



SECOND COVID-19
WAVE HAS HIT PEAK
IN DELHI: KEJRIWAL

P2



TRUMP WON'T
COMMIT TO
PEACEFUL TRANSITION

P10



U.K. UNVEILS NEW
WAGE TOP-UP
JOB SCHEME

P10



LATEST CHAPTER
IN THE STORY
OF SCHUMACHER

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 38 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 84% Min: 55%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 35.9°C (+2) Min: 25.8°C (+2)

SUN RISES

06:12 hrs

MOON RISES

14:22 hrs

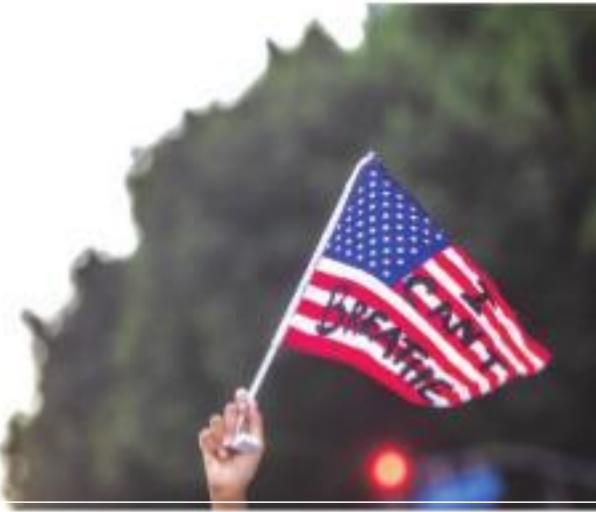
SUN SETS

18:14 hrs

MOON SETS

00:51 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Protesters march against police brutality in Los Angeles on Thursday, following a decision on the Breonna Taylor case in Louisville, Kentucky. Two police officers were shot and wounded during related protests in Louisville. AFP (P10)

SP Balasubrahmanyam critical: Playback singer S P Balasubrahmanyam fighting Covid-19 for over a month and on life support, is extremely critical, a hospital treating him said on Thursday. The 74-year-old Balasubrahmanyam, admitted on August 5, "remains on ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) and other life support measures," MGM Healthcare said. "His condition in the last 24 hours has deteriorated further warranting maximal life support and he is extrémely critical," the hospital said.

P4

Puja grant: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced a grant of Rs 50,000 to each Durga Puja committee in the state. Announcing a slew of doles for around 37,000 Durga Puja committees in the state, Banerjee said that the fire brigade, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), other civic bodies, municipalities and panchayats will not charge any money or tax for their services from the puja organisers.

P5

Covid tally over 57L; 86K new cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

on Wednesday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 6,74,36,031.

3,834 new cases, 36 deaths in Delhi: The national capital today recorded 3,834 new cases of Covid-19, which took its caseload to 2,60,623, according to the latest health bulletin issued by the Delhi government.

The tests conducted to find out these fresh coronavirus cases were 59,183, including 49,369 rapid antigen tests and 9,814 RTPCR/CBNAAT/True Nat tests. Delhi today recorded 36 deaths due to Covid, which pushed its coronavirus toll to 5,123. There were 3,509 Covid patients in the city, who recovered during the past 24 hours.

Daily new recoveries in India have surpassed new cases of coronavirus infection for the last six days, with a total of 87,374 people having recuperated in a span of 24 hours in the country.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted 11,56,569 sample tests



was 86.09 per cent, while the case fatality rate stood at 1.97 per cent.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Centre allows states to spend up to 50 pc of disaster response fund for Covid fight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

The Centre has allowed states to spend up to 50 per cent money from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to boost infrastructure such as quarantine facilities, testing laboratories, oxygen generation plants and purchase of ventilators and PPE kits to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic.

The move came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi told chief ministers of the seven worst affected states on Wednesday that his government has increased the states' limit to spend the SDRF to boost infrastructure to fight the pandemic.

In a communication to all states and Union Territories, the Union Home Ministry said that it has partially mod-

ified list of items and norms of assistance for containment measures of Covid-19, eligi-

bility from SDRF by way of a one-time dispensation with the overall capping of 50 per cent

for financial year 2020-21.

The areas where the states can spend up to 50 per cent of the SDRF include quarantine, sample collection and screening facilities.

Provision for temporary accommodation, food, clothing, medical care, etc., for people affected and sheltered in quarantine camps or for cluster containment operations will be covered under the modified norms. Cost of personal protection equipment for healthcare, municipal, police and fire authorities, cost of thermal scanners, ventilators, air purifiers, oxygen generation and storage plant in hospitals, strengthening ambulance services for transport of patients, setting up containment zones, Covid-19 hospital, Covid-19 care centres are also covered.

Drugs case: Deepika to join NCB probe on Sat, Rakul on Friday

MUMBAI, 24 SEPTEMBER

Actor Deepika Padukone will join the NCB investigation into an alleged Bollywood-drugs nexus on Saturday, an official said on Thursday.

Earlier, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had summoned Padukone on Friday to record her statement in the drugs case, a fallout of the probe into the death of filmstar Sushant Singh Rajput. According to the official, the 34-year-old actress has acknowledged the summons and will join the investigation on Saturday.

Another actor, Rakul Preet Singh, and Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash will join the investigation on Friday, he said. The statements of fashion designer Simone Khambatta and Shruni Modi, Rajput's former manager, were recorded today.

Dean Jones dead after collapsing at Mumbai hotel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 24 SEPTEMBER



he was announced dead on arrival."

Jones' family is in Melbourne and the Australian High Commission is in touch with them.

A player well ahead of his time, Jones scored over ODI 6068 runs at an average of 44.61 with seven hundred and 46 fifties.

For Indian fans, he will forever remain in their memory for the historic tied Test in Chepauk, where he laid the foundation of a big Australian score with an unbeaten double hundred in challenging conditions. There's an iconic picture of Jones throwing up while batting; he was so badly dehydrated he had to be admitted to a hospital during the course of the match.

In ODI cricket and the numerous World Series Cup matches on Australia's Channel 9, Jones, clad in a yellow jersey and

lips lined with zinc cream, is etched in the memories of the late 80s and early 90s generation.

Jones played a match-winning knock against India in the 1992 World Cup in Brisbane, a thriller that India lost by one run.

Post retirement, he worked as a cricket analyst for various channels, primarily in India and Pakistan, where he was immensely popular. He could polarise opinion and would often get trollled. He also once courted controversy for calling Hashim Amla "terrorist" on air, a light-hearted comment but the racist undertone forced the broadcaster to take him off air.

"Absolutely heartbreaking news about Dean Jones passing away. A wonderful soul taken away too soon. Had the opportunity to play against him during my first tour of Australia. May

his soul rest in peace and my condolences to his loved ones," tweeted Sachin Tendulkar.

India captain Virat Kohli wrote: "Shocked to hear about the tragic loss of Dean Jones. Praying for strength and courage to his family and friends."

"I can't believe this news. So very sad to hear about this. Rip Deano, you will be missed," Australian cricketer David Warner, who is leading Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL, tweeted.

Australian limited overs skipper Aaron Finch, who is with RCB, said: "Still in shock hearing the news of Deano's passing. Thoughts are with Jane and the family at this incredibly tough time. A great man with an amazing passion for the game."

World Cup-winning captain Michael Clarke wrote: "Speechless. Devastated. RIP great man."

UK may inject volunteers with coronavirus for vaccine trials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 24 SEPTEMBER

The government-funded study is expected to begin in January, with the trials likely to take place in a large secure facility in Whitechapel in east London or nearby.

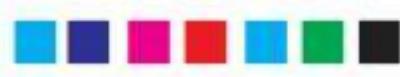
Around 2,000 potential volunteers have signed up for challenge studies in the UK through the US-based group 1 Day Sooner, campaigning for Covid-19 trials, and are expected to be paid a few thousand pounds for signing up to the upcoming trials, according to the report.

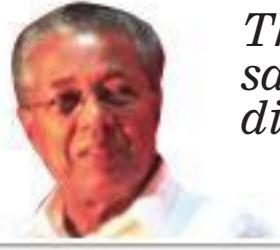
In the first trial of its kind expected to be formally announced next week, participants will be injected with an unnamed experimental vaccine and around a month later exposed to Sars-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. The *Financial Times* reported.

Orphan, a Ireland-based pharmaceutical research organisation.

Oxford University is also believed to be considering a similar "challenge trial" to test whether people have protective immunity from Covid-19 if they have been previously infected.

A government spokesperson said it is looking into collaborating on the potential development of a vaccine through human challenge studies. Any trial that involves exposing people to the virus would need the approval of the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), as well as an independent research committee.





Things are serious as (covid) cases are increasing and Thursday also saw Kozhikode registering the highest single day tally (883). Kollam district also has high numbers, so is Malappurram distric

PINARAYI VIJAYAN
KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

Covid second wave has hit its peak in Delhi: CM

Kejriwal says experts believe the second coronavirus wave appears to have hit its peak in the city and that cases will come down in coming days; Delhi records 3,834 new cases from 59,183 tests



People wearing masks amid the Covid pandemic queue up to enter the Rajiv Chowk metro station in the Capital on Thursday.

DEEPAK

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today said the second wave of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has hit its peak in the national capital with experts hinting that Covid cases would decline in coming days.

Kejriwal said the Delhi government was "keeping its fingers crossed". He hoped that Covid cases will "gradually" come down due to steps taken by his government.

Delhi has been witnessing a surge in the number of coronavirus infections over the last few weeks.

"All the experts believe that the second wave (of coronavirus), which had come in Delhi, appears to have hit its peak. Now, the cases will come down in coming days," the CM told reporters.

He pointed out that Covid cases in the city were broadly under control between 1 July and 17 August, when on an average 1,100-1,200 new cases were being reported every day.

"From August 17, the cases rose slightly from around 1,100 to 1,500 and as a responsible government, we did not take any risk and immediately scaled up testing from around 20,000 to 60,000 tests per day," Kejriwal said.

The best way to defeat

coronavirus is to conduct aggressive testing to identify and isolate positive cases," he asserted.

The CM also said that coronavirus cases have increased in Delhi because testing was ramped up significantly. "The daily cases were around 4,500 on September 16 which have now started coming down and currently, there are around 3,700 cases (daily)," he said.

He said that if the testing would have remained at the previous level of 20,000 tests per day, Covid cases would also have stood at around 1,500 per day in Delhi.

Kejriwal hoped that the steps taken by the government, including increasing the num-

ber of containment zones from 550 in mid-August to around 2,000 now, would gradually bring down the number of Covid cases in coming days.

Earlier this month, Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain had remarked that it could not be said that the national capital was witnessing a second wave of Covid.

On September 7, Jain had said the sharp Covid spike in Delhi would plateau after ten days or so and asserted that the home isolation policy has proved to be a "game changer" in taming the surge, a strategy headed, the Kejriwal government would continue to practise.

Meanwhile, the national capital today recorded 3,834 new

cases of Covid-19, which took its caseload to 2,60,623, according to the latest health bulletin issued by the Delhi government.

The tests conducted to find out these fresh coronavirus cases were 59,183, including 49,369 rapid antigen tests and 9,814 RT-PCR/CBAAT/True Nat tests.

The positivity rate was 6.48 per cent, up from yesterday's 6.23 per cent.

Delhi today recorded 36 deaths due to Covid, which pushed its coronavirus toll to 5,123.

There were 3,509 Covid patients in the city, who recovered during the past 24 hours. This increased the cumulative total of recovered Covid patients to 2,24,375, the health bulletin said. The recovery rate was 86.09 per cent, while the case fatality rate stood at 1.97 percent.

As many as 9,296 Covid patients remain admitted to different hospitals in Delhi while 17,995 patients were being treated under home isolation, the bulletin stated.

The number of containment zones in Delhi went up to 2,059 from yesterday's 1,987, the bulletin added.

The city's active cases tally rose to 31,125 from 30,836 the previous day. According to the bulletin, of the total number of 15,810 beds in Covid hospitals, 8,784 were vacant. It said 1,658 beds in Covid care centres were occupied by persons under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by the Vande Bharat Mission and "bubble" flights.

Delhi had yesterday reported 3,714 fresh Covid cases from 59,580 tests done the previous day. It had then recorded 36 coronavirus fatalities.

CM Arvind Kejriwal at IARI Pusa in the Capital on Thursday.

DEEPAK

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

cal technique" to stop stubble burning.

Briefing media persons after his visit, Kejriwal said, "Delhi and other North Indian states are covered with smoke due to stubble burning by farmers. We visited the Pusa Agricultural Institute today and spoke to its Director.

They have developed a new and innovative technique under which they give four capsules with the help of which farmers can prepare a 25-litre liquid mixture with jaggery and chickpea flour, which is sufficient to cover one hectare of land. When a farmer sprays the 25 litres of the liquid mix on the stubble, the stubble softens and melts down in 20 days. The farmer can then begin his sowing again and he does not need to burn the crop stubble."

"We will be getting a proposal mentioning all the important details such as cost per acre soon. This is the result of many years of hard work of scientists, and they have got the validation after a year after their pilot testing and projection," the Chief Minister added.

The scientists gave a presentation yesterday, and this is a very simple, doable and practical approach. Looking at the net cost-benefit analysis, it can be said that a farmer will get twice the profit of what he will spend. This is a new invention by the Pusa Institute. There is a need to implement it as soon as possible, he said.

Taking to social media, Kejriwal tweeted, "Farmers are also worried about the pollution that is caused due to stubble burning every year. A technique has been developed by the scientists of IARI --- Bio Decomposer. I visited to observe the technique today. Scientists believe that because of this, farmers will not have to burn stubble, the stubble will turn into manure and the farmers' yield will also increase."

Over 200 top writers, educationists, filmmakers demand Khalid's release



PTI
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

More than 200 educationists, filmmakers and authors, including Noam Chomsky and Mira Nair, issued a joint statement on Wednesday demanding the Centre free Umar Khalid arrested in connection with the northeast Delhi riots.

Besides Chomsky and Nair, the signatories include actor Ratna Pathak Shah, authors Amitav Ghosh, Salman Rushdie and Arundhati Roy, and journalist P Sainath.

"We call on the Government of India to free Umar Khalid and all those falsely implicated and unjustly incarcerated for protesting against the CAA-NRC that denies equal citizenship rights and to ensure that the Delhi Police investigates the Delhi riots with impartiality under the oath they took as public servants bound by the Constitution of India," the statement read.

Khalid has been arrested under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a case related to the communal violence in northeast Delhi in February this year.

"We stand in solidarity and outrage, with the brave young scholar and activist Umar Khalid, arrested in New Delhi on September 14, 2020, under fabricated charges of engineering the Delhi riots in February 2020," the statement said.

The statement said that Khalid "used the passion of his commitment to his country, marshalled his educa-

tion and his voice to join the movement for equal citizenship, against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)" which introduced religion as a criterion for citizenship, and has no place in a secular nation.

The Delhi Police had on September 13 said it is investigating the role of all individuals who took part in the February riots and were behind the larger conspiracy of organising violence and inciting communal passion amongst communities.

Delhi Police Commissioner S N Srivastava had last week said the force has collected documentary evidence, including scientific evidence, to support its case in connection with the riots.

He said that the police have so far arrested 1,571 people irrespective of their caste or religion and they are almost equally distributed among both communities.

Responding to former IPS officer Julio Ribeiro's letter in

which he had questioned the Delhi Police's investigation, Srivastava had said that there are several entities who have their reasons to weave a "web of deception" and push a "false narrative of bias and insensitivity" on the part of the police.

He said that police investigations in criminal cases are guided by facts and evidence, not by reputations and personalities.

"Delhi Police are serving the oath and the Constitution with conviction, integrity and sensitivity, without fear of any self-proclaimed true patriots or favour towards any class, creed or community," Srivastava had said in an email reply to Ribeiro.

Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on February 24 after violence between those supporting the citizenship law and those opposing it spiralled out of control, leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

Delhi riots: Court sends Khalid to judicial custody till 22 Oct

PTI
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

A Delhi court Thursday sent former JNU student leader Umar Khalid, arrested under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, in a case related to the communal violence in northeast Delhi in February, to judicial custody till October 22.

Khalid, who was arrested on September 13 in the case, was produced before the court through video conferencing at the end of his 10 days police custody.

His custodial interrogation had started on September 14.

Since police did not seek his further custody, Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat ordered his judicial custody with direction to the Tihar Jail Superintendent to take all necessary steps, within the rules, to ensure the safety and security of the accused.

Khalid claimed before the court that he has not signed any document whatsoever during his police custody.

During the last 10 days in police custody I have not signed any paper or statements, he told the court.

During the proceedings in the court today, Khalid said he is allowed to meet his family members before sending him to judicial custody.

In the FIR, police has claimed that the communal violence was a

Gopal Gandhi appointed IIC's new life trustee

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER



New Delhi have appointed Gopal Krishna Gandhi, former Governor of West Bengal, to be a Life Trustee of the Centre in the vacancy caused by the passing away of Dr. Kapila Vatsayana," said a statement issued by the IIC.

A noted writer and scholar, Gandhi, 75, is a retired IAS officer and an ex-diplomat, who served as India's high commissioner to South Africa

(1996-97) and Sri Lanka (2000-2002) and as an ambassador to Norway (2002-2004).

Gopal Krishna Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, later also served as West Bengal governor from 2004 to 2009.

Other members on the IIC's board of trustees reportedly include N N Vohra, KN Shrivastava, Aarti Khosla, Soli J Sorabjee and Ashis Nandy.

It is hereby notified that my client interested to purchase a plot of Bastu land measuring about 4 acres, 2 chittabs situated within local limit of Panjahi Municipality under Ward No. 30, Holding No. 113, Amarapur, Mouza: Natagarh, Khatan No. 661, Dag No. 2935, Dist: North 24 Parganas from the present and recorded owners (i) Subrata Mondal, S/o, late Mrityunjay Mondal, (ii) Mrs. Suparna Mondal, widow of late Suprakash Mondal and

others. Any person having any objection or any right, title or interest in the above noted land should contact me with documentary evidence within 1 month from this notice, otherwise no objection will be entertained thereafter.

Asoke Basu
Advocate
High Court, Calcutta
12/2, Old Post Office Street, First Floor
Kolkata-700001
(M): 9831163979

LOST & FOUND

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Meena Sharma, w/o Late Madan Lal Sharma, r/o C15A, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-96, do hereby sever all her relations with her Son Manish and Daughter in Law Anjali and Debar them from her movable and immovable due to their quarrelsome nature. Any person dealing with them may do so on their own risk.

Ankit Gupta
Advocate
4, First Floor, Priya Enclosure, Delhi-110092
Enl. No. D-1710/11
Mob.: 9891803682

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It would have been better if the Centre had taken the decision on bringing the legislation after consulting farmers

BSP PRESIDENT MAYAWATI

AMIDST PROTESTS OVER FARM BILLS

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

03

THUMBNAILS



An army officer salutes during a wreath laying ceremony for a slain Assistant Sub Inspector, who died during an attack by suspected militants in Chadoora area of Budgam district, at the CRPF headquarters in Srinagar on Thursday.

AFP

684 fresh Covid 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 117, Udhampur 117, Chamoli 67, Pauri 52, Pitampura 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. 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

Farm Bills: Capt steps up attack on Centre

Punjab chief minister tears into Union agriculture minister Narendra Tomar over his alleged 'lies' against Congress and Punjab govt over the contentious farm sector Bills passed recently by Parliament

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 24 SEPTEMBER

The war of words between the BJP-led Centre and the Congress-led Punjab government over the former's three controversial farm sector Bills, passed recently by Parliament, has continued to rage.

Stepping up attack on the Narendra Modi-led central government on the issue, Punjab chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh today expressed shock over Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar's alleged "atrocious lies" over Punjab and the Congress party's stand on the contentious agriculture sector Bills, charging that the BJP minister had "clearly shed even the pretence of fairness and honesty in pursuit of his party's demonia agenda".

In his desperation to promote the BJP-led NDA government's conspiracy to ruin the farmers, Tomar had thrown all propriety to the winds to spread disinformation against the Congress in general and me in particular by peddling shameless falsehoods, "alleged Capt Amarinder.

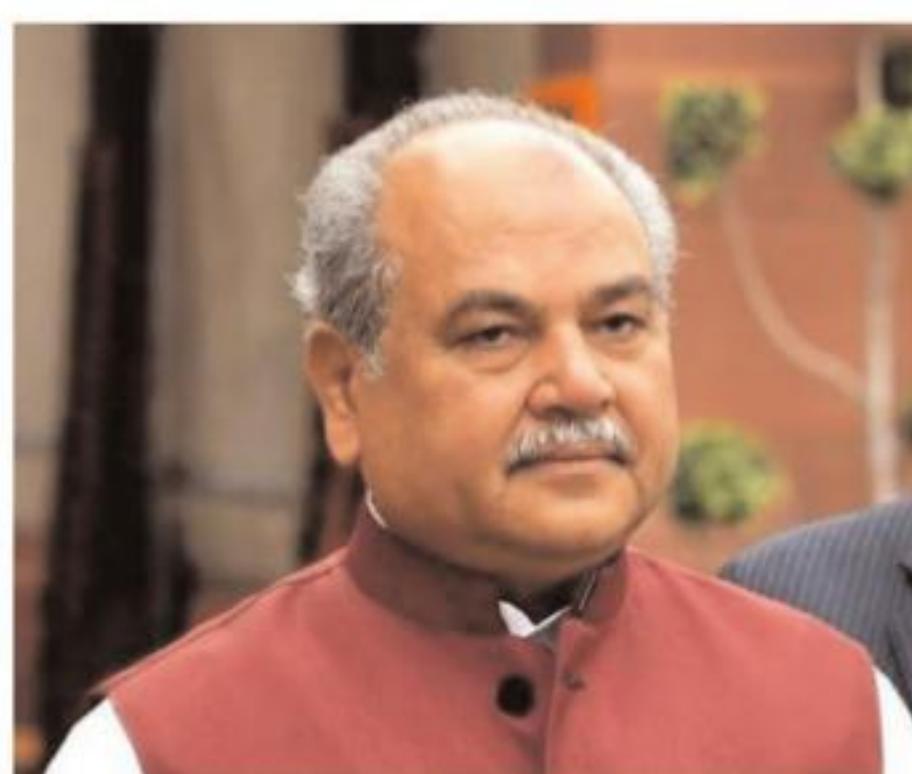
Reacting to Tomar's latest remarks on the issue, the Punjab CM termed it as "a pack of outrageous lies". The entire statement of the Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Minister, as part of a reported interview, was nothing more than unsubstantiated allegations, false claims and deceitful verbal

assurances, which provided neither any basis nor any reason for trust or belief," he charged.

On Tomar's question as to why did he (Capt Amarinder)

ing MSP system. Instead they will be pursued to effectively implement MSP for other crops i.e. maize, pulses also. Further, it had stated that Agriculture Marketing will be upgraded and digi-

also categorically stated that MSP would be protected at all costs and that thousands of markets would be set up by the state governments to provide easy access to farmers for



Union agriculture minister Narendra Tomar (L) and Punjab chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh

keep it in his manifesto that Agriculture Produce Markets Committee (APMC) Act will be changed", the CM said it was "obvious" that the Union agriculture minister had not even read the Punjab Congress 2017 manifesto.

The manifesto had clearly promised that "Updation of APMC Act will be done to ensure direct access of farmers to the national and international markets through digital technology without tinkering with the existing MSP system" and that "Government of India will not be allowed to tinker with the exist-

itized with a complete ban on utilization of Mandi Board Funds for purposes other than agriculture marketing", said

profitable sale of their produce, the Punjab CM said.

"Tell me one place in which your three Bills have made any such promise to the farmers," he dared Tomar, slamming the Union minister for "spreading brazen lies in an attempt to befool the farmers". Contrary to Tomar's allegations, there was no question of going back on the Congress promises, either at the national or the state level, because "at no point did the party make any promise to ruin the farmers, either in 2017 or in 2019", Capt Amarinder said.

Even the Congress's 2019 Lok Sabha polls manifesto



'Modi govt stoops to new low by bringing agri legislations'

from these dangerous new laws, whose implementation will cripple the farming sector and also destroy Punjab's life-line of agriculture," Capt Amarinder said.

In a statement, the CM said the Congress had always stood with the farmers and will "fight with them, shoulder to shoulder, to scuttle the Centre's plans to ruin not just their own families and the labourers, who toil on the fields day and night to feed the nation, but the entire state of Punjab".

The Narendra Modi-led Union government has "stooped to a new low" by bringing these Bills, and that too in a totally undemocratic and unparliamentary manner", charged Capt Amarinder, adding that his government will oppose the legislations tooth and nail in the interest of not just the farmers and the state but the entire country.

Lambasting the Akalis for trying to change the narrative through their concerted and deliberate efforts to transform the 'Punjabi vs Centre' fight into a local political clash for their alleged vested interests, the CM said they have changed the history of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) to "reduce it from a political force into a puppet of the BJP". Capt Amarinder dismissed SAD leader Harsimrat

Kaur Badal's resignation from the Union ministry as a "mockery of the Akali history of sacrifices, before the Badals hijacked the party and converted it into their personal fiefdom for their own gains".

"Is giving up a berth in the Union Cabinet a sacrifice? The Badals clearly do not know the meaning of sacrifice," he quipped, ridiculing SAD chief Sukhbir Badal's latest statement that the Akali Dal can make any sacrifice for farmers.

"Sukhbir's assertion that the SAD will not let any corporate enter Punjab if the people make an Akali Dal government in the state clearly showed that it was all about power, and the entire drama was being enacted by their party to get into the saddle," the CM said.

Terming the SAD's "U-turn" on the farm Bills as a "desperate step taken under political compulsion when faced with the threat of total eradication from Punjab's political arena", Capt Amarinder pointed out that neither Sukhbir nor his wife Harsimrat even once opposed the farm Ordinances at any point till they were recently presented in the Lok Sabha.

"In fact, the duo continued to actively defend the Ordinances as being supportive of the farmers," he claimed.

Agri legislations would destroy farmers: Shukla



Ex-Union minister Rajeev Shukla and HP Congress chief Kuldeep Rathore at the HP Congress office in Shimla on Thursday.

SNS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 24 SEPTEMBER

Former Union minister and HP Congress in-charge Rajeev Shukla on Thursday charged that the farm legislations brought by the Narendra Modi government will destroy the economy of the farming community and that changes are needed in them to protect farmers' interests.

Talking to media during his first visit to the state, Shukla said the new bills will pave the way for big companies buying farm produce at throwaway prices and farmers will be forced to sell their products at low prices.

"The Union government should have made provision in

the farm bills that the agricultural products wouldn't be bought at lower prices than the fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Further, the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees should not be abolished to ensure that farmers don't suffer losses," he said.

Shukla further stated that the legislations passed by the Central government didn't mention these points and when the opposition parties asked to make these changes, the government said that they were making provisions.

But they hadn't made any announcement to make these changes a part of the new legislations, he added.

"The changes suggested by

the Congress party should be made part of the new bills as the government officials' only follow what is written in law," he said.

Former Union minister also lashed out at the Centre government for poor management to curb the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the country and said the government had failed to tackle the viral disease efficiently.

He also raised the issue of suicide of a woman in a hospital in Shimla and said the state government didn't have proper mechanism to tackle Corona patients.

"The development in Himachal has taken a backseat in the present BJP government and all sections of the society be it traders, youth or women, are suffering due to inefficient governance in the state. At present, there are over 14 lakh unemployed persons in the state which shows the lack of policies for ensuring employment opportunities for the people of the state," he added.

He further stated that former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh led government had worked for all round development of the state and many projects were launched for the welfare of the people of the state.

"We need to work for ensuring that Congress returns to power in the state in 2022 assembly elections so that development could take centre-stage in the state," he added.

He allayed the talks of infighting within the HP Congress and called on the party workers to work unitedly and as one family to ensure the party's win in the state in upcoming assembly polls,

he said.

But they hadn't made any announcement to make these changes a part of the new legislations, he added.

"The changes suggested by

Farm legislations to go along way in doubling farmers' income: HPCM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 24 SEPTEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday said the "farm Bills passed in Parliament are pro-farmers" which would not only provide better marketing facilities to the farmers to sell their produce but also go a long way in doubling their income.

Thakur said APMCs and Marketing Boards would continue to function as usual and grant-in-aid to develop market yards will also continue.

"The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 would create additional trading opportunities outside the APMC market yards to help farmers in getting better prices. These would also allow development of private Mandi infrastructure in the state besides improving market access for the farmers by farm gate sales/manidis," he added.

The Chief Minister said after getting the consent of the President, the Act would help in introduction of new technologies in the farm sector through private investment.

Further, the buyers and investors who directly purchase farm produce from the farmers would not have to pay any market fee or cess. It will motivate reputed agri business companies to purchase directly from the farm fields,

he said.

Thakur said focus would be on electronic mode of transactions which would help in meeting the vision of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding 'One Nation One Market'.

Besides, it would usher in development of cold chain infrastructure in the state as licensing would be deregulated which would ensure ease of doing business and increase investment in the agro processing sector.

While accusing the Congress leaders for misleading farmers on the issue, he said that the Act would give price assurance of farm produce to the farmer at the time of sowing with better income options and they would be motivated to grow crops as per the demands of the market.

"The Centre government under the able leadership of PM Modi is committed for socio-economic upliftment of the farming community and has initiated several schemes for their betterment.

Till date, over Rs 92,000 crore have been directly transferred into the accounts of farmers under 'Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna,' he added.

priority and it is at the root of these Bills, Rawat said.

The agriculture ministry budget at the time of UPA in 2009 was Rs 12,000 crore which now stands at Rs 1.34 lakh crore, he said.

Out of this amount, Rs 92,000 crore has reached the accounts of farmers under the PM KISAN Yojana through direct benefit transfer (DBT), the chief minister said.

He also spoke of the hike in the MSPs of paddy, wheat, masur, mustard and barley and a package of Rs 1 lakh crore announced by the Centre for creation of agricultural infrastructure.

Covid: Sisodia's condition stable, to undergo another test soon

PTI
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

The condition of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, currently undergoing treatment for COVID-19 at a state-run facility here, is stable, and he will undergo another coronavirus test in a couple of days, officials said on Thursday.

He was admitted to the LNJP Hospital on Wednesday from being under home isolation after he had contracted the infection.

"He is still in ICU since yesterday, but his condition is stable. The minister has been put on oxygen support as per requirement, and under constant observation," a senior doctor of the hospital said.

Besides, it would usher in development of cold chain infrastructure in the state as licensing would be deregulated which would ensure ease of doing business and increase investment in the agro processing sector.

He is a wonderful facility here and I am very proud of them. If you need any medical attention in this coronavirus time, LNJP is ready to serve you," the minister said.

Sisodia had tested positive for COVID-19 on September 14 and was in home isolation.

"He (Sisodia) was admitted to the hospital after he complained of fever and low



Delhi Dy CM diagnosed with dengue too

NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was diagnosed with dengue on Thursday, a day after he was hospitalised due to COVID-19, sources said here.

They said the deputy CM's platelet count has also dropped.

was continuously having a little higher body temperature and his oxygen level dropped slightly," a senior official said on Wednesday.

Sisodia was unable to attend the one-day Delhi Assembly session on September 14 since he had tested positive for the disease.

He is the second Cabinet minister in the Arvind Kejriwal government to contract COVID-19 infection after Health Minister Satyendar Jain.

The health minister had tested positive for COVID-19 in June and was hospitalised. He was later administered plasma therapy.

Farm Bills to revolutionise life of farmers: U'khand CM

PTI
DEHRADUN, 24 SEPTEMBER

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Thursday said the farm sector reform Bills passed in Parliament will eliminate middlemen and give farmers the freedom to sell their produce anywhere inside or outside mandis.

Describing the Central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the most sympathetic to farmers, Rawat said the farm legislations will revolutionise their lives.

"There are provisions in



'The Farm Bills have put an end to the role of middlemen and paved the way for farmers to connect directly with the markets'

these Bills which will enable farmers to sell their produce at fair prices inside or outside the mandis," Rawat said at a press conference here.

The Bills have put an end to the role of middlemen and paved the way for farmers to connect directly with the markets, he said.

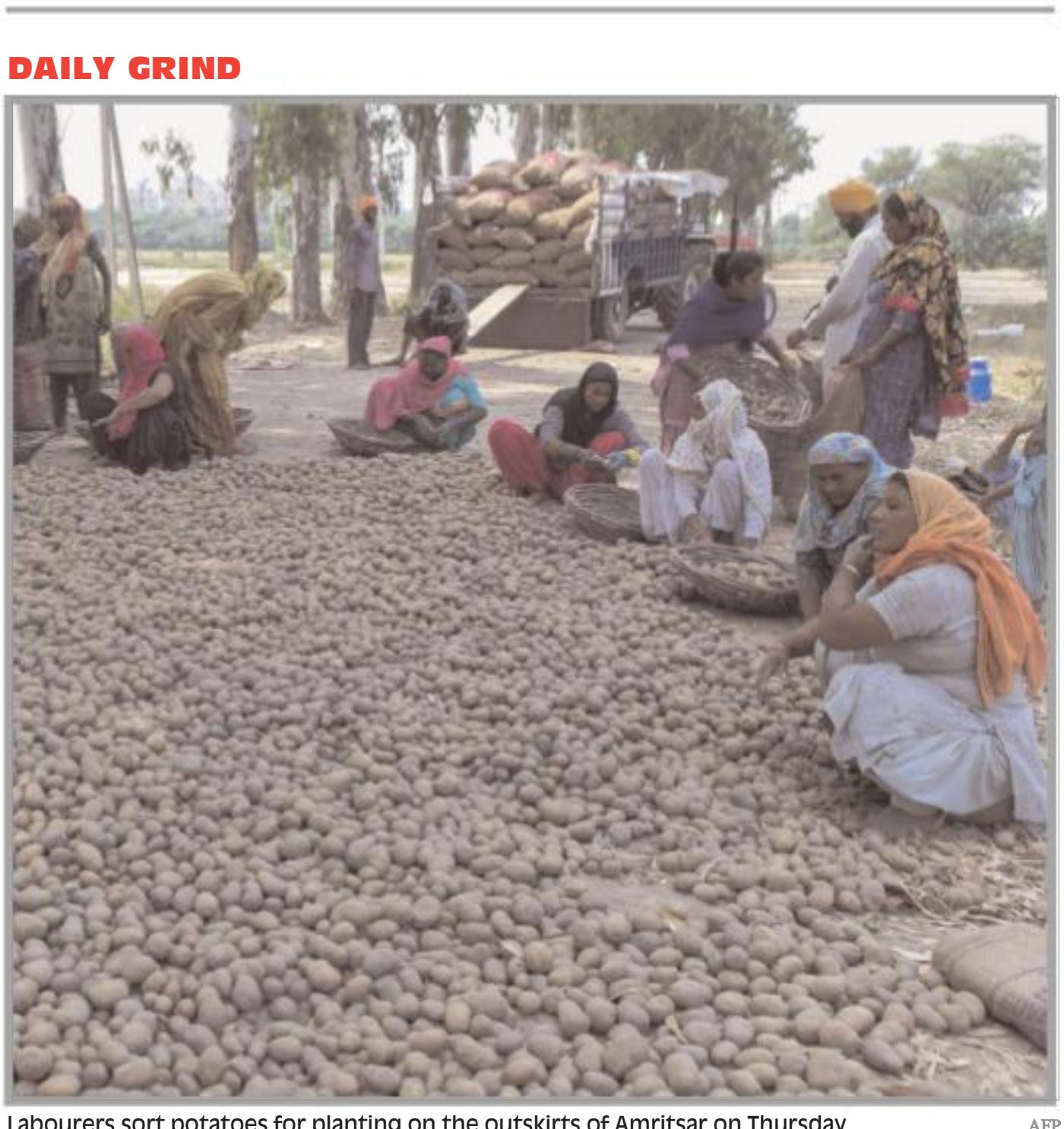
priority and it is at the root of these Bills, Rawat said.

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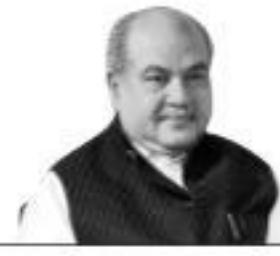
Out of this amount, Rs 92,000 crore has reached the accounts of farmers under the PM KISAN Yojana through direct benefit transfer (DBT), the chief minister said.

He also spoke of the hike in the MSPs of paddy, wheat, masur, mustard and barley and a package of Rs 1 lakh crore announced by the Centre for creation of agricultural infrastructure.

DAILY GRIND



AFP



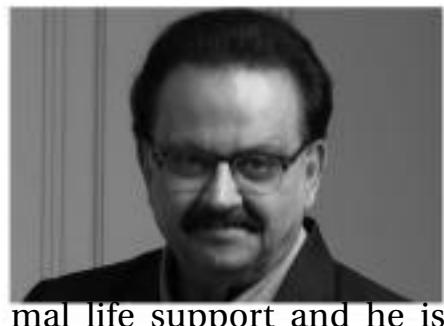
Why did the Congress not bring a law during its 50 years of rule if it thinks this was necessary

UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR
ITERATING CENTRE'S COMMITMENT TO FARMERS

India

SP Balasubramanyam extremely critical, informs MGM hospital

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 24 SEPTEMBER



In a grim news for his fans all over the world, the health of veteran playback singer SP Balasubramanyam has worsened.

On Thursday, a press release from Chennai's MGM hospital said that he was extremely critical. "His condition in the last 24 hours has deteriorated further warranting maxi-

mal life support and he is extremely critical," the release said.

On 22 September, his son, SP Charan, who has been giving regular updates about his

father's health, had posted on *Instagram* that SPB was recovering well and was eager to leave the hospital.

According to the social media updates of Charan, the 74-year-old singer even celebrated his wedding anniversary at the hospital and was listening to music. The film industry had also come together, asking fans to play SPB's songs and pray for his speedy recovery.

The singer was admitted on 5 August where he tested positive for Covid.

He had posted a video on his official *Facebook* page, informing his fans about his Covid test and assuring them that he was in good hands amid friends, family and able medical personnel.

Towards the end of August, SPB was said to be stable though he was on ventilator support and on ECMO.

TENDER

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tenders for following works:

1. Tender No. T20R220265:	Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 400/220/33 KV GIS sub station with complete civil works & automation at Gopalpur on Turnkey Basis.
2. Tender No. T19R20191:	Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 220/66 KV GIS sub station with complete civil works & automation at Budela, Delhi (India) on Turnkey Basis.

Last date for bid submission: (28.10.2020 for sl. no. 1) & (27.10.2020 for sl. no. 2) at 1.30 p.m.
For downloading of tender documents and further details please visit website Delhi Govt website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> Tender ID No. 2020_DTL_194718_1 & 2020_DTL_194863_1 and DTL website www.dtl.gov.in Unique No. DTL-7843-240920 & DTL-7842-240920
PR/20-21/21
All Corrigendum/Addendum/Amendments/Date of Extension/Clarifications, if any, to the above e-tender would appear only on the above mentioned websites.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const/Northern Railway, 4th Floor, DRM Office, New Delhi-110001 invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

Name of work and location	Design, supply, Erection, Testing, alteration & commissioning of 25 KV, 50 Hz, single phase, AC, OHE in connection with provision of High rise OHE at Assoot/Piyala station and merger of DFCCIL western corridor at Assoot yard.
Completion period of the work	12 Months
Approx. cost of work	Rs. 8,58,99,674.22
Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 5,79,500.00/-
Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 Hrs on date 26.09.2020 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 19.10.2020.
Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 05.10.2020 to 19.10.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 322-Dy CEE/CNDL/2020-21 Dated : 24.09.2020 2069/2020
Serving Customers With A Smile

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tender on Form No. 6&8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD, Mandi (H.P.) for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HPPWD (Electrical) department, so as to reach in his office on or before 19.10.2020 up to 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The application for issuing of tender form will be received in his office against cash payment Rs. 350/- (Non-refundable) for each work on or before 17.10.2020 up to 01:00 P.M. and the tender forms can be had from his office on same day. The application for the purchase of the tender documents should be accompanied with earnest mon^e ey of each work separately in the shape of National Saving Certificate/DFR/ Call Deposit / Saving Bank account / Bank draft of any Schedule Bank / Post Office duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD, Mandi (H.P.). Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will be rejected. The receipt of application for issue of tender forms by post shall not be entertained / considered in any case. The tender forms shall be issued to registered Contractors or their authorized representatives. The copy of enlistment / renewal order and valid Electrical License shall be attached with the application for purchase the tender document. The ambiguous / telegraphic / conditional / fax / E-mail or by post tenders shall also not be entertained / considered in any case. The tender shall be issued to those Contractors / Firms who are found eligible, suitable and competent. The decision of the Executive Engineer regarding suitability / eligibility / competency of Contractors/ Firms shall be final binding on the Contractors / Firms applying for the issuing of the tender. The offer for the tenders shall be kept open for 120 days. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reasons, if there happens to be any holiday the same will be opened on next working day.

Work No. 1:- C/o Science Lab at Government Senior Secondary School at Jarol, Tehsil- Thunag, District - Mandi HP (SH: Providing E.I therein **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 441030/-only, **Earnest money:** Rs. 8850/- only, **Time allowed:** - Along with civil work.

Work No. 2:- C/o Internal Alteration and modification of existing incinerator building and additional accommodation for DRTB Centre under RNTPC at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College and Hospital, Nercowk District Mandi HP (SH: Providing Ceiling fan, Exhaust fans, armored cable therein) **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 380262/-only, **Earnest money:** Rs. 7650/- only, **Time allowed:** - Along with civil work.

Work No. 3:- Replacement of wiring and safety device in the treasury office at Mini Secretariat building at Dhalpur, District - Kullu H.P **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 456511/-only, **Earnest money:** Rs. 9150/- only, **Time allowed:** - Along with civil work

Work No. 4:- C/o Type-II 2 Nos. quarters of Medic al Department at Sandhol, District Mandi HP (SH: Providing E.I therein) **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 113902/-only, **Earnest money:** Rs. 2300/- only, **Time allowed:** - Along with civil work

Work No. 5:- C/o Ayurvedic Health Sub Centre Building at Tozing, District - Lahaul & Spiti HP (SH: Providing E.I therein) **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 131798/-only, **Earnest money:** Rs. 2700/- only, **Time allowed:** - Along with civil work

Work No. 6:- C/o Junior Engineer HPPWD office-cum- Residence at Jachh Section (Jhungi) Nihri, District Mandi HP (SH: Providing E.I therein) **Estimated Cost:** Rs. T06614/-only, **Earnest money:** Rs. 2150/- only, **Time allowed:** - Along with civil work

Work No. 7:- Providing New Light Plug, Heating Plug, Exhaust fan and Geysers in Isolation Corona Wards (covid-19) at 6th floor and Respiratory lab 3rd Hospital at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College and Hospital, Nercowk District Mandi HP (SH: Providing E.I therein) **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 493668/-only, **Earnest money:** Rs. 9900/- only, **Time allowed:** - Three Months.

3313/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
HP.PWD KANGRA

Sealed item rate tenders on form 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Kangra Division, HP: PWD, Kangra on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the approved and eligible contractors/firms enlisted in HPPWD in the appropriate class for the work mentioned below on 15.10.2020 up to 10-45 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11-00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be obtained from his office on cash payment (non refundable) on any working day from 12.10.2020 to 14.10.2020. The applications for the issue of tender forms will be received latest by 12.10.2020 up to 12.00 Noon. The applications for issue of tender forms accompanied with enlistment letter/or renewal letter and the earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificates/Saving Account/Time deposit Account in any of the Post Office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Kangra Division, HPPWD, Kangra.

The conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

Work No.1:- C/O Link road from Ravinder Kumar House to Ramesh Chand House km.0/0 to 0/200 G.P. Dadoli Ward No.4 Block Kangra Tehsil Kangra (SH: - P/L Cement Concrete pavement at RD.5/00 to 0/200) Estimated cost: Rs. 464027/- Earnest Money Rs. 9300/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.2:- C/O Community Centre in Ward No.4 Daduchh Basti G.P. Tharu Tehsil Sharup Distt. Kangra (HP) Estimated cost: Rs. 392586/- Earnest Money Rs. 8000/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.3:- C/O Community Hall Sheetla Mandir Dhanot at Chambi Khad (SH: - C/O Civil work) (Deposit work) Estimated cost: Rs. 348981/- Earnest Money Rs. 6500/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.4:- Restoration of rain damages on Daulatpur to Janyankar via Dugiyal from km.0/0 to 4/00 (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD.2/018 to 0/031.50) (L.H.S.) Estimated cost: Rs. 450966/- Earnest Money Rs. 8000/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.5:- C/O road along with culvert for Nag Mandir Odru Ward No.04 in G.P. Baroh in Tehsil Shahpur (SH: - C/O 1.00mtr span R.C.C. slab culvert & P/L Kharanja stone soiling and cement concrete) Estimated cost: Rs. 223960/- Earnest Money Rs. 4500/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.6:- Balance work of C/O 30.00mtr span bridge over Kent Nullah on Charri to Ghera road at RD.3/072 under NABARD RIDF-XXIV in Distt. Kangra (SH: - C/O Diverion of road to Kent Nullah) Estimated cost: Rs. 235160/- Earnest Money Rs. 4800/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.7:- C/O Upera Bhaniar Shihoga Nadghun road (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD.0/070 to 0/130) Estimated cost: Rs. 371008/- Earnest Money Rs. 7500/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.8:- RD on Chambal Dharamshala road MDR-45 km.0/0 to 12/800 (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD.8/370 to 8/395) Estimated cost: Rs. 420523/- Earnest Money Rs. 8500/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.9:- C/O Link road Rachhialu Bentlu Kano road km.0/0 to 1/655 (SH: - C/O 900mm RCC Hume pipe culvert at RD.0/115, 0/445, 1/055 and 1/145 & C/O R/Wall at RD.0/255 to 0/265) (Under MMGSY) Estimated cost: Rs. 371197/- Earnest Money Rs. 7500/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.10:- C/O Link road to Village Bhattballa km.0/0 to 0/500 (SH: - P/L Interlocking concrete paver block RD.0/0 to 0/145) Estimated cost: Rs. 499990/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.11:- MDR from Ranital to 32mile (Kota) road km.0/0 to 39/73 (SH: C/O R/Wall at RD.20/200 to 20/220) Estimated cost: Rs. 443874/- Earnest Money Rs. 9000/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.12:- Balance work for boundary wall in combined office building at Kangra (SH: - C/O Boundary wall and parking shed for Govt. vehicle) Estimated cost: Rs. 362369/- Earnest Money Rs. 8000/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.13:- C/O Community Centre Mahila Mandali Bhawan Bhanali Tehsil Shahpur Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH: - C/O Building portion) (Deposit work) Estimated cost: Rs. 298381/- Earnest Money Rs. 6000/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.14:- Restoration of rain damages on Kholi Kaled via Upper Simbal Khola road (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD.1/585 to 1/595 (L.H.S.) & C/O V-shape drain at RD.1/550 to 1/570) Estimated cost: Rs. 313822/- Earnest Money Rs. 6500/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.15:- C/O Link road Gaggal Dodan Tyali Sahoura road (SH: - P/L Cement Concrete pavement in different RD's) (Balance work) Estimated cost: Rs. 495000/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.16:- C/O Morgh Gurgiun road km.0/0 to 3/240 (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD.0/960 to 0/975, 1/165 to 1/190, 1/341 to 1/349 & 1/351 to 1/359) Estimated cost: Rs. 442974/- Earnest Money Rs. 8900/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:-

1. The contractors/firms should be registered as or/dealer under GST Act 2017.
2. The intending contractors/firms shall have to produce the copy of latest enlistment and renewal enlisted in HPPWD.
3. The contractors is required to submit an affidavit for not having more than two works in hand in the shape of affidavit duly attested by the competent authority.
4. If any of the date mentioned above happened to be Gazetted Holiday the same shall be processed on next working day.
5. The contractor should quoted the rates of all the items in the tender both in figures and in words failing which tender is likely to be rejected.
6. The copy of Employees Provident Funds (EPF Number) should be attached with the application.
7. Minimum one similar work done of amount not less than 40% (forty percent) of the estimated cost (without Liquidated Damage or compensation) in last five years.
8. The Earnest Money for the above works should be required at the time of sale of tender forms.
9. All the required document should be submitted with the application otherwise single application may be rejected.
10. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

3265/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

Why did the Congress not bring a law during its 50 years of rule if it thinks this was necessary

UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR
ITERATING CENTRE'S COMMITMENT TO FARMERS

Pb 'rail roko' to severely affect goods flow: Rlys

Disruption will have serious impact on freight loading & passengers movement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

The Railways on Thursday said the 'rail roko' agitation in Punjab over farm Bills will severely impact loading of foodgrains and other essential goods as well as movement of passengers travelling on special trains on an urgent basis.

Farmers in Punjab on Thursday began their three-day 'rail roko' agitation while the Ferozepur Railway division suspended the operation of special trains due to the stir.

The Bills were passed in a hurried manner, said NCP spokesperson Mahesh Tapase.

"The disruption of rail services at this time will have a serious impact on freight loading as well as passengers movement. It will affect movement of essential goods. Also, this is a time when people are travelling for emergency purposes, this will hurt them too as we have had to cancel/divert special trains," said general manager, Northern and North Central Railway Rajiv Chaudhary.

Officials here said that Punjab loaded 990 rakes of FCI foodgrains in August this year and 816 rakes till 23 September. Thus, FCI is loading more than 35 rakes of food grains daily from Punjab, which also loads 9-10 rakes daily of fertilizer, cement, auto, mixed goods in containers.

The state receives around 20 rakes daily of coal, food grain, farm products, machinery, petroleum products, imported fertilizer etc.

Special passenger trains running from the railways' Ferozepur division have been cancelled fully or partially from 24 to 26 September in view of the farmer outfits' three-day protest.

Many freight and parcel trains have also been rescheduled. According to the schedule, the Amritsar-Haridwar train will be cancelled from 25 to 26 September.



Why are forest dwellers from the districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong deprived of their constitutional rights?

RAJU BISTA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, DARJEELING

ON HIS DEMAND FOR ENSURING THE RIGHTS OF FOREST DWELLERS OF THE TWO DISTRICTS

THUMBNAILS



A street vendor looks for customers to sell cotton candy in Bengaluru on Thursday.
AFP

Ration for school students: The administration of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir during the Covid-19 pandemic provided dry ration under the mid-day meal scheme at their doorsteps to more than 8.32 lakh students. About 10,000 ton of dry rations have so far been distributed. SNS

'HOPE' food cart: Siddhi philanthropic foundation, a NGO, launched a project Help Other People Eat (HOPE) to serve food for just Rs 5 in plates made of leaves by women in rural areas. The move will bridge the gap between rural India and urban and we will create a supply chain on rural India products through these carts to create a better and self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat), said Siddhi foundation founder Meena Mahajan in a Press release statement. SNS

UP man gets 25-yr jail for rape: Muzaffarnagar court on Thursday sentenced a man to 25-year imprisonment for raping a six-year-old girl. A fine of Rs 50,000 was imposed on accused, Sajid (23), after holding him guilty under the IPC and the POCSO Act. PTI

India, other G-4 nations press for urgent expansion of UNSC

Say an expansion will be indispensable to make this body more representative, legitimate & effective



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

India and the other G-4 countries have expressed disappointment at attempts to derail the process of reforms at the United Nations and updating its main decision-making bodies in order to reflect contemporary realities.

The SAARC nations should collectively resolve to defeat the scourge of terrorism, including the forces that nurture, support and encourage an environment of terror and conflict, which impede the objective of SAARC to realise its full potential for collective collaboration and prosperity across South Asia, he said while addressing the meeting.

He reiterated India's steadfast commitment to SAARC in building a connected, integrated, secure and prosperous South Asia. The minister also highlighted a slew of measures taken by India in the follow-up to the SAARC leaders video-conference, including virtually convening health professionals and trade officials meetings, crea-



tating a 'Covid-19 Information Exchange Platform (COINEX), foreign currency swap support and activation of SAARC Food Bank mechanism.

Jaishankar informed the member-countries that under India's contribution to SAARC Covid-19 Emergency Fund, supply of essential drugs, medical consumables, Covid protection and testing kits, and other equipment, amounting to \$2.3 million, were made available to countries in the SAARC region. He iter-

ated India's continued commitment to assisting nations in the SAARC region in combating the pandemic.

The meeting reviewed regional efforts to combat the pandemic. In particular, participants appreciated the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in convening a video conference of SAARC leaders on 15 March to take collaborative measures towards combating the pandemic across the region.

Meanwhile, at a Confer-

ence on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), India lashed out at Pakistan for misusing the forum by continuing its "spurious narrative" about India.

"The Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh have been and will remain an integral part of India. Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on India's internal affairs," the Indian representative said after Pakistan raised Kashmir issue at the meeting.

An overwhelming majority of UN member-nations support a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, and expect the IGN to deliver concrete outcomes in the 75th anniversary year of the UN. The IGN in the current session should start immediately as a direct continuation of the previous session, they added.

Sorry for not wearing a mask: MP home minister

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Bhopal, 24 SEPTEMBER:

Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Mishra, who rarely wore a mask and even questioned the efficacy of wearing one, today tendered a public apology for not wearing a mask and assured that he would always wear one from now on.

However, the only reason he cited for deciding to wear a mask was that not wearing one was against the feelings and wishes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mishra did not mention anything to do with the advice of experts of the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) who have

been continuously telling the world that wearing a mask was one of the effective and simple ways to curtail the spread of Covid-19.

Mishra had told media persons during an event at Indore on Wednesday that he does not wear a mask in any programme. "What is there in it?" the MP home minister had said, questioning the purpose of a mask.

He took a U-turn on Thursday and tweeted: "My statement about (not) wearing a mask appears to have violated the rules of law and it was also not as per the desire of the Prime Minister. Accepting my fault, I apologise. I will wear a mask and appeal to the society that all should wear a mask and follow social distancing rules."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

From 500 cases to 57 lakh. Six months after a nationwide lockdown, Covid-19 is spreading fast across the length and breadth of India with more testing and developments on the vaccine front but no clarity on when the disease will be controlled, say scientists.

On 24 March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a 21-day lockdown for the entire country, stating it was the only way to break the chain of infection. At the time, the number of people infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus was a little over 500 and the death toll 12.

Six months on, India has the second highest number of cases in the world after the US with a tally of 57.32 lakh cases, 86,508 people testing positive in a day and 91,149 fatalities, according to Union Health Ministry figures on Thursday.

As Covid-19 rages ~ and even laypersons get conversant with the complexities of RT-PCR tests versus the cheaper but not so reliable rapid antigen tests

- US-based economist and epidemiologist Ramanan Laxminarayan said there is a hidden epidemic happening even as the pandemic spreads.

He noted that the infection is spreading widely across all parts of the country, including into rural India, although the visibility is lower in places where testing is weak or inadequate. We will likely see some increases in states like UP and Bihar but only if RT-PCR testing increases. Right now, we have a hidden epidemic in many parts of the country that have weak health systems, the director of the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy in Washington said.

However, he expects the number of cases to start coming down in the next month or two as India approaches some sense of population immunity. As a substantial number of the population is infected and recovers from the disease, they are unlikely to spread the virus.

Given the precautions that are being taken both by the government and individuals, the epidemic has slowed down. This would mean that we would see a sustained plateau for a while before the cases start coming down, Laxminarayan said.

Immunologist Satyajit Rath sounded a note of caution and said India is still at the stage of spreading viral infection across communities.

With global, international travel as the point of origin, the infection was first established in urban high-density localities, and is now spreading from those into the rest of the country, at widely varied speeds, Rath, from the National Institute of Immunology (NII) in New Delhi, said. The infection has never really been under control in India, he said.

The early harsh prolonged lockdown somewhat delayed the large-scale establishment of the infection. But 'control' has never been a possibility. So we are certainly going to see growth in the infection numbers for quite a long while yet, Rath added.

Immunologist Vineeta Bal concurred with Rath, saying the Indian government did not learn much despite experiences from other parts of the world and announced complete draconian lockdowns that were extended for long periods.

Leadership in the country lacked in its vision and could not get a sense of the ground realities for poor people; or maybe did not care, Vineeta, from Pune's Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, said.

Laxminarayan took a different view. He said there were many positives about the control strategy, including an early recognition of the threat faced by India, and an early lockdown though the implementation and planning could have been much better.

Strides in testing, vaccine devp but Covid crisis far from over'



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Fishing expedition

A classic tale of crime and punishment involves the American gangster Al 'Scarface' Capone who evaded the long arm of the law in connection with several serious charges but was brought to book for tax evasion and eventually incarcerated for several years. Of course, by the time this happened, Capone had already been dubbed Public Enemy No. 1 in Chicago, where he ran his criminal empire, and his crimes had caused investigators to petition President Herbert Hoover for federal intervention. Such circumstances however do not exist in the case relating to the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, which has mysteriously meandered its way from an inquiry into the circumstances of his death into a mammoth fishing expedition to determine who of his colleagues in the film industry had at any point of time consumed narcotics. Quite incredibly, the Narcotics Control Bureau, an apex investigating agency tasked with coordinating activities of Central and state investigators in enforcement of drug laws, and of liaising with international enforcement agencies, has decided to channel its not inconsiderable energies into decoding text messages to determine which film star consumed what drug at a given point of time. Had the exercise not involved the time, energy and resources of an elite investigative agency, and considerable cost to the exchequer, it might even have been laughable. For if the intention is to determine how the drug supply chain operates, there are easier and less expensive ways of obtaining this information; investigators could far more easily visit any of the several dozen addiction centres that dot Mumbai and find out from inmates just how they procure drugs. An apex agency ought to be coordinating activities of state enforcement bodies to get to the roots of the drug problem and not bring itself down to the level of a Sub-Inspector. Where the NCB's essay will lead is open to question, but the odds are that it will garner more headlines than drugs.

It would not have escaped the attention of a bemused citizenry that in the past few weeks, the death of Rajput has served many purposes and spawned many more theories, not all of which were outlined in the First Information Report filed with the Bihar Police. It was a suicide, then a murder, then a murder provoked by another murder, a suicide again until finally degenerating into a tawdry inquisition involving the drug-use habits of some famous people. This could not have been the closure the actor's family sought when it decided to petition the police in Patna, and then pinned its faith in an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation, of which very little is now heard. This sordid saga has helped fuel election hopes in Bihar, fed the sickening prurience of some television anchors and, now, propelled a senior policeman to seek voluntary retirement presumably to seek a career in politics. There is only one way out of this morass - for people to switch channels if this matter is discussed on the idiot box and for investigators to hold their horses until they have a case fit to prosecute.

Lesson from Manila

Washington and its friends around the world will be pleased at the return to the American fold of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who in the years after his election in 2016 was believed to have cosied up to Beijing to the extent of not having pressed an arbitration ruling that held China's expansion in the South China Sea to be in breach of international law. Mr Duterte who had assumed office soon after the ruling was delivered had desisted from pressing it, while enhancing ties with China and distancing his country from the United States, a traditional ally with which it had in 1951 signed a mutual defence treaty. Now this has changed, and while the first indications were available from recent statements of the Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin, they were confirmed by the forceful presentation that Mr Duterte made in the United Nations General Assembly. Speaking to the global body this week, Mr Duterte asserted that the ruling of the tribunal "is now part of international law, beyond compromise and beyond the reach of passing governments to dilute, diminish or abandon". As China would have squirmed in discomfiture, Mr Duterte went on to say, "we welcome the increasing number of states that have come out in support of the award and what it stands for - the triumph of reason over rashness, of law over disorder, of amity over ambition." But it isn't strong words alone that the Philippines has used. In June, it suspended a decision to end a 22-year-old agreement that facilitated joint military exercises with the US. This week, it asked the US and other nations to help maintain security in the South China Sea, echoing a position taken by Vietnam and even as China called the US the "biggest driver of militarisation" in the area.

While many nations have supported the award of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, now cited by Mr Duterte and consistently ignored by China, one country with significant stakes in Asia has carefully straddled the fence. In the four years since the award was announced, India has scarcely said a word either in support of the Philippines or of the rule of international law. While neutrality might hitherto have been a carefully considered position, many strategic thinkers believe the costs of silence are rising by the day.

If China succeeds in projecting itself in the South China Sea, to the extent of perching itself above international law, it will next seek to dominate the Indian Ocean Rim. Like the mandarins of South Block, President Duterte too had once assumed it was safer not to needle the dragon. He seems to have learnt his lesson; will New Delhi, especially after serial provocations in Ladakh?

Learnings for Tomorrow

The current phase gives us an opportunity to reimagine teaching and learning for the post-Covid era. The joys of interaction and the benefits of physical classrooms would never be replaced with digital technologies, but the blended learning format provides us with the possibilities to rethink how academics would be handled



The government has recently announced radical changes in the education system with the focus on enhancing the quality and components of education, which over a period of time have the potential to deliver a higher calibre talent that would enter the workforce. In this context, many have recognised digital technology as an effective enabler for creating transformative impact on education in the early stages of school education.

With Covid-19, an estimated 1.2 billion students in 186 countries around the world have had to adapt to the new mode of learning in a very short span of time - something even the most ambitious futurologists would not have been able to predict. It's a fact that currently majority of the educational institutions and educators are facing various challenges such as limited bandwidth, lack of training or familiarity with the systems to deliver effective learning, constraints of access to devices and inadequate preparation and unavailability of appropriate content as required for different target audiences.

Some even fear that these may result in poor learning experiences. Therefore, it must be asked if schools and parents would want to continue with digital mode of technology when normalcy returns.

The answer is an emphatic 'yes' simply because once the stakeholders have got on to the digital platform complete reversal is unlikely. They find the digital medium so compelling that even with imperfect delivery capabilities, teachers are the heroes who are now connected to millions of homes.

This presents an opportunity for the parents to get to know the teachers and get a ringside view of the goings on in the class-

rooms. Besides being able to observe their own son/daughter's conduct in the virtual classrooms, they are able to observe other students and particularly how teachers interact and teach in the classrooms. Teachers encourage children to use their video cameras and other meagre resources that they may have to respond or work in teams on assignments. All of these are relatively new experiences, and the transparency, personalisation and intimacy the digital medium offers would act as the catalytic force for the medium to be not wished away even in the post-Covid era.

Therefore, the current phase gives us an opportunity to reimagine teaching and learning for the post-Covid era. The joys of interaction and the benefits of physical classrooms would never be replaced with digital technologies, but the blended learning format provides us with the possibilities to rethink how academics would be handled.

The lockdown has forced institutions to go online, without any warning or preparation, and consequently, learn fast. There is a lot of experimentation going on as there is scarce experience in this area. The faculty have had to learn the medium and then understand how to use it effectively in the class. Juggling between various controls, chat windows, allowing people electronically into the class, watching online videos, or switching between various windows or drawing on a separate digital pad or on-screen, could become overwhelming for most

faculty. But there is really no choice but to learn. Many faculties have stepped up to the task, for this is the medium of tomorrow.

Acquisition of given knowledge that can be transmitted didactically by a teacher or a text constitutes only one minor segment of curricular content. It is this segment that is largely amenable to online and digital forms of transaction. Disciplines, particularly at the undergraduate level, which are textbook-based and pretend to be relatively stable bodies of certitudes, lend themselves somewhat to such transactions. But learning in higher education means much more than this.

It involves development of analytical and other intellectual skills, the ability to critically deconstruct and evaluate given knowledge, and the creativity to make new connections and syntheses. It also means to acquire practical skills, explore, inquire, seek solutions to complex problems, learn to

work in teams and more. All these by and large assume direct human engagement - not just teacher-student interaction, but also peer interactions, including informal ones. Learning often happens through osmosis in social settings. Deconstructing given knowledge in relative isolation is never the same as doing it through a dynamic group process.

Arguably, some of this can, to some extent, be built on to a digital platform. But curricular knowledge tends to adjust its own contours according to the

mode of transaction and the focus of evaluation. It gets collapsed into largely information-based content when transacted through standard and uniform structures of teaching-learning and examination.

While digital forms of learning have the potential to enable students to pursue independent learning, conventional and digital forms of education should not be considered mutually exclusive. Online learning needs to be understood as one strand in a complex tapestry of curricular communication that may still assign an important central role to direct human engagement and social learning.

Flipped classroom approach which encourages students to read and consume information from digital avenues ahead of class and thus elevates the classroom discussions for introspection and debate to challenge young minds would require teachers to do their homework now. Low bandwidth solutions and inexpensive devices to access learning would require innovative work to create solutions and global opportunities are waiting for entrepreneurs with the right solutions. Not every child can afford a Byju subscription to get access to the attractively packaged content, but smart content curated from the rich open sources available on the internet would be the possible way forward. All of this would require armies of teachers to be trained and supported by education experts and enthusiastic citizens coming together for enriching the content repository for students. To conclude, the digital journey has commenced in right earnest for the Indian educational institutions - as they traverse their way forward - a combination of imagination, innovation and collaboration will make their journey rewarding.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Staying vigilant against a second wave

Covid-19 cases worldwide have crossed the 31 million mark and fatalities linked to it are approaching a million. While the United States tops the morbidity count with over seven million cases, India, with nearly 5.5 million, now has the second highest number of recorded cases worldwide - and by most accounts, the disease is out of control across the vast nation.

European nations from Denmark to Spain have announced new restrictions to curb surging numbers in their cities, and in Britain, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who not long ago spoke of the "inalienable right of the British to go to the pub", has hinted at a second lockdown amid an "inevitable" second wave. Even Singapore has had more than 57,600 cases and 27 deaths.

The cost in terms of human life and livelihood is already colossal, with no end in sight. Jobs continue to be shed in countries at a frightening pace as many companies tighten their belts in the face of collapsing demand and dwindling state support. Against this background, some argue that only a form of herd immunity can be a bulwark against the disease.

But scientists estimate that it might take two-thirds of the popula-

THE STRAITS TIMES

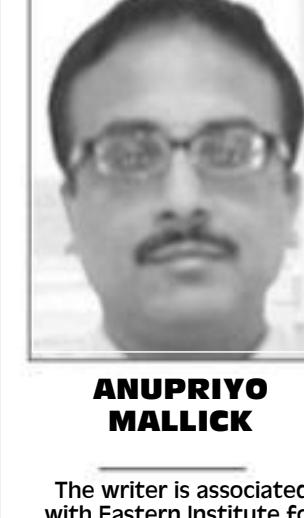
tion to gain immunity before this is reached.

Hence only the introduction of an effective and inexpensive vaccine is the real antidote, since with this people can develop immunity without contracting the coronavirus. If not, the cost to society and economies would simply continue to be catastrophic.

In Singapore, people are generally known to be socially aware and cooperative. But even here, Covid-19 weariness, confidence stemming from improving knowledge about treating the disease, and the evident success in preventing it from spreading too widely in the community have led some to feel they can afford to drop their guard. Last weekend, for instance, crowds were spotted at food and beverage establishments in places such as Tanjong Pagar and Bugis.

While all wore masks, too many were seen in close proximity to one another. Some restaurants have also reported attempts to game the rules, with groups making multiple bookings to get around safe distancing restrictions.

All this is a pity. The dyke against this tsunami of a disease can hold only if individuals play their part to ensure there is no breach in the wall. Frustrating as it is to have to mask up in public, refrain from dining out in large groups and limit the numbers who can attend events such as weddings, sensible curbs on free movement and assembly nevertheless remain the first line of defence and an enduring and practical weapon in the fight against the disease.


ANUPRIYO MALICK
The writer is associated with Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management

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A STAINED WHITE

SIR, You have pointed out in the editorial 'Disturbing Ignorance' (The Statesman, 22 Sept) that in response to all questions raised in Parliament about the numbers of Covid-related deaths among migrant workers, policemen and health-care workers and doctors, the government expressed ignorance. In normal circumstances, no government worth its salt would care to expose its ignorance. The government has huge majority in the Lok Sabha and is capable of managing it in the Upper House too. That is why it could afford to brush aside questions on important issues.

That is why, again, it could unilaterally abolish Question Hour in Parliament, the best way to stonewall uncomfortable queries. In the prevailing 'might is right' situation, even if your suggestion of bringing out a White Paper is

accepted to it, its colour is not expected to be milk-white.

Yours, etc., Sanjit Ghatak, Narendrapur, 24 September.

It is in keeping with the democratic spirit, the government ought to have agreed to refer the bills to a select committee for greater deliberation. The deputy chairperson blundered in allowing the fate of the crucial bills to be decided by "voice vote" when the Opposition demanded actual voting on the bills. He thus denied people the opportunity of knowing for certain who were for and against the bills.

Once the bills are signed into a law, their effects will be far-reaching. The old zamindari system is very likely to be reintroduced in a new, insidious form. Linked directly to the market forces, farmers will eventually be reduced to farm slaves. Dignity of labour will become a casualty of contract farming, which is nothing but a euphemism

for the corporatisation of agriculture. Farmers and corporate behemoths cannot be on an equal footing when it comes to negotiating contracts on, say, the trade of farm produce. Further, there is a chance that the technology about which the prime minister has boasted might rupture the cherished bond between the farmer and the land.

The passage of the farm bills sounds the death knell for the mandis run by the Agriculture Produce Market. Farmers will be forced to dance to the tune of big companies that will dictate the price. There is also the fear that this might be the end of the minimum support price regime.

Yours, etc., Narayan Chandra Ghosh, Nadia, 24 September.

tie. The Kings fell short by one run. Two decisions taken by on-field umpires went against them. First, a wide ball that went for four was given as leg byes and as the wide was not given, the batting team was deprived of a run. The second decision was taken in the 19th over when the square leg umpire adjudged the second run taken by Jordan as incomplete. The replay clearly showed it was a fair run. In the match between Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals, an appeal was made for caught behind against Tom Curran and the umpire gave him out without checking whether the catch was taken safely or not. The replay showed the ball had dropped before reaching Dhoni's gloves. The umpire called Curran back. BCCI should take such complaints seriously and urge umpires to use technology for the sake of fair cricket.

Yours, etc., Partha Pratim Mondal, Burdwan, 23 September.

FAR-REACHING EFFECTS

SIR, The manner in which two important farm bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha adds a black chapter to the history of parliamentary democracy in India. It was the deputy chairperson of the Rajya Sabha who was largely responsible for the unprecedented pandemonium on the floor of the Hou-

se. In keeping with the democratic spirit, the government ought to have agreed to refer the bills to a select committee for greater deliberation. The deputy chairperson blundered in allowing the fate of the crucial bills to be decided by "voice vote" when the Opposition demanded actual voting on the bills. He thus denied people the opportunity of knowing for certain who were for and against the bills.

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ATANU BISWAS

A vacation for a week in my daughter's school – a private school in Kolkata – in early September was for an interesting reason. It was aimed at getting rid of 'screen fatigue' after months of online classes during the Covid-era. The school authority expected that students and teachers would rejoin online classes with renewed vigour and energy after this short break!

Personally, I liked the idea very much. While many schools across the country and also across the globe are struggling to operate online due to inadequate access to smartphones, computers and internet data, and the digital divide is getting intensified, many other schools, universities and institutes have been able to keep the momentum going, and these online classes thus have become a robust substitute for classroom-based classes in many places.

Simultaneously, there is no denying that as people started to spend more time online attending meetings, classes, binge-watching Netflix and gaming, a pandemic of "screen fatigue" has also emerged. There were frequent complaints in the pre-Covid world that people were getting more and more addicted to smartphones and social media. We now understand that was really never too much. Never before have we spent more time glued to our laptops or smartphones for official meetings, classes, getting "work from home" done, social gatherings, consulting physicians, and of course for participating in social media. Social media usage is increasing with a tragic rise of social media addiction in many cases. In fact, the Covid-19 pandemic has thrust the lives of countless people around the world into a virtual space – so much that it has earned its own slang term, "Zoom fatigue". While people got stuck at home, several virtual meeting platforms have boomed during the pandemic, growing from 10 million daily meeting participants in December 2019 to more than 200 million in March 2020.

Some of my friends working in the corporate sector went almost missing in social media after they had to work from home due to the pandemic. One of them later explained that it was an additional effort to coordinate with his team members who are also working from home. Also, some clients kept on calling even at late evening hours as they knew everybody was working from home. Earlier these clients in Europe had to

A vacation because of screen fatigue?



100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

Sir Alfred Hopkinson has an article in the July number of the Contemporary Review on the subject of science in India. He quotes Lord Sydenham's saying that "India is crying aloud for science." The words were spoken twelve years ago, and a good deal has been done since then to satisfy the want, though all that has been effected so far might be accounted a mere drop in the bucket by comparison with the scope which this country offers for scientific work. Sir Alfred Hopkinson notes a great advance within the last few years along three lines. In the first place he refers to the steps taken by Government to provide for research and for the application of its results to practical problems. Few people in England, as he says - and, he might have added, comparatively few even in India - realise how much has been done in this respect and what benefits have been conferred on the people of India by the action taken under the direction of the Government both to advance and to utilise scientific knowledge. By way of example he mentions the Meteorological Department, the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli, the Forest Service, the Geological Survey, and the Parel Laboratories, directing special attention to the work of Major Glen Linton. "A self-contained India," Sir Alfred Hopkinson writes, "would now be a retrograde India ending in stagnation or chaos or both."

NEWS ITEMS

ATTEMPTED DAGOITY FRUSTRATED

A smart capture of a number of sepoys who were suspected of the intention to commit dacoity at Khaga, was affected by the Cantonment Police of Allahabad, with the aid of Mr. Gilbert, of the Kenilworth Hotel. The Sepoys belonged to 7th Rajputs, and went to Mr. Gilbert, who lets out motor cars on hire. Mr. Gilbert followed the sepoys in his own car. After they had proceeded certain distance they told the chauffeur that they were going to commit a dacoity. Mr. Gilbert informed the Cantonment police and taking with him some policemen. The policemen attempted to arrest the sepoys, but the latter who were armed with rifles, showed fight. Meanwhile another car full of policemen arrived overpowered the sepoys, and arrest them.

RANGOON ITEMS

The Judicial Commissioner has dealt with the sentences recently passed in connection with the sale of paddy above the control rate fixed for the Mandalay district, and has confirmed the sentences passed on sellers of paddy but quashed those passed on the buyers. In the course of a strongly worded resolution on the working of Treasuries in Burma the Lieutenant-Governor says orders and warnings in last year's resolution have received little attention. He speaks of flagrant disregard of orders received, of serious irregularities such as the manufacture of accounts, bogus remittances, neglect to verify balances and misstatements of fact. Explanations are called for from Deputy Commissioners, Mandalay and Yamethin, and the strongest action will be taken if further instances are brought to notice. The risk of grave irregularities in repayment of war loan subscription is realised.

BURMA RICE

Six hundred thousand bags of Burma rice are now lying at Colombo wharf, and no merchant is inclined to buy even a portion. At a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Thursday, a merchant made the statement that there were about eight or nine measures short in each bag received. The Committee thought the merchant was overstating the dryage. The Food Controller took charge of the key of the granary, in which 9,000 bags still remained of the same allotment, and decided to verify the statement. Yesterday the Hon. E.B. Alexander, food controller, and Mr. S.E. Hancox, deputy food controller, measured the rice. The first hundred bags were found to contain twenty-six and half bushels short.

DARJEELING AND THE REFORMS ACT

At a general meeting of the members of the Chittagong Association held yesterday the following resolutions were passed unanimously. That this Association emphatically protests against the exclusion of the district of Darjeeling from the operation of the Reforms Act. That in view of the position of Chittagong as a very advanced district, this Association is of opinion that one seat in the Viceroy's Council should be exclusively reserved for the Chittagong Division. That this Association emphatically protests against the contemplated disbandment of the 49th Bengali Regiment and strongly urges the Government to make it a permanent unit. That this Association is of opinion that a scholarship for females in the Matriculation Examination should be specially reserved for Chittagong Division.

Plans based on faulty assumptions

RAFIA ZAKARIA

It was supposed to be a magic solution. In the late 1990s, development professionals wanting to deliver rural women from the drudgery of dark, cramped and smoke-filled kitchens came up with a recipe for their deliverance. The homemade basic stove (which, at least in India, had been in use since 1800 BC) was to be discarded. In its place, women would be supplied with one of 100 million clean-burning stoves.

The project was received very warmly, not least because everyone working in the development aid sector, global health, women's empowerment and even on climate issues all saw something to love in it. The new clean stoves would produce a dramatic improvement in health, it was said, with the absence of smoke and particles preventing diseases such as pneumonia.

Climate activists said that the new stoves would burn only clean energy (electric) and so there would be a reduction in fossil fuel emissions. Nearby forests would not be depleted because women would not go out in the forests and cut down trees for firewood. Both the global health and the climate activists put their full support behind the plan.

The stoves were also going to be the magic solution that would reduce women's disempowerment in poor and rural areas around the world. No longer required to gather fuel for the time-intensive stoves, the women would have several hours a day freed up to do other things. Women could

even pursue wage labour outside the home, which in turn would give them greater economic power and improve their status as decision-makers within the home and the family.

With so much zeal attached to the clean stoves idea, the United Nations set about making it possible. The UN Clean Stoves Alliance raised \$130m which would allow 100m stoves to households all around the world. By 2010 (and earlier in some cases) the Clean Stoves Initiative was ready to get into motion and deliver the by now much-hyped promises, since three billion women and children in poor countries around the world inhale the polluting smoke or suffer from respiratory and other problems that were attributed to the stoves they used. Before long, representatives of the alliance, through various NGOs and UN organisations, set about getting to the poor hinterlands where they would introduce innovation in every household.

In the early years of the initiative, optimism continued to prevail. Obviously, given the length of time that women in poor rural portions of West Africa or India had been using the old stoves, it was suggested that it would take time for them to change their habits and get used to the new stoves.

The sort of transformational change that they were pursuing, the programme managers of various NGOs told each other, was not something that could take place overnight.

These insistent optimists should have taken more note of the early evidence that was provided to them. As the years have rolled on, more and



more evidence has piled up to show that the promise of the clean stoves was not what so many experts, NGOs and funders had suggested. Not only were the women refusing to switch from their traditional stoves to the clean stoves, there were also women who tried the new stoves and then switched back to the old-style smoky stoves that they had always used.

There was a host of reasons for this. First and foremost, was the issue of the stoves themselves. Many simply did not work, or if they did work, they also broke down and replacing parts of the stoves required visits to the big city where parts were quite difficult to procure. In other words, the stoves were a hassle. The old stoves may have been smoky and primitive, but they were what the women were used

to, what the women could repair, what the women and the families that they took care of associated with home.

The other supposed advantages were also overblown. The impact of the small amount of firewood that the women gathered from the forests or scrublands near their homes, was not enough to have any real impact on deforestation, whose main culprits were logging companies and other similar enterprises.

Finally, the women themselves did not want to use the stoves. The reasons could have been predicted if anyone had consulted the women: the gathering of firewood with other women in the community provided the women with valuable time in which to socialise, pool resources and

solve problems. Even when the stoves did work, the women did not want to work outside the home in the menial jobs that were available to them. Breaking rocks at a construction site or working at a brick kiln was not something they wanted or saw as preferable to their old ways and lives.

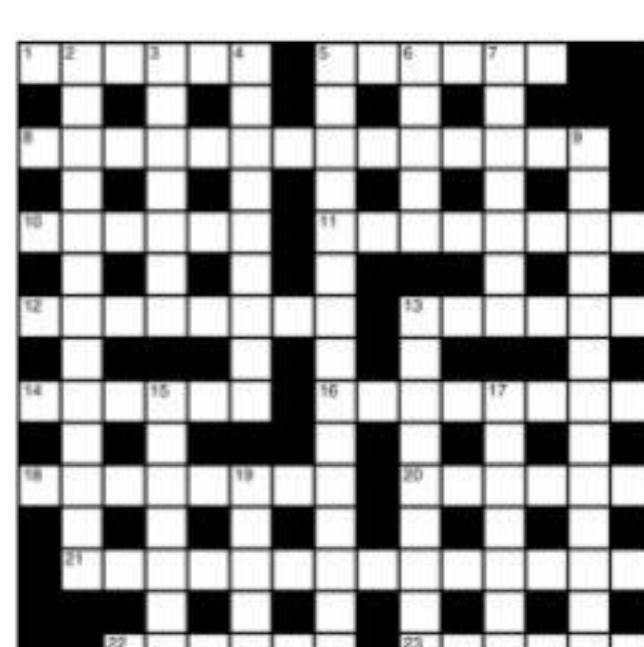
The lessons of the stove example are obvious. NGOs, particularly at the policymaking and programmatic levels, rely on assumptions to construct their programmes and fail to consult those for whom their product is meant. While the local NGO workers may have known that the initiative would fail, those higher up may not have had any contact with those who were at the receiving end of their grand plans for transformation.

At the heart of it all, however, was the assumption that poor people, particularly poor women, do not know what is best for them and that their problems like their lives are simpler than the complicated and complex lives of people with money. That one thing, a stove, could transform the existence of these poor women was a caustic and, in this case, costly, assumption. Of the hundreds of thousands of stoves distributed, only a few thousand are still in use, and the project itself is (ironically, given the fact that propane is a fossil fuel) switching to propane stoves. Hundreds of millions of dollars that could have been used to less dramatic but just as necessary projects are now gone forever, stolen from the poor whom they were supposed to benefit.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28084

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1 Lines etched in a mostly indifferent representation of the sun (6)
- 5 Stupid article, monopolised by old angle (6)
- 8 Operate that desolate rental and face criticism (3,3,8)
- 10 Million trapped by a frightful rate (6)
- 11 Satisfactory American place to live nearly completed in US city and state (8)
- 12 Singular fact: England making up for United's power (8)
- 13 Behold the end of messy religious disagreement? (6)
- 14 Possibly bowdlerised edition ready (6)
- 16 Eggs around a trail? Serious annoyance from drivers (4,4)
- 18 Bend, with autumn producing fruit on the ground (8)
- 20 Perfectly catching mice regularly? That'll be me! (6)
- 21 Disposition of a vanguard force at the Queen's disposal (5,3-6)
- 22 Director involved in good change to film – do you see? (6)
- 23 Both sides accepting border accounts? (6)

DOWN

- 2 Currency left after rest damaged in battering (5,8)
- 3 Road encompassing most of journey, showing you where to go (7)
- 4 Cricket sides, including English, going extra day, initially – not much good getting the runs? (3,6)
- 5 Unrealistic, and beyond 1's capabilities? (2,7,6)
- 6 Concluding event strong, considering everything is a
- 7 Little lacking (5)
- 9 Newspaper being able to capture one good indication of the pulse (4,9)
- 13 A lot of fun in the hall, dancing – it's good for you (9)
- 15 Reflect – not the first time – and intervene (7)
- 17 Daughter, always upset about way of working, transferred (7)
- 19 Leading Australian picked up dismissing Republican (5)

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

THUMBNAILS

Suspension of fresh insolvency proceedings: The government on Thursday extended the suspension of fresh insolvency proceedings under the insolvency law by three months amid the coronavirus pandemic. The six-month period of suspension, which was effective from 25 March, was to end on Thursday.

Havells foray: Havells India Limited on Thursday announced its entry into the refrigerator segment under its consumer durable brand ~ Lloyd. It has launched 25 new models of direct cool, frost-free and side by side refrigerators and plans to launch an additional 25 models of refrigerators and a new range of dishwashers by Diwali this year, according to a company statement. The refrigerator range has been designed keeping in mind the modern kitchen aesthetics combined with energy saving features, the company said.

Villgro announces 4th edition of iPitch: Villgro, one of the leading incubators, announced the 4th edition of its annual social start-up discovery platform-iPitch. It brings together the country's top incubators and impact investors to gain access to India's innovative and impactful startups. Villgro innovations foundation CEO Srinivas Ramanujan said, "We will continue to support startups creating innovative, impactful and scalable solutions to press social problems."

Nod to Adani airport deal: The Competition Commission has approved Adani Group's proposed acquisition of controlling stake in Mumbai airport from GVK Airport Developers under the green channel route. The green channel route provides for automatic approval of certain deals subject to various conditions, including absence of horizontal overlaps and existing or potential vertical relationships.

PTI

Centre nod to additional borrowing by five states

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

Five states can raise additional financial resources of Rs 9,913 crore through open market borrowing (OMBs) as they successfully met the reform condition of implementation of "one nation one ration card" system, informed the finance ministry today.

These states are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Karnataka and Tripura. For the year 2020-21. This made an amount up to Rs 4,27,302 crore available to the states," reads the Press release from the government.

One per cent of this is subject to implementation of following four specific state-level reforms, where weightage of each reform is 0.25 percent of GSDP ~ implementation of "one nation one ration card" system, ease of doing business reform, urban local body/utility reforms and power sector reforms.

"In view of the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, the Central government had in May 2020 allowed an additional borrowing limit of up to 2 percent of gross state domestic product (GSDP) to the states

Sensex plunges 1,115 points amid sharp global sell-off

The benchmark posted its biggest single-day fall since 4 May, when it had plunged over 2,000 points

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 24 SEPTEMBER

The Sensex plunged 1,115 points while the Nifty crashed below the 10,850-mark today as investors dumped equities amid a sharp global sell-off and concerns over economic recovery.

World markets were bathed in a sea of red as fears about a second wave of Covid-19 infections in major economies and lack of fresh stimulus from central banks clobbered sentiment.

Back home, a sharp depreciation in the rupee and volatility in F&O expiry day further weighed on the bourses, traders said. Sliding for the sixth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 1,114.82 points or 2.96 per cent to finish at 36,553.60 points.

The benchmark posted its biggest single-day fall since 4 May this year, when it had plunged over 2,000 points.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty tanked 326.30 points or 2.93 per cent to close at 10,805.55 points.

RUPEE FALLS 32 PAISE

► The rupee dived 32 paise to touch a near one-month low of 73.89 against the US dollar on Thursday, following massive sell-offs in equities and

concerns over continuous surge in Covid-19 cases.

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► Similarly, the NSE Nifty tanked 326.30 points or 2.93 per cent to close at 10,805.55 points.

per cent to close at 10,805.55 points. The Sensex has now lost 2,749.25 points in six days, while the Nifty has declined by 799 points. The market capitalisation of all BSE-listed companies stood at Rs 1,48,76,217.22 crore, down by Rs 3.95 lakh crore compared to the previous session.

Barring Hindustan Unilever, which inched up 0.36 per cent, all Sensex components ended in the red today.

IndusInd Bank was the top laggard, tumbling 7.10 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tech Mahindra, TCS, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank and Infosys.

"Weak global cues coupled with worrying data points from the US led to a gap down start today even as the emergence of the virus rattled the Euro zone. Indices here saw deep cuts led by TCS and Infosys as both along with

RIL were the ones which led the recovery in the last five months. "The broader markets were pounded today much beyond the 3 per cent cut witnessed in the indices," said S Ranganathan, head of research at LKP Securities.

All sectoral indices closed with losses, with BSE IT index dropping 4.45 per cent, followed by teck, auto, metal, reality, basic materials, bankex and finance. The BSE mid-cap and small-cap gauges lost as much as 2.28 per cent.

In rest of Asia, South Korea's Kospi index plunged 2.59 per cent. Markets in Shanghai, Tokyo and Hong Kong closed with losses of up to 1.82 per cent. Bourses in Europe too started off on a weak note.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.22 per cent lower at \$41.68 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the rupee dived 32 paise to touch a near one-month low of 73.89 against the US dollar today, following massive sell-offs in equities and concerns over continuous surge in Covid-19 cases.

Besides, stronger dollar against key rival currencies and robust outflows of foreign funds from domestic markets weighed on forex market sentiment.

At the interbank forex market, the Indian currency opened on a weak note at 73.82 and traded in a range of 73.75 and 73.96 a dollar during the session. The rupee finally closed at 73.89, registering a fall of 32 paise ~ its lowest closing level since 26 August. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.04 per cent to 94.42.

"Dollar continues to gain as concerns about rising Covid-19 cases inducing a slowdown in the global economic recovery weigh on stock markets and emerging currencies, in turn benefiting the oversold dollar," said Devarsh Vakil, deputy head retail research, HDFC Securities.

Going ahead the strength in dollar index, foreign fund outflows and month end dollar demand could weigh on rupee, Vakil said.

ShareChat raises \$40 million; to utilise for growth of Moj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

founder Ankush Sachdeva said the company is on a rapid growth path and is spearheading the growth of the Indic language social media landscape in the country.

"Our short-video platform Moj has been on an explosive growth trajectory since its launch. This funding will help us further invest in our product development, ML (machine learning) capabilities and helping the creator community," he added.

Moj debuted on Play Store on 1 July, two days after the Indian government had banned 59 apps with Chinese linkages, including ByteDance-owned TikTok. Homegrown apps like Roposo, Chingari and Josh (Dailyhunt) have seen significant growth in downloads and user signups on their platforms after the government banned a number of apps with Chinese linkages. Facebook-owned Instagram joined the race with "Reels", while YouTube pitched its India-first "Shorts" to fill the void created after the ban of TikTok in the country.

The India action will include an associated workforce reduction of around 70 employees, it added.

As a result of the actions approved through 23 September 2020, the company expects to incur restructuring expenses of around \$75 million in 2020, of which around 80 per cent are expected to be cash expenditures, including one-time termination benefits of close to \$3 million, non-current asset adjustments of approximately \$5 million, and contract termination and other costs close to \$67 million. Full implementation of these "Rewire" actions may require the company to commit more funds for additional contract termination and other costs, it added.

The company expects to complete the restructuring activities approved through 23 September 2020, within the next 12 months, it added.

American cult bike manufacturer Harley Davidson today said it is discontinuing its current business model in India.

As part of the process, the company is planning to close its manufacturing facility in Bawal (Haryana) and significantly reduce the size of its sales office in Gurgaon, the bike manufacturer said in a statement.

(Haryana) and significantly reduce the size of its sales office in Gurgaon, the bike manufacturer said in a statement.

planning for 2021-2025 aimed at building desirability for the Harley-Davidson brand and products," the statement said.

In a separate SEC filing, the American firm said that between 6 August 2020 and 23 September 2020, the company approved commitments to additional restructuring actions under "The Rewire" related to optimising its global dealer network, exiting certain international markets, and discontinuing its sales and manufacturing operations in India.

Bhutani Infra to invest ₹5,000 cr in 4 years

NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

Bhutani Infra, one of the real estate companies in the Delhi-NCR region, on Thursday said it will invest Rs 5,000 crore over the next 4 years to develop three commercial projects in Noida and Greater Noida to cater to the rising demand of office and retail spaces in the area.

Speaking with media persons, Bhutani Infra CEO Ashish Bhutani said, "The Covid-19 pandemic has affected every industry including the real estate. However, there has been no impact on the Grade-A office market in Noida and Greater Noida and the demand has increased in the area because of cost advantage compared to Gurugram, and the company was well positioned to cater this demand".

SNS & PTI

Sebi guidelines for investment advisers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

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for the year 2020-21. This made an amount up to Rs 4,27,302 crore available to the states," reads the Press release from the government.

One per cent of this is subject to implementation of following four specific state-level reforms, where weightage of each reform is 0.25 percent of GSDP ~ implementation of "one nation one ration card" system, ease of doing business reform, urban local body/utility reforms and power sector reforms.

"In view of the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, the Central government had in May 2020 allowed an additional borrowing limit of up to 2 percent of gross state domestic product (GSDP) to the states

segregation of advisory and distribution activities.

To ensure client-level segregation at the IA's group level, the Sebi said existing clients who wish to take advisory services will not be eligible for availing distribution services within the group/family of IA, and vice versa for those availing advisory services.

It further said a new client will be eligible to avail either advisory or distribution services within the group or family of the investment adviser and this option needs to be made available at the time of boarding.

"IA shall enter into investment advisory agreement with its clients, including existing clients, latest by 1 April 2021, and submit a report, confirming the same to the Sebi latest by 30 June 2021," the regulator noted.

With regard to fees, the Sebi said IAs will charge fees from

NEW NORMS



► The Sebi has asked investment advisers to ensure segregation of advisory and distribution activities at the client level.

► It has fixed a cap on fee that investment advisers can charge from clients and also put in place a procedural framework pertaining to audit and record-keeping.

The IA will charge fees from a client under any one mode on an annual basis and the change of mode will be effected only after 12 months of on-boarding.

If agreed by the client, IA may charge fees in advance. However, such advance will not exceed fees for two quarters, the regulator said.

With regard to qualification, the Sebi said existing individual IAs above 50 years of

age as on 30 September 2020, will not be required to comply with the qualification and experience requirements. However, such IAs will require to hold NISM-accredited certification.

As per the norms, IA must have a post-graduate degree in specific subjects and five years of work experience related to advice in financial products or securities or portfolio management.

The IA will have to maintain records of interactions with all clients, including prospective clients (prior to on-boarding), where any conversation related to advice has taken place in the form of SMS or telephonic conversation, among others.

Such records will begin with first interaction with the client and will continue till the completion of advisory services to the client. They need to maintain these records for a period of five years.

Airbus unveils concepts of hydrogen-fuelled aircraft

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 24 SEPTEMBER

Airbus has this week released three concepts of the world's first hydrogen-fuelled commercial aircraft, to potentially reduce the carbon footprint hysteria about air travel.

Naming the project as "ZEROe" for zero emissions, Airbus says the hydrogen-propulsion aircraft could reduce aircraft carbon emissions by up to 50 per cent.

Airbus "zero-emission"

enables \$2.7 trillion in global GDP.

Besides pollution tirades, aviation fuel costs and taxes rank among the airline industry's biggest operational challenges during normal times.

"This is a historic moment for the commercial aviation sector," Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury said at the launch of the three futuristic aircraft concepts, "and we intend to play a leading role in the most important transition this industry has ever seen."

He "strongly believed" that the use of hydrogen ~ both in synthetic fuels and as a primary power source for commercial aircraft ~ has potential to significantly reduce aviation's climate impact.

Airbus "zero-emission"

efforts are also being propelled forward with governments, particularly in Europe, pushing for cleaner technology in their blueprints for post-covid-19 economic resurrection.

Well-funded, well-paid environmental activists also routinely condemn air travel as a polluting culprit, and then fly to their conferences hosted in expensive cities and resorts.

Professional politicians regularly make speeches about carbon footprint and then take off in their private chartered aircraft.

With cheaper airfares and governments such as in India building more airports, passenger numbers will double to 8.2 billion in 2037, estimates

Iata. Airbus expects its "zero-emission" aircraft to fly by 2035. If so, the Airbus hydrogen-propulsion aircraft could revolutionise the aviation industry with more than 5,000 registered airlines having the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) code.

Naming the project as "ZEROe" for zero emissions, Airbus says the hydrogen-propulsion aircraft could reduce aircraft carbon emissions by up to 50 per cent.

emission-reduction technology," said Glenn Llewellyn, vice-president of Airbus Zero-Emission Aircraft. "But convincing data from other transport industries quickly changed all that."

Hydrogen-powered aircraft have two broad types of hydrogen propulsion: hydrogen combustion and hydrogen fuel cells. The three zero-emission Airbus "concept" aircraft called "ZEROe" are all hydrogen hybrid aircraft.

"This means they are powered by modified gas-turbine engines that burn liquid hydrogen as fuel," Airbus engineers explained. "At the same time, they also use hydrogen fuel cells to create electrical power that complements the gas turbine, resulting in a highly effi-

cient hybrid-electric propulsion system." Unlike conventional aircraft, the adapted engines burn liquid hydrogen stored in the rear fuselage.

Hydrogen has a different volume storage density than jet fuel, explained Jean-Brice Dumont, executive vice-president of Airbus Engineering. This means the future zero-emission aircraft will look different from conventional passenger aircraft.

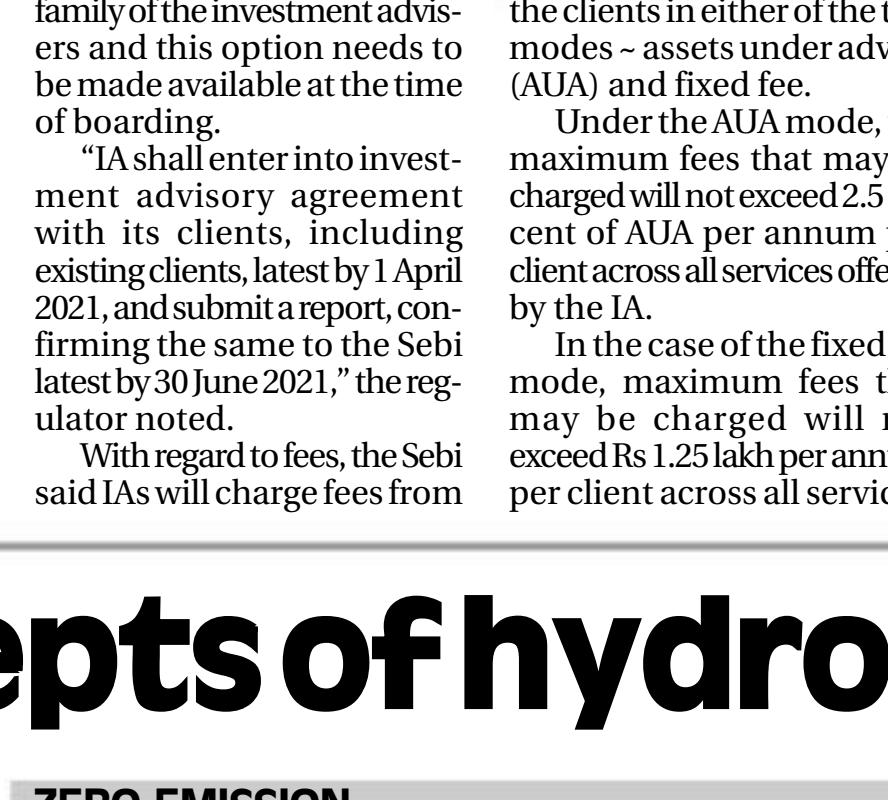
The Airbus ZEROe concepts include a turbofan jet engine that can carry 120 to 200 people over 3,700 km and a turboprop to fly 100 passengers for 1,800 km.

To meet the ambitious year 2035 target, Airbus says it will need to launch the ZEROe aircraft programme by 2025.

This gives Airbus engineers approximately five years to succeed with the hydrogen technologies ~ and conclusively settle disputes about hydrogen as aircraft fuel.

Airbus in the following months expects to launch several demonstrator programmes to test hydrogen fuel cell and hydrogen combustion technologies. A full-scale hydrogen-powered passenger aircraft prototype could be ready by the end of this decade.

"The ZEROe will be the world's first zero-emission commercial aircraft," said Airbus Engineering vice-president Jean-Brice. "As an engineer, I can't think of working on anything more exciting than that."



ZERO EMISSION
Naming the project as "ZEROe" for zero emissions, Airbus says the hydrogen-propulsion aircraft could reduce aircraft carbon emissions by up to 50 per cent.

emission-reduction technology," said Glenn Llewellyn, vice-president of Airbus Zero-Emission Aircraft. "But convincing data from other transport industries quickly changed all that."

</div



President Trump wants a relationship with China that is fair and where one nation does not threaten another; or another set of countries' livelihoods

US SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO
IN AN EXCHANGE WITH WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR ROGER ROTH

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

S Korea accuses North of killing its official

North Korean troops fatally shot govt official, set his body on fire: Seoul

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL, 24 SEPTEMBER

South Korea said Thursday that North Korean troops fatally shot a South Korean government official who may have attempted to defect and set his body on fire after finding him on a floating object near the country's disputed sea boundary.

South Korean officials condemned what they called North Korea's atrocious act and urged it to apologize and punish those responsible.

North Korea is unlikely to accept the South Korean demand, and ties between the rivals already strained amid a deadlock in broader nuclear diplomacy will probably suffer a further setback, observers say. According to Seoul, the man disappeared from a government ship that was checking on possible unauthorized fishing in an area south of the boundary on Monday, a day before he was

found in North Korean waters. North Korea sent officials wearing gas masks aboard a boat near the man to learn why he was there on Tuesday.

Later in the day, a North Korean navy boat came and opened fire at him, South Korea's Defense Ministry said.

Sailors from the boat clad in gas masks and protective suits poured gasoline on his body and set it afire, the Defense Ministry said, citing intelligence gathered by surveillance equipment and other assets. It's unclear how he ended up in North Korea. But a defense official said the man might have tried to defect to the North, citing acquired information.

He refused to elaborate. The official, requesting anonymity citing department rules, said the South Korean official was wearing a life jacket and was on a small floating object when he was found in North Korean waters. He said North Korea may have decided to kill

him in line with its stringent anti-coronavirus rules that involve shooting anyone illegally crossing the border.

Gen. Robert Abrams, the commander of US troops in South Korea, said last month that North Korea had put special forces along its border with China to keep smugglers out and that they had shoot-to-kill orders in place aimed at preventing the virus from entering the country.

North Korea has steadfastly said there hasn't been a single virus case in its territory, a claim widely disputed by foreign experts. Observers say a pandemic could cause devastating consequences in North Korea because of its broken public health care system and a chronic shortage of medical supplies.

South Korea sent a message to North Korea on Wednesday to ask about the missing official, but hasn't received a response, according to the South Korean Defense Ministry.

Days of searching involving aircraft and vessels were unsuccessful, according to the Defense Ministry.

Top presidential official Suh Choo-suk said that North must apologize for its act against humanity, reveal the full details and take steps to prevent similar incidents.

For whatever reason, North Korea cannot justify its soldiers fatally shooting our citizen and damaging his body, though he was unarmed and had no intention of resistance, Suh said. President Moon Jae-in called the incident shocking, intolerable and very regrettable. He ordered the military to strengthen its readiness.

Little is known about the 49-year-old South Korean, except that he was among 18 officials aboard the government boat belonging to the Oceans and Fisheries Ministry.

When his colleagues searched for him after his disappearance, they only found his shoes left on the ship's stern.

Pak announces 15 November as poll date for GB assembly

ISLAMABAD, 24 SEPTEMBER

Pakistan has announced that the once-postponed election for the legislative assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan will be held on November 15, amidst India's objection to Islamabad's moves in the strategically-located region.

President Dr Arif Alvi issued an official notification on Wednesday to fix the date of the elections in Gilgit-Baltistan. "The president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to announce Sunday, the 15th November 2020, as the poll day for the general elections to the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Legislative Assembly in terms of Section 57(1) of the Elections Act 2017," the statement said.

India has told 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.

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

The polls in Gilgit-Baltistan were to be held on 18 August, but the Election Commission on 11 July postponed them due to virus.

Polling would be held on 24 general seats of the legislative assembly. The five-year term of the previous assembly had ended on 24 June. There are a total of 33 seats, but six are reserved for technocrats and three for women. The special seats are filled from nominations by the parties winning the polls according to their representation.

PTI

'Package solution needed for UNSC expansion due to enormous divisions'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING, 24 SEPTEMBER



China, which has been stonewalling India's entry into the UN Security Council, on Thursday said there were "enormous divisions" on reforms to expand the premier body of the United Nations and expressed its willingness to work for a "package solution" that can accommodate interests and concerns of all parties.

The G4 grouping comprising India, Japan, Germany and Brazil on Wednesday expressed their concern over lack of any "meaningful" forward movement on long-pending reform of the UNSC and demanded "urgency" on the issue. The foreign ministers of the G4 countries, including external affairs minister S Jaishankar, held a virtual meeting coinciding with the 75th session of the UN General Assembly during which they held extensive discussion on the need for urgent reform of

the UNSC. "Unanimous call for text based negotiations in a fixed time frame. Reformed Multilateralism guides India's approach to the UN," Jaishankar tweeted on Wednesday after the meeting.

Responding to the G4 ministers' call for text-based negotiations with a fixed time to carry out reforms for the UN Security Council, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here that: "We believe the reform of the Security Council is an important issue which concerns the long-term development and all the immediate interests of its members."

"There have been enormous divisions on this issue and there lacks a widespread consensus on the arrangement for reform. China is willing to work with other UN members to seek a package solution that can accommodate all parties' interests and concerns through dialogue and negotiation," he said. Wang said that the Security Council was the "core of the international collective security mechanism."

"It calls for reforms to better perform its duty enshrined in the UN charter. We believe the reforms should increase the representation and voice of developing countries and allow more small and medium size countries to enter the Security Council and participate in the decision making," he said.

A joint G4 press statement said the ministers highlighted the urgency of reforming the UN and updating its main decision-making bodies, in order to better reflect contemporary realities.

Protests as Thai lawmakers vote on constitutional amendments

BANGKOK, 24 SEPTEMBER

Thai lawmakers met Thursday to vote on six proposed amendments to the country's military-backed constitution, as protesters pushing for charter reform gathered outside the Parliament building.

Changes to the constitution are one of three core demands that a coalition of protest groups has been seeking in recent months. The groups, which on Sunday held one of the biggest protest rallies in years, also want new elections and an end to intimidation of political activists, saying they are needed to strengthen democracy.

The protests, spearheaded by students, come as Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha's government faces huge criticism that it is ineffective and without direction as the economy sputters due to Covid.

The government is also under pressure from some influential Thai royalists who claimed that the protesters are seeking unprecedented reforms to the monarchy, a sacrosanct institution to conservatives. The current charter was written under the auspices of the military junta that took power after a 2014 coup.

The constitution's critics say its main aim was to secure the grip on power of the traditional ruling elite - royalists, unelected bureaucrats and the military - by breaking that of political parties.

MOVING ON



People riding bicycles on a street in Beijing on Thursday.

AFP

Amnesty: Migrants face 'vicious cycle of cruelty' in Libya

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO, 24 SEPTEMBER

Amnesty International said Thursday that thousands of Europe-bound migrants who were intercepted and returned to Libyan shores this year were forcefully disappeared after being taken out of unofficial detention centers run by militias allied with the UN-supported government in the capital, Tripoli.

In its latest report, the group also said that rival authorities in eastern Libya forcibly expelled several thousand migrants without due process or the opportunity to challenge their deportation.

Libya, which descended into chaos following the 2011

Libya, which descended into chaos following the 2011 uprising that killed dictator Moammar Gadhafi, has emerged as a major transit point for African and Arab migrants fleeing war and poverty to Europe.

uprising that toppled and longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, has emerged as a major transit point for African and Arab migrants fleeing war and poverty to Europe.

Most migrants make the perilous journey in ill-equipped and unsafe rubber boats. In recent years, the

European Union has partnered with Libya's coast guard and other Libyan forces to stop the flow of migrants and thousands have been intercepted at sea and returned to Libya.

Officials in Libya's east and west did not respond to repeated phone calls seeking comment.

Amnesty said about 8,500 migrants, including women and children, were intercepted and brought back to Libya between Jan 1 and Sep. 14. Since 2016, an estimated 60,000 men, women and children have been captured at sea and taken to Libya where they disembarked, it said.

The EU and its member states continue to implement policies trapping tens of thou-

sands of men, women and children in a vicious cycle of abuse, showing a callous disregard for people's lives and dignity, said Diana Eltahawy, Amnesty's deputy regional director.

Thousands have been subjected to enforced disappearances in 2020, after being taken to unofficial detention centers in western Libya, including to the so-called Tobacco Factory in Tripoli, run by a government-allied militia, Amnesty said.

There, the migrants and refugees face a constant risk of being abducted by militias, armed groups and traffickers.

They are trapped in a vicious cycle of cruelty with little to no hope of finding safe

and legal pathways out," the report said. Some are tortured or raped until their families pay ransoms to secure their release.

Others die in custody as a result of violence, torture, starvation or medical neglect. Eltahawy urged the EU to completely reconsider its cooperation with Libyan authorities and make any further support conditional on immediate action to stop horrific abuses against refugees and migrants.

In 2020, eastern Libya authorities forcibly expelled over 5,000 refugees and migrants, citing their alleged carrying of contagious diseases among reasons cited for the deportations.

US law bars imports of goods made by Uyghurs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 24 SEPTEMBER



Party is fundamentally focused on expanding its power, its control, and its authoritarian-style of government, he said.

"It views things that it does not control like religion, cultural identity, and the yearning for all people for freedom and rights standards to end the import of goods made with Uyghur forced labour.

Congressman Michael McCaul, lead Republican of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in his speech on the floor alleged that the Chinese Communist Party was using the forced labour of the Uyghurs and other minorities to help bank roll its cultural genocide against those very same groups.

"The repression taking place right now in Xinjiang is breathtaking in its scope and in its brutality. It involves the detention of one to three million people in concentration camps. It involves surveillance and attempted brainwashing on a massive scale. It involves breaking up families and taking children from their parents. It involves forced sterilization and, Madam Speaker, forced abortions," he said. This should be a terrifying warning to the world, to China's neighbours, and to the American people that the Chinese Communist

NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007
Punjab Roadways 23867842, Terminal I-B 25671576, Palam Road 23867157, 18001803838

Rajasthan Roadways 23864470, Toll Free Nos. 1800125151

U.P. Roadways 23868709

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139
Toll Free Nos. 1800125151

SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181

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Air Canada Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001803838

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EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377

Air Canada Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001803838

Indigo Airlines Airline 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 43513186; Indigo

*I'm not a fan of hers and I would say this, and she probably has heard that, but I wish a lot of luck to Harry. He's going to need it*

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

AFTER MEGHAN MARKLE PARTICIPATED IN A TIME 100 VIDEO URGING AMERICANS TO VOTE FOR JOE BIDEN

WEATHER

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

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

THUMBNAILS



An art handler from Sotheby's arranges Botticelli's "Young Man Holding a Roundel" at Sotheby's on Thursday. ■ AFP

Sir Harold Evans dies: Sir Harold Evans (92), the charismatic publisher, author and muckraker who was a bold-faced name for decades for exposing wrongdoing in 1960s London to publishing such 1990s best-sellers as Primary Colors, has died, his wife said on Thursday. His wife, fellow author-publisher Tina Brown, said he died of congestive heart failure. AP

88 whales rescued in Oz: Authorities have rescued 88 pilot whales and are attempting to free 20 others that survived Australia's worst mass stranding, as crews prepare to remove 380 decomposing carcasses from the shallows of Tasmania state. Almost 500 whales were discovered on Monday and Wednesday beached on the shore and sand bars. AP

Trump refuses to commit to peaceful transfer of power after Election Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 24 SEPTEMBER

US President Donald Trump has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the November 3 election to his Democratic rival Joe Biden.

Trump, a Republican, also said he believed the election result could end up in the US Supreme Court, as he again cast doubt on postal voting.

Many American states are encouraging mail-in voting, citing the need to keep Amer-

icans safe from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed over two lakh people in the country.

"Well, we're going to have to see what happens," Trump said when asked whether he would commit to a peaceful transition, one of the cornerstones of American democracy.

"I have been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster..." Trump told reporters at a White House news conference on Wednesday when asked about a peaceful trans-

sition of power after the presidential polls in November irrespective of the outcome.

"Mr President, real quick-

ly, win, lose or draw in this election, will you commit here today for a peaceful transfer of power after the election? And there has been rioting in Louisville, there has been rioting in many cities across this country -- red and so-called red and blue states -- will you commit to making sure that there is a peaceful transfer of power after the election?" he was asked. Not satisfied

with Trump's answer, the reporter again asked. "Do you commit to making sure that there is a peaceful transfer of power?" Trump exuded confidence that there will be continuation of power.

"We want to get rid of the ballots and we will have a very peaceful -- there will not be a transfer. Frankly, there will be a continuation. The ballots are out of control, you know it, and you know who knows better than anybody else? The Democrats know it better than anybody else," the pres-

ident said as he refused to entertain any other question from the same journalist.

"Go ahead. Please go ahead. Yes, go ahead. You asked a question. Go ahead, please," he said. Trump's reluctance to commit to a peaceful transition was rooted in what he said were concerns about ballots, extending his assertion that widespread mail-in voting is rife with fraud.

In 2016, Trump also refused to commit to accepting the election results in his contest against the Democratic can-

didate, Hillary Clinton, which she characterised as an attack on democracy.

Trump was eventually declared the winner, although he lost the popular vote by three million, an outcome he still questioned. Meanwhile, Senator Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican who has stood at odds with the President in the past, slammed Trump's remarks.

"Fundamental to democracy is the peaceful transition of power; without that, there is Belarus," Romney tweeted.

"Any suggestion that a president might not respect this Constitutional guarantee is both unthinkable and unacceptable," he said. Trump has previously said his rival Biden would only win in November if the election is "rigged," and suggested earlier in the day it was likely the results of the election would be contested all the way to the Supreme Court.

Several national opinion polls currently show Trump trailing Biden, though surveys of electoral battleground states are tighter.

TikTok asks judge to block Trump's ban as deadline looms

NEW YORK, 24 SEPTEMBER

Chinese-owned TikTok asked a judge to block the Trump administration's attempt to ban its app, suggesting the video-sharing app's forced deal with Oracle and Walmart

The announcement drew sadness, frustration and anger that the grand jury did not go further. The wanton endangerment charges each carry a sentence of up to five years. Morgan Julianna Lee, a high school student in Charlotte, North Carolina, watched the announcement at home.

An app-store ban of TikTok, delayed once by the government, is set to go into effect on Sunday. A more comprehensive ban is scheduled for November, about a week after the presidential election.

President Donald Trump set this process in motion with executive orders in August that declared TikTok and another Chinese app threats to US national security. The administration has offered no specifics to substantiate that charge.

Trump has pushed for a sale of TikTok's US operations to an American company. The president said this week that he would bless a proposed deal in which Oracle and Walmart take a 20-per cent stake in a new US entity to be called TikTok Global. But he also said he could retract his approval if Oracle does not "have total control".

The two sides in the TikTok deal appear at odds over the corporate structure of TikTok Global. ByteDance, TikTok's Chinese parent, said on Monday that it will still own 80 per cent of the US entity after a financing round. Oracle, meanwhile, put out a statement saying that Americans "will be the majority and ByteDance will have no ownership in TikTok Global".

TikTok's owner applies for Chinese license: TikTok's owner said Thursday it has applied for a Chinese technology export license as it tries to complete a deal with Oracle and Walmart to keep the popular video app operating in the United States.

Beijing tightened control over technology exports last month in an effort to gain leverage over Washington's attempt to force an outright sale of TikTok to US owners. ByteDance said it applied to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Commerce for an export license and was awaiting a reply. The one-sentence statement gave no other details. AP

Two officers shot amid Taylor protests

Louisville police have said the two wounded officers were stable & expected to recover, and a suspect was in custody

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LOUISVILLE, 24 SEPTEMBER

Police say two Louisville, Kentucky, police officers have been shot and wounded during protests over a lack of charges in Breonna Taylor's death.

Interim Louisville Police Chief Robert Schroeder said Wednesday night that one person was in custody. He says one officer was alert and stable and the other is undergoing surgery but is also stable. Louisville police have said the two wounded officers were stable and expected to recover, and that a suspect was in custody.

He says the officers had gone to investigate reports of gunfire when they were shot. He says they're both expected to recover.

The violence comes after prosecutors said two officers who fired their weapons at Taylor, a Black woman, were justified in using force to protect themselves after they faced gunfire from her boyfriend.

Several shots rang out as protesters in downtown Louisville tried to avoid police blockades, moving down an alleyway as officers lobbed pepper balls. People covered their ears, ran away and frantically looked for



Protesters march against police brutality in Los Angeles, on Thursday, following a decision on the Breonna Taylor case in Louisville, Kentucky. AFP

people inside. Hours after a Kentucky grand jury brought no charges against Louisville police for the killing of Breonna Taylor and protesters took to the streets, authorities said an officer had been shot Wednesday night during the demonstrations expressing anger over the deaths of Black people at the hands of police.

The violence comes after prosecutors said two officers who fired their weapons at Taylor, a Black woman, were justified in using force to protect themselves after they faced gunfire from her boyfriend.

The only charges were three counts of wanton endangerment against fired Officer Brett Hankison for shooting into a home next to Taylor's with

places to hide. Police with long guns swarmed the area, then officers in riot gear and military-style vehicles blocked off roadways. The condition of the officer is unclear, and police have not yet released more details.

The violence comes after prosecutors said two officers who fired their weapons at Taylor, a Black woman, were justified in using force to protect themselves after they faced gunfire from her boyfriend.

The only charges were three counts of wanton endangerment against fired Officer Brett

Hankison for shooting into a home next to Taylor's with people inside.

The FBI is still investigating potential violations of federal law in connection with the raid at Taylor's home on 13 March. Ben Crump, a lawyer for Taylor's family, denounced the decision as outrageous and offensive, and protesters shouting, "No justice, no peace!" immediately marched through the streets.

Scuffles broke out between police and protesters, and some were arrested. Officers fired flash bangs and a few small

fires burned in a square that's been at the center of protests, but it had largely cleared out ahead of a nighttime curfew as demonstrators marched through other parts of downtown Louisville. Dozens of patrol cars blocked the city's major thoroughfare and more police arrived after the officer was shot.

Demonstrators also marched in cities like New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Atlanta and Philadelphia.

Taylor, an emergency medical worker, was shot multiple times by white officers who entered her home on a no-knock warrant during a narcotics investigation. State Attorney General Daniel Cameron, however, said the investigation showed the officers announced themselves before entering.

The warrant used to search her home was connected to a suspect who did not live there, and no drugs were found inside. Along with the killing of George Floyd, Taylor's case became a major touchstone for nationwide protests that have drawn attention to entrenched racism and demanded police reform.

Taylor's image has been painted on streets, emblazoned on protest signs and silk-screened on T-shirts worn by celebrities. Several prominent African American celebrities joined those urging that the officers be charged.

The announcement drew sadness, frustration and anger that the grand jury did not go further. The wanton endangerment charges each carry a sentence of up to five years. Morgan Julianna Lee, a high school student in Charlotte, North Carolina, watched the announcement at home.

President Donald Trump has tweeted that he is praying for the two police officers that were shot in Louisville, during the latest protests in the Breonna Taylor case.

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tender on form PWD/IPH 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Sarkaghat on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh for the work from the appropriate approved and eligible contractors/firms enlisted in I&PH (H.P.) Department so as to reach in his office on or before dt. 03-10-2020 upto 11.00 A.M and will be opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M. in the presence of the intending contractors/firms or their authorized representatives who may be present at the time of opening of Tender. The application for issue of tender form will be received along with cost of tender form upto 01-10-2020 till 4:00 P.M. The tender forms are also available for download on department website "www.hiph.org" and the cost of form should be in the shape of D.D in favour of Executive Engineer I&PH Division, Sarkaghat or in cash, which should be submitted with the tender failing which tender will not be opened. The date of sale /receipt and opening of tender shall be considered as next working day if holiday happens of above specified date.

No	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest money	Cost of from	Time limit.
1	A/R & M/O FIS Pingla in G.P Pingla Tehsil Sarkaghat Distt. Mandi H.P (SH:- C/O Retaining wall at RD 1950 to RD 1958+8.00 Mtrs.)	117076/-	8600/-	250/-	Three Months
2	A/R & M/O LWSS Kolni Kass Gehra and Panyali in Tehsil Sarkaghat Distt. Mandi H.P (SH:- Laying Jointing and testing in tranches of G.I pipe line & C/o Sector storage tank at C.V Gadyaru (Takred)	169267/-	3390/-	250/-	Three Months
3	C/o Rain Water Harvesting Structure (Check Dam) on Paplog Khad & Roso Khad under jal Shakti sub Division Sarkaghat in Tehsil Sarkaghat Distt. Mandi H.P (SH:- Carrying out Contour Survey of Paplog & Roso)	352638/-	7060/-	250/-	Three Months

The earnest money (unless exemption) in the shape of National saving certificate / time deposit account and Post Office Saving Bank Account in H.P. duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer IPH Division Sarkaghat must accompany with each tender. The tender of the contractor who do not deposit the earnest money in the prescribed manner shall be summarily rejected. Conditional tenders /tender without earnest money will summarily be rejected. However the Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days .1% labour cess shall be deducted from every running bill in addition to security, income tax and sale tax.

Eligibility Criteria:

The contractor/Firm submitted the following documents at the time of purchase tender:-

1. The earnest money or certificate of exemption of Earnest Money.
2. The contractor/Firm should be registered & renewed with I&PH Department alongwith his application seeking for tender form.
3. The Copy of PAN Card, GST registration and latest annual Income tax return thereof.
4. The firm/contractor shall submitted EPF/ESIS registration in case the same is not available at the time of tender it should be submitted before commencement of any work awarded to him/her failing which no work will be awarded.
5. The firms/contractors have to submitted the affidavit specifying that the benefit availed under earnest money exemption has not been exhausted so far. Any wrong submission in the matter will directly lead to cancellation of your tender. In case the contractor fails to submitted the required affidavit then he has to submit the earnest money.
6. The contractor must quote their rates in words as well in figures. Failing which their tender form shall not be considered.
7. The conditional or single tender will be rejected.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Sarkaghat,

3283/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Belarus: Over 360 held in protests against leader

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV, 24 SEPTEMBER

Over 360 more people have been detained in Belarus during protests against the country's authoritarian president, who was unexpectedly sworn in to his sixth term in office after an election the opposition says was rigged.

Thousands of Belarusians took to the streets of the capital of Minsk and other cities on Wednesday evening, protesting the unannounced inauguration of President Alexander Lukashenko that took place in the morning. Police fiercely dispersed the crowds; in Minsk, officers used truncheons and water cannons, leaving dozens injured. The country's Interior Ministry said Thursday that 364 people were detained the previous night, including 252 in Minsk. The vast majority of them remain in custody, awaiting a court hearing.

Despite the crackdown, rallies continued Thursday morning, with hundreds in Minsk forming human chains of solidarity in parts of the city and obstructing road traffic by driving slowly or stopping altogether, honking in protest.

Lukashenko's inauguration hadn't been announced in advance and came as a surprise for many after nearly seven weeks of mass protests against his disputed reelection.

PTI

Fb oversight board to start operating in Oct

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 24 SEPTEMBER

Facebook's long-awaited oversight board that will act as a referee on whether specific content is allowed on the tech giant's platforms is set to launch in October.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg said two years ago that he was setting up the quasi-independent board, following intense criticism that the company wasn't moving fast enough to remove misinformation, hate speech and malign influence campaigns.

The board is intended to rule on thorny content issues, such as when Facebook or Instagram posts constitute hate speech. We are currently testing the newly deployed technical systems that will allow users to appeal and the Board to review cases," it said in a statement Thursday.

The board is intended to rule on th



Make a promising entrepreneurial journey

Here are some lessons on how one can build a sustainable content platform

SHASHANK VAISHNAV

Entrepreneurship – this word symbolises so many dreams and aspirations, stories of success and struggle, ups and downs but at last a story that every entrepreneur would want to share. It doesn't matter how big or small the startup is or where it is based out of as long as it is impacting lives positively and at ground level.

Whether you are in Silicon Valley, UK, bustling Indian metro city, or a small town, you can create a viable startup.

Numerous aspiring entrepreneurs have come up and asked if it is recommended and even possible to build something from the ground up if one is based in the culturally diverse small towns of India? It is always advisable that if your business offering or solution is actually solving a real and existing problem, geographical constraints do not matter in this internet-first world.

All of us who reside or grew up in small towns with aspirations and dreams to build something for Bharat

and its audience have access to enough resources and opportunities to convert our dreams into realities and witness results, in today's day and age. The trick lies in identifying them and making the best use of them. Here are some lessons of an entrepreneurial journey of building a content platform:

Your business plan needs a problem statement

The number one cause of business failure is not being able to identify the real need in the market. Every successful company starts by solving an important problem. That is what the core value proposition will depend on. Investors and stakeholders will also be gauging the impact you are going to make and that cannot be defined unless you are working towards solving an existing problem. It also holds the key to being a scalable and sustainable startup and makes your business plan 10 times more effective.

It needs more than funds to succeed and has nothing to do

with geographical constraints

Whether you have the capability to bootstrap the idea or have a league of investors to back you up, money is an important and high priority to get going. But it's not the only decisive factor for success. There are several, basic yet very relevant, ingredients for a sustainable offering. It's a given that you need to have knowledge of the market and industry you are going to operate in, but it is equally necessary to have mentors that can help predict trends and opportunities before other players in the ecosystem leverage the same.

Organisational values and a team that feels equally passionate gets you closer to your success metric. Last but not least is a backup/exit plan. As an entrepreneur in this highly competitive world of startups, one has to take smart risks, but it's also needed to have a backup plan to ensure that you are still sustainable even if the risk backfires, hence, we call it 'smart risk'.

One must be comfortable with discomfort

Setting up and growing your business is hectic. No one ever said it was going to be easy. It is a demand-

ing role but worth every sweat you drip, literally, when you see it going in a fruitful direction. So, be comfortable with discomfort or fear. You are working towards a future, something you haven't yet seen, it's bound to create some anxieties. But as long as you are using that creatively to build your startup, it will pay off.

Never give up

Much like the stages in human life, there are stages in an entrepreneur's life as well. Each stage is loaded up with obstacles, pushing the soul to hide or bite the dust. Yet, there's a promising finish to the present action, a signal that gradually and consistently changes gear toward progress. One ought not to be excessively forceful as far as making progress.

Always stay ahead of the market; experiment

Innovation is key. Whether you are sitting in Silicon Valley or in Indore, building an internet startup or a hardware shop, you have to keep up with the trends to stay ahead of other players. While metros or business hubs have experienced multiple

business models and their services, there are a plethora of options to be explored in small towns as well as learn from consumer behavior.

Importance of accelerators and incubators

Be open to help. Often entrepreneurs think they have it under control, while they might have most of it, there are several considerations. Which is where accelerators and incubators come in. Seasoned founders talk about their experience and help you build your company from scratch. Whether it's understanding the market trends, finding the right resources, or being at the right place at the right time, they help you find the correct path. And the best part is, you can be based out of any part of the world, and seek guidance from the experts.

Every entrepreneur has his or her own journey to make and eventually will have their own learnings. But it is important to share and help budding entrepreneurs, learn from each other, and contribute to the entrepreneurial ecosystem at large.

The writer is co-founder & CTO, STAGE

PLUS POINTS

Boosting businesswomen



Visa (NY SE: V) recently announced the launch of a grant programme in India to support women entrepreneurs with its global partner - IfundWomen. As an extension of two successful programmes launched in the US this year, women entrepreneurs in India will receive funding from Visa to grow and expand their business.

The partnership is specifically designed to help women entrepreneurs secure the funding they need through a series of grants. To participate, applicants can submit details about their business and online presence, along with a short video to: www.ifundwomen.com/visa-india. The last date of application is 20 October. Three winners will be selected from the shortlist and will receive grants of Rs 7,00,000 each and coaching from leaders within the Visa and IfundWomen network.

Worthy endeavour



Launched on Independence Day 2020, Sunfeast India Run as One enters its last mile achieving significant success recently. Since its launch, the initiative has raised a whopping Rs 1.18 crore in support of families affected by the ongoing pandemic and continues to gain momentum. The virtual movement has brought together corporates, homemakers, students and more.

It aims to break new grounds, as registrations and fundraising continue till 30 September 2020. Tiger Shroff, Abhinav Bindra, Rahul Bose, Puneeth Rajkumar, Kajal Agarwal and more inspire India to register. With every registration, directly contributing and impacting a person's life, the proceeds will be disbursed via GivelIndia directly to more than 100 NGO's working at the last mile in the rehabilitation of the economically impacted families across the country. For details visit: <https://sunfeastindiarunasoneline.procain.in/>

Encouraging learners



To up-skill the workforce, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with online learning platform – Eckovation. The MoU was signed between Prof Manish Shrikhande, dean, Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy, IIT, Roorkee and Akshat Goel, founder and chief technical officer, Eckovation. IIT, Roorkee also launched two online courses – Advanced Certification Programme in Cyber security and Professional Certification in Supply Chain Management and Analytics, an initiative of the department of computer science and engineering and department of management studies respectively as well as an e-learning centre on Eckovation.

The MoU entitles both organisations to undertake collaboration in research development and consultancy work, facilitate the exchange of academic and research materials and joint publications, and other types of academic discussions.

Restoring heritage

Rishabh University, in collaboration with Sapio Analytics and Internity Foundation is gearing up to launch the upcoming Tech4Heritage Hackathon, slated to commence from the 27 September. The primary objective is to develop viable solutions to preserve and rejuvenate key heritage sites contributing to India's rich history and culture.

Besides cash prizes, winning teams will get opportunities to work directly on additional projects with Sapio's Heritage Restoration team and get their solutions uploaded on the Arctic World Archives, a global digital memory bank, which will effectively immortalise their work for millennia to come.

To participate in the 15-day hackathon, people can register free of cost through: <https://rishabh.edu.in/tch4heritage/>

VADUZO MEDURY

Acording to Ministry of Education, Government of India, we have more than 6000 engineering colleges and around 15 lakh engineers graduate each year. India Skills Report 2019 states that the employability of these engineers is around 50 per cent only. That means, one in two engineers do not find gainful employment and less than 10 per cent are employed in their core areas.

One of the main reasons for this is the rapid change that we are witnessing in the engineering segment. In 70s and 80s (40-50 years ago), engineering was more manufacturing oriented. Today, the services sector accounts for over 65 per cent of engineering activity.

With information technology acting as a major driver of change, there has been a drastic change in the role of Engineering. Engineers today are expected to manage teams, be sensitive to social issues as well as come up with effective design and service solutions.

The application context of engineering has changed, and there is a need for dynamism to understand what the market forces are demanding and how to cater to it. And this is where we need to bring in a game changing methodology.

Till a few years back, industry had resigned itself for being responsible for skilling of new recruits in-house and the bench timing was quite a bit, adding to a substantial cost outlay. Today, industry readiness is a necessity and the recruiters are choosing graduates who are ready to work immediately and can adapt as per changing needs quickly.

We, educationists, are responsible for ensuring that our students are not just equipped for today but can contribute productively to the future as well. We enumerated the most important ingredients for the new engineer and found that besides core engineering skills, the engineers required analytical skills, effective communication and creative thinking.

To ensure that the students are more equipped to handle the needs



BRINGING ABOUT A CHANGE

There is a need for dynamism in the field of engineering to make aspirants employable

of the future, the need of the hour is an integrated curriculum that ensures that the student is privy to the best practices, learns through "doing" and has the best of the industry to mentor him.

In addition, we need to focus on broadening their horizons by ensuring that they learn before they enter

the classroom. Our education delivery has to be more interaction oriented and less discourse oriented.

Blended curriculum with focus on Humanities, Communication and Creative Sciences will go a long way in addressing the issues of "social and communication skills" and will help the students develop a more "whole-

brained" approach to Engineering.

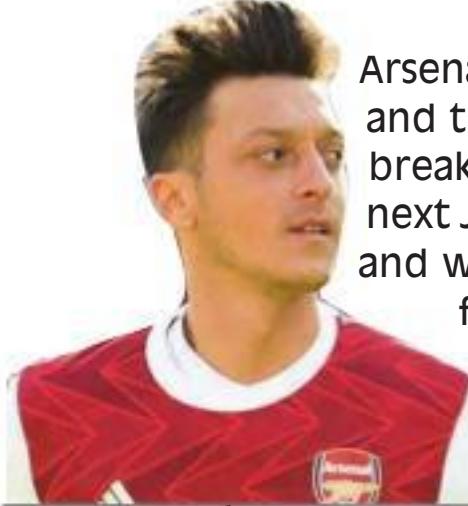
In addition, close industry academic connect needs to be the mantra, so that we are aware of what the requirements are on a real time basis and can evolve our offerings to meet them.

We also need to get students interested in research and reading, so

that they can be self-starters and self-learners and understand the concept of constant skilling. Only then can they lead from the front and come up with innovative solutions in the shortest possible time.

The writer is vice chancellor, Mahindra University

HARD TIMES

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Suarez deal: Atletico Madrid have signed striker Luis Suarez from Barcelona, the Spanish clubs said on Wednesday, bringing to an end his six-year stint at the Nou Camp. Atletico will pay the Catalans €6m (£5.5m) in bonus payments to sign the 33-year-old.

Crime & punishment: Paris Saint-Germain winger Angel di Maria has been given a four-game suspension for his behaviour during the 1-0 defeat by Olympique de Marseille this month. He was the subject of an investigation after spitting at a Marseille player.

Thrown out: The coronavirus-hit holders Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia were kicked out of the Asian Champions League on Wednesday for being unable to field a sufficient number of players for their next game. Al Hilal were "deemed to have withdrawn from the competition."

Havertz hat-trick: Chelsea mid-fielder Kai Havertz got off the mark with a hat-trick in a 6-0 thrashing of Barnsley at Stamford Bridge in the third round of the League Cup on Wednesday. Havertz joined Chelsea from Bayer Leverkusen for 71 million pounds.

Parry angry: English Football League chairman Rick Parry says his organisation is "deeply frustrated" by the decision to delay the return of spectators to sport venues, and has called for clarity on the matter from the government. The EFL was hoping to welcome fans back.

Burnley business: American sport investment company ALK Capital LLC is in talks to buy Premier League club Burnley in the latest evidence of renewed interest from American investors in Premier League clubs after West Ham and Southampton had been discussed.

Influential ones: US Open champion Naomi Osaka, American women's football player Megan Rapinoe and Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Patrick Mahomes were among the athletes named on the 2020 Time 100 list of the most influential people in the world.



Wrexham raid: Actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney are in talks to invest in Welsh side Wrexham, who play in the fifth tier of English football. Reynolds and McElhenney were revealed as the two bidders who were interested in investing in the club.

Semedo moves: Wolves have signed Portugal right-back Nelson Semedo from Barcelona. The Premier League club have announced the 26-year-old had signed a three-year deal at Molineux with an option to extend until 2025. Semedo has earned 13 Portugal caps.

Tour announced: Zimbabwe Cricket has received government permission for a six-match limited-overs tour. The team will play three One-Day Internationals and as many Twenty20 International fixtures penciled in a 30 October-10 November schedule.

French Open: The French Open was braced on Wednesday to cut its crowd limit again to as low as 1,000 fans a day after the government had announced new limits in its battle against the coronavirus. Tennis had already reduced the number of fans to be allowed.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta says his side are "evolving" and that Mesut Ozil (in photo, left) will find it difficult to break into the squad. Ozil, whose contract is set to expire next June, did not feature towards the end of last season and was not named in Arsenal's matchday squad for the first three games of the new campaign.

www.thestatesman.com

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Super Kings ponder over Dhoni's batting order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 24 SEPTEMBER

Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's (in photo) much-awaited promotion in the batting order will be an area of interest when Chennai Super Kings strive to pick up pieces against a confident Delhi Capitals in their third IPL Capitals in their third IPL encounter on Friday.

The shock defeat against Rajasthan Royals on a batting belter at Sharjah could be primarily attributed to a poor show by their spinners along with a disastrous 20th over but the batsmen can't absolve themselves completely, especially Murali Vijay, Kedar Jadhav and the skipper himself.

Dhoni had come in to bat at number seven, promoting the likes of Sam Curran, Jadhav and Ruturaj Gaikwad ahead of himself but the ploy backfired badly leaving Faf du Plessis with too much work in too little time. While his fans still swear by his six-hitting ability, a closer look would show that Dhoni is unable to change the gears against express pace and it was only when Tom Curran came with his medium fast, Dhoni launched an attack. That too when the match as a contest was over.

Another aspect will be pacer Mohit Sharma's performance. While Mohit got KL Rahul at the beginning but his loose deliveries at the back-end made things difficult for the Capitals even as Kagiso Rabada bowled tightly at one end. Against a side like CSK which revels in attacking the last 10 overs, the Capitals might like to try Harshal Patel, who is also a handy batsman at any number having opened in domestic cricket.

This is if Ishant Sharma, who is still nursing an ankle injury is available. Ishant had a good run yesterday but didn't bowl. He will be again training today and then we will take a call," said Kaif.

Anrich Nortje in his first IPL game wasn't bad but left-arm Daniel Sams could create those awkward angles that batsmen dislike. Shimron Hetmyer is likely to get one more chance unless Ricky Ponting

CSK vs DC: Match begins at 7.30 pm IST.

wants to bring in some stability in the form of Alex Carey. Talking of big hitters, Delhi has one too many in their line-up including Prithvi Shaw, Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant, skipper Shreyas Iyer and last match's hero Marcus Stoinis, who would like to throw up an open challenge for Piyush Chawla and Ravindra Jadeja, Lungi Ngidi, Deepak Chahar, Piyush Chawla, Imran Tahir, Mitchell Santner, Josh Hazlewood, Shardul Thakur, Sam Curran, N Jagadeesan, KM Asif, Monu Kumar, R Sai Kishore, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Karn



forgettable last outing.

Teams (from): Chennai Super Kings: MS Dhoni (captain, wk), MVijay, Ambati Rayudu, Faf du Plessis, Shane Watson, Kedar Jadhav, Dwayne Bravo, Ravindra Jadeja, Lungi Ngidi, Deepak Chahar, Piyush Chawla, Imran Tahir, Mitchell Santner, Josh Hazlewood, Shardul Thakur, Sam Curran, N Jagadeesan, KM Asif, Monu Kumar, R Sai Kishore, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Karn

Sharma.

Delhi Capitals: Shreyas Iyer (c), Ravichandran Ashwin, Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw, Shimron Hetmyer, Kagiso Rabada, Ajinkya Rahane, Amit Mishra, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ishant Sharma, Axar Patel, Sandeep Lamichhane, Keemo Paul, Daniel Sams, Mohit Sharma, Anrich Nortje, Alex Carey (wk), Avesh Khan, Tushar Deshpande, Harshal Patel, Marcus Stoinis, Lalit Yadav.



Modi asks Kohli about Yo-Yo test, praises J&K woman footballer Afshan Ashiq

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 24 SEPTEMBER

Skipper Virat Kohli (in photo) explained how the Yo-Yo test helped Indian cricketers aim for high-level fitness when Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked him about the mandatory running aerobic fitness routine.

Prime Minister Modi was interacting with fitness experts and influencers from across the country to mark the one-year anniversary of the 'Fit India Movement.'

Modi was keen to know what is Yo-Yo test and asked if the captain also has to pass it or he gets spared? "I heard these days there is a Yo-Yo test for the team, what is this test?" asked Modi during the virtual interaction. Kohli, smiling, replied, "This Test was very important from fitness point of view. If we talk about global fitness level, our fitness level is still low compared to other teams and we want to take it up, which is a basic requirement." The gruelling routine has two sets of cones that are 20 metres apart. Once the beep is sounded, the athlete has to reach the marker on the other side by the time the next beep sounds, turn and

get back to where he started before the third beep.

The frequency of the beeps gradually increases for the subsequent runs. Kohli, who is currently in the UAE for the ongoing 13th IPL, said even he has to clear the test to get selected for the India team.

"I'm the one who goes to

run first and this is the condition that if I fail that I am also not available for selection. It is important to set that culture and it will lead to improvement in overall fitness levels."

The session was attended by sports persons such as Paralympic javelin gold medallist Devendra Jhajharia and woman footballer from Jammu and Kashmir Afshan Ashiq. Also present were actor, model and runner Milind Soman and nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar.

Kohli said better fitness has helped the players, especially fast bowlers, to perform during crucial moments. Kohli said he didn't follow the right diet early in his career and stressed on the need to bring an overall change in lifestyle.

Modi said he was glad that healthy eating is becoming a part of people's way of living.

All other team members and staff have tested negative."

Ibrahimovic had before the start of the season extended his contract with the 18-time Serie A champions by a year.

The Swedish champion began his journey with the club in 2010 when he made 85 appearances and scored 56 goals during a stint which also yielded one Scudetto and one Supercoppa.

Ibrahimovic returned to Milan in January this year and contributed significantly to AC Milan's return to Europe, netting 11 goals in 20 matches, reaching the 100 appearances milestone with the Rossoneri.

But now the renowned neu-

rologist Professor Erich Riederer has commented on Schumacher's condition as an outsider in a documentary on the French television station TMC. In an interview, he said: "I think he's in a vegetative state, which means he's awake but not responding. He is breathing, his heart is beating, he can probably sit up and take baby steps with help, but no more. "I think that's the maximum for him. Is there any chance of seeing him like he was before his accident? I really don't think so."

It is uncertain if Riederer has visited Schumacher himself or what information he is basing his professional opinion on.

Despite Riederer's bleak outlook, last week Schumacher's former Ferrari manager Jean Todt said that he was still fighting to get better under the watchful eye of his family after a recent visit to his home.

The Statesman Sport

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Rahul's unbeaten 132 powers KXIP to 206/3 against RCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 24 SEPTEMBER

Skipper KL Rahul (in photo) smashed the first century of the 2020 Indian Premier League to propel Kings XI Punjab to a daunting 206 for 3 against Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Thursday.

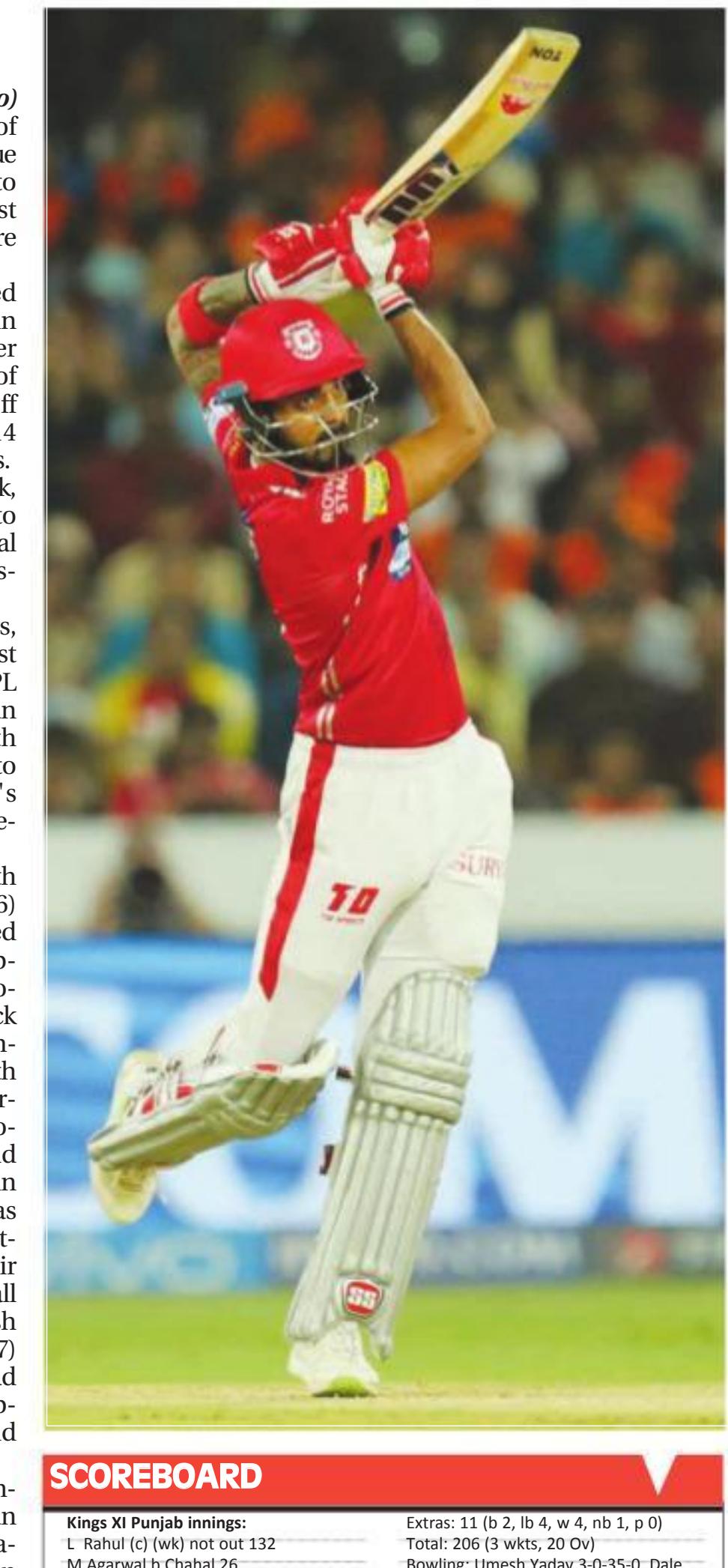
Rahul, who was dropped in the 17th and then again in the 18th over by RCB skipper Virat Kohli, played the role of sheet anchor, scoring 132 off 69 balls that was faced with 14 boundaries and seven sixes.

With his spectacular knock, he surpassed Rishabh Pant to post the highest individual score by an Indian in IPL history.

Playing his 60th innings, Rahul also became the fastest Indian to reach the 2000 IPL runs. The stylish batsman clipped away a full length delivery to fine leg for four to break Sachin Tendulkar's record, who reached the milestone in 63 matches.

Opening the batting with Rahul, Mayank Agarwal (26) looked dangerous and shared a 57-run stand with his captain. However, with the introduction of spin into the attack in the seventh over, Yuzvendra Chahal (1/25) struck with the last ball, cleaning up Agarwal (26) with a delightful googly. Nicholas Pooran (17) and Glenn Maxwell (5) once again failed to make an impact as Shivam Dube (2/33) accounted for the duo. Karun Nair pitched in with an eight-ball 15. The pace troika of Umesh Yadav (0/35), Dale Steyn (0/57) and Navdeep Saini (0/37) had a torrid time as the KXIP skipper was on fire in his second game as captain.

All players wore black armbands to honour Australian cricketer turned commentator Dean Jones, who died in Mumbai due to a cardiac arrest on Thursday.



SCOREBOARD

Kings XI Punjab innings:	
L. Rahul (c)	not out 132
M Agarwal c Chahal 26	
N Pooran c de Villiers b Dube 17	
G Maxwell c Finch b Dube 56	
K Nair not out 15	
Extras: 11 (b 2, lb 4, w 4, nb 1, p 0)	
Total: 206 (3 wkt., 20 Ov)	
Bowling: Umesh Yadav 3-0-35-0, Dale Steyn 4-0-57-0, Navdeep Saini 4-0-37-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-25-1, W Sundar 2-0-13-0, Shivam Dube 3-0-32-2	

Knight Riders refuse to mope after losing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

ABU DHABI, 24 SEPTEMBER

After Kolkata Knight Riders lost their opening Indian Premier League encounter against Mumbai Indians by 49 runs here yesterday, skipper Dinesh Karthik (in photo) said that rustiness was the reason behind the defeat. "I think we had areas to do well with bat and ball. I think it was a pretty rusty day to be honest, I don't want to get too analytical about it but it's okay the boys realise where they could have done better," said Karthik on television at the end of the match.

The match was played in hot and humid conditions in Abu Dhabi which was a change for a number of key foreign players in the KKR squad like Andre Russell, Pat Cummins and Eoin Morgan. "A couple of guys -- (Pat) Cummins and (Eoin) Morgan -- just finished their quarantine today. It is hard -- playing in the heat and getting used to the conditions. Don't want to be too analytical, the boys put in a good effort. I haven't had the conversation about that (regarding tweaking the top order) with Baz (coach Brendon McCullum), will let you know by the next game," said Karthik. KKR now face Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday. Rohit Sharma was his usual, elegant self yesterday with

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