

PATRIOT WITH
A DIFFERENCE



P6

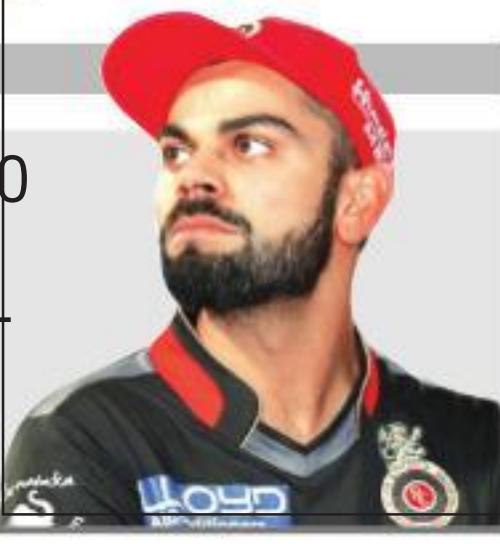
US PURSUES FEDERAL
CHARGES AGAINST
VIOLENT PROTESTERS

P10



NOVICHOK-TINGED
BOTTLE FOUND IN
NAVALNY'S ROOM

P10



KOHLI HOPES TO
END RCB'S IPL
TITLE DROUGHT

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky with very light rain towards evening. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 37 and 27 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 88% Min: 46%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 37.0°C (+3) Min: 27.1°C (+1)
SUN RISES 06:08 hrs SUN SETS 18:22 hrs
MOON RISES 7:56 hrs MOON SETS 19:19 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Devotees perform 'tarpan' ritual to pay obeisance to ancestors on the last day of Pitru Paksha near the Howrah bridge. In Kolkata on Thursday. ■ AFP

Four dead in Jammu-Kashmir encounter.

Three Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) militants and a civilian woman were killed, while two CRPF personnel, including an officer, sustained injuries in a predawn gunbattle in Batamaloo area in Srinagar on Thursday, officials said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Firoudabad locality in Batamaloo around 2.30 a.m. following information about the presence of militants there. The search operation turned into an encounter after the militants opened fire on security force, the officials added.

Prime Minister turns 70: Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned 70 on Thursday, and wishes poured in for the BJP leader from top dignitaries, including President and Vice President, Union ministers and leaders from across the political divide. The BJP is organising a number of events across the country to celebrate Modi's birthday as 'Sewa Divas'. Top BJP leaders said India's stature rose on the world stage under his leadership and his life dedicated to the nation's welfare is an inspiration for them.

Harsimrat quits in protest against Centre's farm Bills



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

Harsimrat Kaur Badal has submitted her resignation as Union minister to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), principal advisor to Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal said.

Harcharan Bains, the principal advisor, said Kaur submitted her resignation soon after the party chief announced in Lok Sabha that she would quit the Union Cabinet.

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh, meanwhile, called Kaur's resignation as nothing more than a gimmick.

Five Chinese charged in mega hacking scheme; Indian govt networks hit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 17 SEPTEMBER

The US Justice Department has charged five Chinese citizens with hacking over a 100 companies and institutions in America and abroad, including the Indian government's networks, and stealing valuable software data and business intelligence.

Deputy US Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen on Wednesday announced three indictments have been unsealed in the matter that collectively charge five Chinese nationals with computer hacking and two Malaysian nationals for helping some of those hackers target victims and sell the fruits of their crime.

The Malaysian nationals

were arrested on Sunday and the Chinese nationals have been declared fugitive, according to a Justice Department statement.

Rosen severely criticised the Chinese government.

"The Department of Justice has used every tool available to disrupt the illegal computer intrusions and cyber-attacks by these Chinese citizens. Regrettably, the Chinese Communist Party has chosen a different path - of making China safe for cyber-criminals so long as they attack computers outside China and steal intellectual property helpful to China," the deputy attorney general said. "In 2019, the conspirators compromised Indian Government websites, as well as virtual private networks and database servers supporting the Government of India," the indictment said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

Opposition leaders met President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday and raised questions about the role of the police during the February riots, besides expressing their lack of confidence in the probe of the incident.

In a joint memorandum, the leaders raised their concerns over the probe into the riots being conducted by the Delhi Police. The Delhi Police has set up Special Investigation Teams (SIT) and its Special Cell is also probing the aspect of conspiracy behind the Delhi riots in which 53 people lost their lives.

"There are, however, serious questions about the role played by the Delhi Police during the violence and also the manner in which the police is harassing and attempting to falsely implicate activists and young people who

took part in the anti CAA/NRC/NPR movements as the perpetrators of violence.

"Such a manufactured conspiracy theory has now begun to falsely implicate political leaders," it said. The memorandum also criticised the police for the reference made to CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury citing disclosure statements by the accused.

They also alleged that there are several publicly documented accounts and videos of police being "complicit in the violence, directing mobs pelting stones or looking the other way when mobs were indulging in violence".

"During the violence, a disturbing video emerged showing uniformed policemen assaulting young men lying injured on the road and forcing them to sing the national anthem while repeatedly beating them with lathis.

"One of the men, Faizan, succumbed to his injuries a few days later," the memorandum said highlighting other such instances, including one in which they alleged the "DCP stood quietly next to a BJP leader who was instigating violence against the protesters".

"Despite several complaints being filed alleging involvement of senior police officials in the violence, it appears no urgency has been accorded to identifying the policemen involved in the violence," it said.

The memorandum also said that the ongoing investigation by the Delhi police did not inspire confidence as there were serious questions about the "impartiality" of the probe.

"We, therefore, urge you to call upon Indian Government to institute an inquiry into this investigation under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952,

headed by sitting/retired judge(s)," it said.

► The US Justice Department has charged five Chinese nationals and two Malaysian nationals

► In 2019, the conspirators compromised Government of India websites, as well as virtual private networks and database servers supporting the Government of India

► In the attacks, the conspirators installed 'Cobalt Strike' malware on Indian government-protected computers

private networks and database servers supporting the Government of India.

The conspirators used VPS PROVIDER servers to connect to an Open VPN network owned by the Government of India

and abroad. The victims ranged from software development, computer hardware, telecommunication, social media and video game companies.

Non-profit organisations, universities, think-tanks, foreign governments, pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong were also targeted. Security researchers have tracked the intrusions using labels 'APT41', Barium, Winnti, Wicked Panda, and Wicked Spider.

These intrusions facilitated the theft of source code, software code signing certificates, customer account data, and valuable business information, the researchers said.

These intrusions also facilitated the defendants' other criminal schemes, including ransomware and crypto-jacking

schemes, the latter refers to the group's unauthorised use of victim computers to mine cryptocurrency.

The Chinese hackers also targeted government computers and networks of Vietnam and United Kingdom. The hackers, however, were not successful in compromising the government computer networks in the UK.

The racketeering conspiracy pertained to the three defendants' conducting the affairs of Chengdu 404 Network Technology (Chengdu 404), a Chinese Government company, through a pattern of racketeering activity involving computer intrusion affecting over 100 victim organisations, and individuals around the world.

Regulate digital media first: Centre to top court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

The Centre has said that if the Supreme Court decides on the issue of media regulation then such an exercise should be undertaken with the digital media first as it has faster reach and information has the potential to go viral due to applications like WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook.

The government told the apex court that sufficient framework and judicial pronouncements exist for the electronic and the print media. Considering the serious impact and the potential, it is desirable that if this court decides to undertake the exercise, it should first be undertaken with regard to digital media than electronic media and print media, said the counter affidavit, filed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The affidavit was filed in a pending matter in which the top court is hearing a petition against Sudarshan TV's Bindas Bol programme whose promo had claimed that channel would show the 'big exposé on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service'.

The Supreme Court on Thursday set the hearing for the petition on Friday.

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My greetings to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji on his 70th Birthday. I wish him a healthy and successful year ahead

MAMATA BANERJEE

WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

N-E Delhi riots: Court takes cognisance of charge sheet

The court will take it up on 21 Sept, even as Delhi Police's charge sheet has drawn flak from various quarters

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

A Delhi court today took cognisance of a charge sheet filed by Delhi Police under the stringent law UAPA and other criminal law provisions against 15 persons for alleged "larger conspiracy" in February 2020 Northeast Delhi riots.

Additional sessions judge Amitabh Rawat directed Delhi Police to supply copies of the charge sheet filed yesterday to the accused persons. The court will now take up the matter on 21 September.

Those named in the charge sheet are ex-AAP councillor Taahir Hussain, ex-Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan, Saifi Khalid (activist of United against Hate campaign), Jamia Coordination Committee (JCC) members, Safoora Zargar and Meeraan Haider.

Pinjra Tod members and JNU students, Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal, are also named in the charge sheet along with Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) student Asif Iqbal Tanha.

Others charged include Mohd Parvez Ahmed, Mohd Ilyas, Shahdab Ahmed, Tasleem Ahmed, Saleem Malik, Mohd Saleem Khan and Athar Khan.

The charge sheet has drawn fire from various quarters for naming only those as accused, who had been opposed to the Centre's controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC), and



FILE PHOTO

not naming anyone who had been pro-CAA-NRC.

The special cell of Delhi Police told the court that while collecting evidences it has relied upon CD-R and WhatsApp chats.

In its charge sheet, the police has listed 747 witnesses and of them 51 have recorded their statements

before the magistrate under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

The charge sheet has been filed under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act.

The police said it has

given a chronology of conspiracy and relevant events in its charge sheet. The evidence includes WhatsApp chats of 24 February when riots had erupted. At that point, key conspirators were guiding their foot soldiers about violence in the area, police claimed.

Police charged that WhatsApp groups were used by conspirators for violence in Seelampur-Jafarabad area. There were 25 protest sites and 25 WhatsApp groups were especially created for each, they claimed. The impression was given that they were anti-CAA protest groups but through these sites conspirators were being

interrogated.

The role of Delhi Police – which failed to control these communal riots, worst in the national capital since 1984 anti-Sikh carnage, for several days – became controversial in this entire episode of violence and mayhem for being "mute spectators" during the riots and for their alleged complicity with rioters in some cases.

guided, they claimed.

The special cell charged that Tahir Hussain, Khalid Saifi and Umar Khalid had allegedly planned to carry out violence in the national capital during US President Donald Trump's then Delhi visit.

In the charge sheet, which seeks to highlight the conspiracy behind the Delhi riots, police claimed that on 8 January Hussain had met Khalid and Saifi at the Shaheen Bagh sit-in protest site. The meetings subsequently also took place in the PFI office in Jamia, they alleged.

Police said their probe into Delhi riots was still continuing and that they will file a supplementary charge sheet in the matter later.

Massive communal riots had broken out in Northeast Delhi on 24 February after violence between pro- and anti-CAA supporters and protesters spiralled out of control. The riots, which raged for several days, convulsed Delhi, leaving at least 53 people dead and a large number of people wounded. The violence and arson gutted and devastated many people's homes, shops, properties and places of worship.

The role of Delhi Police – which failed to control these communal riots, worst in the national capital since 1984 anti-Sikh carnage, for several days – became controversial in this entire episode of violence and mayhem for being "mute spectators" during the riots and for their alleged complicity with rioters in some cases.

HC seeks Centre's reply on Rakul's plea against media linking her to drug case

PTI
NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

The Delhi High Court Thursday sought the Centre's reply on actor Rakul Preet Singh's plea to stop media reports from connecting her with the Rhea Chakraborty drug case and said leaks to the media need to be investigated as "someone's reputation is totally destroyed by this".

She has contended that based on unsubstantiated allegations defamatory programs were being run in the media against her which was causing irreparable harm and injury to her.

Hingorani, during the hearing via video conference, said if such programs are not stopped the actor might lose all her endorsements and it might also adversely affect her films which are on the floor presently.

The court also asked all the four respondents to treat her plea as a representation and take a decision on it expeditiously before the next date of hearing on October 15.

It also expressed hope that media houses would show restraint in their reports and would abide by the cable TV regulations, programme code and various guidelines, statutory and self-regulatory, while making any reports with regard to the petitioner.

During the hearing, the court observed that "there has to be some kind of restraint by media".

"There is an ongoing investigation. Someone should investigate how things get leaked to the media before even the concerned officer knows it. Someone's reputation is totally destroyed by this," the court further observed.

The central government, represented by Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma, said the actor was seeking a blanket ban or injunction which ought not to be granted.

The ASG said the actor made no complaint to the government or any other authority and there are no specific

allegations against a media house or channel by her.

The actor, represented by advocate Aman Hingorani, has claimed in her plea that Chakraborty had already retracted the statement in which she was allegedly named and yet the media reports were connecting her to the case.

She has contended that based on unsubstantiated allegations defamatory programs were being run in the media against her which was causing irreparable harm and injury to her.

Hingorani, during the hearing via video conference, said if such programs are not stopped the actor might lose all her endorsements and it might also adversely affect her films which are on the floor presently.

He also said that there was no time to move the ministry or any other authority as with each passing day the defamatory programs were spreading at fast pace on social media.

He further said that his client came to know about her being named in the case from "breaking news" on TV channels which said that she along with actor Sara Ali Khan and designer Simone Khambaria, have been named by Chakraborty as the individuals who take drugs.

Chakraborty, according to the news reports, made the statement in the ongoing investigation by the Narcotics Control Bureau in Mumbai, the petition has said.

"The petitioner categorically states that she does not take drugs at all, and has, to the best of her recollection, has only met Sara Ali Khan twice (once at IIFA Awards and once while working out in a gym) and has not met Simone Khambaria at all," the petition has also said.

Spurt in new Covid cases since testing ramped up 4 times: Jain

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

Delhi today reported 4,432 fresh coronavirus (Covid-19) cases, which pushed its Covid caseload to 2,34,701, according to the latest health bulletin issued by the Delhi government.

The city today recorded 38 deaths due to coronavirus, which took its Covid toll to 4,877, the health bulletin said.

The national capital had yesterday identified 4,473 fresh cases of coronavirus infection – its highest single-day coronavirus spike recorded so far. The city had reported 4,263 Covid cases last Tuesday.

According to the health bulletin, the latest single-day figure of coronavirus tests being conducted in Delhi was 60,014 today. This test figure was 62,593 yesterday.

The positivity rate in the national capital now stood at 7.38 per cent.

The number of recovered Covid patients in the city was 1,98,103, including 3,587 patients who were reported to have recovered today. The recovery rate came down further to

84.40 per cent. The number of active coronavirus cases in Delhi currently stood at 31,721. The number of containment zones was 1,670 in the city, the bulletin stated.

The Covid cases in Delhi will show a rise over the next 10 days as testing capacity has been quadrupled, health minister Satyendar Jain said, while asserting that the plan was to contain the spread of the infection in the long-run through effective isolation.

Interacting with reporters, he also said that reports of the sero-prevalence survey conducted in the first week of September will be first placed before the high court.

"Cases of Covid-19 and active cases will rise in the next 10-15 days as testing has

been ramped up four times. But we will then be able to contain the spread of the infection in the long-run through effective isolation.

On results of the latest sero-prevalence survey, and asked to respond to a media report that claimed 33 per cent of people surveyed had antibodies against coronavirus, he said, "The test result is not yet out, so on what basis, this figure is being claimed...Also, it is to be put before the high court first."

According to the Wednesday bulletin, the positivity rate stood at 7.15 per cent and the death rate stood at 0.7 per cent based on data of the last 10 days, the minister said.

"The situation as of now is fine," Jain said.

The Delhi government has significantly ramped up testing over the past several days.

The number of tests conducted and corresponding new Covid cases reported ranged from 24,198 (2,312) on 1 September to 62,669 (4,263) on 15 September.

On the availability of beds, the minister iterated that there were altogether 14,521 beds now, of which, according to the bulletin, 7,738 beds were vacant.

The Delhi government issued orders last week that 80 per cent ICU beds in 33 big private hospitals in the city will be reserved for Covid patients, Jain said.

On results of the latest sero-prevalence survey, and asked to respond to a media report that claimed 33 per cent of people surveyed had antibodies against coronavirus, he said, "The test result is not yet out, so on what basis, this figure is being claimed...Also, it is to be put before the high court first."

According to the Wednesday bulletin, the positivity rate stood at 7.15 per cent and the death rate stood at

PM's birthday: BJP organises 'sewa saptah' programme

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

Delhi BJP unit has organised several events throughout the national capital as part of its "sewa saptah" programme to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 70th birthday on Thursday.

From blood donation camps to distribution of oximeters and food items, the party has organised a series of events to celebrate the PM's birthday.

BJP president JP Nadda addressed a public gathering at Chandni Chowk this evening as part of the "sewa saptah", where party workers distributed pulse oximeters, tricycles and wheelchairs to people with disabilities and hearing aids etc, according to a press

statement issued by state BJP unit.

The BJP's Delhi unit leaders cut a cake, weighing 70 kilograms (kg), made of laddoos at India Gate at midnight to kickstart the PM's 70th birthday celebrations.

BJP leaders said that the PM has taken numerous measures to make India "Atmanirbhar", or self-reliant.

The event at India Gate was attended by BJP leader Shyam Jaju, the party's Delhi in-charge, Nalin Tripathi, secretary, Purvanchal Morcha unit of Mayur Vihar organised an event at Jangipur where Shyam Jaju offered puja for good health of PM Modi.

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta, who is in home

quarantine after he tested Covid-19 positive on Wednesday, wished the PM on his 70th birthday via a Twitter message. He tweeted a video highlighting the PM's achievements.

On Thursday, BJP lawmaker Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, leader of the opposition in the Delhi assembly, distributed sports equipment to 70 children living in a slum cluster in Chilla khadar village in east Delhi.

The state unit's youth wing has organised 70 blood donation camps in all Assembly constituencies in Delhi.

Delhi BJP general secretary Rajesh Bhatia said, "Besides, blood donation camps, we distributed fruits to poor people in slums and 70 hospitals in the city."

HC seeks govt reply on lawyer's plea challenging challan for not wearing mask while driving alone

PTI
NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

The Delhi High Court Thursday sought response of the Centre and AAP government on a lawyer's plea challenging the Rs 500 challan issued to him for not wearing a mask while he was driving alone.

Justice Navin Chawla issued notice to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Delhi government, Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and the police seeking their stand on the petition which seeks quashing of the challan, refund of the Rs 500 paid as fine and compensation of Rs 10 lakh for mental harassment suffered by the petitioner.

The petitioner, Saurabh Sharma, has claimed in his

plea that on September 9 while driving to work he was stopped by Delhi Police officials and was challaned for not wearing a mask even though he was alone in the car.

Sharma, represented by advocate KC Mittal, has contended that there is a Health Ministry notification clarifying that wearing a mask was not compulsory while driving alone in a car.

Advocate Farman Ali Magray, appearing for the ministry, said he needs to confirm whether such a notification has been issued.

Sharma, in his plea, has said that the officials challenging him failed to provide any executive order which makes it mandatory to wear masks while travelling alone in a private vehicle.

The Statesman

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All Congress allegations on the agricultural marketing bill are complete lies. Congress is the worst 'pest' that has damaged Indian agriculture...

G V L NARASIMHA RAO
BJP SPOKESPERSON

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

03

THUMBNAILS



Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGMC) president Baljit Singh Daduwal speaks to members of various Sikh bodies including the Guru Granth Sahib Sartkar Committee as they gather for seeking Justice in the case of the missing 'saroops' (copies) of the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh holy book) at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Thursday. AFP

1,192 Fresh COVID-19 cases in Uttarakhand: A total of 1,192 people tested positive for coronavirus in Uttarakhand on Thursday, taking the state's pandemic tally to 37,139, while 13 more infected people died. Dehradun district reported the highest number of 430 cases, Nainital 203, Haridwar 149, Udhampur 117, Chamoli 67, Pauri 52, Pitgorgarh 49, Uttarkashi 39, Almora 30, Tehri 19, Rudraprayag 15, Bageshwar 13 and Champawat nine cases, according to a state health department bulletin. Meanwhile, 13 more COVID-19 patients died in the state, taking the death toll to 460. Of the 13 latest fatalities, eight were reported from AIIMS, Rishikesh, two from Haldwani's Sushila Tiwari Government Hospital and one each from Doon Medical College, Dehradun's Mahant Indresh Hospital and Base Hospital, Srinagar, it said. According to the bulletin, 24,810 people have recovered and 155 have migrated out of the state, while there are 11,714 active cases. PTI

SAD seeks white paper on Punjab govt's role in farm Ordinances

Cong-SAD war of words has continued to rage over the Centre's controversial farm legislations

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 17 SEPTEMBER

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Thursday asked Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to issue a white paper on his alleged role as well as the Congress government's participation which led to the framing of the three controversial central agricultural Ordinances.

Addressing a press conference here, SAD spokesperson Daljit Singh Cheema charged that the CM had betrayed the farmers of Punjab by supporting various provisions contained in the Centre's Ordinances.

He said it was "shocking" that Capt Amarinder was now "uttering blatant lies" to "hide" his involvement in supporting the Ordinances.

Cheema said not only was Punjab's CM a member of the high-powered committee which framed these farm sector Ordinances but the state's finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal also attended a meeting of the committee in Mumbai.

He said: "The Congress government also sent a six-page note to the Centre, which formed its reaction to the discussion on the Ordinances. It had been proved beyond doubt that the Congress government had actively participated in the framing of the Ordinances. The state government must issue a white paper detailing all the meetings, ministers and officers who had participated in



SAD spokesman Daljit Singh Cheema (R) addressing a press conference in Chandigarh on Thursday. SNS

such meetings and minutes of the meetings".

Cheema said, "All this is necessary to make it clear to the people as to who betrayed them."

The SAD leader also said that the Congress-ruled Punjab government's response highlighted the need for market reforms on the ground that freeing the agriculture market was the only way farmers could get higher prices for their agricultural produce.

He said the response also stated that market reforms would promote private investment.

"It also admits that the draft resolution suggested scrapping of the Essential Commodities Act which has now been amended. When the Congress government had

admitted all this and more in its correspondence with the Centre, it should not try to befool the people by lying on this issue," Cheema said.

Referring to a statement made by minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa on contract farming, Cheema said the Congressman had talked about a contract farming Act brought in by the SAD-BJP government in 2013 but had refused to specify if he had opposed it then or not.

He said Randhawa had also refused to tell if the Act had been beneficial to farmers or not by presenting the relevant data. Asking Randhawa not to play such cheap politics, Cheema said if the Congress government felt the Act was not beneficial to farmers it should have revoked

it by now.

Capt Amarinder Singh has kept the heat on Sukhbir Singh Badal-led SAD for its "failure" in stopping the Narendra Modi government from promulgating the three "anti-farmers" and "anti-federal" farm sector Ordinances earlier despite being its key ally.

The CM has also said that the introduction of the three farm sector Bills in the Lok Sabha by the BJP-led NDA government on 14 September to replace the Ordinances had "totally exposed" the "farce of the SAD's pretence of protecting the interests of the farmers" of Punjab.

The war of words between two arch rivals of Punjab politics has thus continued to rage on the issue.

Mahila Shakti Kendra counter unveiled at GPO Shimla

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 17 SEPTEMBER

CM Thakur said PM Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was playing a key role in stabilising rural economy

goods at these sales counters. After the sale, the money would be transferred to the SHGs through direct benefit, he added.

He said that this would not only strengthen the economy of the women folk but also encourage the local products amongst the masses and would realize the dream of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi "Vocal for Local" into reality which was a step towards self-reliance. He said the state government had also initiated various schemes for the promoting traditional products of the State. He said that this would not only provide employment opportunities to the women within their homes but also upgrade their socio-economic condition.

Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Virender Kanwar, Health Minister Dr. Rajiv Saizal, Secretary Rural Development Dr Sandeep Bhattacharjee, Director Rural Development Lalit Jain, Chief Post Master General Meera Ranjan Tshering were also present on the occasion among others.

'PIND-DAAN'



A devotee (R) performs 'pind-daan' rituals for the salvation of ancestors at Sangam on the last day of 'Pitr Paksha' event in Allahabad on Thursday. AFP

Delhi govt forcing colleges to pay salaries from students' fund, alleges DUPA

PTI
NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

The Delhi University Principal's Association (DUPA) on Thursday accused the AAP government of forcing colleges fully funded by it to pay salaries from the students' fund, saying this would amount to misappropriation.

Reacting to DUPA's assertions, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in a statement questioned the source of funds for these colleges and said when they have sufficient money in their fixed deposits, why are they struggling to pay salaries to their

staffers. In an online briefing on Thursday, DUPA said the city government gives grant under two heads Plan and Non-Plan. "It is clearly mentioned in every sanction letter that funds cannot be transferred from one head to the other. How come the Deputy CM is asking the colleges to pay the salaries from the Student Society Fund, which is collected from the students for specific activities and purpose?" they said.

Any diversion of funds, would amount to misappropriation, "which we are not doing but the Deputy CM is forcing us to do", they alleged.

"It is very unfortunate that he misled by saying that enough funds have been provided in the current financial year," the DUPA said. At a press conference on Wednesday, Sisodia had alleged misappropriation of funds in DU colleges and said they have enough funds in their Fixed Deposits and are still not paying salaries. He had said that the government has provided enough funds to colleges for their projected salary needs.

According to the figures shared by the DUPA, the government had released a grant of Rs 245 crore to the 12 colleges fully funded by it.

The requirement for the financial year 2020-21 stands at Rs 270 crore, which has been calculated by adding 10 per cent on account of increment and DA.

"Ideally, 75 per cent of the required grant (Rs. 270 crore)

i.e. Rs. 202.5 crores, should have been released before July, 2020, whereas only Rs. 37.5 crore has been released till date. This is violation of pattern of assistance for release of Grant-in-aid to 100 per cent funded colleges, communicated to us by the Directorate of Higher Education, Delhi government in January this year," they said.

The requirement for the financial year 2020-21 stands at Rs 270 crore, which has been calculated by adding 10 per cent on account of increment and DA.

"It is very unfortunate that he misled by saying that enough funds have been provided in the current financial year," the DUPA said. At a press conference on Wednesday, Sisodia had alleged misappropriation of funds in DU colleges and said they have enough funds in their Fixed Deposits and are still not paying salaries. He had said that the government has provided enough funds to colleges for their projected salary needs.

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HP CM inaugurates 'Swachhata Cafe' to be run by women SHGs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 17 SEPTEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday inaugurated a "Swachhata Cafe" at Nalagarh in Solan district digitally from here on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday.

The Chief Minister said that the cafe set up by the State Rural Development Department near Truck Operators Union Nalagarh was being operated by Laxmi and Durga Women Self Help Groups.

He said that the main attraction of this cafe was that it would serve traditional food such as maize bread (Makki ki Roti) and Sarson ka Saag, butter, lassi, etc.

Thakur said that the state government has started a scheme for eradicating polythene and single-use plastic.

Under his "Buy Back Policy" of the government, food or other food items were being provided to the people in exchange of single-use plastic.

He said that Himira shop has also been opened in this building wherein medicinal plants, such as Giloy, Peppermint, Neem leaf powder, brooms made from date palm plants and homemade wheat flour, pulses, spices and vegetables were being sold at reasonable prices.

Local Pradhan Indu Vaidya said that last year the SHG earned an additional income of about Rs 40,000 in fairs, festivals and public forums.

and making it a most strong country amongst the community of the nations. He said that Narendra Modi has played a leading role in laying the solid foundation for a New India.

He said that "Swachhata Park" was also being opened at Kufri in district Shimla. Apart from this, proposals for opening "Swachhata Cafes" from different areas of the State were being considered by the State Government, he added.

The Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Virender Kanwar said that the state Government has started this concept in an attempt to make the state polythene-free and clean, besides promoting sanitation which would provide employment opportunities to the youth and help in women empowerment.

Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Dr. Sandeep Bhatnagar thanked the Chief Minister for sparing his valuable time for inauguration of this Cafe.

Director, Rural Development Lalit Jain said that this Cafe has been opened as an unique experimental initiative, which was being operated by women self-help groups.

Local Pradhan Indu Vaidya said that last year the SHG earned an additional income of about Rs 40,000 in fairs, festivals and public forums.

MLA Doon Parmjeet Singh Pammi, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister J.C. Sharma were present at Shimla with the Chief Minister whereas former MLA K.L. Thakur was present at Nalagarh.

Dalai Lama extends birthday greetings to PM Modi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 17 SEPTEMBER



"It is my earnest hope that the international community working together will be able to contain its spread before long and that suitable vaccines will be developed soon.

In India, the Central and state authorities are doing whatever they can to alleviate difficulties the public face. I would like to convey my deep appreciation of the

appropriate measures you have taken to meet the enormous challenges that this crisis has brought about," he added.

He further stated that in addition to threats to their health, mental as well as physical, people all over the world are confronted by loss of livelihood while the education of the children has been interrupted.

These circumstances have brought about anxiety and a

deep sense of unease, especially among many ordinary people.

"People frequently ask me how to cope with the array of challenges before them. I suggest looking at each problem from different angles in a realistic way.

I keep in mind the advice of the 8th century Indian scholar Shantideva, who recommended examining whether the problem we face could be solved.

If there is a solution, what we must do is work to put it into effect and if there is not, continuing to worry about it is a waste of time," he said.

He added he was convinced that in uncertain times like these, the age-old Indian practice of non-violent conduct, backed by a compassionate motivation was not only relevant but also necessary if we were to move forward in a calm and collected way.

While wishing a very happy birthday to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said that the nation and the state was blessed to have Narendra Modi for guiding the nation



TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD, Dhami on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in two Cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender (In Rs.)	Eligible class of Contractor	Time Allowed
1. Route line maintenance (PBMC) of Shimla-Mandi Road via Tattapani km. 6/00 to 33/300 (Portion Dhali to Deviha).	Rs. 39,181/-	Rs. 66,500/-	Rs. 1500/-	Class-C	Twelve Months
2. Route line maintenance (PBMC) of Shoghi Mehli road km. 0/00 to 12/375 for the period of one year (Portion Shoghi to Lalpani Bridge).	Rs. 11,77,828/-	Rs. 23,600/-	Rs. 500/-	Class-D	Twelve Months
3. Construction of Shakoi-Koti-Hanuman Mandir road km. 0/00 to 1/450 (SH:- Providing metalling and tarring, Retaining Walls and RCC Hume pipe culvert 600mm dia in km. 1/560 to 1/960, Formation cutting 5/7 mtrs wide including Retaining Walls and Breast Walls, X-drainage work, P/L soiling, V-shape drain, PCC Parapets, Metalling and Tarring). (Under NABARD RIDF-XXI)	Rs. 20,66,689/-	Rs. 38,500/-	Rs. 500/-	Class-D	Three Months
4. Construction of Bag-Paharia Newhat road km. 0/00 to 4/500 (SH:- Providing metalling and tarring, R/walls and RCC Hume pipe culvert 600 mm dia in km. 1/560 to 1/960).	Rs. 9,89,655/-	Rs. 19,800/-	Rs. 500/-	Class-D	Three Months

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

3. Key Dates:-

1. Date of Online Publication	28-09-2020 18:00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	28-09-2020 18:30 HRS up to 11-10-2020 17:00 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	28-09-2020 18:30 HRS up to 11-10-2020 17:00 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	12-10-2020 10:30 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	12-10-2020 11:00 HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS:-

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in two cover.

(i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information".

(ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:- The bidders are required to submit copy of (a) cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (c) Form 7-8 and (d) Affidavits to the authorized official of Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD Dhami H.P in the office of the Superintending Engineer, 4th Circle HPPWD Shimla-3. In their interest the linkers are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

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

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

Executive Engineer
Shimla Rural Division,
H.P.P.W.D. Dhami
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

3086/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e -Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Eligible class of Contractor	Time Allowed
1. Ordinary repair to Nahari Do-Sarka Sarahan Kumarhatti road on NH 907A Km 0/0 to 78/0 (SH:- Construction of PCC retaining wall at RD 58/886 to 58/903).	Rs. 8,26,988/- only	17,000/- only	350/-	Class "C & "D"	2 Months
2. 1. Ordinary repair to Nahari Do-Sarka Sarahan Kumarhatti road on NH 907A Km 0/0 to 78/0 (SH:- Construction of PCC retaining wall at RD 58/886 to 58/903).	Rs. 8,26,988/- only	17,000/- only	350/-	Class "C & "D"	2 Months

1. The Executive Engineer HPPWD NH Division Nahari Distt. Sirmour(H.P) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with PWD Department.

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

3. Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	30-09-2020 at 1600 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	30-09-2020 at 1630 HRS to 29-10-2020 up to 1700 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	30-09-2020 at 1630 HRS to 29-10-2020 up to 1700 HRS
4. Physical Submission of (i)EMD (ii) Cost of Tender Document	30-10-2020 up to 1100 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening:	30-10-2020 up to 1100 HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover.

Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".

Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:- The bidders are required to submit copy of (a) cost of bid document submitted online and (b) cost of Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) submitted online in the O/o Executive Engineer, HPPWD NH Division Nahari H.P as specified in Key dates at Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS:- The bids shall be opened on 30.10.2020 at 1100 HRS in the office of Executive, Engineer HPPWD NH Division Nahari H.P. by the authorized officers. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

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

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

9. All rates quoted by contractors shall be inclusive of all modes of leads, lifts & heights and also taxes/levies unless specified to the contrary including service tax as applicable w.e.f. 1st April, 2015 as per Government of India, Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification No. 6/2015-Service tax dated 1st March, 2015. All the excavated/surplus earth/damslant material/waste etc. shall be dumped at the site to be arranged by the contractor unless otherwise specified to the contrary and to the satisfaction of Engineer-in-Charge.

10. The provisions of notification issued vide Add. Chief Secretary (PW) to the Govt. of HP, Shimla Notification No. PBW(B)22/1-2002 dated 26.05.2015 shall also be applicable.

11. The provision of notification issued vide Add. Chief Secretary (PW) to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla notification No. PBW(B)C(17)/2012 dated 07.08.2018 shall also be applicable.

Executive Engineer
HPPWD NH Division Nahari
Distt Sirmour H.P on behalf of
Governor of Himachal Pradesh
Tel/Fax: 0172-222202

3112/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Telephone No: 01782-233017, e-mail: ee-ram-hp@nic.in NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tender(s) on PWD form No. 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, B&R Division, HPPWD, Rampur Distt. Shimla (HP) on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from registered contractors in HPPWD (B&R) in appropriate class so as to reach in this office on 08.10.2020 upto 10:30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 A.M. The presence of contractors or their authorized representative who wish to be present at that time. The application for obtaining the tender form will be received on 06.10.2020 between 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The tender form can be had from this office against cash payment (Non-refundable) on 07.10.2020 between 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Time Deposit Account/ Saving Account of the Post office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, B&R Division, HP. PWD, Rampur Bushahr Distt. Shimla H.P must accompany with the tender form. Ambiguous/ Telegraphically/conditional tenders or tender by FAX shall not be entertained/considered in any case. The tenders without earnest money shall be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 90 days. The Executive Engineer, B&R Division, HP.PWD, Rampur Bushahr reserve the right to reject/accept any offer of tender without assigning any reasons.

WORK No-1 S/R on Link road to village Kotla Khunni road Km 0/000 to 6/000 (SH:- C/O B/wall to protect private orchard of Sh. Bhuvnesh Dhangal village Shahdhar at RD 4/165 to 4/195) ESTIMATED COST Rs.1,77,321/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.3,600/- TIME LIMIT One month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-2 R/R damages on Rampur Gaura Mashnoo Sarahan Jeori road Km. 0/000 to 61/000 (SH:- P/L WBM G-II, G-III and 20mm thick premix carpet in patches in Km. 40/000 to 49/000) ESTIMATED COST Rs.2,51,338/- EARNEST MONEY 5,100/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-3 R/R damages on Rampur Gaura Mashnoo Sarahan Jeori road Km. 0/000 to 61/000 (SH:- P/L WBM G-II, G-III and 20mm thick premix carpet in patches in Km. 45/000 to 49/000) ESTIMATED COST Rs.2,51,748/- EARNEST MONEY 5,100/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-4 Special Repair to CHC building at Taklech Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (SH:- C/O septic tank at CHC building at Taklech) ESTIMATED COST Rs.1,95,327/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.4,000/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-5 Up gradation of Dohri road to Sarahan Bazar Km. 0/000 to 1/100 (SH:- C/O Rigid pavement in Km. 0/000 to 1/100) ESTIMATED COST Rs.2,52,145/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.5,100/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-6 R/R damages on Bhanrunder, Dhai Barkeli road Km. 0/000 to 5/550 (SH:- C/O B/wall at RD 2/285 to 2/300) ESTIMATED COST Rs.1,54,557/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.3,200/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-7 C/O 5/7 mtr. Wide road from Jai Durga Mata Temple Bahli to Govt. orchard Bahli Km. 0/000 to 1/150 (SH:- P/L Kharanja stone soiling in various reaches) ESTIMATED COST Rs.1,4,640/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.2,300/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-8 A/R & M/O Circle Office Complex at Rampur (SH:- C/O R/Wall wire crate R/wall at RD 2/390 to 2/412) ESTIMATED COST Rs.2,64,702/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.6,000/- TIME LIMIT Two Months COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-9 C/O Bhegta Sharai road Km. 0/000 to 3/520 (SH:- C/O R/Wall wire crate R/wall at RD 2/390 to 2/412) ESTIMATED COST Rs.2,64,702/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.6,000/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-10 A/R & M/O Bhadrash Brandli road Km. 0/000 to 34/090 (SH:- P/L WBM G-III and Repair to pot holes in Km. 20/000 to 28/000) ESTIMATED COST Rs.4,31,174/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.8,600/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-11 R/R damages on Gharat Sarahan road Km. 0/000 to 5/000 (Portion Km. 0/000 to 5/000) (SH:- C/O R/wall at RD 3/495 to 3/510) ESTIMATED COST Rs.2,03,682/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.4,000/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-12 R/R damages on Barach Bavat road Km. 0/000 to 9/700 (SH:- C/O R/wall at RD 7/205 to 7/217) ESTIMATED COST Rs.1,48,593/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.3,000/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-13 R/R damages on Rampur Gaura Mashnoo Sarahan Jeori road Km. 0/000 to 61/000 (SH:- C/O R/wall in wire crate at RD 46/525 to 46/540) ESTIMATED COST Rs.4,31,104/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.6,000/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-14 R/R damages on Nogli Taklech road Km. 0/000 to 14/000 (Portion Km. 0/000 to 5/000) (SH:- C/O R/wall at RD 3/495 to 3/510) ESTIMATED COST Rs.2,03,682/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.4,000/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

WORK No-15 S/P repair to Horticulture Sub Division Nirthi Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (SH:- Painting Distemping and other repair work etc.) ESTIMATED COST Rs.2,74,746/- EARNEST MONEY Rs.5,500/- TIME LIMIT One Month COST OF FORM Rs. 350/-

I was shocked when I learnt about the Supreme Court's stay order. The decision is rare because the act had been upheld by the state high court

BJP LEADER DEVENDRA FADNAVIS

ON THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION TO STAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARATHA RESERVATION ACT

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



A health worker wearing a PPE suit collects a swab sample from a woman for Covid-19 test at a public health centre in Hyderabad on Thursday. AFP

Making medicine affordable: India has set a target to increase the affordable medicine shops PMBJK (Pradhanmantri Janashadi Kendras) to 10,500 by March 2025 so as to ensure easy reach of affordable medicine. SNS

Bilquis Shah an accused in terror-funding: The Enforcement Directorate has made Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah's wife Bilquis Shah an accused in a 2005 money laundering case and reported hawala dealer Mohammad Aslam Wani for alleged terror financing to cause unrest in J&K PTI

PDP leader freed from detention: PDP leader and former minister Naeem Akhtar on Thursday said he has been set free by Jammu and Kashmir authorities after 407 days in custody since the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year. Thank you rulers for small mercies while you inflict larger tragedies on our land, the PDP leader said in a sarcastic tweet PTI

Gadkari undergoes medical checkup: Union minister Nitin Gadkari, who has tested positive for coronavirus infection, on Thursday underwent medical check-up in Nagpur. The senior BJP leader visited a medical facility in the morning and was in good health, a source close to him said. PTI

Union minister from MP tests Covid positive

BHOPAL, 17 SEPTEMBER

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Prabhat Singh Patel (60) informed on Thursday that he has tested positive for Covid-19.

The minister said he received his positive report on Wednesday night. Patel is from Madhya Pradesh and represents the Damoh Lok Sabha constituency in MP. BJP MLA from Bahoribandi assembly constituency in MP, Pranay Prabhakar Pandey also tested covid positive.

Former finance minister Tarun Bhambhani was readmitted to a hospital in Jabalpur on Wednesday, after he again felt unwell, two days after being discharged from a hospital after undergoing treatment for Covid-19. Bhambhani had tested corona positive on 6 September. He was subsequently admitted to a hospital from where he was discharged two days ago. However, he has been readmitted after he complained of feeling unwell. Former BJP MLA from Chhattarpur in MP, Umesh Shukla also tested positive.

Former UP CM responding to treatment: Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh is responding well to the treatment for Covid-19 and should recover fully in four to five days, the hospital in Kaushambi where he is admitted said on Thursday. Singh, 88, was on Wednesday airlifted to Ghaziabad's private Yashoda Super-Specialty Hospital from Lucknow's Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute (SGPGI) of Medical Sciences at his family's request. His health is much better than yesterday, said Dr Ankit Sinha, one of the physicians treating Singh said. SNS&PTI

Cong protests in Parl on farm Bills

Says Bills defeat purpose of Green Revolution and will be 'a death knell for the future of farming'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

The Congress on Thursday said the farm sector legislations brought in by the government defeats the purpose of the Green Revolution and will be "a death knell for the future of farming" as it alleged that the Modi dispensation, akin to the coronavirus pandemic, was attacking lives and livelihood of farmers.

Opposing the bills, Congress MPs staged a protest in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Parliament Complex and raised slogans against the government.

Some Congress MPs from Punjab also burnt copies of the farm bills brought in by the government inside the Parliament Complex.

The Congress is opposed to the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 that the NDA government has pro-

Onion export ban akin to surgical strike on farmers, says NCP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 17 SEPTEMBER

The Narendra Modi government at the Centre has conducted a surgical strike on farmers by banning onion export, the NCP alleged on Thursday and demanded reversal of the move.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) spokesperson Mahesh Tapase termed the decision as *Tughlaqi* (not carefully thought out) as it deprived onion growers of a good price for their produce at a time when there was an increasing demand for the commodity in the international market.

The NCP is a key con-

stituent in the MVA government in Maharashtra, a major producer of onion in the country. The Centre on Monday banned the export of all varieties of onions with immediate effect, a move aimed at increasing availability and curbing prices of the commodity in the domestic market.

Speaking to reporters here, Tapase also said the party will try to give justice to ex-serviceman Sonu Mahajan, who was allegedly thrashed by BJP MP Unmesh Patil and his supporters four years ago.

Tapase was accompanied by other party spokespersons such as Sanjay Takare and Clyde Crasto on the occasion.

posed in Parliament during the ongoing monsoon session, replacing the ordinances issued by it earlier.

Congress MPs Jasbir Singh

Goyal, Ravneet Singh Bittu, Gurjot Singh Aujla and Amar Singh burnt copies of the bills and said they will oppose the proposed legislations tooth and

nail. They also wore black robes, saying "I am a farmer and farm labourer and don't betray me".

Addressing a joint press

"The Centre has conducted a surgical strike on farmers in Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country by banning onion export," Tapase charged. The NCP leader said party president Sharad Pawar had on Tuesday flagged the concerns before Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

Goyal, Tapase added, had assured farmers through Pawar that the Centre will take positive steps. It has been four days since the decision was taken, but Centre has not reconsidered it yet. "As a result, the issue is a burning one now," he added, referring to protests by farmers on the issue in the state.

farmers and farm labourers have been agitating across India and over 250 farmers organisations are sitting in dharna, on hunger strikes and are demonstrating across the length and breadth of India.

conference at the Vijay Chowk, Congress leaders Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Randeep Surjewala and Gaurav Gogoi alleged it was a 'conspiracy' of the Centre to defeat the Green Revolution.

"The Modi government is akin to Corona pandemic as it is attacking lives and livelihoods of farmers. It is attacking farmers and farm labourers and was bartering agriculture at the doorsteps of crony capitalists," they said in a joint statement.

"The draconian laws on agriculture will be a death knell for the future of farming in India," they said, alleging that the BJP-led government is hell-bent upon destroying the 'annadaata' farmer and was bartering the agriculture at the altar of a handful of crony capitalists.

Surjewala claimed 62 crore farmers and farm labourers are agitating across India and over 250 farmers organisations are sitting in dharna, on hunger strikes and are demonstrating across the length and breadth of India.

J&K DGP visits LoC to assess counter-infiltration grid

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 17 SEPTEMBER



Amidst detection of dumps of weapons for terrorists along the Line of Control (LoC) and infiltration bids, the J&K DGP Dilbag Singh has visited the forward areas to have on the spot assessment of the counter-infiltration grid of the Army and BSF.

The DGP visited north Kashmir's strategic Kupwara sector through which the Pakistani agencies recently made several futile attempts to push trained terrorists into India. Dumps of arms and ammunition were also found hidden along the LoC.

The DGP stressed for further improving connect with residents of forward villages who could play the role of eyes and ears to counter terrorist activities. He visited the North Hill Headquarters 18th Sikhs Battalion in Kupwara district and Farkiani Brigade of Keran Sector and at North Hill Post by Colonel Kuldeep Karpe CO 18 Sikhs about the status of terrorist launchpads along the LoC, security situation on LoC, and hinterland.

Various measures for strengthening the security of the border grid and hinterland were

discussed threadbare. Appreciating the efforts of the units deployed in border areas in achieving better results on various fronts, the DGP said "Our troops are working day and night with full alertness and commitment and are successfully combating the menace of terrorism and providing a better security environment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir". He said that forces have to remain on constant vigil so that any attempt to disrupt peace in Jammu and Kashmir is effectively foiled.

Singh commended the forces for the robust anti-infiltration grid action against over ground workers, narcotics and weapon smuggling. SNS

Army chief reviews security situation in LoC

JAMMU, 17 SEPTEMBER

General MM Naravane, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on Thursday reviewed the situation along the Line of Control (LoC) after reaching Srinagar on two days visit.

The COAS proceeded to undertake a firsthand assessment of the situation along the LoC in North Kashmir. During his interaction with the soldiers deployed in high altitude areas, he appreciated their high morale and complimented them on their response to Pakistan ceasefire violations.

He also commended use of technology to ensure effective surveillance across the LoC which has resulted in many successful operations to foil infiltration bids from POJK in the recent past.

Naravane reinforced the need to extend all support to civilians residing in the border areas who are victims of targeted ceasefire violations by Pakistan Army.

Tribal killing probe may end political slugfest in Chh'garh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, 17 SEPTEMBER

Chauhan demanding a high-level probe into the tribal man's killing.

The Congress aided by leftists activists and Adivasi Mahasabha cornered the BJP led MP government for the killing of the tribal.

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Anant Raj Limited is pleased to inform that the "Group Housing at Khasra No. 8/26/2, Village Kapasera, Tehsil Vasant Vihar, New Delhi has been accorded with Environmental Clearance vide Ref. No. F. No. 21-42/2020-A-II dated 24.08.2020 from Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India. The copies of the clearance letters are available with the Ministry of Environment & Forests and can also be seen on their website www.envfor.nic.in

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Head Clerk -01, Clerk - cum - Typist -01, Data Entry Operator & Computer Operator -01, Librarian -01, Junior Librarian - 01, Office - cum - Account Assistant -01, Store Keeper -01, Technical Assistant -01, Laboratory Attendant -02, Qualification, Experience & Salary as per norms of NCTE/Haryana Govt./MDU, Rohtak, Apply & give full particulars within 21 days from the date of publication of advertisement to the President of the College & one copy of the application must be sent to Dean College Development Council, MDU, Rohtak also.

President, Governing body

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one boy name Puneet S/o Babu Lal, R/o C-411, Mohan Gali, Nanak Chand Basti, KM Pur, New Delhi. Age - 16 Years, Height 5'2", Face Long, Complexion- Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue Shirt and Black Short has been missing since 19.09.2015 from the area of PS Kotla Mubarakpur, Delhi. In this regard a vide FIR No. 1057/15 dated 19.09.2015 at PS

Kotla Mubarakpur, Delhi

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

Web-site <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cib@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax.: 011-24368639
DP/160/SD/2020

SHO

P.S. Kotla Mubarakpur, Delhi

Ph: 011-24624825, 24620106,
8750870828

INTRODUCTION OF A SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN ANAND VIHAR AND SITAMARHI ON THE ROUTE OF LICHCHIVI EXPRESS

This is notified for the information of passengers that Railways have decided to run a Special train no. 04006/04005 to run between Anand Vihar and Sitamarhi stations. The inaugural run of Sitamarhi-Railway station at 11.00 hrs. with a specific train no. 05509. The regular run of the above special train will be as per detail given below:-

Train No.	Station from - Station to	Frequency	Date of Commencement	Timing & Stoppages* En Route
04006	Anand Vihar (T) - Sitamarhi	Daily	From 19.09.2020	SAME AS 14005/14006 Lichchivi Express EXCEPT
04005	Sitamarhi - Anand Vihar (T)	Daily	From 21.09.2020	Cchhapra Kacheri, Chainwa, Jiradei & Dullahapur stations (withdrawn)

*LIST OF STOPPAGES:

Runnisaidpur, Muzaffarpur Jn., Goraul, Bhagwanpur, Hajipur Jn., Sonpur, Parmanandpur, Nayagaon, Sitalpur, Dighwara, Awatarnagar, Bara Gopal, Dumri Juara, Goldinganj, Chhapra, Ekma, Duraundha Jn., Siwan Jn., Mairwa, Bhatpar Rani, Bhatni Jn., Salempur Jn., Lar Road, Belthara Road, Mau Jn., Jakhian, Sarnath, Varanasi, Bhulanpur, Madhosingh, Gyanpur Road, Prayagraj Rambag, Prayagraj Jn., Kanpur Central, Aligarh Jn., Khurja Jn., Chipana Buzurg and Ghaziabad Stations.

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Sushant not a Rajput, they don't hang themselves: RJD MLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, 17 SEPTEMBER



Actor Sushant Singh Rajput is not a Rajput as those belonging to Maratha Prataps clan do not die by suicide, RJD MLA Arun Yadav has said, triggering a controversy.

Hitting out, the JD(U) and BJP asked Yadav to apologise to the people of Bihar and Sushants fans for the casteist comment.

The Last Rites

Calcutta High Court has stepped in to set right a decidedly inhumane attitude towards those who have perished on account of coronavirus. Wednesday's order (coram: TBN Radhakrishnan, CJ; and Arijit Banerjee, J) has, albeit belatedly, directed the West Bengal government to hand over bodies of Covid victims to next of kin to enable them to perform the last rites. This is as it should be in a civilised society. As often as not in West Bengal, the end has been nothing short of inhuman. The health department and hospitals have been remarkably insensitive towards deaths. Bodies have either been dumped in the vast garbage vat in Dhaba, or placed on a hospital bed next to a patient undergoing treatment, or driven away in an ambulance along with other casualties. The last happened very recently in Calcutta Medical College and Hospital, a designated facility to treat Covid patients. In all these cases, the families were not informed about the end. At CMC, the father of a 13-year-old girl ran behind the ambulance when he realised that his daughter was among the victims inside the vehicle. It is fervently to be hoped that such instances of inhumanity will end in the wake of the High Court order. The Bench has underlined the fundamental certitudes. It is explicit on the point that "when the post mortem of the body is not required, it shall be handed over to the immediate next of kin of the deceased after completion of hospital formalities. The body should be secured in a bag so as to eliminate/minimise the risk to those transporting the casualty". Members of the family and acquaintances have been allowed to accompany the body to the crematorium/burial ground. A measure of empathy on the final day has thus been restored by the court. "Religious rituals, such as reading from religious texts, sprinkling of holy water, offering grains and other last rites that do not require touching of the body should be allowed." Regrettably, the response of hospital authorities has been remarkably insensitive with coronavirus deaths, and almost consistently so. The death certificate doesn't always reaffirm Covid as the cause and the circumstances are allowed to remain in a bubble of fake news and untruth. As happened on 10 May with the death of the distinguished historian, Professor Hari Vasudevan. He was certified to have passed away on account of "chronic ailments". In the net, such doctored death certificates ~ crafted on instructions from on high ~ are designed to dumb down the casualty figures. The High Court order is reported to have been issued in response to a petition that alleged the government was not handing over bodies to members of the family "only to suppress the figure of total deaths from coronavirus". If we can live with lockdowns at short notice and assorted other curbs, surely we can live with the truth.

Science Debunked

Donald Trump has accorded a novel spin to his bizarre perception of coronavirus and climate change. The controversies around the American Head of State have thus deepened. In the process, he has debunked the discipline of science for his reckoning. Americans ought not to put "much stock in scientific consensus". He prefers to address the most intractable and urgent problems with the promise that these will simply vanish. Yes, he does have promises to keep and miles to go before the United States recovers from the pandemic as the country approaches the grim milestone of 200,000 deaths ~ a devastation that has few parallels in history. He has made his disparaging observation in the context of climate change, the other critical issue that engulfs the world today. His contention was described as "magical thinking" as he dismissed a suggestion that the dozens of fires raging across the West, most destructively in California, could be related to climate change caused by humans. Although 2020 is on track to be one of the hottest years on record, the President sounded delusory when he told a meeting in California that "it will start getting cooler. You just watch." The comity of nations, developed as well as developing, shall not concur. Hence the prompt rebuttal by California's secretary for natural resources ~ "I wish science agreed with you." Double think runs wild. From what he told veteran journalist Bob Woodward in February, the President knew the virus was far more dangerous than what he was telling the country. Had Trump been more honest about the threat, he might have reaped a fair measure of goodwill and support. He could also have put in place a widespread testing regimen, as other countries did. Instead, the President continues to display scant regard for safety measures. On Sunday night, he held an indoor rally in Nevada, where thousands of his supporters packed a warehouse, ignoring a state order limiting such gatherings to 50 people. "We are already making the turn. We're making that round, beautiful, last turn" to a post-pandemic future, Trump told the generally mask-free crowd. The grim reality in America runs counter to such contrived expressions of electoral optimism. In the immediate aftermath of Trump's debunking of science, the USA's oldest monthly magazine, Scientific American, has debunked the President ~ "The evidence and the science show that Donald Trump has badly damaged the US and its people because he rejects evidence and science. The most devastating example is his dishonest and inept response to the pandemic, which killed more than 190,000 Americans by the middle of September. He has also attacked environmental protections, medical care, and the researchers and public science agencies that help this country prepare for its greatest challenges." But if the thumping support he receives from his followers is an indication, the White House is not the only place where the unscientific American resides.

Patriot with a Difference

Girish Chandra Ghosh was revolutionary in his endeavour to transform theatre from a medium of private entertainment of the well-to-do to a public enterprise with a view to infusing patriotism among all and sundry

He was a dramatist who wrote and staged dramas to awaken national feelings. His plays were, therefore, a crusade against the imperialist British. He walked an unbeaten path and became iconic by his carefully wrought works of literature. Besides, he also left a mark by his legendary transformation under the influence of Sri Ramakrishna.

Calcutta was then mesmerized by the British. Its rich and enlightened, accordingly, praised British rule and carped at everything indigenous. They were blind to the miseries of the masses and hyper-critical of their religion and culture.

Meanwhile, Girish Chandra Ghosh (1844-1912) appeared in the arena of Calcutta theatre as a rebel and proved his worth sailing against the current as well as the sloppy intellectuals who abhorred him deliberately. He drew actors from sex workers for both male and female roles. A great social reformer like Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (1820-1891) had also criticised his initiative.

Leftist scholar and theatre personality Utpal Datta (1923-1994) wrote that Girish could be not only counted among the great dramatists of India, but some of his dramas are also of world standard. Datta said: "He is at times full of the Epic Theatre of Bertolt Brecht in the modern time. He sometimes experimentally applies Expressionism even before the advent of German Expressionism. In delineating the complex nature of human character and in manifesting controversies he is again sometimes worthy student of Shakespeare."

He lamented that Girish did not receive good reviews in spite of his extraordinary attainments. Scathing remarks by Prof. Sukumar Sen on the works of Girish Chandra Ghosh hit him hard enough to say that Sen's study of Girish was superficial.

Girish was revolutionary in his endeavour to transform theatre from a medium of private entertainment of the well-to-do to a public enterprise with a view to infusing patriotism among all and sundry. He rebuilt its management employing and empowering people who were otherwise repulsive to prudes.

He fundamentally wrote and showed those plays which carried the message of patriotism and exposed traitors, renegades and quislings. For instance, he staged Michael Madhusudan Datta's *Meghnad Bodh* in 1877, himself acting as both Rama and Bibhisana with huge success, though with no appreciation from the *Bhadralok* community. Madhusudan and Girish indicated an imperative fight for independence by their emphatic use of the term *janmabhumi* in the scenes of Lanka.

Girish's *Jana* was of the same sentiment and spirit. His *Srajadula* and *Mirkashim* were squarely anti-British. Aspects of British atrocity vis-a-vis peaceful living of Hindus in the Muslim peri-



od came in again and again. By virtue of its content Sirajuddula developed into a patriotic "slogans". Girish in that way preached Hindu-Muslim unity to ordinary people who usually thronged his shows.

Creating a contrary currency, British merchants destroyed Indian stockholders and established their monopoly in the Indian market. *Mirkashim* was written in this context. Girish

made the issue of unequal economic battle more powerful. Such a theme had never been conceptualized in Bengali plays before him. Hence, he was an original playwright who demonstrated how British merchants had converted the *masnad* of Bengal into a commodity to buy and sell in order to consolidate their position surreptitiously.

A remarkably advanced political thought was available in his play *Chanda*. Commitment to one's own country and argumentative religious awareness were its hallmark. Its conclusion was a firm rejection of fatalism and acceptance of the individual's exclusive right to judgment and leadership. There was a living picture of fright and panic in the country when people's fundamental rights were taken away. It was amazing that he could produce an extremely progressive play like that as early as in 1890.

It was significant that thieves, beggars and prostitutes, who lagged behind in the race for existence and were considered the scum of society, appeared repeatedly in his plays. *Karmeti Bai* happened to be another popular social play by him which demonstrated how thirst for money had plagued society, garbling love for the country. Those

who were indulging in money-making immorally, multiplying sufferings of the poor and vulnerable, were denuded by him.

He suspected he was perhaps incurring the wrath of the British by dint of his plays and that a retaliatory ban on theatre might befall him because of the connivance of his detractors. To safeguard theatre he, therefore, intelligently prepared some small plays eulogizing Queen Victoria as well.

Girish's viewpoint regarding superstition sprang from his perception of *Vedanta*. So, he never called the superstitious uncivilised (*asavaya*) as the high-brow, English-educated did. He wrote rather with sympathy and respect for them, pointing out the detrimental effects of superstition. His plays were, by and large, on social problems in the garb of Puranic tales. He thus reinstated the value of ancient literature and educated illiterate viewers simultaneously.

The mainstay of Girish's plays was dharma. He propagated Religion Eternal (*sanatana dharma*) from the domain of the theatre, fighting the religious reformations that aped the missionaries who preached with ulterior motives. His religious plays such as Prahlad Charitra, Sankaracharya, Billamangal, Buddha Charit and Chaitanya Lila took him to the peak of his fame.

Sri Ramakrishna was very impressed by his *Chaitanya Lila*, which he saw at the Star Theatre on 20 September 1884. He wholeheartedly gave recognition to theatre, saying it was a productive medium for mass education and urged Girish to continue.

Girish was ahead of his time. He was a follower of Ishwar

Gupta (1812-1859) who wrote poems to arouse people from ignorance and torpidity. Girish was a vastly read and a highly knowledgeable person. His erudition spanned a wide range of subjects. He learnt Sanskrit and English proficiently though he was not educated beyond school. He wrote as many as 80 plays. He translated *Macbeth* into Bengali and wrote poems excellently. He applied a new *amitrakshar* type metre which later came to be known as Girish-Chanda. He was also a good homoeopath who had treated many serious patients successfully.

However, Girish was so unhappy in his personal life. Relentless personal tragedies shattered him and made him a non-believer ultimately and as a result, he became reckless and hedonistic. But in his heart, he was an ardent devotee (*bhakta*), from where he wrote plays overflowing with the essence of devotion (*bhaktirasa*).

Observing that Sri Ramakrishna accepted him as his close disciple, Girish's misconduct and misbehaviour had no impact on him. Girish was badly repentant and described himself as the worst "sinner" for his hauteur. Sri Ramakrishna told him that one who harped on sin was a real sinner. He then said to Girish: "How can you say that? Suppose a light is brought in a room that has been dark a thousand years; does it illumine the room little by little or all in a flash?"

Skilfully chiselling and modelling him by his razor-sharp spiritual acumen, Sri Ramakrishna shaped him into a wonder. Looking at the unprecedented change he had undergone, Girish used to tell others to watch him in order to be able to understand how immensely great Sri Ramakrishna was.

Girish's friendship with Swamiji was dearly deep. From the very beginning he was with him as a benefactor of the Ramakrishna Order. He spent the rest of his life in close association with the monks of Ramakrishna Mission. His love and devotion for Sarada Devi was boundless.

Utpal Datta correctly saw Girish inextricably linked to Ramakrishna and Vivekananda in his thought and action. According to him: "Humanistic interpretation of Vedanta came from Ramakrishna-Vivekananda.

Their advent took place due to the urgency of modern time. Society created such traditional yet totally new interpreters like them because of its own requirement." Girish, he believed, had exhibited that humanistic and democratic consciousness in his works. Today, scholars unequivocally acclaim Girish as an outstanding poet and playwright, while followers of Sri Ramakrishna, on the other hand, fondly remember him for his exceptional role in and contribution to the activities of the Ramakrishna Movement from its birth.

He could do so much because the love of God and love of motherland freely mingled in him and made him a patriot with a difference.

A MEMBER OF THE



Saving liberal democracy

I belong to a fortunate generation. Born in the United Kingdom in 1944, toward the end of a world war that killed between 70 million and 85 million people, I have neither been bombed nor had to fight on any battlefields.

I grew up in a country and continent that were at peace and thus able to enjoy the economic benefits of unprecedented cross-border cooperation. The West repelled the Soviet Union's military threat without conflict, thereby liberating its European empire to join the rest of a free continent.

In particular, Europe and other parts of the world benefitted from the leadership of the economically and militarily powerful United States. More important than America's hard power was the power of the ideas that it embraced, exemplified, and exported. The US was far from perfect, and it made mistakes. But overall, it set a prodigious example of generosity and demonstrated the boundless possibilities of well-ordered freedom.

The US system was pluralistic, democratic, and bound by law. As Alexis de Tocqueville had observed in the 1830s in his great book Democracy in America, the popular will was constrained by constitutional checks and by public behaviour and attitudes. The system was democratic, but liberal in the sense that it safeguarded individual and minority opinions and interests (with the admittedly significant constraint of white supremacy).

Others followed suit. Britain liked to give the impression that liberal

democracy was its own invention, and its greatest export. Even Karl Marx quietly admired Britain's parliamentary accountability, independent courts, and strong executive.

For more than a half-century after World War II, liberal democracy was on the march. The Soviet Union's brand of communism retreated and eventually collapsed, and dictators almost everywhere were threatened by the idea of freedom.

But one huge tyranny thrived and prospered. Following the Soviet Union's collapse, China, ruled by its own communist regime, resumed the economic status that came with being the world's most populous country, and took advantage of the open markets secured by the world's liberal democracies, with their belief in a cooperative international order.

As a young politician, I took the theories about good governance in open societies largely for granted. But when I served as governor of Hong Kong in the 1990s, I saw the benefits that flow from the rule of law, independent courts, freedom of speech, an open economy, and political pluralism in a new light. Governing a city largely inhabited by refugees from a communist dictatorship was a full-on tutorial in all those values that I had long assumed but not really thought through.

Now those values are being stripped from Hong Kong, as the Communist Party of China brazenly and enthusiastically begins to destroy it as a free and open society. The CPC's assault on Hong Kong's autonomy is not surprising, because the territory represents precisely those values that China's leaders regard as a threat to their rule.

Many western writers on India's struggle for freedom and its achievement in 1947 expressed the view that Gandhi's chanting in public the *Ramdhon* and the propagation of Ramraj were responsible for the partition of the country. M A Jinnah, the creator of Pakistan, was earlier a staunch activist of the Indian National Congress. He was led to believe by separatist leaders that once the British went away, the position of Muslims in a Hindu India would become unsafe. He was convinced and went ahead with the agenda and succeeded in clinching Pakistan, a Muslim state ab initio.

HINDU IMAGE

SIR, Who can forget how on June 19 the Prime Minister told an all-party meeting four days after 20 Indian soldiers were killed by the Chinese at Galwan Valley in

PM failed to name China or even Ladakh and merely called upon members to express solidarity with the soldiers guarding the borders.

and said that India is prepared to deal with all contingencies.

But he neither disclosed

how much India-claimed

territory had been occupied

by the Chinese (PLA is said

to be occupying nearly 1,000

sq km) in Ladakh, nor clarify

PM Modi's "no-intrusion"

claim.

People expected that in

the people's temple, Mr

Singh would at least clarify

why India did not demand

restoration of status quo

during talks between the

foreign ministers in Moscow

last week.

The people are also

afraid that the government

may try to wriggle out of the

dispute with a give-and-take

approach.

As per media reports

there were four days of fir-

ing between August 27 and

September 7 near a strategic

mountain pass in eastern

Ladakh. He applauded the armed forces

for their patience and resol-

ve, their courage and valour,

the LAC on the Indian side.

Speaker Om Birla did not

allow any questions. The

minister's refusal to take

questions prompted the

Congress to stage a walkout

in protest.

It's shocking to those

free minded people whose

free press and electronic

media are silenced and

courts in tune with the

executive that now attempts

are being made to silence

Parliament.

All this has happened</p

SUDIP CHAKRABORTY

India had committed to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, set by the UN, by the year 2030. One of them pertains to achieving universal literacy. We have only ten years left to reach the goal. The task is challenging. Outbreak of Covid 19 has made it more challenging. Let us now look at the enormity of the task.

India has 31 crore illiterate people at present. However, the decadal census due next year will reveal the exact picture. For now, we may go by the figure released by the government recently. The next question is about definition of literacy. How can we say whether a person is literate or illiterate? One definition does the rounds in popular discourse. It says that any one capable of writing his or her name is literate. But this is far from the definition laid down by the UNESCO and accepted by all nations.

Now who is literate and who is not as per the universal definition? One is literate if he or she qualifies a test like the ongoing Covid test, positive or negative. Literacy test is conducted in three subjects simultaneously; reading, writing and arithmetic, 3Rs in brief. The pass mark is the basic competency expected to be attained by learners through four years of learning at primary level.

The figure of unlettered Indians published by the government is worrisome. It is a shame for a nation that calls itself the largest democracy on this planet. Democracy is not judged by the number of voters of a country. The yardstick of its success is judged by the numbers who vote as per their own informed decision and choice. Only education can shape judgments. Thus, mass universal literacy is the basic condition for ushering in real democracy. India aspires to emulate China and America in economic might. Prime Minister Modi has pledged to turn India into a \$5 trillion economy by 2024. This resolve sounds strange for our nation where one third of adult workers are still unlettered.

The economy runs on the back of nation's productive resources that include human resources. Unlettered workers tend to be unskilled. So, the latter can't contribute to production activities in the contemporary realities where technology is fast evolving.

Literacy mission must not get bogged down



Even skills gained earlier are getting obsolete. Basic education paves the way for gaining new skills. Thus, universal literacy must be the top priority for India now.

What did we do over more than seven decades so far? All five-year plans since the first one in 1951 have been providing financial allocation, setting targets, laying out modus operandi and emphasising the role of literacy programmes in national development. But a successful literacy drive eluded the nation. The fundamental reason for the failure was its bureaucratic functioning, like any government programme that characterizes a top-down model. Mass people's involvement was absent.

The Union government realized the lacuna in 1988 and thought of turning the literacy drive into a popular movement. So, the National Lit-

eracy Mission, NLM, came into being that year. It has been a story of mixed success; some states in southern India did a god job while many states in the north lagged behind. The Union government thought of another strategy out of its experience with NLM.

A new programme was introduced in 2009. It was named as Saakshar Bharat Mission, SBM. This mission employed 1.65 lakh PRERAKS, collectors, to bring all illiterate adults to a centre nearest to their homes for attainment of basic learning in 3Rs. This mission provides for at least 300 days attendance and learning by all adults at those centres spread over the four-year period usually required for primary schooling. These adult learners after attaining a basic competency in 3Rs could study up to VIII grade through open schooling system as an alternative to normal schooling. This

scheme ran up to 2018. The Modi government abrogated this scheme a few days back. So, there is a pause now in India's literacy drive. The Centre has mooted a new literacy scheme and has given it a new name. This change of name of the same programme is in line with the obsession with changing names. So SBM would be replaced by Padhna Likha Abhiyan, PLA. But now there is a policy vacuum and the literacy drive is suspended. Nobody knows when PLA would come into effect.

The SBM strategy made 7.6 crore Indians literate by 2018 by providing continuous learning. Now this continuity is halted. This huge success of SBM may slip again into illiteracy.

The PLA programme must consider following tasks to achieve the desired results. One, literacy drive should not be delayed even by a day.

Second, PLA must incorporate finer aspects of SBM in its framing and in implementation. Third, PLA should consider including digital literacy in a phased manner. Fourth, the Centre must decentralise PLA through involvement of the state governments and local governments including NGOs. Fifth, budgetary allocation must be enhanced for literacy drive. Sixth, the Centre must turn it into a popular movement instead of a government programme.

We have only ten years to achieve hundred per cent literacy as per our commitment to the United Nations. Failure to achieve this would be disgraceful for the largest democracy in the world.

The writer, a former Fulbright visiting Scholar, is Associate Professor in Economics, Ananda Chandra College, Jalpaiguri.

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

There is a strong suggestion of Sinn Fein tactics about the present condition of the Punjab as described by Colonel Frank Johnson after his most recent visit and subsequently to the release from jail of the leaders in the excesses of April, 1919. He was struck and shocked, he said, at the change which in three months had come over the conditions of social life in the Punjab. It was no exaggeration to say that there existed a reign of terror among those Indians who came to the Government's help in 1919. They were persecuted, penalised, ostracised and made social outcasts. The man who was loyal, together with his wife and children, was being practically boycotted. No one would buy their goods, or arrange marriages with their children. Last December, when Colonel Johnson left Lahore for England, more than forty grateful Indians saw him off. In July last only three met him. The rest preferred to come after dark because that was the only time when it was safe to do so. Thus is that racial equality and freedom being slowly established of which Mr. Montagu has made himself the glorious harbinger.

NEWS ITEMS

CALCUTTA TRAFFIC DANGERS

Some pertinent remarks regarding the danger from traffic in the streets of Calcutta were made on Saturday evening at a meeting held at the Scouts' Headquarters, Corporation Street, following an inspection of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas in India (Bengal centre), by the Deputy Commissioner, the Hon. Mr. W.M. Hailey. My experience of the streets of Calcutta is, said Mr. Hailey, that they are as dangerous to life as an ordinary campaign on the Frontier. He urged the necessity for the provision of ambulances. Col. Dear, Principal of the Medical College, also referred to the danger. He was glad Mr. Hailey had mentioned the matter, he said. Those who knew Calcutta for many years trembled to think of what might happen in years to come now that the old horse trams had been supplanted by electric trams while the old ticca gharries were replaced by motors and taxis.

THE WORLD'S SHIPBUILDING

Lloyd's statistics of merchant shipping show that 3,578,153 tons were being built in the United Kingdom at the end of June, an increase of 184,000 compared with March, and of 1,054,000 compared with last year. Ships begun during the quarter included many large vessels, of which 223 were ships of six thousand tons and upwards. Vessels of ten thousand tons and upwards numbered 63. The total merchant shipping built abroad amounted to 4,142,750 tons, a decrease of 405,000, due to the large decrease in tonnage being built in the United States. The figures for the Dominions show an increase of 36,000. The world's total was 7,720,904, a decrease of 22,100, compared with March.

KARACHI TROOP TRAIN DISASTER

With reference to the Karachi troop train disaster and the fresh Court of Inquiry accepted by Colonel Macnamara, Lord Sinha in the House of Lords said that certain witnesses now residing in England whom Colonel Macnamara had asked to proceed to India were unable to go for various reasons. The Secretary of State had no power to compel their attendance. Colonel Macnamara had been informed that their evidence could be taken on commission. This explained the delay.

Greater access to the world via the internet, but also through interactions with the global Iranian diaspora in the past 50 years, has generated new communities and forms of religious experience inside the country. A future disentangling of state power and religious authority would likely exacerbate these societal transformations. Iran as we know it is changing, in fundamental ways.

comparison, in a comprehensive survey conducted in 1975 before the Islamic Revolution, over 80 per cent said they always prayed and observed the fast.

We found that societal secularisation was also linked to a critical view of the religious governance system: 68 per cent agreed that religious prescriptions should be excluded from legislation, even if believers hold a parliamentary majority, and 72 per cent opposed the law mandating all women wear the hijab, the Islamic veil.

Iranians also harbour illiberal secularist opinions regarding religious diversity: 43 per cent said that no religions should have the right to proselytise in public. However, 41 per cent believed that every religion should be able to manifest in public.

Four decades ago, the Islamic Revolution taught sociologists that European-style secularisation is not followed universally around the world. The subsequent secularisation of Iran confirmed by our survey demonstrates that Europe is not exceptional either, but rather part of complex, global interactions between religious and secular forces.

Other research on population growth, whose decline has been linked to higher levels of secularisation, also suggests a decline in religiosity in Iran. In 2020, Iran recorded its lowest population growth, below 1 per cent.

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The writers are, respectively, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Utrecht University and Assistant Professor, Public Law and Governance, Tilburg University. This article was published on www.theconversation.com

Iranians may be turning secular

POOYAN TAMIMI ARAB AND AMMAR MALEKI

ber grows relentlessly: 70 per cent of adults are members of at least one social media platform.

For our survey on religious belief in Iran, we targeted diverse digital channels after analysing which groups showed lower participation rates in our previous large-scale surveys. The link to the survey was shared by Kurdish, Arab, Sufi and other networks. And our research assistant successfully convinced Shia pro-regime channels to spread it among their followers, too. We reached mass audiences by sharing the survey on Instagram pages and Telegram channels, some of which had a few million followers.

After cleaning our data, we were left with a sample of almost 40,000 Iranians living in Iran. The sample was weighted and balanced to the target population of literate Iranians aged above 19, using five demographic variables and voting behaviour in the 2017 presidential elections.

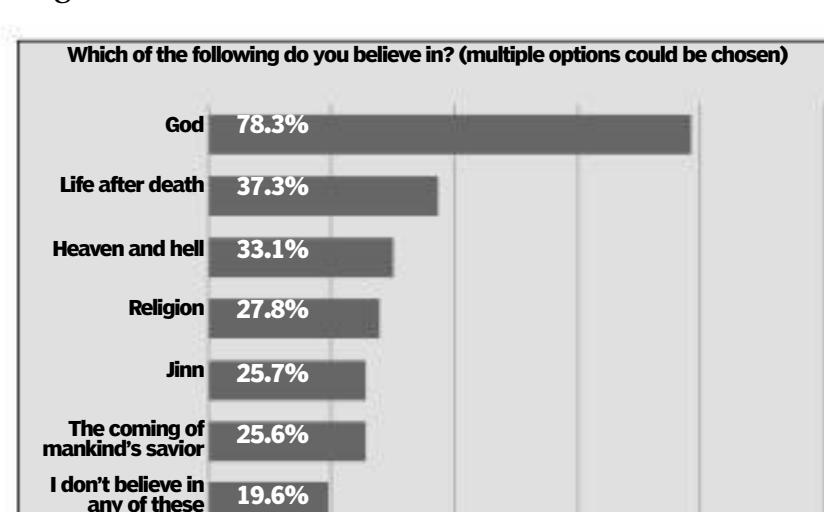
Our results reveal dramatic changes in Iranian religiosity, with an increase in secularisation and a diversity of faiths and beliefs. Compared with Iran's 99.5 per cent census figure, we found that only 40 per cent identified as Muslim.

In contrast with state propaganda that portrays Iran as a Shia nation, only 32 per cent explicitly identified as such, while 5 per cent said they were Sunni Muslim and 3 per cent Sufi Muslim. Another 9 per cent said they were atheists, along with 7 per cent who prefer the label of spirituality. Among the other selected religions, 8 per cent said they were Zoroastrians - which we interpret as a reflection of Persian nationalism and a desire for an alternative to Islam, rather than strict adherence to the Zoroastrian faith - while 1.5 per cent said they were Christian.

Since the revolution, literacy rates have risen sharply and the urban population has grown substantially. Levels of internet penetration in Iran are comparable to those in Italy, with around 60 million users and the num-



believe in life after death and only 30 per cent believe in heaven and hell. In line with other anthropological research, a quarter of our respondents said they believed in jinns or genies. Around 20 per cent said they did not believe in any of the options, including God.



These numbers demonstrate that a general process of secularisation, known to encourage religious diversity,

is taking place in Iran. An overwhelming majority, 90 per cent, described themselves as hailing from believing or practising religious families. Yet 47 per cent reported losing their religion in their lifetime, and 6 per cent said they changed from one religious orientation to another. Younger people reported higher levels of irreligiosity and conversion to Christianity than older respondents.

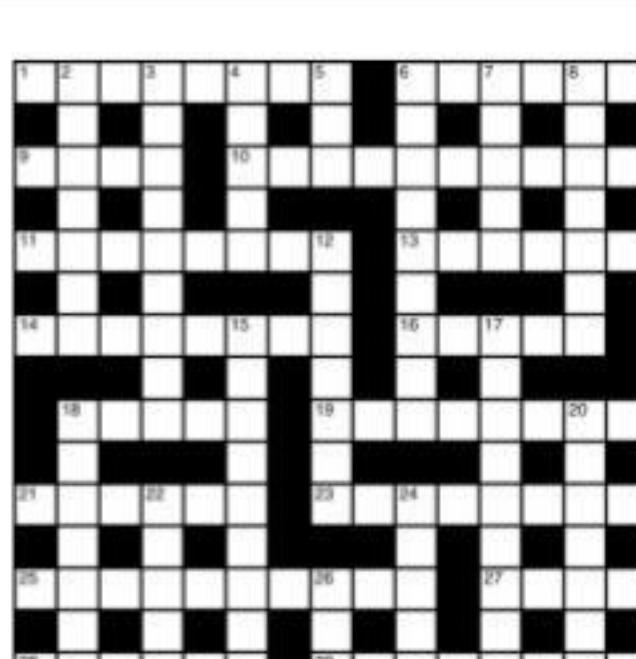
A third said they occasionally drank alcohol in a country that legally enforces temperance. Over 60 per cent said they did not perform the obligatory Muslim daily prayers, synchronous with a 2020 state-backed poll in

which 60 per cent reported not observing the fast during Ramadan (the majority due to being "sick"). In

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NO 28077

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- Timeless moments about big film showing requirements for climbers? (3,5)
- It's a rare angle to seek compliments with hesitation (6)
- Conclude university has been missed off a list (4)
- Newman covering US workers worried in greater detail (10)
- Amount pledged about minimum? On the contrary and quite wrong (8)
- Spain you once granted a small opening (6)
- Variable computer network (4)

DOWN

- returned, without modifications externally, in investigation (8)
- Forthright and mostly sad, not heartless (5)
- Top name – or should that be Smith? (5)
- Roundabout charge that's round about (8)
- Some work held over before insect repelled in Scottish village (6)
- One's not quite a cheat – sneakily manages to secure First in maths (8)
- Circulation of air, tireless, not requiring a purifier? (10)
- Dangerous hillside collapsed (4)
- Completely outclass film (4)

Answers

- Annoys son without good reason (8)
- Wild flower? Willing to go after one after scouting event (7)
- Point of order? That could be unpolitic (9)
- Waterway is source of chemical smell (5)
- Kent area, with unity of purpose, mostly in time (6)
- Less elevated book brought in supplied plot (6-3)
- Wad of material in confines of sleeve? One contributes to suit (5)
- I, for instance, may be

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

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Speaking at a meeting of the Council of the League of Nations Union, Lord Grey said he had hoped that the first meeting of the League would pass an unanimous resolution inviting Germany to become a member, but the attitude of the Germans at Spa left the impression in his mind that they had gone there to discover and exploit the weak points in the Treaty of Versailles, and to discover not how much but how little they could fulfil the Treaty. Before Germany could be admitted to the League she must satisfy us that she had shown good faith and done her best to carry out the Treaty. Lord Grey was, nevertheless, of opinion that the League could not realise its ideals without America, Germany, and Russia.



Covid-19 resulted in many disruptions but it also opened up new opportunities

MANISH KUMAR
MD AND CEO, NSDC

THUMBNAILS

China telecom equipment: More than 44 per cent mobile network equipment of state-run BSNL is sourced from Chinese firm ZTE and 9 per cent from Huawei, Parliament was informed on Thursday. While replying to a question on the market share of Chinese companies ZTE and Huawei in India, minister of state for communications Sanjay Dhotre said that the government maintains no data of Chinese telecom gear makers. Based on information collected from telecom operators, Dhotre said that Reliance Jio Infocomm has not deployed any telecom equipment from ZTE and Huawei for providing services.

PTI

'INFRACONEX' exhibition: Informa Markets, (Formerly UBM India), India's leading B2B exhibition organiser and K and D Communication Ltd. (KDCL) in a joint venture, unveiled a brand new exhibition 'INFRACONEX' that will cater to the Indian construction equipment sector. The three-day Expo slated for 6 to 8 August 2021 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It will focus on new launches, automation technology in construction, provide solutions to the industry drivers and forecast the challenges of the India construction equipment market through conference, seminar & product presentation, according to a Press release.

SNS

GST e-invoicing: Avalara, provided of cloud-based tax compliance automation for businesses of all sizes, has announced the availability of Avalara India GST e-invoicing, an end-to-end solution that helps companies manage e-invoicing requirements and complies with India's e-invoicing reform, according to a Press release.

SNS

Nokia phones: HMD Global, the home of Nokia phones, on Thursday announced the start of sales of its made for India, made in India smartphone Nokia C3. Delivering a large screen, all-day battery and a quality camera, Nokia C3 brings the Android 10 experience at a reasonable price, the company said.

SNS

Toyota reiterates its commitment to India

Refutes claims by a company official earlier that it would stop further expansion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today said it remains deeply committed to the Indian market and its national objectives, refuting once again the claims by a senior company official earlier that it would stop further expansion in India due to high taxes.

The automaker, which sells models like Innova and Fortuner, said it has firm belief in the core strength of the country's economic growth potential and is fully committed to continually work towards contributing to economic development.

Keeping in sync with the vision of 'Grow India - Grow with India' during the past two decades of presence in the country, the company has worked tirelessly to invest in creation of a world-class talent pool and for building a strong competitive local supplier ecosystem in line with the 'Skill India' and the 'Make in India' initiatives, TKM managing director Masakazu



MASAKAZU YOSHIMURA
MANAGING DIRECTOR
TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR

Yoshimura said in a statement.

The company's operations in India are an integral part of its long-term global strategy. As part of these efforts, Toyota Group in India is targeting to invest over Rs 2,000 crore in India in the coming years on technology and electrification, both for the domestic and the exports market.

On Tuesday, TKM vice-chairman and whole-time director Shekar Viswanathan in an interview said that the company would stop expanding in India ruling out future investments as the government keeps taxes on cars and motorbikes so high that companies find it difficult to build scale.

Later, the company's vice-chairman Vikram Kirloskar refuted the comments and said TKM planned to invest over Rs 2,000 crore in the country in the next 12 months.

TKM is a joint venture between the Japanese Toyota Motor Company and Kirloskar Group.

Reacting to Kirloskar's tweet on investment, Union heavy industries minister Prakash Javadekar had tweeted: "The news that Toyota Company will stop investing in India is incorrect. @vikramkirloskar has clarified that Toyota will invest more than Rs 2,000 crore in next 12 months".

Endorsing the minister's remark, Kirloskar tweeted: "Absolutely! We are investing 2000+ crore in electric components and technology for the domestic customer and export. We are committed to the future of India and will continue to put all effort in society, environment, skilling and technology." Before that, TKM had also issued a statement, saying its priority would be to utilise its existing capacity in India which will take time.

The company has an installed capacity of 3.10 lakh units spread across two plants in Bidadi, near Bengaluru.

TKM rolls out Innova, Fortuner and Vellfire (imported as CBU) from the first plant, and Yaris and Camry Hybrid from its second facility.

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Govt will soon introduce a three-tier legislation providing for registration of sex offenders, exemplary punishment for rape and child abuse

PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN

REFERRING TO THE GANG-RAPE OF A FRENCH-PAKISTANI WOMAN IN FRONT OF HER THREE CHILDREN IN LAHORE

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

09

US to declare N-sanctions on Iran are restored

Few countries believe the move is legal, and such action could provoke a credibility crisis at the United Nations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 17 SEPTEMBER

In defiance of overwhelming opposition, the United States is preparing to declare that all international sanctions against Iran have been restored. Few countries believe the move is legal, and such action could provoke a credibility crisis at the United Nations.

Virtually alone in the world, the Trump administration will announce on Saturday that UN sanctions on Iran eased under the 2015 nuclear deal are back in force. But the other members of the UN Security Council, including US allies, disagree and have vowed to ignore the step.

That sets the stage for ugly confrontations as the world body prepares to celebrate its

75th anniversary at a coronavirus-restricted General Assembly session next week.

The question is how the Trump administration will respond to being ignored. It already has slapped extensive sanctions on Iran, but could impose penalties on countries that don't enforce the UN sanctions it claims to have reimposed.

A wholesale rejection of the US position could push the administration, which has already withdrawn from multiple UN agencies, organisations and treaties, further away from the international community.

In the midst of a heated campaign for reelection, President Donald Trump plans to address Iran in a speech to the General Assembly on Tuesday. Officials say he will



also touch on his brokering of agreements for Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to normalise relations in part to solidify a regional bulwark against Iran.

And, as he seeks to demonstrate statesmanlike credentials ahead of the election, Trump has injected another element of uncertainty into the mix by threatening to retaliate 1,000 times harder against Iran if it attacks US person-

nel overseas.

His tweeted warning came earlier this week in response to a report that Iran is plotting to assassinate the US ambassador to South Africa in retaliation for the US killing of a top Iranian general at the beginning of the year.

Neither Trump nor any other senior US official has confirmed such a plot exists, although they have said Iran has a long history of political

assassinations. Amid uncertainty over that, the other 14 members of the Security Council and all but about five of the UN's 195 member states say the US lost its legal standing to act on sanctions when Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal more than two years ago.

The US argues it retains the right to enact the snapback of sanctions because the council resolution that endorsed the deal refers to it as a participant.

These will be valid UN Security Council actions and the United States will do what it always does, it will do its share as part of its responsibilities to enable peace, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday. We'll do all the things we need to do to ensure that those sanc-

tions are enforced. Pompeo travelled to the United Nations on August 20 to formally notify the Security Council that the US was triggering snapback because Iran is not complying with the nuclear deal. He dismissed suggestions that the administration was engaged in anything legally questionable or even controversial.

He said the snapback mechanism was the one thing that the previous administration got right in the nuclear deal that Trump has denounced as the worst deal ever negotiated. The agreement was a signature foreign policy achievement of President Barack Obama and gave Iran billions of dollars in sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme. Yet, aside from Israel and

the Gulf Arab states, almost no country in the world agrees with the US Russia and China, along with American allies Britain, France and Germany, who often disagree but remain parties to the 2015 agreement, are united in declaring the US action illegal.

Nonetheless, the US special envoy for Iran, Elliott Abrams, told reporters Wednesday that all UN sanctions would snap back "at 8 pm EDT on Saturday.

"We expect all UN member states to implement their member state responsibilities and respect their obligations to uphold these sanctions," Abrams told reporters. If other nations do not follow it, he said, I think they should be asked... whether they do not think they are weakening the structure of UN sanctions.

UN report 'extremely concerned' about Burundi's new leader

JOHANNESBURG,
17 SEPTEMBER

A new report by the United Nations commission of inquiry on Burundi sees little optimism in the government of new President Evariste Ndayishimiye, saying it is extremely concerned that he has appointed senior officials who face international sanctions for alleged human rights abuses in the country's 2015 political turmoil.

The report released Thursday said targeted killings, intimidation and sexual assaults of both men and women were committed against opposition supporters ahead of the disputed May election in the East African nation. It said children were forced to take part in ruling party meetings and even forced to vote by officials who gave them the voting cards of deceased or exiled voters.

Some of the abuses may constitute crimes against humanity, the report said, saying the main perpetrators were the Imbonerakure youth wing of the ruling party, police and agents of the National Intelligence Service. They have continued to enjoy nearly total impunity, it said.

The report singled out the sexual assaults as a common intelligence-gathering tool by authorities, often during detention, the pain of which is compounded by trauma related to deeply held cultural taboos. President-elect Ndayishimiye was rushed into office after President Pierre Nkurunziza died in June of what the government called a heart attack.

Nkurunziza led Burundi for 15 years, a rule that exploded in deadly violence in 2015 when he decided to run for a third term that critics called unconstitutional.

US envoy begins second recent high level visit to Taiwan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TAIPEI, 17 SEPTEMBER

U.S. Undersecretary of State Keith Krach arrived in Taiwan on Thursday for the second visit by a high-level American official in two months, prompting a stern warning and threat of possible retaliation from China. Beijing considers Taiwan its own and opposes all official contacts between other countries and the self-governing island.

Krach arrived at an air force base in Taipei, the capital, for a three-day visit. Wearing a face mask, he bumped elbows in greetings with Taiwanese Deputy Foreign Minister Harry Ho-Jen Tseng. Krach, the highest-level State Department official to visit the island in decades, is to meet Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and other senior officials, the island's foreign ministry said.

The visit by Krach, who is undersecretary for economic growth, energy and the environment, follows a high-profile trip in August by U.S. Health Secretary Alex Azar, the highest-level U.S. Cabinet official to visit since the U.S. switched formal relations from Taiwan to China in 1979.

However, the U.S. has maintained unofficial ties with Taiwan since the official diplomatic break and is the island's most important ally and provider of defense equipment.

Ahead of Krach's arrival, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Kelly Craft, had lunch Wednesday with Tai-

wan's top official in New York, a meeting she called historic and a further step in the Trump administration's campaign to strengthen relations with Taiwan.

Krach said her lunch with James K.J. Lee, director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York, was the first meeting between a top Taiwan official and a U.S. ambassador to the United Nations since 1971, when the China seat at the U.N. was passed from Taipei to Beijing.

I'm looking to do the right thing by my president, and I feel that he has sought to strengthen and deepen this bilateral relationship with Taiwan and I want to continue that on behalf of the administration, she told The Associated Press.

In Taiwan, Krach is to attend a banquet hosted by Tsai on Friday and hold discussions on the creation of a new economic and commercial dialogue, according to Taiwan's de facto ambassador in the U.S., Hsiao Bi-khim. He will also attend a memorial service for former President Lee Teng-hui, who led the island's transition to democracy and died at age 97 in July.

Krach's visit and Craft's lunch with Lee are certain to exacerbate mounting tensions between Washington and Beijing over the coronavirus pandemic, trade, technology, Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

China condemned the visit on Thursday and warned it could retaliate.

CHOOSE THE BEST



Supporters of the National League for Democracy ride a motorcade during a campaign in Wundwin, Myanmar on Thursday for the 8 November general election. ■ AFP

Pak to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan to full-fledged province: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 17 SEPTEMBER

Pakistan has decided to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan's status to that of a full-fledged province, a Pakistani media report on Thursday quoted a senior minister as saying.

India has clearly conveyed to Pakistan that the entire union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of the country by virtue of its fully legal and irrevocable accession.

According to a report in the Express Tribune, Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Ali Amin Gandapur, on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Imran Khan would soon visit the region and make the formal announcement to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan

to the status of a full-fledged province with all constitutional rights. Gandapur said Gilgit-Baltistan would be given adequate representation on all constitutional bodies, including the National Assembly and the Senate.

After consultation with all stakeholders, the federal government has decided in principle to give constitutional rights to Gilgit-Baltistan, the minister told reporters.

India has said the Government of Pakistan or its judiciary has no locus standi on territories illegally and forcibly occupied by it.

India completely rejects such actions and continued attempts to bring material changes in Pakistan occupied areas of the Indian territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Instead, Pakistan should immediately vacate all areas

under its illegal occupation, the Ministry of External Affairs said in May while protesting Islamabad's efforts to bring material change in Pakistan occupied territories.

Gandapur also said that work on the Moqpondass Special Economic Zone would begin under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of Beijing's ambitious multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The CPEC is a collection of infrastructure and other projects under construction throughout Pakistan since 2013. Originally valued at \$46 billion, the projects were worth over \$60 billion as of 2017.

Under lockdown, Israel faces bitter start of Jewish New Year

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, 17 SEPTEMBER

damper on Passover, the Jewish spring holiday marking the deliverance of the ancient Hebrews from slavery in Egypt.

Now, the Jewish High Holidays look to be similarly subdued.

Israel has seen new daily cases of Covid-19 skyrocket in recent weeks, climbing to more than 5,000 on Wednesday - one of the highest per capita infection rates in the world. Since the pandemic began this year, it has recorded more than 169,000 cases, including 1,163 deaths, as of Wednesday, according to Health Ministry figures.

Religious and secular Israelis

Since the beginning of the pandemic, it has recorded at least 169,000 cases, including 1,163 deaths

alike mark Rosh Hashanah with festive holiday feasts with family and friends. They pack synagogues, often spending hours in prayer, especially during the fast of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, which falls later this month.

But this year, traditional family gatherings will be muted, synagogue prayers will be limited to small groups and travel restrictions will

leave many roads deserted. Some of the liberal streams of Judaism, particularly in the US, are turning to technology to help connect people.

In Israel, movement during the lockdown will be restricted to within 500 metres of one's home. Gatherings are limited to 10 people indoors, and 20 outside, restricting the number of faithful who can attend synagogue services.

Bars, restaurants, and culture venues will be shut, but many ritual baths and other religious facilities will remain open.

Israelis have been frustrated since the gains made with the first lockdown - when

the virus seemed to have been brought under control - were erased within weeks, with authorities unable to stem the spike that followed.

Weekly protests have drawn thousands to Netanyahu's Jerusalem residence, with demonstrators demanding his resignation over his handling of the virus.

The lockdown rules have also deepened the rift between secular and religious Jews in Israel.

A proposal to lock down only on communities with high outbreaks - mainly ultra-Orthodox areas where initial restrictions were ignored,

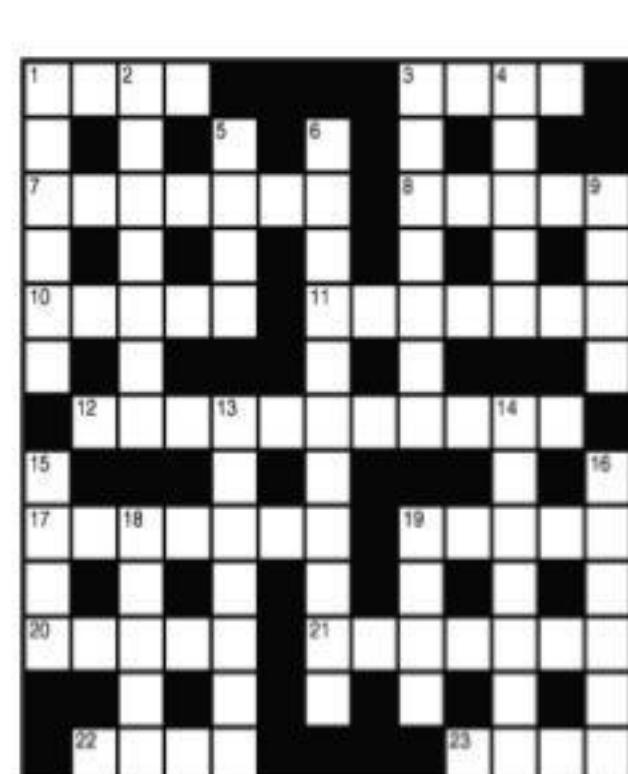
allowing infections to surge - was scrapped, apparently following pressure from ultra-Orthodox leaders, before Netanyahu announced the lockdown.

Many Jewish worshippers elsewhere in the world will have to forgo synagogue services due to social distancing rules, hold prayers and hear the traditional sounding of the shofar - a ceremonial ram's horn - on street corners or at home.

The Chabad-Lubavitch movement of Hasidic Judaism has recruited thousands of volunteers to blow the shofar at public squares and streetcorners worldwide.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



CROSS
1 Small hole in the skin (4)
2 Option (7)
3 Smart aleck (4)
4 Glory (5)
5 Modelling material (4)
6 Reliable (11)
9 Ready for eating (4)
13 Female ruler (7)
14 Personification (7)
15 Solemn pledges (4)
16 Mild (6)
18 Put (5)
19 Condiment (4)

DOWN
1 Cosset (6)
2 Skirt (7)
3 Thick scarf (7)
4 External (5)
5 Written composition (5)
6 Traffic jam (Informal) (5-2)
7 Samambulist (11)
8 Theoretically (2,5)
9 Trombone part (5)
20 Amount wagered (5)
21 Assist (4,3)
22 Not as much (4)
23 Surrender (4)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

CROSS
1 Tripoli, gency, 14 Rib-eye, 16 Contin-
5 Lea (Tripoli), 19 Skirt, 17 Dressing-
8 Patella, 20 Lozenge, 11 Terylene,
9 Razor, 21 Ace, 13 Cocaine, 15 Sponges,
10 First, 22 Sincere, 4 Reason, 17 Noble,
cousin, 23 Lozenge, 6 Awry, 18 Asia,
23 Surrender, 12 Exceed,

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 and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Bastra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23325320

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- Toll Free Nos. 1800112511, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 08001801407, 25656421/25656431 Reservation 41528147
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 23717473, 23325320

SCRABBLE® BRAND

7	5	3	1	6	4	9	2	1	7	5	3	1	6	4	9

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Govt will impose tough measures to combat the spread of Covid and strict rules will be followed during Christmas holidays in North east England

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON

WARNING OF TOUGHER MEASURES IN COVID-19 FIGHT

'Looking into Oracle-TikTok deal to ensure no compromise on national security'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, 17 SEPTEMBER

US President Donald Trump has said he is looking into American major Oracle's reported bid for the Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok and want to ensure there is no compromise on national security before approving the deal.

Last month, Trump signed an executive order to ban TikTok and WeChat by September

15 unless the ownership of the two Chinese companies changed to American.

Initially, Microsoft was involved in talks with ByteDance that owns the TikTok platform. However, now Oracle has entered into a deal in this regard with ByteDance. Trump told reporters at the White House that before approving the deal, he would like to ensure that there is no compromise on national security and that the US Treasury gets a large

chunk of the business transactions. He is scheduled to receive a briefing from his officials on Thursday.

"They're giving me studies on the deal. Has to be 100 percent as far as national security is concerned. And no, I'm not prepared to sign off on anything. I have to see the deal. We need security especially after what we've seen with respect to China and what's going on," Trump said in response to a question



Wednesday. At the same time, he conceded that there are legal challenges in the Treasury receiving money from this deal. "We are going to see about that. Amazingly, I find that you're not allowed to do that. You're not

allowed to accept what kind of a thing is this?" he asked.

They're willing to make a big payment to the government and we're not allowed to take their money. When does this happen? How foolish can we be? So we're looking into that right now, he said in response to a question. Trump said he wants a big chunk of that money to go to the US government because it's making the deal valuable. They've never heard of that before. OK? Can you believe that, right? Hard to believe, he said.

In response to another question, Trump said he does not like ByteDance having a majority stake. According to the proposal submitted by ByteDance, it would keep a majority stake and Oracle would have a minority stake, news reports have said.

WeChat ban: A looming US ban on the Chinese app WeChat won't target people who use the app to communicate, according to a government court fil-

ing. President Donald Trump issued orders on Aug. 6 that targeted WeChat and TikTok as purported national-security threats and imposed a Sept. 20 deadline for the Commerce Department to draft specific measures for blocking transactions with the Chinese owners of the apps. The suit says the ban violates its US users' freedom of speech, free exercise of religion and other constitutional rights.

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	30-Elect-24-T-2020-21-E3
Electrical work in connection with replacement of overhead line with underground cable & augmentation of power supply arrangement with other allied works at S.P. Marg.	Electrical work in connection with replacement of overhead line with underground cable & augmentation of power supply arrangement with other allied works at S.P. Marg.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 72.98 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 146000.00
Date & time of submission of tender	12.10.2020, 13.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	12.10.2020, 13.00 Hrs
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
	2010/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT	
16TH FLOOR DR. S.P.M. CIVIC CENTRE BUILDING J.L. NEHRU MARG MINTO ROAD, NEW DELHI-110002 PHNO. 2322-6607	
EMAIL: co.advt.ndmc.org.in@gmail.com	Dated: 14/09/2020
No.DC(Advt.)/NDMC/2020-D/2183	
Sub: Notice Inviting E-Auction for "Allotment of Advertisement Right for Various advertisement site(s) of North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Cluster Basis.	
North DMC invites Registered Advertisers for e-auction for allotment of rights for display of advertisements through Clusters for a period of 2 years further extendable by 01 Year on payment of advance License Fee basis as per the terms and conditions.	
Complete details of e-auction, T&C are available on e-auction website of North Delhi Municipal Corporation, www.auctionwizard.in/NORTHDMC and http://mdconline.gov.in/tri/ndmc_ncdportal/ . Correspondingly, if any, shall only be available on above websites. Submission of EMD up to 12.10.2020 by 17.30 hrs. Auction will start on 23.10.2020 from 11.00 hrs. to 17.30 hrs. same day.	
Sd/- Commercial Officer (Advt./NDMC)	
R.O. No. 21/DPI/NDM/2020-21	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	
E-Procurement Notice	
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)	
1. The Executive Engineer Mandi Division No.II HPPWD Mandi H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate in electronic tendering system in 2 cover system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD department.	
Sr. No.	Name of Work.
1.	Detail project for routine repair and maintenance of Bindrabani Majhwar Kotmose road Km: 0/0 to 19/800
2.	Detail project for routine repair and maintenance of Kotli Kun Ka Tar road Km: 0/0 to 14/500
3.	Detail project for routine repair and maintenance of Gampatti Kun Ka Tar road Km: 0/0 to 21/500
2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:	The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website http://htptenders.gov.in bidder will be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: http://htptenders.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
3. Key dates:-	
1. Date of online publication:	16.9.2020 at 5:00 pm
2. Document download and end date	16.9.2020 at 5:00 pm up to 5.10.2020 at 5:00 PM
3. Bid submission start and end date	16.9.2020 at 5:00 pm up to 5.10.2020 at 5:00 PM
4. Date of technical bid opening	6.10.2020 at 11:30 AM
5. Physical submission of original documents i.e cost of tender documents etc.	Up to 5.10.2020 up to 5:00 PM
4. Tender Details:-	
The tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 cover.	
i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents eligibility" information	
ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial bid" where contractor will quote his offer for each item	
5. Submission of Original Documents:	The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents with this office as specified in key dates at Sr.No.5 failing which the bids will be declared nonresponsive.
6. Bid opening Detail:	The bid shall be opened on 6.10.2020 at 11.30 HRS in the office of Executive Engineer Mandi Division No.II HPPWD Mandi. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
7. The bid for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.	
8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.	
Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No. II HP:PWD Mandi.	
3077/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK	

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, PANIPAT	4- LANNING PANIPAT SAFIDON JIND BHITWANI ROAD UPTO CANAL (CARRIER LINED CHANNEL) (HON'BLE C.M ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 229585 DATED 28.06.2018) IN PANIPAT DISTT (RE-INVITED + 1 OTHER WORK)	16.09.2020 30.09.2020	770.18 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2638652
2	PWD B&R, PANIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF MORTUARY AT SDH MANANA (SAMALKHA) IN PANIPAT DISTT (C.M) ANNOUNCEMENT CODE 24780 DATED 02.02.2019) RE-INVITED	16.09.2020 30.09.2020	70.46 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2638652
3	PWD B&R, HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. I.T.I AT SISAI BOLAN IN DISTT. HISAR (POG. POWER WIRING ONLY). RECALL + 7 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 25.10.2020	29.60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-225651 pwd-eed-hisar@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, HISAR	INSTALLATION OF LIFT IN LALA LAJPAT RAI COMPLEX (NEW CHAMBER BUILDING) DISTT. COURTS AT HISAR RECALL + 3 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 05.10.2020	88.73 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-225651 / pwd-eed-hisar@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, JIND	UPGRADATION OF ROAD FROM PANIPAT-ASSANDH ROAD TO RODH TO MUJANA IN JIND DISTT. (T-06) IN SAFIDON CONSTITUENCY (UNDER PMGSY-III SCHEME) + 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 07.10.2020	1471.63 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-249416 pwd-eed-jind@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R, JIND	RESTORATION OF DAMAGED ROAD (AFTER LAYING OF PIPES BY MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE UNDER ARMS SCHEME) IN KM. 301.000 TO 307.000 (INTERNAL PORTION) ON NARWANA-JIND-ROHTAK ROAD NH-71 (NEW NH-352) IN JIND CITY	CLOSING DATE 08.10.2020	508.10 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-249416 pwd-eed-jind@hry.nic.in
7	PWD B&R FATEHABAD	RESTORATION OF ROAD CUT MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR LAYING WATER AND SEWAR LINE NEAR ROB SERVICE ROAD ON NH-148-B AT TOHANA IN FATEHABAD DISTRICT.	12.09.2020 28.09.2020	6.84 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	90531-14455 01667-220120 pwd-eed-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
8	PWD B&R, JIND	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. VETERINARY DISPENSARY AT VILLAGE HARIGARH IN JIND DISTT.	CLOSING DATE 12.10.2020	25.54 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-249416 pwd-eed-jind@hry.nic.in
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ, NUH	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. VET. HOSPITAL INCLUDING PH WORKS ATVILLAGEULETA BLOCKINDRI DISTT. NUH +OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 29.09.2020	2.31 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Prexeeng.mwt@hry.nic.in
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATOFFICER, BAUDI	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK BAUDI IN DISTT-CHARKHI DADRI	CLOSING DATE 12.10.2020	0	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416104176
11	FOREST DEPARTMENT SIRS	1. LABOUR RATE CONTRACT TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RANGE FOREST OFFICE AT DABWALI RANGE + 5 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 23.09.2020	19.97 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-247307/ forest_sirs@yahoo.com
12	TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HARYANA ROADWAYS, HISAR	PUTTING HOARDINGS, UNIPOLSES ETC.	22.09.2020 21.10.2020	2 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	87081-23443 / 01662-231028 hrtrs@hry.nic.in
13	IRRIGATION & WR. DEPTT. HARYANA NARWANA	SUPPLY, INSTALLING AND PAINTING OF 01 NO. NEW GATE WITH REPAIRING OF WINCH MACHINE AT PONDARI DISTRIBUTORY AT RD 110 ON GURGAON CANAL + 4 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 21.09.2020	8.70 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xen-wsmfbdr@hry.nic.in
14	IRRIGATION & W.R. DEPTT. HARYANA NARWANA	REPAIRING OF V.R. BRIDGES AT RD 13770, RD 13700, RD 10100, RD 3400, RD 6595 & RD 9450 OF SHIMLA MINOR AND V.R. BRIDGE AT RD 67600 OF SIRSAS PARALLEL DISTY.	CLOSING DATE 24.09.2020	1.08 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xen-wsnrw.rr@hry.nic.in
15	HARYANA IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF SHREE VATIKA IN SHRI MATA MANSA DEVI COMPLEX, PANCHKULA.	CLOSING DATE 25.09.2020	EMD 10 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	.0172-2570325 xenconst1@yahoo.com
16	DIRECTORATE OF STATE TRANSPORT, HARYANA, CHANDIGARH	ONLINE SHORT TERM TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF NEW TYRE SET OF SIZE 7.5				

Shaping the future



The dynamic of teaching is changing considering the current scenario but imparting knowledge is a continuous process

SUNITA GANDHI

The unprecedented pandemic and lockdown have changed the dynamics of education sector while opening new grounds for teachers to adopt the virtual environment. Teachers across the globe are requested to create a friendly and learning atmosphere embracing the virtual opportunities with the help of the technology.

The current situation is challenging but it has also provided online learning opportunities, a virtual class where teachers can be connected to their students. The online learning dynamics are different compared to the school teaching dynamic. However, adopting a new approach will have challenges and positive experience.

Teaching is beyond just a profession; it requires a teacher to keep learning and expanding the horizons

for serving and shaping the future of tomorrow. Remote learning has provided them with an opportunity to use the innovation and creativity methods with assessments. This also helps to analyse the teacher-student relationship and to work on the progress. With remote learning there might be students struggling to cope up and without having to meet friends at school there might be some challenges as well. This profession here is evolving with an extra afford to help the students overcome these troubles and guide them to focus on their academics.

As difficult the situation is for the students, it is equally challenging to manage the timetable co-ordinating with the fellow teachers. The virtual teaching scenario has helped even the colleagues to work in more efficient ways. Discussing virtually on facetime or group meeting on Zoom

or other video call apps has helped to recreate unique ways in helping students to prepare for their academics. Remote learning has also facilitated teachers to understand the emotional status of students.

It has made them more empathetic and flexible and help the students keep-up their emotional well-being. Teachers are moving beyond their traditional concepts and building a communication bridge with their students. Students need to understand that they are not operating in a vacuum, for this the teachers are individually connecting with every student.

Teachers for kindergarten have to be more innovative as kids of that age-group seek more attention. With remote learning coming into the picture, they had to create fun yet learning videos while taking one-on-one session with the parents. Virtual learning has also helped build a

strong connection between the kids and the teacher as they play games, narrate stories engage with the teacher. It is a fun experience for both as they get to meet them virtually, which earlier limited to only kindergarten. Kids of such young age connect easily through videos and other virtual means.

The integral part of the teaching profession considering the current situation is innovation and change as a response to the complexities in the society. Teachers are learning to make online notes, videos and study materials for students accessing to multiple technologies and information available to make the transition smooth.

Learning modules like game based or tech based are witnessing active student participation more than ever. Teachers are helping students to connect with various study groups across the world to prepare them better for their academics. This has led to great collaboration and exchange of productive ideas across the world.

As students are mostly connected to social media these days, teachers have adopted the digital social media mode to hold discussions on projects, subjects, competition, etc. They are possibly adapting to every means of communication and technologies to help students with their academics.

The present situation is a battle for teachers to make their students excel in every aspect and to ensure that they are undergoing through extensive learning modules themselves.

The dynamic of teaching is changing considering the current scenario but imparting knowledge is a continuous process. Teachers across the world will continue to upskill themselves to build a better future for their students.

The writer is founder, Global Education & Training Institute

REKINDLE YOUR PASSION FOR WORK

Do-it-yourself trend during this pandemic is encouraging creativity and enhancing skills

PARVEEN SAHNI

Once the initial euphoria of working from home wore off and the lockdown showed no signs of abating, people began to look for ways to take the edge off the monotony of being cooped up in their homes. That's when the do-it-yourself (DIY) tribe began to grow exponentially.

People turned to what was accessible easily at home or online -- to rekindle passions hitherto left partially explored due to paucity of time, or adopt new ones fueled by their creativity. The virtual tsunami of posts on crafts and cooking across all social media platforms is testimony that this isn't going to ebb any time soon.

With this surge, consumers are looking for assistances that help them access higher levels of proficiency and unlock the doors to creativity. They are investing in products that help them do more with less, as they juggle both office work and household chores. Picking up a hobby and honing your skills serves as a de-stressor as creative passions release endorphins that help insulate us from mental health issues as well.

People are increasingly choosing to make various changes to adapt to the new normal -- from the spread on their dining table to the colour in their gardens, to home and wardrobe



makeovers, and upping the demand for products that enable these. The centre of action in the foreseeable future is the home, as it now functions as a place of work, to exercise, and to socialise albeit digitally. The new 'caring' is sharing responsibly towards loved ones by designing personalised gifts using sewing or cooking skills has become an expression of love.

Amateur chefs are taking the virtual world by storm as they go about showing creative ways to prepare everything from artisanal breads to lesser

known cuisine. At the same time, sewing enthusiasts are growing their communities while showcasing a plethora of creative ideas from DIY projects to upcycling and embellishing.

While doing so, they are also ensuring they are well equipped, which is leading to products virtually flying off the shelves. In fact, growing sales of sewing machines indicate that the segment is really picking up the pace as new age machines with cutting edge technology are super user friendly, with features like Wi-Fi

compatibility, customisation of design using iPads, design software, and more.

These new-age sewing machines are a delight to work with due to their versatility, empowering one to do everything from the basic hemming to the most exquisite embroidery, monogramming, and quilting. All these products make one self-sufficient and independent. Given the huge repository of information and knowledge available online, one can learn everything from how to thread a

machine for novices, to creating simple DIY projects, or even complex projects for experts.

Putting it succinctly, the lockdown has not just allowed nature to recharge itself, it has also given each of us the opportunity to re-evaluate our own selves, re-engineer our thoughts, reiterate family bonds, and rejuvenate our passions.

The writer is senior vice-president, Sewing Machine Business, Usha International

PLUS POINTS

Motivating innovators



3M India announced the winners of the seventh edition of 3M-CII Young Innovators Challenge Awards at the 16th CII Innovation Summit 2020 in Bengaluru recently. The theme for this year's challenge was "Resilience and Resurgence: Innovating for Society 5.0".

The competition witnessed 2500 entries from across the country. It encourages the submission of ideas and projects in the areas of health, education, livelihood, environment, governance, and/or inclusive development. This year saw six winners, with two each for the categories of service innovation, product innovation, and, rural and inclusive innovation. This year the judges unanimously decided to provide a special mention to a team whose idea deserved a special mention.

Placement galore



With Covid-19 pandemic cutting down job opportunities, ICA Edu Skills has switched over to the virtual placement drives to help students get employment. The institute has created a milestone by placing more than 200 students in accounts and finance stream in the key IT companies like Cognizant, Genpact, et al across the globe.

During this situation, the institute had to implement strategies for continuous education. Initially, it was difficult; however, with the help of technology it devised methods to ensure the training stays effective irrespective of the student's virtual or physical presence.

Ankit Shyamsukha, CEO, ICA Edu Skills said, "We introduced daily assignments and practical classes which helped students understand each concept with much more clarity and e-workshops to address their doubts before each session."

Reimagining mindset



Digital literacy and access to technology can be powerful enablers while social perceptions and cultural prejudices around gender form significant barriers to girls' access to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education, says a new white paper by Quest Alliance, supported by IBM.

The paper titled "Engaging Girls in STEM: Barriers and Enablers in India", identifies six enabling factors that could boost access and interest of girls in STEM education and provide potential career pathways. These include – availability of and interaction with role models and mentors, growth of digital literacy, technology access for tapping into knowledge repositories, investments in improving teachers' capabilities, reimagining education from the perspective of promoting life preparedness, in addition to the acquisition of subject knowledge, and targeted programmes. Drawing insights from in-depth conversations with over 20 academicians and members of the civil society organisations, the white paper calls for the need to reimagine the STEM mindset in a post-Covid world.

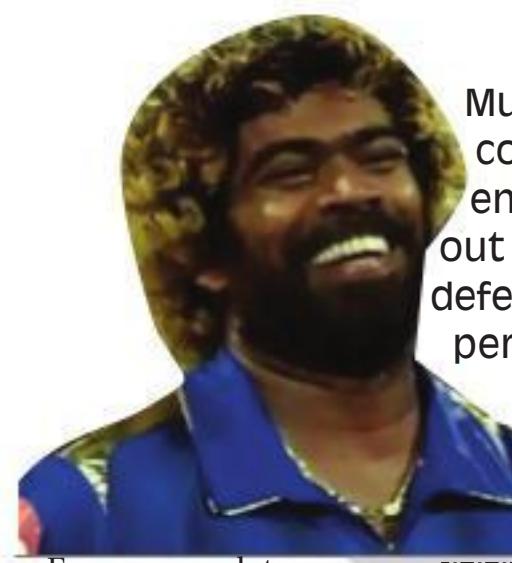
Upgrading nation



Recently launched National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has been praised for its multidisciplinary approach and potential to transform the education system at a webinar titled "Dialogue on National Education Policy 2020: Transforming Education System of India" by IIHMR University.

The panel members included Dr Sandeep Sancheti, vice-chancellor, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Dr S D Gupta, chairperson, IIHMR University, Prof Ramesh Bhat, vice-chancellor, NMIMS University and many others.

A student representative said as envisioned by the NEP-2020, the new education universe must address the mental health of students in the Indian higher education and focus on employable skilling.



'INCOMPARABLE'

Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma on Thursday conceded that "incomparable" Sri Lankan pace legend Lasith Malinga (*in photo, left*), who has opted out of this year's IPL, will be severely missed by his defending champion team given his "unbelievable" past performances. The 37-year-old Malinga, who is IPL's highest wicket-taker with 170 scalps to his credit, has pulled out citing personal reasons in a major blow to the four-time champions.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Djokovic, Nadal advance: Top seed Novak Djokovic and defending champion Rafael Nadal reached the third round of the Italian Open after securing respective wins in their second-round matches of the ongoing tournament. On Wednesday, Djokovic defeated Italian Salvatore Caruso 6-3, 6-2, while Nadal made a welcome return to the ATP Tour as he out-classed fellow Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta 6-1, 1 in his first tour-level match for 200 days.

COVID-19 guidelines for I-League: Relieved to be finally able to start the delayed football season next month with the I-League Qualifiers here, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Thursday said it will strictly implement the COVID-19 protocols during the event. The I-League Qualifiers will be held from October 8 to 19 in two venues of West Bengal with five teams playing each other in a round-robin format.

Leeds, Southampton eliminated: Premier League teams Leeds and Southampton lost to lower-tier opposition in the second round of the English League Cup. While a second-string Leeds team lost a penalty shootout 9-8 to third-tier Hull after a 1-1 draw in regulation, Southampton fielded a full-strength lineup but still lost 2-0 at home to second-tier Brentford.

Belgium tops first FIFA rankings: The first FIFA men's world rankings for five months were still led by Belgium on Thursday after the shutdown of European teams during the coronavirus pandemic ended in September. Belgium leads an unchanged top four nations from 2018 World Cup winner France, Brazil – which has yet to play in 2020 – and England.

Liverpool sign Thiago: Liverpool have reached an agreement to sign Spanish midfielder Thiago Alcantara from Bayern Munich, the German club's CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said on Thursday. British media reported the deal will cost the Premier League champions around 20 million pounds (\$25.81 million) with five million pounds in add-ons. Thiago will leave the German giants a year before his contract is set to expire and is expected to sign a four-year deal with the Anfield club.

Relief to the Centre: In a relief to the Centre and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), the Supreme Court said on Thursday that they are not required to seek prior consent of the Delhi High Court before granting recognition to various sports federations in the country. The apex court was hearing the Sports Ministry's appeal against the high court order which prohibited the authorities from taking decision on granting recognition to national federations without its prior nod.

Brand ambassador: Well-established cement brand JKLC Sixer Cement is happy to associate with ace cricketer, Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador. JKLC Sixer is the youngest cement brand of parent company JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd which is a part of diversified 135 years old industrial conglomerate, JK Organization. One of the modern era greats, 'Hitman' Rohit Sharma will be part of advertisements and other brand communications of JKLC Sixer in his role.

RCB aiming to end IPL pain

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 17 SEPTEMBER

Royal Challengers Bangalore not having a single Indian Premier League (IPL) title to their name was one of the oddities of the tournament until 2016. Since then, however, things have only gone from bad to worse for the team currently led by Virat Kohli (*in photo*).

Since Kohli's extraordinary 973-run campaign helped them finish runners-up in 2016, RCB have finished bottom of the table in 2017, sixth in 2018 and last in 2019 again. The fact that the team holds the records for the highest ever total (263/5 vs Pune Warriors in 2013) and the lowest ever total (43 vs Kolkata Knight Riders in 2017) is a testament to the team's wildly swinging fortunes.

This season, they go in with a completely overhauled backroom staff and a squad that Kohli expects to be the most balanced since 2016.

"We've got a great balance of experience, the skill required for T20 cricket and the youngsters in the team who are eager to take up the responsibility and look forward to opportunities that we're going to provide them," he told RCB TV.

"As I said, that 2016 season which we've all loved to be a part of, it was such a memorable season. Since then, to be honest, this is the most bal-



anced I've felt about the squad, as a system where we're heading. It's been very well taken care of now; it's up to us to execute those things on the field."

Since the departure of Chris Gayle, RCB have depended upon Kohli and AB de Villiers to provide the goods with the bat. This season they have added Australia limited overs captain Aaron Finch to that line-up which should ease the pressure on the pair somewhat.

Josh Philippe, 23, who was instrumental in Sydney Sixers' run to the title in the Big Bash League last season. But including Philippe in the line-up leaves one more spot for a foreign player and so they are left with the uncomfortable situation of choosing between Dale Steyn, Chris Morris, Adam Zampa and Isuru Udana. It won't be a sur-

prise if the RCB end up benching Philippe to accommodate another foreign bowler in the line-up.

Zampa would be seen as an important partner to Yuzvendra Chahal on the slow pitches that are expected to be on offer in the UAE. Morris and Steyn come with big reputations and so, RCB would be looking to fit at least one of them as a regular in the playing XI.

Squad: Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Gurkeerat Mann, Devdutt Padikkal, Aaron Finch, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Navdeep Saini, Kane Richardson, Dale Steyn, Isuru Udana, Moeen Ali, Pawan Negi, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Chris Morris, Pavan Deshpande, Parthiv Patel and Joshua Philippe (wicket-keepers), Shahbaz Ahmad

Team now more accepting of bio-bubble, says Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 17 SEPTEMBER

Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli on Thursday said his teammates have become "accepting" of living in the IPL bio-bubble and there is no "desperation" for a change of environment as they approach the tournament proper from September 19.

Royal Challengers Bangalore landed in the UAE on August 21 and have been training for more than two weeks, including some intra-squad practice games.

"To be honest we have become more accepting of the situation around us. Acceptance is the biggest change I have experienced (since day 1 here)," said Kohli in a virtual media conference organised to honour citizens who have become "COVID Heroes" amid the pandemic.

"When we spoke of the bio-bubble for the first time, we discussed about appreciating the things we have and the situation. All of us have become very relaxed in that environment.

"If we were not being accepting, then we would be sad or upset about the surroundings. But there is no desperation of any sort."

It will be the first time that IPL matches will be held in the absence of a packed crowd but Kohli said it is the need of the hour.

"All of us have thought about it (initially) and it would be a strange feeling and I won't deny that. But the feeling has changed little bit after the training sessions and practices games," he said.

"At the end of the day you just need to understand why you started playing the game, you started playing for the love of it. Crowds are main part of the game but that is not what you play for."

"I can only say one thing that our intensity levels will not drop, I can assure you. There is a larger reason why all this is happening."

Kohli was joined by teammates Parthiv Patel and the young Devdutt Padikkal in the interaction.

"It has sunk in (staying in bio-bubble). We did not put saliva on the ball during practice games and are taking care of ourselves. It is very important to be safe," said Patel.

"Honestly, it is my third year with the team, I have never seen this kind of environment before in my career. Everyone is smiling and that is what is important," he added.

The Statesman Sport

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Australia win ODI series

MANCHESTER, 17 SEPTEMBER

Glenn Maxwell and Alex Carey scored brilliant centuries as Australia won an exciting final ODI against England and took the three-match series 2-1 at the Old Trafford.

Chasing 303 on Wednesday evening, Australia were almost down and out of the game after losing five wickets for mere 73 runs. However, Maxwell (108) and Carey (106) shared a massive 212-run stand to help the visitors register a three-wicket win. The victory also ended a five-year streak in which England have not lost a home ODI series, with Australia also the last side to beat them, back in September 2015.

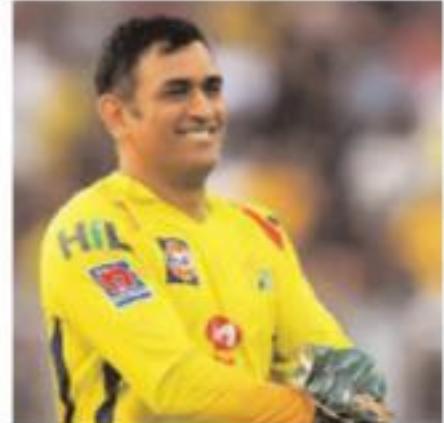
Earlier asked to bowl, the Aaron-Finch led side started the game in the best possible way with Mitchell Starc removing Jason Roy and Joe Root with the first two balls of the match. Jonny Bairstow, however, stood at one end even though England found themselves trailing at 96/4 following the wickets of Eoin Morgan (23) and

Jos Buttler (8). Sam Billings, who came in next, shared a 114-run stand with Bairstow and the hosts looked to set up a big target before Billings top-edged a reverse-sweep shortly after reaching his fifty. Bairstow also fell just a few overs later having faced 126 balls for his 112, the opener's longest innings in the format. England's slower order contributed with crucial runs as Chris Woakes scored an unbeaten 39-ball 53* to boost the hosts to 302/7. Australia didn't have the best starts either and they lost Finch (12) and Marcus Stoinis (4) with just 31 runs on the board. The wickets slowed the innings down, and part-timer Joe Root's introduction after the first Powerplay further slowed down the chase as he claimed the wickets of David Warner (24) and Mitchell Marsh (2) before Labuschagne was run out by Billings. Brief scores: England 302/7 (Bairstow 112, Billings 57; Zampa 3/51) lose to Australia 305/7 (Maxwell 108, Carey 106, Woakes 2/46) by three wickets. IANS

Messi at the double as Barca beat Girona in friendly; Surez, Vidal out

AGENCIES

BARCELONA, 17 SEPTEMBER



when the left-hander was in horrendous form, Raina has been outstanding for the side. It was credit to Dhoni and his marshalling of resources that CSK still reached the final last year without any tangible contribution from their "Chinna Thala". One might not see Dhoni playing the IPL beyond 2021, which is another six months from now, but for fans this edition, in particular, could be a captaincy master-class in terms of strategy with a core team of 35-year-olds.

The play-off regulars will open the tournament with what is expected to be an intense clash against defending champions Mumbai Indians on Saturday in Abu Dhabi. In the run-up to this show-down, the side has battled 13 COVID-19 cases, including two players, and pullouts by the senior duo of Suresh Raina and Harbhajan Singh due to personal reasons. But as Virinder Sehwag aptly put it, the focus is likely to be exclusively on Dhoni's return to the field exactly 34 days after he called time on his international career.

Having led CSK to three titles and eight finals, no one knows the IPL pitch better than Chennai's very own "Thala", whose maximum utilisation of available resources is the stuff of legends. It will be a new tournament for Dhoni in slightly unfamiliar surroundings, away from "Fort Chepauk" and without his most trusted lieutenant in Canary Yellow, Raina.

It will not be easy to alter a batting line-up of 10 seasons in which Raina was the stables and the most influential No.3 in the history of IPL. Save for the last season,

day's victory. If Suárez ends up staying, he will be treated like any other member of this team, Koeman said. I spoke to him this morning and we still don't know if he is going or staying.

Girona offered little resistance to Barcelona's attack, formed by new signing Francisco Trinco, Philippe Coutinho, Antoine Griezmann and Messi.

Messi's perfectly placed pass sent Trinco clear for the Portugal forward to square the ball to Coutinho, who only had to scoop in the 20th-minute opener. Messi doubled the lead in the 45th with a shot from outside the area that went in off the upright.

Barcelona posted a photo on Twitter of Messi and Koeman clasping hands when the star forward was substituted along with most of his teammates with half an hour to go. It seemed meant to deliver a message of unity between the player and manager amid one of the most tumultuous periods in the club's recent history. Barcelona is trying to find new homes for Suárez and Vidal, two players who at 33 years old do not fit into Koeman's plans to rejuvenate the team.

Spanish media reported that Vidal is close to a move to Inter Milan. Juventus' reported interest in Suárez appears to have cooled in recent days.

Koeman even left the door open to Suárez staying when the coach spoke after Wednesday

games plus one suspended. Argentine midfielder Leandro Paredes received the same punishment while Layvin Kurzawa has to serve a six-match ban for kicking out at Marseille left-back Jordan Veretout. Thomas Tuchel's side on Wednesday welcomed back goalkeeper Keylor Navas, defender Marquinhos and forward Mauro Icardi after the trio were among seven players tested positive for Covid-19, but missed Kylian Mbappe, who is still in self-quarantine at home.

"We had chances to score in the first half, but we missed all of our good chances," Tuchel said. "The situation was complicated so it was important to win tonight."

Maxwell has gained five places to take joint 26th position along with Paul Sterling of

PSG secure first win; Neymar banned for two games

PARIS, 17 SEPTEMBER

Julian Draxler's header in stoppage time earned Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) a precious 1-0 win over Metz at home, ending the Ligue 1 defending champions' losing streak in the opening two games of the new season.

PSG kicked off their league campaign with two straight 0-1 defeats – one at Lens followed by another at the Parc des Princes against Marseille, in which three players, including Neymar, were sent off for their involvement in an injury-time brawl. The disciplinary commission of French Professional Football (LFP) on Wednesday announced the Brazilian striker would be banned for two

brush with the virus that has spawned a worldwide pandemic, completely and comprehensively altering the way human life is lived, said that it had been his wife who got infected first in his family. Spending so many days in an eastern Kolkata patient isolation facility battling the scourge was a test that he got through with great difficulties.

"Older ones may be a little more vulnerable for reasons we all know by now but the virus will spare no one," she said. The former senior scientific officer of the Sports Authority of India also was not sure Ranji Trophy bio-security bubbles would be just as safe as the expensively devised ones for some recent Test matches in England and the Indian Premier League in West Asia.

"They should wait for a longer while and desist from rushing in," Dr Das said.

ICC rankings: Virat maintains pole position in ODI chart

AGENCIES

DUBAI, 17 SEPTEMBER

Ireland after scoring 186 runs in the series, while Carey comes in next after his total of 152 runs elevated him 11 places to a career-best 28th position.

England all-rounder Chris Woakes is a major gainer in the rankings for bowlers, advancing three places to a career-best fourth position after finishing with six wickets in the series. New Zealand's Trent Boult and India's Jasprit Bumrah are currently occupying the top two slots. Woakes is also second in the list of all-rounders after also notching 89 runs in the series. His compatriot Ben Stokes is among those he has overtaken to reach within 20 points of Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi. Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood has returned to the top 10 for the first time in nearly two years, his player of the match performance of 3/34 in the first match of the four-wicket tally. He has moved up from 15th to eighth position.

Five-time World champions Australia collected 20 points from their first series of the Super League, introduced to add context to bilateral ODI series.

Bengal can count on Sen Sharma's tips

PULAKESH MUKHOPADHYAY

KOLKATA, 17 SEPTEMBER

Quite unnervingly, Sagarmoy Sen Sharma (*in photo*), who says he experienced the most extreme impact of the coronavirus before emerging unscathed, expects the Ranji Trophy to be played later this year – and isn't quite ready to be persuaded that the exercise had better be avoided with bio-secure bubbles needed for more than 30 teams.

"It may be the only domestic competition, other than, of course, the Indian Premier League, that would be played this season," the Bengal selector told *The Statesman* today, adding: "I don't see the other ones being gone ahead with

but the Ranji Trophy mightn't be skipped. And I don't mind the cricketers joining the fray in right earnest. I would urge fearlessness. I am 54 now and was therefore vulnerable. But the boys that will play should the Ranji Trophy be given the green light would be around 30. That makes a lot of difference." The former Bengal new-ball bowler, recalling his own

experience of the virus that has spawned a worldwide pandemic, completely and comprehensively altering the way human life is lived, said that it had been his wife who got infected first in his family. Spending so many days in an eastern Kolkata patient isolation facility battling the scourge was a test that he got through with great difficulties.

"Older ones may be a little more vulnerable for reasons we all know by now but the virus will spare no one," she said. The former senior scientific officer of the Sports Authority of India also was not sure Ranji Trophy bio-security bubbles would be just as safe as the expensively devised ones for some recent Test matches in England and the Indian Premier League in West Asia.

"They should wait for a longer while and desist from rushing in," Dr Das said.

'Fifa grant to be spent on tournaments'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 17 SEPTEMBER