With a total planned investment of 11.8 billion yuan (\$1.80 billion), the project will provide services in areas such as video rendering, autonomous driving, distance-learning data backup, among others, according to its Lhasa-based operator, the Ninguan Technology Group.

It is expected to provide those services to major Chinese provinces and cities, as well as Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and part of Southeast Asia, the company said.

The first phase of the project is expected to be put into operation in 2021, the report said. After the completion of phase one, the data centre will have 10,000 machine cabinets and an annual revenue of about \$223.5 million, meeting the data storage needs of key clients.

Wang Jun, Ninguan's vice president, said as Lhasa pushes forward with the construction of a regional bureau for stepping up international communications services. PTI

**PROUD BOYS**



Yemeni youths parade the streets of the capital Sanaa on horseback on the eve of "Mawlid al-Nabawi" holiday, on Thursday. ■ AFP

## Pak anti-terrorism court acquits PM Khan in 2014 Parliament attack case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, 29 OCTOBER



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was acquitted by an anti-terrorism court on Thursday in the 2014 Parliament attack case but other senior ministers, including Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, were summoned on November 12 for the indictment.

Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan, however, halted proceedings against President Arif Alvi due to the presidential immunity granted to him, The Express Tribune reported.

On August 31, 2014, workers of the now ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) tried to enter Parliament and go towards the Prime Minis-

him as the prosecution was no longer interested in pursuing the case. State lawyer Abdullah Babar Awan, son of Adviser to the prime minister on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan, told the court that prosecution was in favour of the acquittal of Khan. "The learned prosecutor appearing for the other side is heard and the learned prosecutor candidly conceded that in this false case the charge against the petitioner is groundless and there is no probability of the conviction and therefore, the learned prosecutor agreed that this is a fit case for acquittal," the prosecution lawyer who was appointed by the sitting government said in the written application. The applicant is maliciously implicated and dragged in this false case.

The Dawn reported that the prosecution, as per their earlier stance, had claimed that three people were killed and 26 injured in the incident.

Prime Minister Khan's acquittal comes after he this week urged the court to acquit

**CII made its decision in a meeting on the basis of the Constitution and the Liaquat-Nehru Agreement of 1950**

Pakistan's supreme religious body has said that there are no constitutional or Sharia restrictions on the construction of a Hindu temple in Islamabad or any other part of the country. The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) made its decision in a meeting on Wednesday on the basis of the Constitution and the Liaquat-Nehru Agreement of 1950, which led to the establishment of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) in Pakistan, the Dawn News reported.

The CII also allowed the government to hand over an ancient Hindu temple and adjoining Dharamshala (community centre) in Saipur village to Islamabad's Hindu

community. In view of the current population in Islamabad the ancient temple and the adjoining Dharamshala at Saipur village be opened to the Hindus and they should be facilitated to reach there to perform religious services as per their beliefs, the CII said.

The decision, signed by 14 CII members, added that Hindus, like all other religious groups in the country, have the constitutional right to a place for last rites according to their faith.

Under this Right the Hindu community in Islamabad can have a suitable place for cremation of their dead and perform last rites of the deceased according to religious instructions, the council said.

An application was referred to the CII by the Ministry of Religious Affairs on July 6, seeking its opinion on the allotment of land to the Hindu community for a crematorium, community centre and temple. The ministry had also sought the CII's advice on the allocation of Rs 100 million by the prime minister for the construction of the crematorium and temple.

Some clerics, mainly those affiliated with Lal Masjid, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl and Markaz-i-Jamiat Ahle Hadis, had objected and claimed that a government grant for a temple was un-Islamic. An application was also filed in the Islamabad High Court by an individual against the construction of the temple and crematorium. The court deferred the matter and connected it to the CII's decision.

After the meeting, CII chairman Qibla Ayaz said a conclusion was reached after the council heard the perspectives of various applications, mostly by clerics, and of the Hindu community.

The decision has been made in light of various provisions of Sharia, he said. Dr Ayaz said the construction of the temple was permissible and a constitutional right, adding that there is no restriction in Sharia on the construction of community centres by non-Muslims for collective activities.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**  
1 Ship's company (4)  
3 Zest (informal) (4)  
7 Propriety (7)  
8 Dry up (5)  
10 Back of the neck (4)  
11 Credulous (4-4)  
13 Holidays at home (11)  
16 Find (8)  
18 Fastener (4)  
21 Accumulate (5)  
22 Obsolete trumpet (7)  
23 Snooker balls (4)  
24 Cautious (4)

**DOWN**  
1 Pilot's compartment (7)  
2 Merit (4)  
3 Airship (8)  
4 Tense (informal) (5)  
5 Norse god (4)  
6 Mixed feelings (11)  
9 Conceal (4)  
12 Plot summary (8)  
14 Cancel out (7)  
15 Notion (4)  
17 Large ray (5)  
19 Sheet of glass (4)  
20 Molten volcanic rock (4)

**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**  
1 Tale, 2 Advocacy, 3 Egret, 4 Formidable, 5 Bonhomie, 6 Emotive, 7 Suet, 8 Avow, 9 Makeover, 10 Cottage pie, 11 Expedient, 12 Oriental, 13 Scampi, 14 Moorish, 15 Poetry, 16 Formidable, 17 Buddy, 18 Nous, 19 Bonhomie, 20 Mop.

**DOWN**  
1 Garters, 2 Sandpit, 3 Yolk, 4 Gumnut, 5 Gymnasium, 6 Emotion, 7 Suet, 8 Avow, 9 Makeover, 10 Cottage pie, 11 Expedient, 12 Oriental, 13 Scampi, 14 Moorish, 15 Poetry, 16 Formidable, 17 Buddy, 18 Nous, 19 Bonhomie, 20 Mop.

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

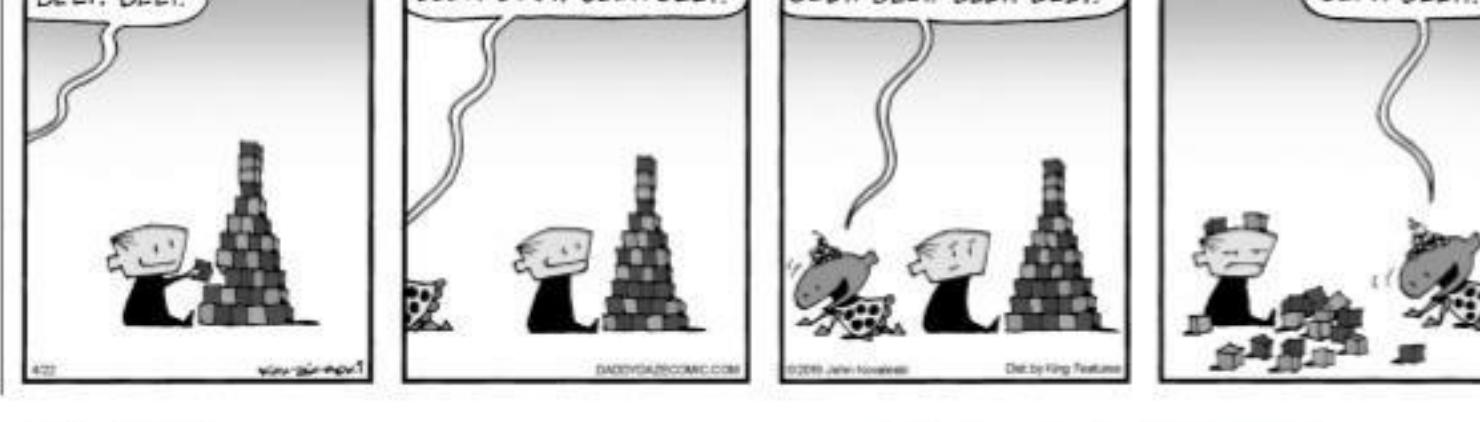
**BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker**



**RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson**



**DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski**



### NEED TO KNOW

#### HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23253230

#### RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 180012511

SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

#### ROADWAYS INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181

INDIGO AIRLINES 18001801407

Haryana Roadways 23861262

City Office 43513125, Call Cent

tre 09910383383, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air

port 011-25671580; Terminal I

B 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838

JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001803838

EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33737737

Air Canada Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181

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*There has been some talk about my values. Well, let me just tell you -- I am a proud, patriotic American. I love my country and our values reflect the values of America*

DEMOCRATIC VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE KAMALA HARRIS

AS SHE REJECTED THE REPUBLICANS' CHARGE THAT SHE WAS PRESSING A SOCIALIST AGENDA

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	18°C	12°C
LONDON	17°C	9°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	9°C
NEW YORK	10°C	7°C
MOSCOW	16°C	9°C

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

## THUMBNAILS



A pumpkin headed mannequin is seen in a garden as part of a Halloween pumpkin trail in Burton, England on Thursday. AP

**2 cases in Marshall Islands:**  
The Marshall Islands has reported its first cases of the coronavirus after two people who flew from Hawaii to a U.S. military base tested positive. The small Pacific nation had been among the last places in the world to have no reported cases of the virus. AP

# Trump, Biden to appeal to voters in Florida

More than 73 million Americans have already voted, absentee or by mail, and Trump & Biden are trying to energise the millions more who will vote in person



US President Donald Trump listens as Nigel Farage (R) speaks during a Make America Great Again rally at Phoenix Goodyear Airport, in Goodyear, Arizona. AFP

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
TAMPA, FLORIDA, 29 OCTOBER

**P**resident Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden are set to chase votes in Florida, a state all but essential to the Republican's pathway to another term as both nominees turn their focus to encouraging voters to turn out on Election Day.

More than 73 million Americans have already voted, absentee or by mail, and Trump and Biden are trying to energise the millions more who will vote in person on Tuesday. While the Election Day vote traditionally favours Republicans and early votes tend toward Democrats, the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 227,000 people in

**Biden will be a better foreign policy Prez, says int'l scholars survey:** Foreign governments will be more willing to cooperate with the US if Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden wins the 2020 election than if President Donald Trump is reelected, a survey of international relations scholars found. Results from a Teaching, Research, & International Policy survey of 708 international relations scholars found that international relations scholars are likely to support Biden and agree that Biden will be better able to achieve his foreign policy agenda. AP

the United States, has injected new uncertainty about the makeup of the electorate.

Trump and Biden will appear in Tampa hours apart on Thursday, visiting the western end of the state's Interstate 4 corridor, the area known for its rapid residential growth, sprawling suburbs and status as an ever-changing, hard-fought battleground during presi-

Trump admin proposes to scrap computerised lottery system to select H-1B visas

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
WASHINGTON, 29 OCTOBER

The Trump administration has proposed to scrap the computerised lottery system to grant H-1B work visas to foreign technology professionals and replace it with a wage-level-based selection process, a move that is expected to counter the downward pressure on the wages of US workers.

A notification on the new system is being published in the Federal Register on Thursday. Stakeholders have 30 days to respond to the notification, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said on Wednesday, less than a week before the US presidential election.

Replacing the computerised draw of lots to decide on the successful H-1B applicants, the DHS said it is expected to help counter

dental elections.

The visit comes as Biden has framed his closing argument to voters on responsible management of the Covid pandemic and Trump promises that the nation is on course to "vanquish the virus" even as it sets records for confirmed new infections.

"Even if I win, it's going to take a lot of hard work to end this pandemic," Biden said Wednesday during a speech in Wilmington, Delaware. "I do promise this: We will start on day one doing the right things."

Trump spent Wednesday in Arizona, where relaxed rules on social distancing made staging big rallies easier. Thousands gathered in close proximity without wearing masks — a trend that was expected to continue through more than a dozen events in the final sprint to Election Day.

Biden, meanwhile, heads later in the week to three more

the downward pressure on the wages of American workers that is created by an annual influx of relatively lower-paid, new cap-subject H-1B workers.

The H-1B visa, most sought-after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

If finalised as proposed, US Citizenship and Immigration Services would first select registrations (or petitions, if the registration process is suspended) generally based on the highest Occupational Employment Statistics prevailing wage level that the offered wage equals or exceeds for the relevant Standard Occupational Classification code and areas of intended employment.

states Trump won in 2016: Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan, where he'll hold a joint Saturday rally with former President Barack Obama.

The pandemic's consequences were escalating, with deaths climbing in 39 states and an average of 805 people dying daily nationwide — up from 714 two weeks ago.

The sharp rise sent shock waves through financial markets, causing the Dow Jones Industrial Average to drop 900-plus points.

Trump, who frequently lauds rising markets, failed to mention the decline on Wednesday. But he promised that economic growth figures for the summer quarter, due Thursday, would be strong, declaring during a rally in Bullhead City, Arizona, "This election is a choice between a Trump super-recovery and a Biden depression."

Biden, meanwhile, heads later in the week to three more

## Social media CEOs rebuff bias claims, vow to defend election

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

WASHINGTON, 29 OCTOBER

Taking a stand has new meaning in heavily litigated election

NEW YORK, 29 OCTOBER

In the most litigious presidential election in memory, court fights are even happening over where poll watchers may stand as the votes are tallied.

Lawsuits by the hundreds already have been filed with the prospect of many more before and after Tuesday's voting as both Democrats and Republicans try to settle in court a process that is usually determined by citizens simply casting ballots.

The

legal action runs

along a broad spectrum,

from a dispute over whether guns are allowed near polling places to more complicated matters that already have reached the Supreme Court.

"The level of litigation has just been so unprecedented," said Sophia Lin Lakin, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights Project.

Roughly 300 lawsuits have been filed over the election in dozens of states across the country, and still scores remain unsettled just days before Election Day. The campaigns of President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, have been quietly building armies of lawyers preparing for the possibility of a drawn-out legal fight that lands at the Supreme Court.

said at the start of the hearing that the laws governing online speech must be updated because the openness and freedom of the internet are under attack.

2020 election to be most expensive in history, expected to cost \$14 bn

NEW YORK, 28 OCTOBER

The 2020 Presidential election is turning out to be the most expensive election in history and twice as expensive as the previous presidential election cycle, with the total cost of the election expected to reach an unprecedented \$14 billion, a research group said.

The Center for Responsive Politics said that an extraordinary influx of political donations in the final months driven by a Supreme Court battle and closely watched races for the White House and Senate pushed total spending in the election past the previously estimated 11 billion dollars figure.

The Center said that the 2020 election will cost \$14 billion, shattering spending records. Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden will be the first candidate in history to raise \$1 billion from donors. His campaign brought in a record-breaking \$938 million through October 14, riding Democrats' enthusiasm to defeat Trump. Trump raised \$596 million, which would be a strong fundraising effort if not for Biden's immense haul.

Even amid a pandemic, everyone is giving more in 2020, from ordinary individuals making small donations to billionaires cutting eight-figure checks to super PACs. Women are smashing donation records, and Americans are increasingly donating to candidates who aren't running for office in their state, it said in a statement.

The 2020 election is more than twice as expensive as the runner up, the 2016 election.

PTI

## TENDER

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)**  
**Office of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Jammu**  
Tele-fax: +91-191-2453122, Email: xen-mdjammu@k.gov.in / mdjxen@gmail.com

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

**E-NIT No:MDJ/Tech/e-NIT/2020-21/18 dated: 10/10/2020 Due on: 31/10/2020**

On behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Bids are invited by Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Jammu by e-Tendering mode from eligible/reputed and registered contractors or firms, self help groups of Engineers registered in District Jammu for undertaking the works of Construction of Plant Room for Medical Oxygen Generator, MGPS manifold system and allied equipments at Government Hospital Sarwal as per scope, quantity, specifications and terms & conditions as envisaged in SBD/BOQ.

**Administrative Approval:** Acceded by the Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education Department vide Government Order No: 692-JK(HME) of 2020 Dated: 10/09/2020.

**Technical Sanction:** Acceded

**Position of Funds:** Approved.

The critical dates for the tendering process are:

1. Date of Publicity on website :- 10/10/2020, 2. Downloading of tender documents :- 11/10/2020, 3. Pre bid meeting :- 27/10/2020, 4. Uploading of document if any :- 22/10/2020, 5. Uploading of tender documents :- 23/10/2020, 6. Date of closing of tender :- 02/11/2020
- All other details/eligibility criteria and terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website [www.tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in) and [www.mechjmu.co.in](http://www.mechjmu.co.in). Queries, if any may be made by email at [mdjxen@gmail.com](mailto:mdjxen@gmail.com) and should be made by or before 31/10/2020.

No. DIPU-6330/20  
Dated: 27.10.2020

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**  
**Mechanical Division Jammu.**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA						TENDER NOTICE	
SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL	
1	PWD (B&R) JHAJJAR	SPECIAL REPAIR OF SLAB REPLACEMENT IN GOVT. NEHRU COLLEGE AT JHAJJAR IN JHAJJAR DISTRICT.	28.10.2020 18.11.2020	57.87 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01251-252085	
2	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	SPECIAL REPAIR TO SUB HEALTH CENTER AT VILLAGE SULTANPUR, JHARSA AND PATLI IN DISTRICT GURUGRAM (PDG. E.I. ONLY)	28.10.2020 10.11.2020	2.60 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	Pwd-eed-gurgaon@hry.nic.in 0124-2320874	
3	PWD B&R, SIRSA	DNIT FOR THE WORK ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONALISATION OF ICU/HDU IN THE EXISTING TRAUMA CENTER BUILDING IN CAMPUS OF CIVIL HOSPITAL AT SIRSA-(RE-INVITE)	30.10.2020 13.11.2020	35.76 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01666-220530 pwd-eepd1-sirsa@hry.nic.in	
4	PWD B&R YAMUNA NAGAR	WIDENING WITH HARD SHOULDERING AND STG. OF LINK ROAD FROM KARERA KHURD TO MISRA KI MAJRI (ID 518) ( 0.00 TO 1.80 ) IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT + 3 OTHER WORKS	03.11.2020 17.11.2020	142.12 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	pwd-eepd-yamunanagar@hry.nic.in01732-237834	
5	PWD B&R ROHTAK	ANNUAL REPAIR ESTIMATE FOR 7-J TYPE HOUSES (1 TO 4) 8-J TYPE HOUSES (1 TO 4) SDE HOUSES NO.1, 13-JB TYPE HOUSES 1 TO 16 (16 NOS. HOUSES), 12-J TYPE HOUSES (H.NO.1 TO 64), 11-J TYPE HOUSES, D.P RESIDENCE, 9-J TYPE HOUSES 40 NOS., 14-J TYPE HOUSES & 13-J TYPE HOUSES 57 TO 112 NOS. (56 NOS.) IN PGIMS ROHTAK FOR THE YEAR 2020-21.	28.10.2020 17.11.2020	12 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01262-282871 pwd-eepd4-rohtak@hry.nic.in	
6	PWD B&R, CHANDIGARH	DEVELOPMENT OF PLANTATION IN C/V OF KUNJPURA KARNAL KAITHAL KHANORI ROAD CHIRO MOR FROM TWO LANE TO FOUR LANE IN THE STATE OF HARYANA EXCEPT CULVERTS RETAINING WALL AND MINOR BRIDGES FROM 42.00 TO 69.400 (EXCEPT KM 54,700 TO 57,400) IN DISTT. KAITHAL + 1 OTHER WORK	03.11.2020 18.11.2020	30.30 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2920301	
7	PWD B&R, PANIPAT	STG., BY PDG. 30MM THICK BITUMINOUS CONCRETE ON EXISTING ROAD FROM PANIPAT TO DERA SIKHLIGARH (RAJAKHERI TO BARANA) RD 2.100 TO 3.050 TO 9.800 = 7.00 KM IN DISTT PANIPAT (RE-INVITED)	27.10.2020 10.11.2020	78.83 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0180-2638652	
8	PWD B&R ROHTAK	ANNUAL REPAIR ESTIMATE FOR CENTRAL STORE, AUGMENTATION OPERATION THEATRE & NEURO SURGERY, 50 BEDDED PRIVATE WARD & GENERAL HOSPITAL (WARD & O.T.) IN PGIMS ROHTAK FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 + 3 OTHER WORKS	27.10.2020 16.11.2020	47 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01262-282871 pwd-eepd4-rohtak@hry.nic.in	
9	PWD B&R, KAITHAL	DEVELOPMENT OF PINDARA TIRATH AT VILLAGE PINDARA IN JIND DISTT. + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 17.11.2020	295.85 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01681-249416 pwd-eepd-jind@hry.nic.in	
10	PWD B&R, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE WORK OF IRQP OF NH-7 (NEW NH-7) FROM RD 153.853 TO 160.353 (BARWALA BYPASS) IN PANCHKULA DISTT. (FFECTED PORTION FROM RD 157.753 TO 158.203 ALONGWITH JUNCTION)	28.10.2020 11.11.2020	222.7 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2920477 pwd-eepd-panchkula@hry.nic.in	
11	PANCHAYAT SAMITI LOHARU DISTT BHIWANI.	CONST. OF VYAYAMSHALA AHMEDWAS KHERA & DHANI SHYAMA BLOCK LOHARU	26.10.2020 09.11.2020	47.7			

# Standing through testing times

**Despite easing of lockdown and attempted revival of the larger economy, solopreneurs are confronted with new challenges, which require careful handling**

VIVEK BINDRA

With the economy facing headwinds from Covid-19-dictated lockdowns and the widespread economic paralysis, large and established businesses as well as small ones have been severely hit. The difference however has been in the intensity of the damage and the differential ability of each to absorb the blow. While large enterprises in the formal sector typically have sufficient reserves to soften the impact, the small businesses and more particularly, our solopreneurs running one-man-businesses, whether in formal or informal sectors, are left to fend for themselves. Despite the easing of lockdown and the attempted revival of the larger economy, these solopreneurs are everyday confronted with new challenges.

While each solopreneur would have their own demons to deal with, there are certain challenges common to all. What are those challenges and how should one go about addressing them?

#### Plummeting demand and incomes

Nonetheless, the biggest challenge for solopreneurs in Covid times is that because most of them are essentially subsistence workers with their cash flows being conditional on everyday sales, any disruption in their expected business cycle becomes a matter of survival not only for their businesses but for themselves and their families. Those roadside tea and pakoda sellers, the neighbourhood small grocery shop, the tailoring and stitching masters, the cobblers, the masons, etc are some of those many solopreneurs who have lost their source of everyday income. Experts estimate that of the 50% of our self-employed workforce, almost 95 per cent belong to the informal unorganised sector, people who may not have savings to fall back upon. Even among the somewhat high income solo-preneurs including professionals such as consultants, social media managers, graphic designers, scriptwriters and stand-up artists it has been a downward spiral, although relatively speaking, not as badly affected as the former kind.



The second big challenge and that flows from the first is the fall or the absolute lack of demand for their product or service. With social distancing norms restricting outdoor activity, not only are they hindered from hawking their wares, their potential patrons and buyers have been subjected to the same restrictive rules. This particularly applies to those product and service categories which fall under non-essential.

#### Inability to scale up businesses

The third challenge especially for those solopreneurs who have somehow managed to stay afloat through the crisis has been to raise their profit and income. Given the lull in demand as well as their own very limited scale of operation, there are no substantial savings which they could deploy to scale up their businesses. For those whose products/services are in demand, the lack of access to timely and inexpensive credit pulls them back from growing further. As a result, they continue to remain in the subsistence category of self-employed workers. In fact, even before the outbreak of Covid-19, economic experts had lamented the low-income generating capacity of the self-employment sector of the Indian economy and underlined the need to bring down the proportion of self-employment in the larger economy! The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18 which has collected earnings data for self-employed for the first time has estimated that the monthly earnings of self-employed worker has been less

than regular workers. With Covid-19, many have been dealt a coup de grace of sorts.

#### Supply shortages and digital shock

The fourth challenge is in particular for those who have survived or overcome the lack/fall in demand hurdle; it is the unreliable flow of raw material supplies. Even as the lockdown is being relaxed, supplies of components and parts are leading to shortages due to financial or other constraints of the input-maker.

The fifth challenge has been in terms of absorbing the shock of digital disruption. Until Covid-19, many solopreneurs (especially in smaller towns and rural areas) were ensconced in their own regular offline mode of sourcing, production, sales and marketing without an iota of digital work practice. The sudden online turn by everyone ranging from input material providers to end consumers has caught many of them off-guard. The suddenness of it all has been too much to handle even for those using mobile phones. The fact that a typical solopreneur handles everything end-to-end all by himself has made it even more onerous for him.

#### What is the way forward for our solo-preneurs?

Dealing with change is always a challenge for businesses. Solopreneurs dealing with the sudden business shift have to tighten their belts and face these challenges head-on. If you can't change the status quo to your advantage, adapt to the new environment. If there is a lack of

demand for your product, consider pivoting to a new product. Thanks to Covid-19, a vast health and hygiene products and services ecosystem looms on the horizon, something which must give food for thought for solopreneurs.

Even if you are digitally illiterate, go digital today not tomorrow! It can be done incrementally. If you have been using a feature phone, switch to a smart phone; if you have been using a smart phone, get a laptop with internet access; if you have been on internet before, get onto social media. Learn digital marketing and sales. A series of free of cost courses online can help you upskill yourself for the new normal. The operative word is: upgrade.

Naturally, the government has a pivotal role to play in all of this. Besides handholding them through policy, credit, tax, market access support and even one-time emergency aid through Covid-19, an extensive digital training campaign must be conducted country-wide. At the same time, the government must revive the larger economy and generate demand through fiscal and monetary measures. Generating high consumption demand in the formal sector also has a positive spill over effect on the informal sector within which the majority of self-run businesses lie.

Remember Covid-19 is a test. The pandemic will pass. When you have mustered the courage to start and run something on your own, standing through these testing times is just testimony to your spirit of a true solopreneur.

The writer is founder and CEO, Bada Business

#### PLUS POINTS

#### Celebrating sustainability



The Kolkata Center for Creativity (KCC) organised an engaging talk session, about the Wancho Tribal Community of Arunachal Pradesh with Tara Purinima Villiers Douglas (researcher and filmmaker) along with Jatwang Wangsa (a representative from the community). The webinar was conducted by Reena Dewan, director, KCC.

It comprised a detailed discussion and revelations of the various traditions followed by Wanchos, and a beautiful presentation displaying the artefacts, hairpins and mementoes of headhunting. Wangsa shared interesting stories of winemaking, ideas of community festivals. The topic "headhunting" - a tradition for which they are famous and how gloriously the warriors fought for their own villages were discussed. Douglas shared her idea of translating indigenous Wancho tales into attractive animation stories. At the end, a few questions from the attendees were answered by the panellists and a short animated video clip on a popular Wancho folklore was projected.

- SOUMI MANDAL

#### Unique endeavour



Space Matrix - a multinational workplace design consultancy firm headquartered in Singapore with a specialisation in workplace design and build recently organised a Designathon in partnership with Sir JJ College of Architecture, Mumbai. The six-month-long event aimed at challenging and nurturing the future design talent. Over 65 second-year students participated in it.

Siddhi Hindalkar, Shruti Bhagwat, Swaroop Duelkar, Priya Chauhan and Varadraj Borde were the top five contenders and Hindalkar was declared the winner, with Duelkar and Chauhan as tied first runner ups. All the interactions (except the finale) were carried out through in-person campus visits with designers from Space Matrix guiding students through the entire process. The entries were judged on aspects such as contextual design, innovation, ideation, purpose alignment and presentation skills, both oral and visual.

#### Advanced learning



With an effort to boost the education infrastructure in the state and the country, Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) of Gujarat Government, has conferred Marwadi University with supercomputer "Param". The indigenously developed Param Shavak supercomputing system will facilitate high-end computations and research work in the field of AI, CE/IT, ICT, ML. Marwadi University aims at providing resources with advanced technologies to perform high-end computations for scientific, engineering, and academic programmes to address and catalyse the research using modelling, simulation and data analysis. It will support individuals, faculties and researchers, to develop solutions and advanced products, with a huge scope to target sectors like manufacturing, energy and utilities, healthcare, transportation, public safety, amongst others.

#### Up-skilling learners

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Digital Skills Academy recently launched a new course on Business Accounting Process, which will be available completely online. The objective is to upskill/re-skill students and professionals looking for a career in finance and accounting.

The course is designed as per the job roles (qualification packs) of NASSCOM (IT - ITES Sector Skill Council) and has been certified by them. It will be available across the year and interested candidates can enrol at any point of time in a year. For details visit: <https://skillsacademy.iitm.ac.in/program-inner.php?courseID=18&cart=1>

## CREATING THE RIGHT IMPRESSION

**With the right kind of tools and approach, virtual meetings can be as seamless as any in-person meeting**

BHAVIN TURAKHIA

It's been over three months now that one has to establish one's remote team, having one's video conferencing platform in place and preparing for video meetings daily. However, one cannot deny the few glitches that keep showing up now and then.

A virtual meeting can be conducted either through a video conferencing platform where multiple participants can join in at the same time or through a dial-in via one's mobile device. One aspect when it comes to video calls is that the lack of in-person communication can sometimes be difficult to navigate. Signals such as body language become harder to read. But with the right kind of tools and approach, these meetings can be as seamless as any other in-person meeting. Here are some tips on how to run virtual meetings effectively:

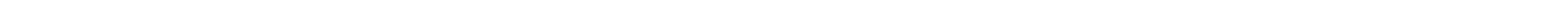
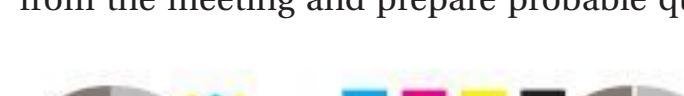
#### Being thoroughly prepared for video conference call

One's video conferencing software isn't all one needs. Before starting one's virtual meetings, one must check the availability of good internet connection, a properly working earphone/headphone and a webcam (most laptops have an inbuilt camera).

#### Make an agenda

Any meeting is more effective with an agenda that is prepared ahead of time. Draft an agenda before the call, so one mustn't miss any discussion point - and must not get too off track, saving everyone's time.

Try and send this agenda much in advance, so that all participants have enough time to prepare prior to the meeting. This "pre-read" will allow one's attendees to know what to expect from the meeting and prepare probable ques-





## REAL MADRID V REAL MADRID

Karim Benzema (photo, left) has been seen telling Real Madrid team-mate Ferland Mendy not to pass to Vinicius Junior - but the French striker isn't bothered by the resulting furore over his words. The players were waiting to come out for the second half in Madrid's Champions League encounter against Borussia Monchengladbach on Tuesday night.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

## THUMBNAILS

**Top duo:** Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul and Delhi Capitals paceman Kagiso Rabada continue to lead the batting and bowling charts, respectively, after the completion of 48 matches in the current Indian Premier League being held in the United Arab Emirates.

**Crime & punishment:** Mumbai Indians' Hardik Pandya and Royal Challengers Bangalore's Chris Morris have reportedly been reprimanded for breaching the Indian Premier League's code of conduct during Mumbai's five-wicket victory in their previous game.

**Ban ends:** Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will once again be available for playing cricket at both domestic and international levels from this week. On 29 October, 2019, he was banned by the International Cricket Council for failing to report corrupt approaches.

**Bio bubble:** England players will be monitored by the country's board with their time in the bio-secure bubbles limited to avoid strain on their mental health, director of cricket Ashley Giles has said. England played several series after cricket returned in July.

**Windies unfazed:** The West Indies will become the first Test team to go on two tours during the coronavirus pandemic when they visit New Zealand for two Tests and three Twenty20 Internationals. They were in quarantine in Britain before playing against England.

**Mancunians' plan:** Manchester United have modified Old Trafford to accommodate 23,500 socially-distanced spectators, the Premier League club have said. United's chief operating officer Collette Roche is convinced fans could safely attend games in person.

**Acting chief:** Barcelona named Carles Tusquets as their acting president on Wednesday, a day after Josep Bartomeu had resigned in order to avoid facing a vote of no-confidence. Tusquets will lead the acting board of directors, including seven other people.

**Great job:** Gary Lineker is full of admiration for the efforts of footballers during the Covid-19 pandemic. The likes of Marcus Rashford and Raheem Sterling have used their platforms to highlight issues that go way beyond football during a period that has tested everyone.

**Crazy start:** Former Tottenham striker Peter Crouch believes Jose Mourinho's side have "as good a chance as anyone" of winning the Premier League this season. It has been a crazy opening to the campaign with just five points separating the top 14 teams.

**Coleman's plan:** World champion sprinter Christine Coleman will appeal his two-year ban from athletics for anti-doping violations. "The decision is unfortunate and will be immediately appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport," Coleman's manager tweeted.

**Djokovic feat:** Novak Djokovic virtually ensured equaling Pete Sampras's record of ending the year as world number one for the sixth time on Wednesday when he reached the Vienna tournament quarter-finals, beating Croatia's Borna Coric 7-6 (13/11), 6-3.



## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI, 29 OCTOBER

A rampaging Kings XI Punjab would look to extend their exceptional run and inch closer to a Play-offs berth while Rajasthan Royals would be desperate to stay alive in the tournament when the two sides clash in an IPL match, here on Friday.

It has been a dramatic turnaround for the KL Rahul-led side after a string of losses earlier in the tournament.

They have managed to weave together five consecutive wins against the top four sides in the tournament, infusing life into their campaign. They are in fourth position with 12 points from as many games, while the Royals have slumped to the

penultimate spot with 10 points having suffered seven defeats from 12 outings.

It's a mad scramble for the play-offs. With Mumbai Indians all but through, six teams are in the hunt for the remaining three spots.

The Royals can't afford to slip up, if they lose on Friday

they will be out of the reckoning while a defeat for Punjab will dent their chances for a top-four finish.

They would expect their skipper Rahul, the leading run-scorer of the tournament, to fire in the crucial game after three underwhelming performances with the bat.

The addition of Chris Gayle has done wonders for the team's confidence.

It is to be seen if Mayank Agarwal, who missed two games with a bruised knee, returns to the side. In his absence, Mandeep Singh revolutionised the role of an opener with a match-winning unbeaten 66 in the win against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Punjab's bowling, which has been their weakest link throughout the tournament, has been exceptional in their recent wins, choking the opposition for runs.

The Royals will also be high on confidence after their morale-boosting win over table-toppers Mumbai and would be desperate to keep the winning momentum going.

The biggest positive for the

Royals is Ben Stokes roaring back to form after rusty displays in previous five outings. The English all-rounder, who has been elevated to the role of opener, smashed an unbeaten 107 to help seal a seven-wicket win over Mumbai earlier this week.

Sanju Samson is also back among runs, while Jos Buttler has looked erratic. That skipper Steve Smith is in the middle of a lean patch will augur well for KXIP.

The Jofra Archer-led bowling attack has looked ordinary. The Barbados-born English pacer, who is having a stellar individual season with 17 wickets from 12 matches with an economy of 6.71, has done most of the heavy lifting with the ball without adequate support from the rest of the bowlers.

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## Nitish Rana's 87 helps KKR post 172/5

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 29 OCTOBER



Opener Nitish Rana's 87 and a late burst helped Kolkata Knight Riders get to 172 for five against Chennai Super Kings in an IPL match here on Thursday.

Following Rana's 61-ball effort, cameos from skipper Eoin Morgan (15 off 12) and Dinesh Karthik (21 not out off 10) allowed KKR to put up a competitive total.

CSK, who pulled things back in the middle overs after a fine start from KKR openers Rana and Shubman Gill (26 off 17), leaked 66 runs in the last five overs.

Lungi Ngidi (2/34) was the best bowler for CSK while Sam Curran also bowled well early on.

The KKR innings was built largely on Rana's knock which comprised 10 fours, four sixes.

The southpaw mixed caution with aggression and overcame a sluggish period in the middle overs with some lovely shots.

Rana hit three consecutive sixes off Karn Sharma in the 16th over to up the ante as

KKR looked for quick runs.

Sent in to bat, KKR got off to a solid start with Gill and Rana putting on 53 runs for the first wicket.

Gill looked in good touch and hit four boundaries before falling to leggie Sharma.

Sunil Narine (7), sent in at number three, smashed the second ball for a six and fell four balls later, unable to clear a Mitchell Santner delivery with Ravindra Jadeja taking the catch.

KKR decided to send Rinku Singh, who was picked for the first time this season, ahead of Morgan at number four.

**Brief Scores:**

KKR 172/5 in 20 overs (Nitish Rana 87 off 61 balls, Dinesh Karthik 21 not out off 10 balls, Lungi Ngidi 2/34).

## Australia need Henriques for limited-overs series

## INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

MELBOURNE, 29 OCTOBER



All-rounder Moises Henriques (in photo) has been recalled to the Australian side for the forthcoming limited-overs series against India.

Henriques, who led the Sydney Sixers to the Big Bash League title last summer with a season strike rate of just under 150, has so far played 11 One-Day Internationals and 11 Twenty20 Internationals in Australian colours.

His last appearance came against India in a T20I in Guwahati in 2017.

"Moises is a tremendous cricketer with loads of experience and is a great person to have around the group. His form was extremely impressive in leading the Sixers to the

domestic form has been outstanding and he has carried it through for Western Australia this summer. As a potential player of the future this is an opportunity for him to be part of the squad and build on his experience," he added.

All-rounder Mitchell Marsh, who sustained an ankle injury in the early part of the ongoing Indian Premier League, has been left out on advice from the medical staff.

"Mitch will commence some low-intensity fitness and skill drills in the coming weeks and selectors are hopeful of his return to play in the Australia A fixtures in early December and then for him to be fully fit to perform his role in the side as an all-rounder," Hohns said.

Nathan Lyon, Josh Philippe,

Riley Meredith and Andrew Tye also didn't find a place in the 18-man squad.

Australia and India will compete in three ODIs starting 27 November. The ODIs will be played at the Sydney Cricket Ground (November 27, 29) and Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 2). That will be followed by the three-match T20I series at Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 4) and the SCG (December 6, 8).

Australia's white-ball squad: Aaron Finch (captain), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins (vc), Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Moises Henriques, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Daniel Sams, Kane Richardson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Adam Zampa.

## Jayaram, Shubhankar out of SaarLorLux Open; in isolation amid COVID scare

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SAARBRUCKEN (GERMANY), 29 OCTOBER



Indian shuttlers Ajay Jayaram and Shubhankar Dey were on Thursday forced out of the SaarLorLux Open after being put in isolation owing to contact with COVID positive father-cum-coach of defending champion Lakshya Sen, who has already withdrawn.

The 19-year-old Lakshya withdrew on Wednesday after his father D K Sen returned

to the States after testing positive for COVID-19, the Badminton World Federation said in a statement.

"The three players: Lakshya Sen, Ajay Jayaram and Subhankar Dey will not compete further in the tournament, which began on Tuesday," it added.

Later, Jayaram, in a Twitter post tagging sports minister Kiren Rijiju, the national badminton federation and BWF, said that he and Dey had tested negative.

"We have currently been asked to isolate with absolutely no other information from the organisers including our meals.

as the organisers have not given them any information or assistance apart from asking them to isolate.

"Owing to one of the players failing to follow the COVID protocol and the organisers failing to enforce the protocols set in place, I and Shubhankar have found ourselves in an unfortunate situation...," he wrote without specifying the lapse on part of the player concerned and the organisers.

"We have currently been asked to isolate with absolutely no other information from the organisers including our meals.

"We have our COVID neg-

ative certificates, and have NO symptoms. We are unable to contact the German local authorities. We would like to know if it is possible for us to get tested here again and come back to India," he added.

Dey also demanded compensation for the ordeal.

"Requesting authorities to compensate us while also allowing us to return to India," he tweeted.

Jayaram said repeated attempts to get a word from the organisers have proved futile so far. Lakshya, Jayaram and Dey had tested negative ahead of the tournament.

Lakshya, who claimed

five titles in the senior circuit last year including two BWF World Tour Super 100 top honours SaarLorLux Open and Dutch Open, received a bye in the opening round along with Dey.

Jayaram had won his opening-round clash on Monday.

With Thursday's development, India's challenge came to an end at the tournament.

The world calendar has been severely curtailed this year because of the pandemic and after a seven-month shutdown, it restarted with the Denmark Open earlier this month.

## Rashford hits hat-trick as Mancunians win 5-0

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS, 29 OCTOBER



Super sub Marcus Rashford (in photo) scored a clinical second-half-trick as Manchester United ripped German league leaders RB Leipzig apart last night to seize control of their Champions League group with a 5-0 rout.

Indeed, if anyone knows about the challenges of quarantine and isolation, it's Archer. He spent more time in a bubble during the English summer than any other player. Along with his 87 days were only four of rest outside between the two Test series, against the West Indies and Pakistan, then a further five days during the Pakistan T20 series. The toughest period was the second Test of the summer in which he was stood down but could not leave after visiting his flat in Hove while travelling from Southampton to Manchester.

Four months later, he is wary of much beyond his own well-being, such as the wider implications of a period where cricket will be played in relentless, concentrated pockets around the world primarily to the tune of broadcasters who want their allocated pound of flesh. Therefore, it would be no surprise to Archer if cricketers are forced to make a choice on where their futures lie both internationally and when it comes to the formats they play.

Jadon Sancho and Erling Braut Haaland spared Borussia Dortmund's blushes with late goals as the Germans laboured to a 2-0 victory over Zenit St Petersburg in a game even their boss admitted "won't go down in the history books".

Mason Greenwood looked like grabbing the headlines with his first-half strike but Rashford came off the bench to remind Ole Gunnar Solskjær that he was the main man at Old Trafford.

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get the performance."

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## VITUSHAN EHANTHARAJAH

"I might actually get a calendar to cross them down to feel like the days are going faster," he says.

It's important to say right that Jofra Archer (in photo) is having a pretty incredible time at the Indian Premier League. His third season with the Rajasthan Royals is on course to be his best in any Twenty20 season.