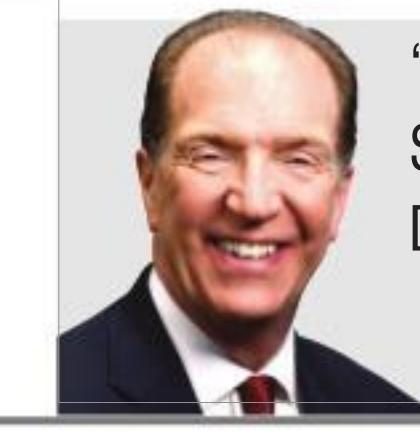


AND NOW
A THAW



'DEEPEST RECESSION
SINCE GREAT
DEPRESSION'

P6



KYRGYZSTAN'S
PRESIDENT QUILTS
AMIDST UNREST

P8



THE UNOBTRUSIVE
ISLANDER WHO
MEANT BUSINESS

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 34 and 19 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL	RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Max: 83%	Min: 29%
TEMPERATURE	
Max: 34.8°C (+ 2)	Min: 20.4°C (+ 1)
SUN RISES	SUN SETS
06:23 hrs	17:51 hrs
MOON RISES	MOON SETS
06:40 hrs	17:49 hrs

THUMBNAILS



A crowd during the virtual inauguration of a Durga puja pandal at Habra in North 24-Parganas on Thursday. ■ SOUVIK DAS

Centre to borrow ₹1.10 lakh crore: The central government will borrow up to Rs 1.10 lakh crore on behalf of the states to bridge the shortfall in GST collections, the finance ministry said. A slowdown in the economy since last fiscal has resulted in a drop in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, upsetting the budgets of states which had given up their right to levy local taxes such as sales tax or VAT when GST was introduced in July 2017. To make up for the shortfall, borrowing from the market was proposed.

P8

Bhanu Athaiya dead: Costume designer Bhanu Athaiya, who won India's first Oscar died at her home on Thursday after prolonged illness, her daughter said. She was 91. Athaiya, who won an Oscar for her work in the 1983 epic film *Gandhi*, passed away peacefully in her sleep, her daughter Radhika Gupta said. "She passed away early this morning. Eight years ago, she was diagnosed with a tumour in her brain. For the last three years, she was bedridden because one side (of her body) was paralysed, her daughter said.

Let Allahabad HC deal with Hathras case, says SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 OCTOBER

with it. We are here if there is any problem."

The lawyer appearing for the victim's family, demanded that the proceedings of the case be shifted out of Uttar Pradesh to a court in the national capital. The apprehension of not having a fair trial in the state was also raised by activist-lawyer Indira Jaising who also made submissions on witness protection.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta referred to a recent affidavit filed by the Uttar Pradesh government which gave details about the security and protection provided to the victim's family and witnesses in the case.

The top court, which was hearing a PIL and several intervention pleas of activists and lawyers, was told that no fair trial was possible in Uttar Pradesh as the investigation has been allegedly botched up.

Allaying the apprehension, a bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde, said Let the high court deal

TRP scam: BARC temporarily suspends weekly ratings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 15 OCTOBER

Following the fake Television Rating Points (TRP) scam, the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) on Thursday announced a temporary suspension of weekly ratings of news channels across languages.

The council intends to review and augment the current standards of measurement to improve on "statistical robustness", and the exercise will result in a "pause" in the weekly ratings for up to 12 weeks, an official statement said.

At least five people have been arrested by the city police which busted the scam earlier this month.

Those arrested include news channel employees,



while the police is also questioning executives of Arnab Goswami-led Republic Media Group with regard to the case. Republic Media Group has denied any wrongdoing.

The audience estimates given by BARC influence ad spends, and the total size of the ad placements was pegged at Rs 32,000 crore annually by the police. The police allege the ratings were being rigged by duiting the homes where the monitors were placed.

"In the light of the recent

developments, BARC Board has proposed that it's technical committee review and augment the current standards of measuring and reporting the data of niche genres, to improve their statistical robustness and to significantly hamper the potential attempts of infiltrating the panel homes," an official statement said. The exercise would cover all Hindi, Regional, English News and Business News channels with immediate effect, it added.

Republic Group told to approach HC: The Supreme Court Thursday asked the Republic Media Group to approach the Bombay High Court in the Television Rating Points (TRP) manipulation case registered by Mumbai Police saying, "we must have faith in high courts".

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It is not possible to stop Durga Puja festivities in West Bengal entirely, like some other states. We don't want to stop Durga Puja, it is not right; we have not stopped anything

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2020

03

Capt okays reopening of govt schools from 19 Oct

Punjab CM allows govt schools to reopen while ensuring Covid safety protocols and SOPs; also orders resumption of normal OPD services and elective surgeries in state hospitals

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 15 OCTOBER

With Covid cases showing a marked decline in Punjab, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Thursday ordered resumption of normal OPD services and elective surgeries in hospitals in the state.

The CM also allowed reopening of government schools in the state from 19 October after due sanitisation and disinfection procedures and with clear standard operating procedures (SOPs) mandating parents' consent while ensuring a ceiling on the number of students and hours of a school's operation. Some of the private schools in the state have opened today.

Thirty-one more people died from coronavirus infection in Punjab on Wednesday as 549 fresh cases surfaced, taking the caseload to 1,25,760, according to a state medical bulletin.

Expressing concern over the warnings by health and medical experts of the grave possibility of the second Covid wave hitting the state amid the upcoming festival season or during the approaching winter months, Capt Amarinder directed the departments concerned to take all steps to



ensure that things remain under control in the coming period.

He asked the health and medical education departments to work with the market committees to ensure widespread distribution of masks and to encourage people to wear them besides following the social distancing

norms.

CM Capt Amarinder, who was chairing a virtual review meeting of the Covid situation in the state, also asked the departments to ensure that the medical staff is kept motivated and all vacancies of technicians etc are filled up immediately so that normal OPD services and elective

surgeries could be carried out seamlessly in state hospitals amid the pandemic crisis.

Punjab Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta said that the Punjab Police was gearing up to manage the festival season during which security would be beefed up and all efforts would be made to

ensure strict adherence to Covid norms at marketplaces and Ramlila etc.

The DGP said the police was also currently focused on handling the increasing number of farmers' protests as well as picketing by the BJP and the RSS members.

According to the DGP, the force had lost 22 personnel to Covid in September, which took its coronavirus toll to 39. As of date, 434 cops were positive, with an average of 72 cases being reported among the Punjab Police personnel every day during September. However, the figure was now down to about 10.

Meanwhile, the CM has written to all village sarpanches in the state, urging them to aggressively counter the false propaganda being spread about Covid by certain malicious people.

Though the various measures taken by the Punjab government had led to improvement in the Covid situation, the state could not afford to be complacent, Capt Amarinder said.

"We cannot afford to let our guard down, especially considering the fact that the paddy harvesting is on, as also the government procurement," the CM further stated in his communication to the village council heads.

Pb health expert warns of 2nd Covid wave amid festive season

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 15 OCTOBER

The head of the Punjab government's expert advisory committee on health, Dr KK Talwar, on Thursday warned of a second coronavirus wave hitting Punjab during the upcoming festival season.

With just about 500 Covid cases a day at present, the projections for the next few days were positive, he said, but added that with the spate of upcoming festivals and the fatigue in the health system Punjab could see the next Covid wave hitting soon.

Even as he termed the decline in positivity rate to 2.60 as a good sign, Dr Talwar, cited the incidence of the second wave in various countries, and even in Delhi.

Dr Rajesh Kumar, a member of the health department's Covid expert group, said that even if the situation remained under control through November, the onset

of the winter season could trigger a spurt in cases.

The former director of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Dr Talwar suggested giving Pulse Oximeters to Asha workers to enable them to keep a check in their respective areas. He further disclosed that teams of experts were being formed to conduct a mortality audit of every hospital to identify gaps, since the fatality rate in the state continued to be high (at 3.1 per cent).

This is despite the fact that the recovery rate has gone up from 82 per cent on 1 October to 90.3 per cent as of 13 October, when the total number of confirmed cases in the state stood at 123211.

Health Secretary Hussan Lal pointed out that Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was still high at 131 against the national average of 81. He informed the meeting that to ensure

adequate availability of oxygen supply in the coming weeks and months, tendering for 1st phase for augmenting the supply was in process.

The Union government of India had fixed the rates of Medical Oxygen, including that of transportation of oxygen cylinders, though liquid oxygen transportation rates were yet to be fixed, he added.

In the first phase, Oxygen generation plants will be set up at District Hospitals Jalandhar, Ludhiana and at Medical Colleges Patiala, Amritsar, Faridkot, to be followed by DH Mansa, Sangrur, Bathinda and MKH Patiala in the 2nd phase, and DH Ropar, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Amritsar in 3rd Phase.

As far as Post-Covid Care kits were concerned, so far 10000 of these had been sent to various districts for distribution to all patients discharged from Government hospitals, said Hussan Lal.

HP Governor, CM pay tributes to Kalam

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 15 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday paid tribute to the former President of India late Dr A P J Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary.

In his message, Dattatreya said Dr Kalam inspired every

Indian with his simplicity, vision and commitment towards nation-building and continues to motivate us to strive for the betterment of society.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that known as 'Missile Man', Dr Kalam was not only a great scientist but also a visionary personality who always strived for the better-

ment of the nation and its people.

He said that Dr Kalam especially inspired the younger generation to set high goals in their lives and work with utmost dedication for the cause of the nation.

He added that the former President would always be remembered for his contributions, thoughts and simplicity.

Kotkhai rape-murder victim's family moves HP HC for reinvestigation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 15 OCTOBER

Dissatisfied with the CBI probe in Kotkhai rape-murder case in Shimla district in which a 16-year-old girl was raped and killed, the victim's parents on Thursday filed a petition in the Himachal Pradesh High Court to seek justice for their daughter.

The victim's father said the gruesome act couldn't be committed by a single person as was being claimed by the CBI.

"We have seen the body and the way, our daughter was tortured with burnt marks all over her body, it can't be the handiwork of single person," he claimed.

He said Anil alias Nilu, a woodcutter arrested by the CBI for the gruesome rape and murder, might be involved in the case but the

The victim's family is dissatisfied with the CBI probe, charging that more than one person were involved in the gruesome crime

crime was committed by some other persons.

He suspected that some drug addicts may be involved in the rape and murder case as was being claimed by HP police in its investigation and claimed that CBI officials, too, initially had said that four persons may be involved in the crime.

"The CBI didn't present the Narco test report of the five accused, who were arrested by HP police, in the court which raises further suspicion on impartiality of the probe. We just want justice for our daughter and

it is the reason that we are filing a petition in High Court to seek re-investigation in the case so that real culprits could be caught," he said.

"It's been three years since my daughter was brutally raped and killed but still my daughter hasn't got justice," the victim's mother said, adding that it was the reason they had moved High Court.

The victim girl, a Class 10 student, had gone missing while returning home from school on 4 July 2017 in Kotkhai area of Shimla district and her body was found in the forest on 6 July with multiple injuries on her body.

The incident had led to wide public outrage, forcing the state government to constitute a SIT which had arrested six persons, Ashish Chauhan, Rajender Singh

alias Raju, Deepak, Subhash Singh Bisht, Suraj and Lokan on 12 and 13 July.

The cops had allegedly tortured the accused to confess that they were involved in rape and murder which resulted in the death of Suraj on the intervening night of 18-19 July.

The case was then transferred to the CBI by HP High Court and the investigating agency had arrested Nilu on 15 April 2018, claiming it was he who had committed the gruesome act.

However, the parents weren't convinced with the probe and are now fighting for reinvestigation in the case.

Eight members of Special Investigation Team (SIT) were also arrested for the custodial death of Suraj for which trial is going on in a CBI court at Chandigarh.

Hectic lobbying starts in Uttarakhand for RS seat

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, 15 OCTOBER

assumed that Bahuguna will be accommodated in Rajya Sabha.

Hectic lobbying has started for the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Uttarakhand, polling for which will take place next month.

Many BJP leaders from Uttarakhand are eying the party ticket to enter the Upper House. The names of former Uttarakhand chief minister Vijay Bahuguna and former national vice president of the Bharatiya Janata Party Shyam Jaju are making the rounds in various circles.

The term of actor turned politician Raj Babbar as Rajya Sabha member from Uttarakhand will conclude on November 25. Most of the time national parties have opted for candidates outside the hill state. The case of former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna is interesting.

Right from the day he was removed from the Chief Minister's office in 2014, it was

keeping everybody guessing. The dominating position of BJP in Uttarakhand assembly leaves little space for Congress in the upper house polls.

Congress leader Raj Babbar failed miserably to deliver and disappeared from the hill state after getting elected in the Rajya Sabha. Babbar was not seen canvassing for Congress during the Uttarakhand assembly election in 2017.

70 detained in Delhi for protesting farm laws

PTI
NEW DELHI, 15 OCTOBER

A total of 70 people who had gathered at the Krishi Bhawan in central Delhi on Thursday to protest the three recently enacted central farm laws were detained by the Delhi Police, officials said.

Police said 70 people were detained before they could start their protest at 12 pm.

Police received information that some Shiromani Akali Dal leaders, along with farmers from Punjab, might hold a protest at the Krishi Bhawan, following which necessary police deployment was done.

issued by ACP, Parliament Street, a senior police officer said.

However, they did not pay heed to the warnings and started shouting slogans. A total of 70 protesters were detained and sent to Mandir Marg police station, the officer said.

A case was registered under relevant sections at Parliament Street police station against the protesters. They were later released, police added.

Row rages over removal of Sonia plaque at Atal tunnel

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 15 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Congress chief Kuldeep Singh Rathore on Thursday reminded Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur of the letter written by him in which he had given the CM an ultimatum of 15 days for reinstalling the foundation stone plaque bearing the name of Congress president Sonia Gandhi at Atal tunnel at Rohtang.

He alleged that the plaque was removed when the Atal tunnel was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3 October.

Talking to media persons here, Rathore said after FIR was lodged by Congress units of Manali & Lahaul Spiti, the District Police Chief, Kullu has come out with the statement that the foundation plaque is in custody of mechanical workshop company SAJV which is working for/ under Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

He said the BRO has also mentioned that as soon as the orders are placed in their table the foundation stone will be placed as before.

Rathore asked the government to make it public that on whose orders this foundation stone was removed. "The government should immediately place the foundation plaque as before," he said.

Himachal Pradesh Congress threatens stir if the foundation stone plaque with Sonia Gandhi's name is not reinstated at Atal tunnel at Rohtang at the earliest

He said the Congress did not want to make it a political issue, but if the plaque is not restored at the earliest, the government should be ready to deal with demonstration by Congress. "The government will be solely responsible for this stir," he said.

The state Congress President criticized the state government and termed this entire episode as tampering with history.

"The removal of this foundation stone from its actual place is a violation of the dignity of democracy and completely immoral and unconstitutional," he said.

Rathore said that the kind of politics BJP had been doing on the construction of Rohtang Tunnel was condemnable and reflected the poor mentality of the government.

Rathore said that instead of giving relief to the people during the Corona epidemic, the government is constantly issuing inflation & price rise.

"The farmers are already suffering under the Modi rule

on all accounts. While the recent black law is one, the Modi government is also extracting compound interest on the loans of farmers," he said.

The Congress leader said Congress had demanded tax concessions from the government due to the Covid-19, but contrary to that the government is constantly issuing inflation & price rise.

Rathore also expressed surprise at the arbitrariness

of the cement companies in the state. He said the government has a clear soft corner for the cement industry in the state, going by the unprecedented price hike affected by the cement companies.

"Cement is made in HP. However it is being sold at a higher price in HP and at cheaper rates in other states. It is a clear injustice to people of HP," he said.

Rathore said it was a matter of serious concern that Covid-19 cases in the state are increasing in Himachal. He accused the state government of not following Covid protocols properly.

"The Himachal government has seemingly left the people on God's mercy in this pandemic. Even the system of thermal scanning & sanitisation is not being maintained in HP, which is sheer carelessness," the state Congress President said.

HP's Sobha Singh Art Gallery to open from 16 Oct

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 15 OCTOBER

The Sobha Singh Art Gallery and Museum, situated at art village Andretta on the outskirts of Palampur town in Himachal Pradesh will open on a regular basis for the visitors with effect from 16 October, a release issued by Sobha Singh Art Gallery and Museum said.

The Gallery will open on all working days except Monday

day, according to the release. The Gallery was closed in mid March this year due to pandemic and it started functioning only on Saturdays-Sundays with effect from 16 September.

"As the flow of visitors has increased so the management has decided to keep it open from Tuesday to Sunday between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM daily. As per the international practice, Monday will be a closed day. All

applicants who have already applied online for normal seats in BSC, BTech, MSc, MBA, MBA (Agribusiness) and PhD degree programmes, if they wish to be now considered under any category as per the roaster for this session.

The release said for Undergraduate programmes, fresh applications can be made in the following left out categories as per the new roaster: EWS, UR Ex-Serviceman, SC Ex-Serviceman, ST Ex-Serviceman and OBC Ex-Serviceman. For MSc, MBA, MBA (Agribusiness) and PhD programmes, fresh applications can be made in the following left out categories as per the new roaster: EWS, UR Ex-Serviceman, Ward of Ex-Serviceman, SC Ex-Serviceman, ST Ex-Serviceman and OBC PH.

It said in case a candidate has already applied for admission and submitted their counselling proforma before the due date, but could not submit the documents of his respective new category as per the new roaster, such relevant documents need to be sent through email.

"The last date to apply and send documents to the university through email is 24 October. Applicants must mention their reference number on the top of the certificates while emailing them to the university website www.yspuniversity.ac.in," the release said.





The state should transform itself into a carbon-neutral region by setting up greenhouses

KERALA CHIEF MINISTER PINARAYI VIJAYAN

India

KCR seeks ₹1,350 cr from Central govt

T'gana suffered ₹5000 crore loss due to heavy rain & flash flood

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 15 OCTOBER



Cantonment Board workers use boats to evacuate residents on a flooded street following heavy rains in Hyderabad on Thursday. ■ AFP

Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release Rs 1350 crore for immediate relief and rehabilitation as the total losses suffered by the state due to heavy rain and flash floods were pegged at Rs 5000 crore with 50 people losing their lives along with heavy damage to infrastructure and crops.

Meanwhile as political leaders of all hues thronged the colonies, many of which are still underwater some of the TRS MLA faced tough questions and even brickbats from the residents. Angry women lashed out at TRS MLA Uppal Subhas Reddy who went on a boat to review the flooded areas in his constituency.

The MLA first blamed nature for the deluge and the said illegal buildings were responsible for the situation and the angry women from their balconies retorted, "who gave permission?" A slipper was thrown at the TRS MLA of Ibrahimpatnam Kishan Reddy by angry residents. Meanwhile, Union minister of state

for home affairs G Kishen Reddy lambasted the officials of GHMC for failing to accompany him while he visited the flooded colonies. BJP urged the residents of Hyderabad and adjoining areas to teach TRS a "befitting lesson" for their lack of preparedness for the deluge.

Even the statement from the chief minister's office said only those colonies built with full tank level (FTL) of water bodies have been flooded. Adequate measures should have been taken during construction of apartment to pre-

vent water from stagnating in the underground cellars.

Henceforth permission for building construction should have this added clause.

The state government has now offered encroachers who were residing on the beds of streams and storm water drains to rebuild on government land.

The chief minister also announced that Rs 5 lakh will be paid as compensation to the kin of the deceased. He also allocated Rs 5 crore in GHMC area for relief work. Crops have been destroyed in 7.35 lakh acres in the state amounting to Rs 2000 crore. Apart from Hyderabad 30 towns have been flooded.

Meanwhile, residents of two colonies in Gachibowli reported about loud noises and tremors following heavy rains.

After frantic calls from residents TNGO colony and My Home Vihanga scientists from National Geophysical Research Institute (NRGI) rushed to the scene. The tremors were not due to seismic activity but bulk recharge of ground water. An IAF helicopter rescued 5 people stranded in Medak district due to river Manjeera flowing in full spate. ■ PTI

'Nitish harming Dalit community'

PATNA, 15 OCTOBER

LJP president Chirag Paswan trashed on Thursday suggestions that he parted ways with Nitish Kumar's JD(U) because of differences over seat-sharing for the Bihar assembly polls, and accused the chief minister of harming the Dalit community by creating a sub-group of Mahadalits.

Paswan said his party had fought the Lok Sabha polls last year in alliance with the JD(U) because of the "compulsions" brought on by the return to the NDA of Kumar, whose party he accused of working against LJP candidates in the general elections in violation of the coalition dharma.

He also alleged that Kumar had behaved "haughtily" when the late Union minister had called on him last year with the request to accompany him for filing nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha.

"I met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP chief J P Nadda so many times in the recent past. Not once did the issue of seat-sharing crop up," Chirag Paswan told PTI-Bhasha in an interview. The LJP chief also rubbished the chief ministers *saat nishchay* (seven resolves) for public welfare, saying while the rest of the country was making so much progress, he was still talking about piped water and construction of concrete roads and alleys. ■ PTI

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'Just 4% Delhi-NCR pollution caused by stubble burning'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 OCTOBER

Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday appealed to the Punjab government to curb stubble burning but asserted that only 4 per cent of pollution in Delhi-NCR is due to crop residue burning as the rest is due to local factors, drawing sharp criticism from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who said "being in denial will not help."

Javadekar flagged off 50 inspection teams of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for field visits in Delhi-NCR to keep a watch on pollution hot spots during the winter season even as a layer of smoky haze lingered over the region with the air quality hitting 'very poor' levels on Thursday.

"Only 4 per cent pollution is due to stubble burning. Ninety-six per cent of it is due to local factors like biomass burning, garbage dumping, unpaved roads, dust, construction and demolition activities, etc..." he told reporters at his residence in Delhi.

Reacting to Javadekar's assertion, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal blamed him for "being in denial". Taking to Twitter, the chief minister sought to know why pollution has suddenly increased in Delhi-NCR in the last fortnight if stubble



A man jogs along Rajpath street during a smoggy morning in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ AFP

burning causes only 4 per cent pollution.

"Staying in denial will not help. If stubble burning causes only 4 per cent pollution, then why has pollution suddenly increased last fortnite? Air was clean before that. Same story every yr. There's no massive jump in any local source of pollution in last few days to cause this spike?" Kejriwal said in the tweet.

Am Aadmi Party MLA Raghubir Chahda said the CPCB's own estimate of 2019 suggest stubble burning contributed up to 44 per cent to the national capital's air pollution.

"Central Pollution Control Board's own estimate of 2019 suggest stubble burning contributed up to 44% to Delhi's air pollution. Ministry of Earth Sciences' SAFAR said at peak of stubble burning in Punjab & Haryana account for 44%

Delhi-NCR air quality enters 'very poor' zone:

The national capital's air quality hit an eight-month low on Thursday with stubble burning accounting for only six per cent of the city's PM2.5 concentration, according to government agencies. NASA's satellite imagery showed a large cluster of farm fires near Amritsar, Patiala, Tarn Taran, and Firozpur in Punjab, and Ambala and Rajpura in Haryana. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the wind direction was partly favourable for the transport of smoke from farm fires and "hence, an increase in contribution in Delhi's PM 2.5 (concentration) is expected". Delhi recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 312. The last time the air quality hit such a poor level was in February with an AQI 320. ■ PTI

of Delhi's pollution. What is Mr. Javadekar smoking?" Chahda said in a tweet.

On Thursday, as the air quality in the region hit 'very poor' levels, stricter anti-air pollution measures, including a ban on electric generators, came into force under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

During the flagging off of 50 CPCB teams in the morning, Javadekar said his throat choked with the smoke from burning of crop residue during his visit to Ludhiana last year. "I appeal to the Punjab government to swing into action and curb stubble burning. I went to attend a programme in Ludhiana last year. On my way back, my throat choked due to the smoke from stubble burning even when I was in an air-conditioned car. It is harmful for everyone, including people living there. The Punjab government should ensure there is not much stubble burning this time," the minister said.

Addressing the nodal officers of the CPCB teams, he said, "You will work for next two months and take note of all activities and complaints. You will inspect all factors. You have the right to file a report on your observations and strict action will be taken."

The 50 CPCB teams will make extensive field visits from October 15 to February 28 next year and focus on hot spots where air pollution is aggravated, the environment ministry said.

They will visit Delhi and NCR towns Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut in Uttar Pradesh; Gurugram, Faridabad, Ballabgarh, Jhajjar, Panipat, Sonipat in Haryana; and Bhiwadi, Alwar, Bharatpur in Rajasthan.

Covid warriors can't march on empty stomach: Docs on pending salaries

PTI
NEW DELHI, 15 OCTOBER

TMC says Guv 'insulted women of Bengal', files complaint



KOLKATA, 14 OCTOBER

Trinamul Congress activists lodged a complaint against West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankar in State Women Commission for "tweeting on 8 October which has sexual overtones and thus insulting the women of Bengal."

The Statesman possesses a copy of the letter where at least 40 TMC activists have signed.

The complaint was lodged with SWC Chairperson Leena Ganguly. The letter stated that the governor had made "a sexually-coloured remark, distasteful and engaged in flirting with our chief minister and an outrage her modesty."

In his tweet, the governor stated, referring to Amitabh Bachchan - "on the current covid scenario@Mamata Official, I urge that action in togetherness is the only way out. I am already in Hot Spot with no life line. I request you Big B to lock this moment I succeed getting mamata from West Bengal chief minister." The letter stated that the tweet underlines chauvinist, misogynist mindset of the governor. By making such tweet the governor not only insulted the chief minister but also all women of Bengal.

SNS

TENDER

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PR)-I
Shahdara South Zone, E-1/12, Krishna Nagar, Delhi - 110051
Email: eep@shahdara.org.in
No. EE (Pr)-I/Sh. S/2020-21/449 Dated : 14.10.2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer (Pr)-I Shah. South on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites tender for "Architectural Structural and other Engineering Design Consultancy for remaking work of multi-storey office complex Zonal Office of Shah (South) at Karkardooma Industrial Area, East Delhi" vide tender no. 319280 as per Nit No. EE(Pr)-I/Sh. S/TC/2020-21/3 dated 14.10.2020 due on 05.11.2020. Further details can be seen on website <http://engineering.mcdtenders.com>.
RO NO - 58/DPI/EAST/2020-21
EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. 155303

Phone/Fax No: 0194-2443031/2443032 (Sgr)
www.jkpolice.gov.in



JAMMU & KASHMIR POLICE HEADQUARTERS
Amendment

Pursuant to raising of queries by the intending bidders about e-tender No. 32 of 2020 dated 18.08.2020 floated for procurement of Bomb Inhibitor and after examining of these queries by the committee, following amendment are hereby issued:-

i) The approved supplier shall furnish guarantee that supplied goods/stores/articles would continue to conform to the specifications and quality for a period of 36 months instead of 24 months, from the date of acceptance of the supplies.
ii) Operational weight of the equipment should be less than 60 Kgs.

Other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged. Detailed tender documents with terms and conditions are available on JK State e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in.

(Rayees Mohaddis Bhat) IPS,
AIG of Police (Provisional/PtP)
For Director General of Police,
J&K Srinagar

0191-2459029/2459255(Jmu)
email: phqk@jkpolice.gov.in

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

NIT No.: 951
Name of Office : Resident Engineer, Bhakra Power Houses Division, BBMB (PW), Nangal Township.

Name of Work : Providing boundary wall and LED lights (40 Watt) for Power Wing Colony and various Offices of Power Wing at Nangal Township.

Documents (online) download start Date **09.10.2020** from 10:00 hours
Documents (online) download end Date **29.10.2020** up to 16:00 hours

Last date and time for online bid submission **30.10.2020** up to 12:00 hours
Date & Time of online bid opening **30.10.2020** from 15:00 hours onwards.

For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB Website <http://bbmbeproc.abcprocure.com>

739-PR-Generation-5 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

NIT No.: 952
Name of Office : Resident Engineer, Bhakra Power Houses Division, BBMB (PW), Nangal Township.

Name of Work : Replacement of CGI sheets with RCC slab of Neilia Store Office building, construction of staff washroom and toilets at Neilia Store and providing boundary wall along with LED decorative post top light at 11 KV Sub Station.

Documents (online) download start Date **09.10.2020** from 10:00 hours
Documents (online) download end Date **29.10.2020** up to 16:00 hours

Last date and time for online bid submission **30.10.2020** up to 12:00 hours
Date & Time of online bid opening **30.10.2020** from 15:00 hours onwards.

For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB Website <http://bbmbeproc.abcprocure.com>

740-PR-Generation-5 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

Don't arrest Sivasankar till 23 Oct, Kerala HC tells ED

KOCHI, 15 OCTOBER

The Kerala High Court on Thursday directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) not to arrest M Sivasankar, former principal secretary to Kerala chief minister, till October 23 in the case registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with the gold smuggling case. When the anticipatory bail plea of Sivasankar came up for hearing, PVijayabhanu, the counsel for Sivasankar, submitted that the petitioner has been cooperating with the investigation in the case and the ED had questioned him on three occasions. He pleaded to protect Sivasankar from arrest.

Constable Mahipal Yadav stopped the vehicle for checking and when the driver tried to flee, he jumped on the bonnet of the car, police

said.

The video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

In the video, Yadav is seen on the bonnet of a white Hyundai i20 car, which was being driven in a zigzag way, following which the constable fell on the ground.

The driver tried to flee from the spot, but was later apprehended by people and other policemen. Yadav suffered some injuries, police said.

The accused has been identified as Shubham, a resident of Uttam Nagar.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code against Shubham, a senior police officer said.

Delhi traffic cop trying to stop car dragged on its bonnet for half a km

PTI
NEW DELHI, 15 OCTOBER

A Delhi Traffic Police constable, who tried to stop a rashly driven car, was dragged on the bonnet of the vehicle for almost half a kilometer in southwest Delhi Cantonment area, officials said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Monday evening near Daula Kuan.

The constable tried to stop the vehicle which had a fancy number plate and was being driven rashly, they said.

Constable Mahipal Yadav stopped the vehicle for checking and when the driver tried to flee, he jumped on the bonnet of the car, police



Shooters are being hired by the TMC from Bangladesh to kill them (BJP workers).

BJP NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA
ON THE MURDERS OF BJP LEADERS

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2020

05

WB Cong, Left top brass meet to boost cadres' morale



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 15 OCTOBER

When Bengal PCC chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury returns to the city from his constituency in Behrampore, he will hold a virtual meeting with Left Front chairman Biman Bose.

The prospect of the virtual meeting was mentioned in the report of the CPI-M state committee held at its state party headquarters at Alimudding Street, recently.

Though the seat sharing arrangements between the Congress and the Left are

which will replace the Trinamul Congress dispensation, he felt agitation and protest would have the way to electoral success.

The PCC chief's message will dispel the confusion in both Congress and Front camps about what they perceived to be distancing between the respective leaderships which was markedly absent during the stint of Chowdhury's predecessor as the PCC chief, Somen Mitra.

The Twitter message also puts to rest the apprehension of some of the Congress leaders who had complained to AICC about Chowdhury's lack of alacrity of interacting with the Front leadership which would have a fallout on credibility of the alliance.

The journey along the road ahead for the Congress-Left alliance will not be a bumpy ride has been contended by leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, Abdul Mannan and leader of Left Front Legislative Party, Sujan Chakraborty is another pointer that the alliance is not a divided house.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Plot of Land area measuring 44 Kanal 04 Marla falling in Khanna No. 90/32, 13/3, 134, 142, 143, 144, 17, 18, 23, 24, 30/01, 32, 4 situated at Village Bhora-Kalan Dist. Gurgaon, Haryana; hereinafter referred to as "said property". Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc., that our clients M/s. Mark Exhaut System Ltd., a Public Limited Company, having its Registered office at House No. G-286, Galli No. 8, Mohan Baba Nagar, Near Badarpur, New Delhi - 110044 are the owners of the aforesaid property vide several sale deeds executed and registered in their favour by different sellers. In this connection, our clients through their Director, Shri Rohan Kapoor, Shri Shrin Rattan Kapoor & Sons House No. 4/2, 2nd Floor, Silver Oak Farmhouse, Sector 10, Noida, New Delhi - 201301 informed us that the following sale deeds executed and registered in favour of the sellers and pertaining to the plot of land (forming part of the aforesaid property) have not been provided by them to our clients:-

1/Sale deed dated 22.10.1997, registered as document no. 9627 favouring Ram Avtar pertaining to Khetw No. 571, Khata No. 707, Must. 93, Killa No. 3/2(3)-12(48-0)

2/Sale deed dated 10.11.1997, registered as document no. 1087 favouring Mahender Singh Yadav pertaining to Khetw No. 571, Khata No. 707, Must. 93, Killa No. 3/2(3)-12(48-0)

3/Sale deed dated 13.10.1995, registered as document no. 11703 favouring International Land Developers Pvt. Ltd. pertaining to Khetw No. 571, Khata No. 707, Must. 93, Killa No. 3/2(3)-12(48-0)

4/Sale deed dated 07.11.1997, registered as document no. 10933 favouring Ram Avtar pertaining to Khetw No. 571, Khata No. 707, Must. 93, Killa No. 3/2(3)-12(48-0)

5/Sale deed dated 25.08.1997, registered as document no. 9404 favouring Gurav Bhatia pertaining to Khetw No. 550, Khata No. 6831, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 17(8-0), Must. No. 93, Killa No. 3/14-8, Khatw No. 684, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 24(8-0)

6/Sale deed dated 20.11.1997, registered as document no. 10933 favouring Mahender Singh Yadav pertaining to Khetw No. 550, Khata No. 6831, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 17(8-0), Must. No. 93, Killa No. 3/14-8, Khatw No. 684, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 24(8-0)

7/Sale deed dated 26.11.1998, registered as document no. 10599 favouring Phoolwati pertaining to Khetw No. 550, Khata No. 6831, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 17(8-0), Must. No. 93, Killa No. 3/14-8, Khatw No. 684, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 24(8-0)

8/Sale deed dated 18.05.2000 registered as document no. 235 favouring Naiven Kumar 1 pertaining to Mustaf No. 90, Killa No. 13/2(1-16), Killa No. 14(21-16)

Under the circumstances, the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions or other persons, relatives, organization's, company's, firms' or government authority are hereby restrained to enter into any deal or transaction pertaining to the plots of land as detailed above.

Please note that any such transaction shall be illegal as these plots of land are owned and possessed by our client lawfully. However, in case any person is buying and selling, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever, he or she upon the aforesaid plots of land is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by Registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 7 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of our clients to the said plots of land shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our clients in any manner whatsoever.

AMIT KUMAR KHURANA, ADVOCATES INTELLIGENT LAW OFFICES, A-74, LGF, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

11/Sale deed dated 18.05.1998 registered as document no. 1220 favouring Surendra Yadav pertaining to Khetw No. 751, Khata No. 938, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 17(8-0), Must. No. 93, Killa No. 3/14-8, Khatw No. 684, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 24(8-0)

12/Sale deed dated 28.05.2000 registered as document no. 235 favouring Naiven Kumar 1 pertaining to Mustaf No. 90, Killa No. 13/2(1-16), Killa No. 14(21-16)

Under the circumstances, the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions or other persons, relatives, organization's, company's, firms' or government authority are hereby restrained to enter into any deal or transaction pertaining to the plots of land as detailed above.

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AMIT KUMAR KHURANA, ADVOCATES INTELLIGENT LAW OFFICES, A-74, LGF, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

13/Sale deed dated 18.05.1998 registered as document no. 1220 favouring Surendra Yadav pertaining to Khetw No. 751, Khata No. 938, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 17(8-0), Must. No. 93, Killa No. 3/14-8, Khatw No. 684, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 24(8-0)

14/Sale deed dated 18.05.2000 registered as document no. 235 favouring Naiven Kumar 1 pertaining to Mustaf No. 90, Killa No. 13/2(1-16), Killa No. 14(21-16)

Under the circumstances, the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions or other persons, relatives, organization's, company's, firms' or government authority are hereby restrained to enter into any deal or transaction pertaining to the plots of land as detailed above.

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AMIT KUMAR KHURANA, ADVOCATES INTELLIGENT LAW OFFICES, A-74, LGF, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

15/Sale deed dated 18.05.1998 registered as document no. 1220 favouring Surendra Yadav pertaining to Khetw No. 751, Khata No. 938, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 17(8-0), Must. No. 93, Killa No. 3/14-8, Khatw No. 684, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 24(8-0)

16/Sale deed dated 18.05.2000 registered as document no. 235 favouring Naiven Kumar 1 pertaining to Mustaf No. 90, Killa No. 13/2(1-16), Killa No. 14(21-16)

Under the circumstances, the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions or other persons, relatives, organization's, company's, firms' or government authority are hereby restrained to enter into any deal or transaction pertaining to the plots of land as detailed above.

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AMIT KUMAR KHURANA, ADVOCATES INTELLIGENT LAW OFFICES, A-74, LGF, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

17/Sale deed dated 18.05.1998 registered as document no. 1220 favouring Surendra Yadav pertaining to Khetw No. 751, Khata No. 938, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 17(8-0), Must. No. 93, Killa No. 3/14-8, Khatw No. 684, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 24(8-0)

18/Sale deed dated 18.05.2000 registered as document no. 235 favouring Naiven Kumar 1 pertaining to Mustaf No. 90, Killa No. 13/2(1-16), Killa No. 14(21-16)

Under the circumstances, the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions or other persons, relatives, organization's, company's, firms' or government authority are hereby restrained to enter into any deal or transaction pertaining to the plots of land as detailed above.

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AMIT KUMAR KHURANA, ADVOCATES INTELLIGENT LAW OFFICES, A-74, LGF, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

19/Sale deed dated 18.05.1998 registered as document no. 1220 favouring Surendra Yadav pertaining to Khetw No. 751, Khata No. 938, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 17(8-0), Must. No. 93, Killa No. 3/14-8, Khatw No. 684, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 24(8-0)

20/Sale deed dated 18.05.2000 registered as document no. 235 favouring Naiven Kumar 1 pertaining to Mustaf No. 90, Killa No. 13/2(1-16), Killa No. 14(21-16)

Under the circumstances, the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions or other persons, relatives, organization's, company's, firms' or government authority are hereby restrained to enter into any deal or transaction pertaining to the plots of land as detailed above.

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AMIT KUMAR KHURANA, ADVOCATES INTELLIGENT LAW OFFICES, A-74, LGF, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

21/Sale deed dated 18.05.1998 registered as document no. 1220 favouring Surendra Yadav pertaining to Khetw No. 751, Khata No. 938, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 17(8-0), Must. No. 93, Killa No. 3/14-8, Khatw No. 684, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 24(8-0)

22/Sale deed dated 18.05.2000 registered as document no. 235 favouring Naiven Kumar 1 pertaining to Mustaf No. 90, Killa No. 13/2(1-16), Killa No. 14(21-16)

Under the circumstances, the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions or other persons, relatives, organization's, company's, firms' or government authority are hereby restrained to enter into any deal or transaction pertaining to the plots of land as detailed above.

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AMIT KUMAR KHURANA, ADVOCATES INTELLIGENT LAW OFFICES, A-74, LGF, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

23/Sale deed dated 18.05.1998 registered as document no. 1220 favouring Surendra Yadav pertaining to Khetw No. 751, Khata No. 938, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 17(8-0), Must. No. 93, Killa No. 3/14-8, Khatw No. 684, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 24(8-0)

24/Sale deed dated 18.05.2000 registered as document no. 235 favouring Naiven Kumar 1 pertaining to Mustaf No. 90, Killa No. 13/2(1-16), Killa No. 14(21-16)

Under the circumstances, the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions or other persons, relatives, organization's, company's, firms' or government authority are hereby restrained to enter into any deal or transaction pertaining to the plots of land as detailed above.

Please note that any such transaction shall be illegal as these plots of land are owned and possessed by our client lawfully. However,

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AMIT KUMAR KHURANA, ADVOCATES INTELLIGENT LAW OFFICES, A-74, LGF, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

25/Sale deed dated 18.05.1998 registered as document no. 1220 favouring Surendra Yadav pertaining to Khetw No. 751, Khata No. 938, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 17(8-0), Must. No. 93, Killa No. 3/14-8, Khatw No. 684, Must. No. 90, Killa No. 24(8-0)

26/Sale deed dated 18.05.2000 registered as document no. 235 favouring Naiven Kumar 1 pertaining to Mustaf No. 90, Killa No. 13/2(1-16), Killa No. 14(21-16)

Under the circumstances, the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions or other persons, relatives, organization's, company's, firms' or government authority are hereby restrained to enter into any deal or transaction pertaining to the plots of land as detailed above.

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And now a thaw

It is perhaps symptomatic of the levels to which ties between India and Nepal have sunk that the proposed visit of Army Chief, General M M Naravane, to the Himalayan country is receiving importance – on either side of the border – that it might not have got last February, when it was initially scheduled to take place. For while the ostensible reason is ceremonial – his decoration with the honorary rank of a General in the Nepal Army to signify the fraternal links between the two uniformed services – the fact that it is the first high-level visit from the Indian side after ties plunged to an all-time low earlier this year invests it with importance. Both sides must hope that the visit will help mend fences, after a boundary dispute erupted between the two countries over Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, and led Nepal to publish a political map including these areas within its borders. Relations were not helped by a string of intemperate statements made by Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, who sought to blame India for the coronavirus outbreak in the country, going so far as to allege that the "Indian virus" was far more virulent than the one that originated in Wuhan, China. General Naravane too had been in the eye of the storm when he suggested in May that Nepal's provocative actions were at the behest of China. He had said, "I don't know what they are actually agitating about. There is a reason to believe that they might have raised this problem at the behest of someone else and that is very much a possibility." The statement – though preceded by reports that China's ambassador in Nepal was interfering in the country's political process – had sparked an immediate uproar in Kathmandu and was followed almost immediately by the release of the contentious map.

The frost in ties was best signified by the four diplomatic notes Nepal sent to New Delhi to suggest talks to resolve the boundary dispute which India spurned, all the while maintaining that the diplomatic engagement could be taken up after the epidemic was contained. General Naravane's visit is thus the first indication of a thaw on the Indian side, and the fact that his itinerary is likely to include calls on Nepal's President, Vice-President and Prime Minister suggests the visit will not be entirely ceremonial. Simultaneous with the announcement of the visit comes confirmation from Kathmandu that the country plans to join an air bubble with India to facilitate movement of citizens stranded on either side of the border. While the air bubble had been proposed by India in August, and Nepal had resumed international flight operations on 1 September, Kathmandu's acceptance after several weeks – even though it says this is to facilitate movement before Dussehra – must be seen as another sign of normality being restored. Those invested in India-Nepal ties must hope for the best.

Fresh miseries

America's rush to leave Afghanistan, with President Donald Trump having announced all troops will be home by Christmas, is in some way reminiscent of Britain's hasty departure from India in 1947 and may have similar bloody consequences. Having gone into the country to wipe out the Taliban in the wake of the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York, the Americans are now leaving the people of Afghanistan at the mercy of the same extremist grouping. A peace deal signed with the Taliban last February may have been reason enough for the Americans to leave, but clearly the Taliban's understanding of an agreement is at sharp variance with Washington's. Over the weekend, as Taliban fighters launched fierce attacks on provinces of southern Afghanistan, tens of thousands of people were forced to flee their homes. The attacks were launched in the city of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, which had seen some of the fiercest battles between international forces and the Taliban over the past 19 years. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has confirmed that thousands have fled.

It has appealed to Taliban fighters and security forces "to take all feasible measures to protect civilians, (including) safe paths for those wishing to leave". But the appeal seems to be having limited effect as the Taliban's assaults have been relentless. While the Americans have called in air strikes to repel the rebels, clearly this cover will not be available after December if President Trump's withdrawal timetable is adhered to. In eastern Afghanistan, where American troops have already left a base in Achin, a part of Nangahar province, locals confirm that fighters of the Taliban and the Islamic State have already started to fill the breach. This area had briefly come under the control of the extremists in 2015 and had even seen a return to beheadings and forced closures of schools and health centres. The Americans wrested control back after fierce fighting and had in 2017 even deployed their biggest non-nuclear bomb, the MOAB, nicknamed Mother of All Bombs, to destroy an Islamic State cave complex. But now with the Americans having left, extremists have started to trickle back in as government forces battle, sometimes ineffectually, to keep them at bay.

Nearly as worrisome to locals as the repeated attacks and disruptions is the prospect of being forced to regress to their pre-2001 lives, when the Taliban with its adherence to an extreme form of Sunni Islamic fundamentalism had inflicted a series of barbarities on them. The Taliban is known for its involvement in human and drug trafficking, its oppression of women, its prohibition on entertainment and the arts and its indulgence in cultural genocide, most prominently in its wanton destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas. Afghanistan's never-ending miseries may be entering a new phase.

Gandhi and an epidemic

Gandhi's writings during this period give excruciating details about his condition, from frequent visits to the lavatory to his surgery for piles that required morphine. Meanwhile the disease raged throughout India, countless people died and apart from his graphic descriptions of dysentery and piles, he could offer only the briefest sympathy to those who died



The influenza epidemic in India started in May-June 1918 and reached its peak between September and December. It gradually petered out in early 1919. It caused close to 20 million deaths in India which was about 40 times more than the number of people who died in the massacre during the partition of British India in 1946-47. Although the death toll was immense, it received little attention from either the British authorities or Indian nationalists. Was this also the case with Gandhi who had a penchant for working as a care giver to the sick? This article based on the letters and utterances of Gandhi, attempts to lay bare the truth regarding Gandhi's reaction to illness and death around him at that time.

Gandhi was well aware of the epidemic. His eldest son lost his wife and a child to influenza. In his 23 November 1918, letter Gandhi wrote to his son, "I felt sad for a moment when I learnt that your family were afflicted with influenza and there was even a death.

But such news is pouring in from everywhere so that now the mind is hardly affected". Early in 1919, he wrote to his good friend, Reverend C.F Andrews: "My dear Charlie, So you have been suffering from influenza.

To me the marvel is that you can keep so well in spite of incessant wanderings. But I suppose God protects those whom He wants to use as His instruments, especially when they let Him do the guiding without any opposition. I, therefore, entertain no anxiety on your behalf." Gandhi wrote many such letters to various persons in those days.

Gandhi's well known history of serving the afflicted in various disease outbreaks, for example,

his efforts during the outbreak of bubonic plague in South Africa in early 1904 and his messages on how to meet the danger of an eruption of the plague in Ahmedabad in July 1917 notwithstanding, he seemed to only refer to the epidemic in passing and even with indifference. But then, why did Gandhi show such indifference to the disease?

The main reasons attributed by scholars and historians for Gandhi not considering the outbreak as his primary concern are as follows:

First, his own debilitating illness in mid-August 1918 due to a severe attack of dysentery followed by a nervous breakdown that lasted for several months and was clearly life-threatening at its worst.

Before his illness, he was engaged in campaigns assisting the indigo growers in Champaran, the mill workers in Ahmedabad and the peasants struggling with payments of the land tax in Khade. Second, his engagement in taking up with the seemingly un-Gandhian task of conducting a recruitment drive to encourage Indians to enlist in the British army for the world war.

Some scholars have attempted to make more of Gandhi's condition, linking it to the epidemic, claiming that in fact he had been laid low by influenza.

For example, Laura Spinney, author of *Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How It Changed the World* claimed that Gandhi himself was suffering from Spanish flu, and not dysentery. According to her, members

of Sabarmati Ashram were also suffering from influenza. It was for this reason that Gandhi could not do anything to mitigate the suffering of the people afflicted with influenza. Spinney opined that due largely to popular distrust and discontent with the Raj over its inability to control the flu, Gandhi was unhappy, and he became the undisputed leader of the independence movement for his nature of involving himself with masses.

Gandhi's writings during this period give excruciating details about his condition, from frequent visits to the lavatory to his surgery for piles that required morphine. Meanwhile the disease raged throughout India, countless people died and apart from his graphic descriptions of dysentery and piles, he could offer only the briefest sympathy to those who died.

From the review of literature on the subject, it would appear that his seeming indifference to the deadly epidemic raging around him was at least in part a result of not only his shattered physical condition but also because he was suffering from an emotional and spiritual existential crisis, a nervous breakdown that drained him in a way that he could not respond as may have been expected of him.

His recruitment attempts

engaged him in a morally questionable enterprise by trying to enlist peasants for the British war effort. This happened in places where not that long before he had the status of a popular hero for successfully challenging the

authorities over tax issues affecting the local peasantry. Now they were shunning him and his recruitment drive, despite strenuous efforts on his part, came to practically nothing.

Gandhian scholar Judith Brown observed that Gandhi's struggle with his conscience, with those near to him, and those who had flocked to him, combined with physical exhaustion to precipitate a radical collapse in his health from the second half of 1918, virtually removed him from public life during the time of the influenza pandemic. It appeared that Gandhi left the pandemic unmentioned in his public discourse at the time as well as in his Autobiography a decade later. Yet Gandhi, who was dealing with his own illness, was not alone among India's foremost political leaders in this respect. Jawaharlal Nehru began his political career in 1916. When Nehru recalled that crucial period after the war ended, he failed to note the 1918 pandemic in either his autobiography *Toward Freedom* or later in *Discovery of India*.

What conclusion can we draw from the above facts? Where does this leave us? Regardless of Spinney's assertions that it was not dysentery but influenza, his exhaustion followed by nervous breakdown, surgery for piles that took Gandhi's mind off matters that would usually have been of fundamental importance to him, members of Sabarmati Ashram lying low due to illness and the death of his close relatives, it cannot be denied that Gandhi, more or less ignored the epidemic that was raging around him as Nehru, the British authorities in India, and historians of the Raj had done. Real reasons for their doing so cannot perhaps be ascertained now when the country is in the grip of another pandemic.

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIAN VOICES

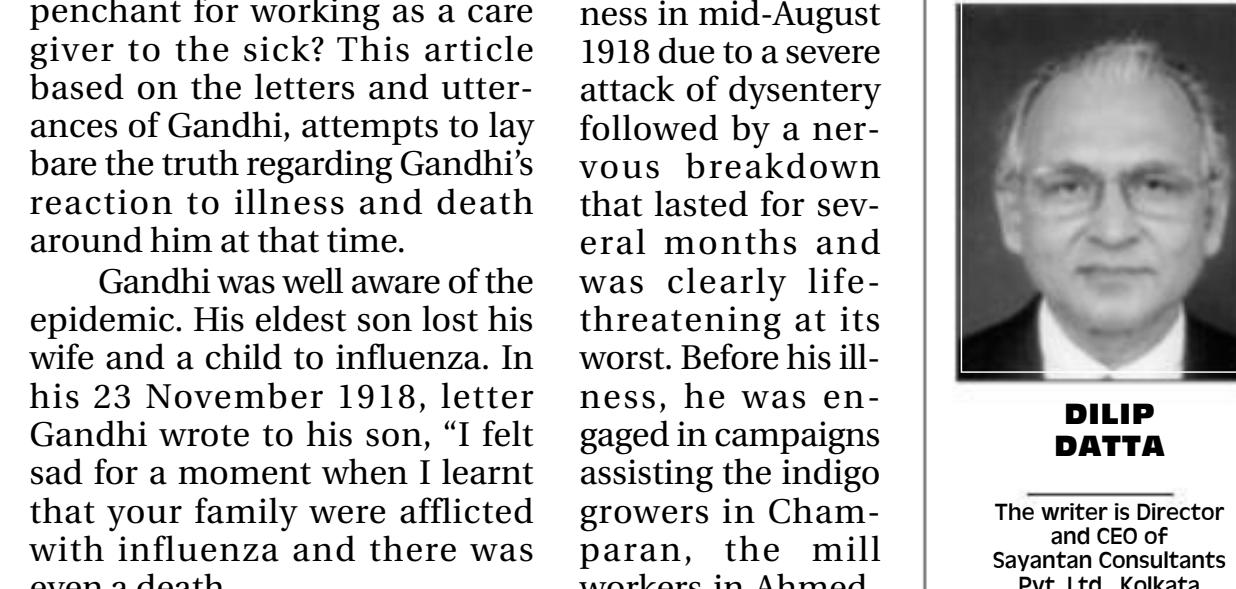
Enter turmeric, exit protocol

On June 18 this year, while addressing the National Assembly, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli claimed there was no need to panic, and that a regular dose of turmeric, warm water and strong willpower would do wonders against Covid-19. He also said the virus could just be sneezed away, and that there was no cause for alarm. That the chief executive would make such unfounded claims at a time when the pandemic was gaining a foothold in the country had shocked many people. Some others thought Oli was playing it down just to calm down an already panicking people but would take significant steps to nip the problem in the bud. Almost four months after the turmeric fiasco, it's getting clearer than ever that Oli was pretty serious that afternoon. Almost two weeks after his advisers, doctor and photographer, along with dozens of other staff including security personnel at his official residence, tested positive for the coronavirus, Oli is yet to come clean on his status. The Covid-19 safety protocol prepared by the World Health Organisation and the Nepal government, and one universally acknowledged, dictates that you go into isolation when you come into contact with persons who have tested positive for the coronavirus. And yet, there is no official word on whether the prime minister underwent a test and stayed in isolation after dozens of his aides and staff tested positive. As someone leading 30 million people, the prime minister is expected to have an intelligence quotient higher than that of the average Nepali. But he refuses to exhibit

bit it when it is needed the most. In the past one week itself, Oli has come into close contact with at least two members of his cabinet who have tested positive – Education Minister Giriraj Mani Pokhrel and Tourism Minister Yogesh Bhattarai. Meanwhile, the public continues to be kept in the dark as to what exactly is going on at the nerve centre of Nepali politics and society. Add to that the secrecy that Oli's advisers maintained when coming out about their having tested positive, the entire crowd at Baluwatar looks like a grand conference of fiction writers. What else explains the ridiculous announcement by three of the prime minister's advisers one fine evening that they had tested positive for the coronavirus, and then proclaiming just five days later that they had tested negative together? It doesn't take even an average IQ level to understand that the advisers had already tested positive weeks earlier, and had been withholding the information or they were too naive to think their privilege provided them with immunity when their drivers, cooks and security personnel had tested positive weeks earlier, and they had been exposed.

IN MEMORIAM

CHAKRABARTI PURABI — In fond remembrance, who left us on this day in 2011. — Relatives, friends.



DILIP DATTA

The writer is Director and CEO of Sayantan Consultants Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Let's say goodbye to Laat Sahibs

SIR, This refers to your editorial "Governor's jibe" (October 15). Governors' actions or statements rarely shock us these days. But even so, the letter that the Governor of Maharashtra wrote this week to the state's CM, is staggering in its brazenness. Never before has a Governor, appointed to uphold the secular Constitution and having taken an oath to protect it, admitted his lack of faith in secularism.

He could have spoken to the CM, either over the phone or in person, and suggested that temples, shut down since March because of the pandemic, be opened. But 'His Excellency' could not resist the temptation of writing a rude and mocking letter, his language bordering on Constitutional impropriety.

Governors, even those appointed by the BJP and with RSS affiliations, have till now been paying at least lip service to secularism. With Mr Koshiyari's letter, that illusion has finally and possibly irrevocably been destroyed. The Governor's implicit admission that he has no faith in secularism, is therefore historic.

But it will be foolish to expect the Governor to tender an apology. It will also be

wishful thinking to expect the President of India, the PM or the Union Cabinet to take note of the breach and send out a signal by removing the Governor forthwith. This is because the Governor and his secretariat would not have dared to write a politically loaded letter without a nod from the Centre. The Governor was entitled to offer the CM his personal opinion and advice. But what he was not entitled to do was to mock the Indian Constitution. The Governor clearly believes that India is now a Hindu Rashtra and the state government cannot dare keep Hindu temples closed even for public safety.

Religious congregations are described by scientists as 'super spreaders' of the coronavirus and they advise against such gatherings. The decision to open up places of worship, therefore, cannot be taken casually and should have nothing to do with religion.

He is not the first Governor to have crossed the Lakshman Rekha. In recent years the Centre has packed Raj Bhavans with partisan politicians, who have aggressively and blatantly pursued the political agenda of the ruling party. This has been seen and noticed across the country.

Constitutional experts have often questioned the

role and utility of the office of Governor as many inmates of Raj Bhavans have demeaned their office with their conduct and speech. This uncivil letter from Raj Bhavan may serve some useful purpose if it helps trigger a fresh debate on the office of the 'Laat Sahib'. Viceroys have long gone but the Governors remain. It is time to despatch the office to the dustbin of history.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra, Mohali, 15 October.

PSEUDO-SECULARISM

SIR, Your editorial "Governor's jibe" (15-Oct) is timely, though I do not fully agree with you. Is there any true secularism in this country? Each and every political party of this country is actually following secularism by appeasement of caste, creed and religion. If secularism was followed in the true sense, the appearance of the country would not have been as ugly as it is today. Everybody takes the oath in the name of secularism but uses it for votes through appeasement. So by following this pseudo-secularism, no one can actually become a secularist.

If the Maharashtra Chief Minister really believes in secularism, why he is not allowing the temples to open in the state? Does he

not know that sentiments of so many people are involved? No doubt that opening of temples is completely under the jurisdiction of state administration. If in the fear of spreading Covid, temples are to remain shut, why are pubs, restaurants, shopping malls, cinema halls, transportation being allowed? The CM must know livelihoods of many people are involved in the functioning of temples. We can criticise the governor, but we cannot defy the demands of the situation.

Yours, etc., Mihir Kanungo, Kolkata, 15 October.

BELLIGERENT

SIR, This refers to the news item "No breakthrough in Sino-India military talks" (The Statesman, October 14). Incorrigible as ever, China is in no mood to blink first. Instead, it has the temerity to dub India as the aggressor. Just over a month after the foreign ministers of the two countries worked out a five-point agreement to defuse border tensions, raising hopes of a fresh start, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian has said that China doesn't recognise the union territory of Ladakh or the state of Arunachal Pradesh. He has blamed the ongoing stand-off on the ramping up of infrastructure and military deployment by India along the border. This is nothing but a diversionary ploy, a blatant attempt by the neighbour to evade responsibility for its provocative actions along the Line Of Actual Control. Ladakh's UT status granted last year with the bifurcation of J&K is India's internal matter. China is trying to use the festering border dispute as a pretext to meddle in India's affairs and mislead the international community, but this could prove to be yet another futile exercise. India has been rightly insisting on speedy and complete disengagement of troops from the flashpoints. China, however, is reluctant to climb down, cocking a snook at past as well as present pacts. In these circumstances, India has no reason to lower its guard in the diplomatic arena or on the ground. The PLA's incursions have been effectively repelled by Indian troops in recent months, but the former can resort to more misadventures during the harsh winter ahead.

Yours, etc., N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru, 15 October.

One last dance on the Titanic?



SUNIL SHARAN

It's going down, and Mitch McConnell, US Senate majority leader but not for long, knows it. He wants conservative judge Amy Barrett placed on the US Supreme Court before Donald Trump's Titanic finally sinks.

Just three weeks before the US presidential election, Joe Biden leads Donald Trump by double-digits in national polls. But those macro-polls can be deceptive. Hillary Clinton too led Trump by a wide margin in 2016

and neglected to campaign in the liberal states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Biden is taking no chances this time round. He leads in all three states. Florida has always been a swing state, and it's a neck and neck race out there. Surprisingly, in the conservative state of Texas, Trump leads by just one point.

Yet, Trump cannot be counted out. He has risen like a phoenix from his recent bout with Covid. Power is the ultimate therapy, or should we say the slippage of power is? Nearly

250,000 Americans (taking into account underreporting) have died from Covid. Assume that each had four immediate family-members, that means about a million Americans are in deep mourning today.

But Trump is not commiserating with any of them. He does not seem to be contrite for the foolhardy manner in which he caught the illness. His rallies go on as before. Thousands jam-packed wearing few, if any, masks. Trump got treatment that is not available to the general public, and is not expected to be so for

months altogether.

If a layman catches Covid at his rallies, he could be a goner. Trump doesn't care. What is worse, the layman doesn't care either. He's just following the machismo and false bravado of his leader.

Joe Biden addresses very small gatherings. Everyone is adequately socially distant from one another and everyone wears a mask. The country seems to see in Biden a responsible leader. Let's see how they vote.

Senate races in traditionally conservative states like South Carolina

and Mississippi have become very close. Republicans enjoy a small advantage in the Senate today. Mitch McConnell is afraid that he's going to lose his Senate majority. The Senate has to confirm the new Supreme Court justice.

The Court has nine judges. With Ruth Bader Ginsburg's recent death, it now has eight. There are four decidedly conservative justices, and three firmly liberal. Chief Justice Roberts was supposed to have been an out-and-out conservative, but has behaved liberally at times.

With Amy Barrett on the Court, it will become conservative to liberal 5-4, and if Roberts were to lean right, then 6-3. On Barrett's agenda are three pressing issues.

One comes up on November 10, one week after the presidential election, and that is what to do with Obamacare. She is sure to send that packing.

Trump has already said that he will contest the results of the election were he to lose. If it's a sweep for Biden, he may have no choice but to accept the result gracefully, but if it is a close defeat for him, the matter could end up in the Supreme Court. He has already said that with Barrett in there, he has a slight advantage.

The Supreme Court decided the US presidential election in favour of the Republican presidential candidate, George W. Bush, in 2000, an election many Democrats believed that their candidate, Al Gore, had won. The Democrats are in no mood to let the Supreme Court "steal" another election from them.

And then there is the issue closest to the hearts of the Democrats, the continuation of abortion rights. Amy Barrett is sure to ban abortion, in some form or the other.

The one question that Biden, and even his running mate Kamala Harris, avoid like the plague is the one on packing the Supreme Court, that is, adding at least two additional justices to it. Biden was against court packing in the past, but now that the Supreme Court will firmly tilt right with Barrett in there, he is being evasive about the issue. Let there be no doubt, he will pack the Court.

The Republican Titanic is sinking, and Donald Trump sometimes seems unaware and at other times desperate. He seems not one bit chastised by his own bout with the virus. He could go down as Nero did, fiddling while his empire burnt to the ground.

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

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The gravity of the Polish question scarcely needs proof when the Americans begin to interest themselves in it. It is clear that even President Wilson is now taking notice and possibly before many days are over he will display his critical acumen and convince the European statesmen who for weeks have been wrestling with the problem of the greedy ineffectiveness of their efforts. In the meantime Germany is also revealing something of her true thoughts on the subject which prove to be much what a straightforward diagnosis of the case suggested. Franco-Russian strife with the Teutons tertii gaudentes would suit Herr Simons quite as well as it suited Prince Bismarck. The only satisfactory make-weight is England and the only alternative for England is a splendid isolation which would evoke the moral indignation of the world as inevitably as has American isolation. Whatever be Mr Lloyd George's faults he is not likely to add that one to the category and by some means or other English influence will operate to free the world from its latest tangle. It is perhaps as well that Bolshevik leaders are in London at the present time and can see for themselves how English "perfidy" and "self-seeking" operate at these great crises in the world's affairs.

NEWS ITEMS

FATHER HANGED FOR SON'S CRIME

The confession of a young farmer named Arnold Love, of Ceylon, Ontario, that he murdered his mother, for which crime his father, Henry Love, was convicted and hanged seven years ago, has presented a dramatic legal situation to the provincial authorities. Before his execution the father made a statement on the scaffold, which was interpreted as a confession of guilt. It now appears that Arnold Love, during an evangelistic service held in Toronto on Monday night went forward and confessed to the evangelist who advised him to tell his story to the police. Arnold Love declared that he killed his mother in a fit of anger, when she reprimanded him for keeping bad company, clubbing her to death, and hiding the body in a cellar, where it was found later. The son was one of the principal witnesses at the trial.

HIJRAT A POLITICAL MOVEMENT

The present situation in the North-West Frontier Province shows that the Hijrat movement is rather political than religious, being apparently traceable to the general protest by the Khilafat organisation against the proposed Turkish peace terms. Recent developments have taken the original organisers by surprise, it being obvious to all that the wholesale exodus of Muslims from India to Afghanistan is impossible upon economic grounds alone. But the preaching of local Mullahs, coupled with the intrigues of a notorious Haji of Turngai in favour of Hijrat produced an astounding effect in conjunction with the strong piety and simple credulity of the population in the rural areas of Peshawar. Other forces were, however, at work which lent the Hijrat movement great momentum.

NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER

With regard to the Trade Union Congress proposed resolution yesterday in favour of a general strike to compel the withdrawal of troops from Ireland the Irish Office has issued a statement emphasising that the sole purpose of the troops in Ireland is to assist the civil power to maintain law and order, and to defend Ireland. They are in no way an army of occupation. Military law has not been proclaimed. The mere presence of troops has been found to act as a check to the campaign of outrage. It has been abundantly proved that responsible Irish opinion welcomes the intervention of armed forces. It is impossible to withdraw the troops, and leave the law-abiding majority and peaceful agents of the civil Government at the mercy of the forces of disorder.

AFTER-WAR LEAVE

It is notified that, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, military officers and subordinates who are eligible for 60 days after-war leave under Army Instruction (India) No. 106 of 1920, but have not yet availed themselves of this leave, and who on the date of his instruction have at their credit 90 days accumulated privilege leave, and have actually applied for, and have been refused combined after-war and privilege leave by competent authority owing to the exigencies of the public service, may during any year preceding that on which they eventually proceed on after-war leave be allowed under ordinary rules privilege leave in India up to a maximum of 60 days. This decision will remain in force for the period during which after-war leave is admissible.

New regional party in Tripura



had to quit the Congress last year. Importantly, his parents — Kirit Bikram Kishore Deb Barman, the last king of Tripura, and Bibhukumari Devi — were once Lok Sabha MPs elected on tickets of the Congress. So, it was quite natural for Pradyot to associate with the Congress party.

Although he quit the party, he did-

n't give up his ambitions. There were reports of even the BJP luring him. But he didn't join the saffron party citing ideological differences. Whether the reason was really related to any ideological issue is difficult to say.

Chief minister Biplob Deb is relatively young and the deputy chief minister Jishnu Dev Varma himself

belongs to the royal family of Tripura. Notably, since the 2018 assembly polls, BJP has been able to dominate the political picture of the state but there is a visible vacuum in the opposition space even though lately the CPM, after being inactive since its disastrous defeat in 2018 polls, has woken up and is trying to fill the space with some

success. Nevertheless, Pradyot is also trying to fill this vacuum. More importantly, in tribal areas, BJP too has not found as much success in spreading its wings as it has seen in the plains, which are mostly dominated by the majority Bengalis. The main reason is its own ally — IPFT.

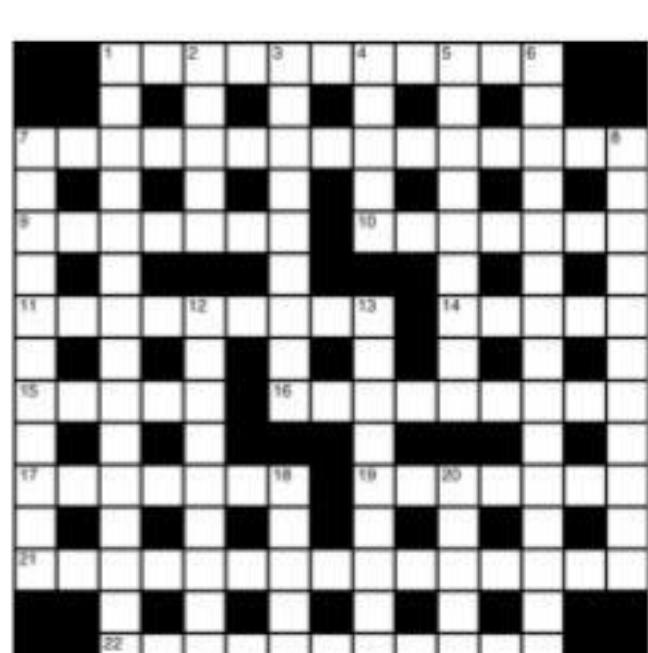
Since 2018, there have been regular clashes between the supporters of the two allies. IPFT's main agenda has been a separate Twipraland — comprising the TTAADC, which accounts for two-thirds of the area of the state. However, IPFT hasn't been able to implement its 2018 poll promise. It has been accused of misleading tribal youth on the basis of a nonsensical demand like Twipraland. IPFT, which helped BJP to defeat the CPM-led Left Front in 2018, remains a major force in the tribal areas and is popular among a section of tribal youth.

However, one must not forget that IPFT performed poorly during the last Lok Sabha elections where BJP swept the two seats while Congress surprisingly came second by pushing the CPM to third place. Congress showed an increase of almost 10 per cent votes and this was the result of the efforts made by Pradyot — who was then the state party president. It clearly shows that he has support among the people of the state, particularly among the tribals, who account for 31 per cent of the population.

The Congress party, which lags behind others in political activities in the tribal areas, is trying to work out a deal with Pradyot, who still has a soft corner for the party. Also, it will be a plus point for Pradyot to get support from Congress. Whether Pradyot's new regional party will be successful in state politics, only time will tell.

The writer is a Tripura based commentator on politics, religion, culture and philosophy.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

DOUBLE BARRELED	L G O A E C E L U
SOLICITED	C A N A D
S I U T	E T C
URN MILLIONAIRE	R
A E E N T L I	T
DISCOMFITURE	E
E S V I E I C E	E
M E R E T R I C I O U S	E
A B R L A N C	E
B R A G G A D O C I O	T E A
A R R T R R R	R
C A R G O D R I B B L I N G	U
U E W O V I T O	T
S I L E N T T R E A T M E N T	T

ACROSS

- 1 Double-barrelled (9)
- 7 Style regarding publication clear: it's always attractive (9)
- 9 Trouble? It's brought in a crowd (7)
- 10 Stop limiting church in extra large religious region (7)
- 11 Still activity at sea when the nights are drawing in (9)
- 14 Sorcerer retreated, having kidnapped husband in

DOWN

- 15 Surrey town (5)
- 15 Laundry accessory increasingly just not opening (5)
- 16 Yielded, returning personnel before important meeting for major part of body (9)
- 17 Requested change to divine right, ultimately (7)
- 19 Scoundrel's attorney receiving a rap (3-1-3)
- 21 Conservative unfortunately meddled with learning (6,9)
- 22 Regret introducing stupid new article in trial — not fully thought through (11)

DOWN

- 1 Host for www.churchofengland.org? (7,8)
- 2 A sailor getting upset about one stock controller (5)
- 3 Popular composer presented in edition? There's a surprise (1,5,3)
- 4 Was very much against a horrible death (5)
- 5 Cooked each short Passover meal (9)
- 6 The trendy dealer works with great care (6-9)
- 7 Sign of gratitude after

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

NO 28106





Saudi Aramco, Adnoc committed to \$44-billion west coast refinery-cum-petrochemical project

SHRIKANT MADHAV VAIDYA
CHAIRMAN, INDIAN OIL

THUMBNAILS

Govt bans import of AC with refrigerants: The government on Thursday banned imports of air conditioners with refrigerants with a view to promote domestic manufacturing and cut imports of non-essential items. "Import policy of air conditioners with refrigerants... is amended from free to prohibited," directorate general of foreign trade said in a notification. The government is taking steps to promote domestic manufacturing and reduce import bill of non-essential goods.

PTI

Essar arm CEO: Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Ltd (EOGEL), part of Essar's oil and gas business, on Thursday said its board has appointed Santosh Chandra, a veteran in global upstream industry, as the company's chief executive officer. Chandra, a seasoned professional with over 30 years of experience, has an impressive record in the oil and gas business, the company said.

SNS

Amazon expansion: Amazon India on Thursday announced the expansion of its delivery network in the eight states of Northeast region. With close to 60 Amazon-owned and delivery service partner stations in the region, the company has added several new pin codes to its delivery footprint ahead of the festive season this year, including remote towns such as Champai, Kolasib, Lunglei, Pasighat and Mokokchung, the company said.

SNS

Mynta offer: Mynta's "Big Fashion Festival" will be held between 16 and 22 October. It will offer 9 lakh styles from 5000+ brands at discounted prices to its customers. The platform is expected to cater to over 4 million unique customers with a two-fold increase in traffic over the previous festive season, said a Press release.

SNS

AIAMA hope: With the festive season setting in, All India Agarbatti Manufacturers Association (AIAMA) estimates a 30 per cent increase in consumption. This will bring cheer to the Agarbatti manufacturers, thereby helping support the lakhs of underprivileged women dependent on the industry, according to a Press statement from the association.

SNS

Rapido foray: Ride hailing app Rapido on Thursday launched auto rickshaw booking service across 14 cities. The company plans to expand the "Rapido Auto" service to 50 cities by the end of the year and onboard around 5 lakh driver partners in the next six months.

PTI

Smartphone: Poco on Thursday launched its latest smartphone for the Indian market ~ Poco C3 ~ with a triple camera setup, 5000mAh battery and many more features, in sub-10K INR segment.

SNS

Sensex snaps 10-session rally, crashes 1,066 pts

Stock market investors press the exit button amid a massive sell-off in global equity markets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 15 OCTOBER

Snapping its 10-session winning run, equity benchmark the Sensex plunged 1,066.33 points today as investors pressed the exit button amid a massive sell-off in global markets.

The 30-share BSE index plummeted 1,066.33 points or 2.61 per cent to end at 39,728.41 points. The broader NSE Nifty crashed 290.70 points or 2.43 per cent to finish at 11,680.35 points.

Global equities cratered as hopes faded of a pre-election stimulus deal in the US, while multiple countries in Europe braced for a second round of lockdowns to curb rising Covid-19 cases, jeopardising the already shaky economic recovery.

GLOBAL STOCKS FALL AS STIMULUS HOPES FADE

► Global equities cratered as hopes faded of a pre-election stimulus deal in the US, while multiple countries in Europe braced for a second round of lockdowns to curb rising Covid-19 cases, jeopardising the already shaky economic recovery.

► The 30-share BSE index plummeted 1,066.33 points

or 2.61 per cent to end at 39,728.41 points.

► The broader NSE Nifty crashed 290.70 points or 2.43 per cent to finish at 11,680.35 points.

the red.

Bajaj Finance was the top loser, tumbling 4.68 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank, SBI, Reliance Industries, Bharat Petroleum and HCL Tech.

Back home, market participants were also eager to book profits after the recent rally amid already stretched valuations, traders said.

Barring Asian Paints, which inched up 0.32 per cent, all Sensex constituents closed in

and Euro has changed the trend. At the same time, the pace of economic recovery is under stress because of a resurgence of high rates of Covid infections...

"The margin of safety is low given premium prices and slowdown in economic recovery. The trend going forward will depend on the supportive measures announced in context to stimulus and commentary of Q2 results," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

All sectoral indices closed lower, with BSE telecom, bankex, energy, finance, teck and IT indices plunging as much as 3.54 per cent.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices nosedived up to 1.75 per cent.

In rest of Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended up to 2 per cent lower.

Stock exchanges in the Europe slumped up to 3 per cent in early deals.

In the forex market, the rupee today settled 5 paise lower at 73.36 to the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar



lar as weaker Asian peers and fund outflows from domestic markets weighed on investor sentiment.

Additionally, importers' mid-month dollar demand also put pressure on the local unit, analysts said.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened on a steady note but was caught in volatility as the trade progressed.

During the session, it hit an intra-day high of 73.22 and a low of 73.41 against the US dollar. It finally closed at 73.36, lower by 5 paise over its previous close of 73.31.

Foreign institutional investors turned net sellers in the capital market as they offloaded shares worth Rs 604.07 crore today, exchange data showed.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.34 per cent to 93.69.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.27 per cent to \$42.77 per barrel.

Centre to borrow on behalf of states to meet GST shortfall

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 OCTOBER

The statement, however, did not say who will service the interest and principal payments.

pensation cess releases."

The statement, however, did not say who will service the interest and principal payments. The Centre borrowing on behalf of states is likely to ensure that a single rate of borrowing is charged and this would also be easy to administer. The borrowing, the statement said, "will not have any impact on the fiscal deficit of the Government of India."

To make up for the shortfall, borrowing from the market was proposed.

In

a statement, the Union finance ministry said states were offered a special window to borrow Rs 1.1 lakh crore over and above their existing limits, to bridge the shortfall.

Borrowing of the shortfall by the Centre will avoid differential rates of interest that individual states may be charged and will be an administratively easier arrangement, it added. "It may also be clarified that the general government (states+centre) borrowings will not increase by this step," it said.

Develop disease-specific products: Irdai to insurers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 15 OCTOBER

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) chairman Subhash Khuntia today urged health insurance providers to develop disease-specific products and also focus on providing preventive care to policyholders.

He emphasised that health insurers should come out with innovative products based on the need of the public.

I would urge insurers to develop more disease-specific products like for diabetics, heart or kidney related issues, Khuntia said at a health insurance summit organised by CII.

Under such focussed products, insurance companies can bring together medical experts

to make aware policyholders on steps to be taken to prevent various diseases, he said.

Khuntia said currently a large proportion of health insurance is bought by the age group of 40-50 years and insurers should try to attract the young population.

If more young people come in then they will get protected against ailments and at the same time since most of them may not fall sick frequently, they will contribute to the (health insurance) kitty which will help the other population, Khuntia said.

Another way to attract the young population to buy health insurance is to have outpatient care as part of the health insurance system.

For too long, we have concentrated on tertiary care or hospitalisation, but it should

now move to primary and secondary care, the outpatient care and more so to have preventive care, he said.

Insurance companies can introduce the concept of family physician, annual health check-up, vaccination as part of the health insurance policy, he suggested.

This would result in early detection and with simple treatments things can be remediated, he said.

Khuntia asked health insurers to tap medium and small industries or informal sector in the country where the opportunity is vast.

He urged insurance companies to tap markets in smaller cities, towns and rural areas where there is ample scope for health insurance.

MSME ministry introduces AI and ML to its 'Champions' portal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 15 OCTOBER

The ministry of micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME) has introduced artificial intelligence and machine learning in its industry boosting "Champions" website, to get insights for quicker and effective grievances resolution.

In what the ministry of MSME termed as "a major initiative", the artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) analytics can be used from the "AI Corner" at its single-window "Champions" portal (https://champions.gov.in/msme_grievances/news_opinion/analytics.htm).

The ministry has implemented the artificial intelligence and machine learning tools in its single window

"Champions" portal that Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched on 1 June 2020.

"Champions" is acronym for "creation and harmonious application of modern processes for increasing the output and national strength", with the objective to boost efficient working of MSMEs and make them national and international "champions".

The latest information technology tools of AI and ML (machine learning) is the study of computer algorithms that automatically improve through experience) have been added to the "Champions" website for speedier assistance and solutions to grievances and issues affecting the estimated 63.05 million MSMEs in India.

"Champions", a multimodal system portal with

physical

control

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country, "has emerged as one of the front-runner platforms for the MSMEs in a very short span of time," according to the MSME ministry.

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The setting up of the so-called special coordinator for Tibetan issues is entirely out of political manipulation to interfere in China's internal affairs and destabilise Xizang

REACTING TO ROBERT DESTRO'S APPOINTMENT AS U.S. SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR TIBET

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ZHAO LIJIAN

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2020

Emergency declared in Thailand after protests

Top leaders of the anti-government protest movement taken into custody

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK, 15 OCTOBER

Thailand's government declared a strict new state of emergency for the capital on Thursday, a day after a student-led protest against the country's traditional establishment saw an extraordinary moment in which demonstrators heckled a royal motorcade.

After the pre-dawn declaration, riot police moved in to clear out demonstrators who after a day of rallies and confrontation had gathered outside Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha's office to push their demands, which include the former general's stepping down, constitutional changes and reform of the monarchy.

Several top leaders of the protest movement were taken into custody, with one later declaring on his Facebook page that he had been denied access to a lawyer and was being forced onto a helicopter and taken to a city in the country's north. Police said they had made 22 arrests.

Despite a new ban against large public gatherings, several thousand people answered calls to rally again in another area of the city later on Thursday.

The text of the emergency declaration said it was needed because certain groups of perpetrators intended to instigate an untoward incident and movement in the Bangkok area by way of various methods and via different channels, including causing obstruc-



Police units sit on the ground as pro-democracy protesters hold a rally in Bangkok on Thursday, after Thailand issued an emergency decree following anti-government protests. ■ AFP

tion to the royal motorcade.

The protest Wednesday in Bangkok's historic district, not far from glittering temples and royal palaces, was the third major gathering by student-led activists who have been pushing the boundaries of what is considered acceptable and legal language by publicly questioning the role of Thailand's monarchy in the nation's power structure.

That led to a moment captured in photos and video that circulated widely on social media in which what appeared to be protesters gestured and shouted just meters (feet) from the royal motorcade. Such actions are unprecedented in Thailand, where those waiting for a royal motorcade regularly sit on the ground or prostrate themselves.

Some experts say a line may have been crossed.

What seemed to be a low-boil stalemate that the Prayuth government was managing with reasonable success has now, following the incident involving the procession of the queen's motorcade down a street in which an active

protest was underway and the arrests of protest leaders, become a full-blown crisis," said Michael Montesano, coordinator of the Thailand Studies Program at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore.

"Unlike even 48 hours ago, the country is in dangerous territory now. Government spokesman Anucha Buraphachaisri announced Thursday morning that the prime minister had ordered police to take strict action against those who obstruct a royal procession or otherwise insult the monarchy.

One change is that police said they will install checkpoints around Bangkok for security purposes.

Keeping order will be facilitated by the new emergency decree for Bangkok, which bans unauthorized gatherings of more than five people and gives authorities other powers they deemed needed to prevent unrest, including detaining people temporarily without charge.

It also outlaws news that distorts information or could cause a misunderstanding.

Thailand is already under a national state of emergency as part of its efforts to fight the coronavirus, and it was not immediately clear how the new decree was different.

Protesters gathered again in a Bangkok shopping district Thursday afternoon and into the evening. Police stood by while the crowd chanted slogans calling for the prime minister to step down.

Kyrgyzstan's prez steps down amidst unrest

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW, 15 OCTOBER

Kyrgyzstan President Sooronbai Jeenbekov announced his resignation Thursday in a bid to end the turmoil that has engulfed the Central Asian nation after a disputed parliamentary election.

Jeenbekov, who has faced calls to step down from protesters and political opponents, said in a statement released by his office that holding onto power wasn't worth the integrity of our country and harmony in society.

For me, peace in Kyrgyzstan, the country's integrity, the unity of our people and the calm in the society are above all else, Jeenbekov said.

Kyrgyzstan, a country of 6.5 million people located on the border with China, was plunged into chaos following an 4 October vote that election officials say was swept by pro-government parties. The



opposition said the election was tainted by vote-buying and other irregularities.

Protesters then took over government buildings, looting some offices, and the Central Election Commission nullified the election. Opposition then announced plans to oust Jeenbekov and form a new government.

Jeenbekov kept a low profile in the first few days after the vote, using the infighting among protest leaders to dig in. He introduced a state of emergency in the capital, Bishkek, which was endorsed

Kyrgyzstan was plunged into chaos following an 4 October vote that election officials say was swept by pro-government parties. Opposition says the election was tainted by vote-buying and other irregularities

Tuesday by parliament.

Authorities deployed troops to Bishkek over the weekend and introduced the curfew. The move eased tensions in the city, where residents feared looting that accompanied previous uprisings and began forming vigilante groups to protect property. Stores and banks that were closed last week have reopened.

In an effort to stem the unrest, Jeenbekov on Wednesday endorsed the appointment of Sadyr Zhaparov, a former lawmaker who was freed from jail by demonstrators last

week, as the country's new prime minister and Zhaparov's new Cabinet.

Zhaparov promised his supporters to push for Jeenbekov's resignation and held talks with the president hours after Jeenbekov signed off on his appointment. After the talks, Jeenbekov said he would stay in the job until the political situation in Kyrgyzstan stabilizes.

But hundreds of Zhaparov's supporters rallied in the capital Wednesday, demanding the president's resignation and threatening to storm his residence. Jeenbekov said in his statement that the situation in Bishkek remains tense" despite the fact that the new Cabinet was appointed the day before, and that he doesn't want to escalate these tensions.

As in the uprisings that ousted presidents in 2005 and 2010, the current protests have been driven by clan rivalries that shape the country's politics.

S'pore and HK agree on bilateral travel bubble

SINGAPORE, 15 OCTOBER

Singapore and Hong Kong have agreed on a bilateral air travel bubble, which will exempt travellers from the mandatory quarantine upon arrival, as the rate of coronavirus infection declines in both cities.

To avail the flights, travellers will have to test negative in the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for Covid-19, Singapore's Ministry of Transport said on Thursday.

Travellers under the bubble will not be subject to mandatory quarantining, the MOT release said, adding that there will be no restrictions on travel purposes and no need for a controlled itinerary. The air travel bubble will have dedicated flights, separate from local travel.

The MOT said the bubble can be "scaled by adjusting the number of dedicated flights upwards or downwards, or even suspended, in line with the latest developments and Covid-19 situation in the two cities".

"Both our cities have low incidence of Covid-19 cases and have put in place robust mechanisms to manage and control Covid-19," said Transport Minister Ong Ye Kung.

"This has given us the confidence to mutually and progressively open our borders to each other," the minister said.

The air travel bubble launch date and other implementation details will be announced soon. Meanwhile, Singapore recorded three new coronavirus cases on Thursday.

Pak's Covid-19 positivity rate highest in over 50 days: Min

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, 15 OCTOBER

Pakistan's positivity rate has increased to its highest in more than 50 days, Planning minister Asad Umar said.

Umar, who is the chief of National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) to combat the pandemic, also said that the cases of coronavirus was going up in the country despite attempts to bring it down. The positivity rate in the country was highest in more than 50 days and indicated a stark warning that the coronavirus was spreading, Umar said in a tweet.

He said the national positivity of Covid-19 cases was 2.37 per cent on Wednesday.

This is the highest positivity in more than 50 days. Last time this level was seen on August 24 hours.

23. First 4 days of this week COVID-19 deaths average is 11 per day highest since week of August 10th. Unmistakable signs of rise of corona, according to the tweet.

In another tweet, he pointed out the areas where the positivity rate was high and asked people to follow official guidelines. Covid positivity is extremely high in Karachi, rising in Lahore and Islamabad too. Time for all of us to take Covid SoP's seriously again.

Otherwise, unfortunately we may have to take restrictive actions which have negative effects on peoples' livelihoods, he said.

The warning came as the number of coronavirus patients reached 312,218 in the country after 756 new cases were added in the last 24 hours.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WELLINGTON, 15 OCTOBER

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Thursday that she will step down as leader of the centre-left Labour Party if opinion polls prove wrong and she loses Saturday's general election.

The prospect appears remote, with Labour enjoying a 15-point lead in the polls, but Ms Ardern responded with a firm "no" when asked during a televised debate whether she would remain as opposition leader if the vote does not go her way.

The 40-year-old, who has led New Zealand through a string of crises in the past three years, culminating in the Covid-19 pandemic, said her commitment to the job had demanded sacrifice.

Ms Ardern said even if she was not in Parliament, she



that I'm here. I give my everything," she said. "No matter what crisis is thrown my way, you will always be assured I will give my everything to this job, even if that means a huge sacrifice."

Ms Ardern said even if she was not in Parliament, she

would still be involved in politics in some capacity, saying she wanted to effect change and take debate beyond mud-slinging insults.

"I want our nation not to be completely polarised, and actually, relative to other countries, we do a pretty good

virus, with just 25 deaths in New Zealand's population of five million.

Asked what message she had for undecided voters, Ms Ardern said New Zealanders needed stable government and should "stick together in uncertain times" to work on a speedy economic recovery.

"Yes we have to manage the Covid crisis as it stands, but we have to look to the future too and all those challenges, environmental sustainability, training and so on," she said.

Ms Collins said her party was best placed to steer the economy through a coronavirus-induced recession.

"I bring real business experience at a time of grave economic situation that we're moving into now, and the ability to make decisions," she said.

job on that," she said.

ATVNZ poll released Thursday put Labour's support at 46 per cent, down one point on a month ago, but well ahead of the conservative National Party, which also slipped a point to 31 per cent.

Under New Zealand's proportional voting system, Jacinda Ardern would still need minor party support to govern but current coalition partner the Greens would easily get her over the line, lifting its support two points to 8 per cent.

Ms Ardern's personal popularity as preferred prime minister was up five points to 55 per cent, while National leader Judith Collins fell three points to 20 per cent.

Ms Ardern has framed the ballot as "the Covid election" and her appeal rests largely on her success combatting the

Port 011-25671580; Terminal I-23860562; Port 021-25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838

• AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111

• INDIGO AIRLINES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181

• AIR CANADA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

• KUWAIT AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

• PUNJAB ROADWAYS 23867842, Port 011-25671580; Terminal I-23860562

• RAJASTHAN ROADWAYS 23864470

• U.P. ROADWAYS 23868709

• RAILWAY INQUIRY

• ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181

• TOLL FREE Nos. 1800125151

• SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

• ROADWAYS INQUIRY

• AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 418001803838

• HARYANA ROADWAYS 23861262, City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 43513186

• FLIGHT INQUIRY

• AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 418001803838

• INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 25652294 (Airport)

• KUWAIT AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

• P.T.O. (Passenger Transport Office) 23868709

• HOSPITALS 22586262, 22585007

• RAILWAY INQUIRY General Inquiry 139

• TOLL FREE Nos. 1800125151

• AIRPORTS 23868709

• ROADWAYS INQUIRY

• AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 418001803838

• INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 25652294 (Airport)

• KUWAIT AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

• SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with 3x3 boxes. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



The exponential surge of coronavirus cases across the continent has warranted the necessary restrictive measures being taken

WHO'S EUROPE OFFICE HEAD DR. HANS KLUGE

WARNING THAT EVEN MORE DRASIC STEPS MIGHT BE NEEDED IN SUCH UNPRECEDENTED TIMES.

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	32	27 CL
HONG KONG	30	24 CL
TOKYO	17	13 CL
LONDON	13	08 CL
DUBAI	35	23 S
SAN FRANCISCO	31	15 CL
NEW YORK	18	08 R
MOSCOW	07	01 R

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

THUMBNAILS



Britain's Duchess of Cambridge visits a laboratory during a visit to the Imperial College in London. ■ AFP

Israel-Lebanon talks:

Lebanon's parliament speaker Nabih Berri met on Thursday with a visiting US official, a day after Beirut began indirect negotiations with Israel over their disputed maritime border. Berri has been the main Lebanese official dealing with US mediators regarding the dispute with Israel over the past decade. ■ AP

Japan LGBT law: Sexual minority groups and human rights activists launched a petition on Thursday calling for an LGBT equality law in Japan in hopes that it can be enacted next year. Same-sex marriage is not legally allowed, and transgender people are required to remove their reproductive organs to have sex changes reflected in official documents a requirement that medical experts criticise as inhumane. ■ AP

London, Essex move into tier 2 'high' Covid-risk level as cases soar



A pedestrian walks past a sign displaying the Local Covid risk level as 'Medium' in London on Thursday. ■ AFP

LONDON, 15 OCTOBER

The UK capital, London, and its bordering county of Essex, currently in Tier 1 "medium" coronavirus risk level, will be moved to Tier 2 high risk level of restrictions from Saturday as infection rates continue to surge in these areas, the government announced on Thursday.

The tougher measures in Tier 2 impose a ban on mixing between different households indoors in homes and pubs, bars and restaurants and the Tier 1 rule of six on gatherings outdoors continues to apply.

Businesses and venues can continue to operate under Covid-secure conditions within these restrictions, with businesses selling food or drink on their premises required to close between 10pm and 5am. The tougher restrictions will come into force from Saturday.

In London, infection rates are on a steep upward path, with the number of cases doubling every 10 days. The seven-day average case rate stands today at 97, rising sharply, UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock said.

We know from the first peak, the infection can spread fast and put huge pressures on the NHS so we must act now to prevent the need for tougher measures later on.

So working closely with the mayor, with cross-party council leadership, public health officials, we've together agreed that London needs to move to local Covid alert level high, he said. ■ PTI

Barrett confirmation vote set for 22 Oct

Trump nominee's confirmation to Supreme Court to take the seat of late Justice Ginsburg appears inevitable after two days of hearings

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 15 OCTOBER

The Senate Judiciary Committee convened on Thursday set an October 22 vote on Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court nomination as Republicans race to confirm President Donald Trump's pick before the November 3 election.

The session is without Barrett after two long days of public testimony in which she stressed that she would be her own judge and sought to create distance between herself and past positions critical of abortion, the Affordable Care Act and other issues.

Her confirmation to take the seat of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg seems inevitable, as even some Senate Democrats acknowledged.

Senator Lindsey Graham pushed past Democratic objections to set the panel's October 22 vote on recommending her confirmation even before final witnesses testify before and against her nomination.

"This is a sham," said Senator Amy Klobuchar, Democrat of Minnesota.

In the minority, Democrats acknowledge there is little they can do to stop them from locking a conservative majority on the court for years to come. The shift would cement a 6-3 conservative majority on the court and would be the most pronounced ideological change in 30 years, from the liberal icon to the conservative appeals court judge.

Facing almost 20 hours of questions from senators, the 48-year-old judge was careful not to take on the president who nominated her and sought to separate herself from writings on controversial subjects when she was an academic. She skipped past Democrats' pressing questions about ensuring the date of next month's election or preventing voter intimidation, both set in federal law, and the peaceful transfer of presidential power.

She also refused to express her view on whether the president can pardon himself. It's not one that I can offer a view, she said in response to a question Wednesday from Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont. Democrats raised those questions because President Donald Trump has done so himself.

When it came to major issues that are likely to come before the court, including abortion and health care, Barrett repeatedly promised to



Dressed as handmaids, opponents of Supreme Court nominee Judge Amy Coney Barrett demonstrate outside the Supreme Court on Thursday in Washington, DC. ■ AFP

keep an open mind and said neither Trump nor anyone else in the White House had tried to influence her views. "No one has elicited from me any commitment in a case," she said.

Nominees typically resist offering any more information than they have to, especially when the president's party controls the Senate, as it does now. But Barrett wouldn't engage on topics that seemed easy to swat away, including that only Congress can change the date that the election takes place.

She said she is not on a mission to destroy the Affordable Care Act, though she has been critical of the two Supreme Court decisions that preserved key parts of the Obama-era health care law. She could be on the court when it hears the latest Republican-led challenge on November 10.

Barrett is the most open opponent of abortion nominated to the Supreme Court in decades, and Democrats fear that her ascension could be a tipping point that threatens abortion rights.

There was no hiding her views in at least three letters and ads she signed over 15 years and her membership in Notre Dame's Faculty for Life. So Republican senators embraced her stance, proudly stating that she was, in Graham's words, an unashamedly pro-life conservative who is making history as a role model for other women.

Senator Josh Hawley, Republican of Missouri, said there is nothing wrong with confirming a devout pro-life Christian. Barrett refused to say whether the 1973 landmark Roe v. Wade ruling on abortion rights was correctly decided, though she signed an open letter seven years ago that

called the decision infamous. Democrats pressed repeatedly on the judge's approach to health care, abortion, racial equity and voting rights, but conceded they were unlikely to stop her quick confirmation.

When you are on the court, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Democrat of Rhode Island, began one question in which he asked her to keep an open mind on the high court bench. Barrett readily agreed to do so.

In an exchange with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, Barrett resisted the invitation to explicitly endorse or reject the late Justice Antonin Scalia's comments about perpetuating racial entitlement in a key voting rights case.

When I said that Justice Scalia's philosophy is mine, too, I certainly didn't mean to say that every sentence that came out of Justice Scalia's mouth or every sentence that he wrote is one that I would agree with, Barrett said.

She called the Voting Rights Act a triumph in the civil rights movement, without discussing the specifics of the earlier challenge to it. The court will hear another challenge to the law early next year.

One of the more dramatic moments came late Wednesday when Barrett told California Sen. Kamala Harris, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, that she wouldn't say whether racial discrimination in voting still exists nor express a view on climate change.

Harris asked if she agreed with Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote in a 2013 voting rights case that "voting discrimination still exists; no one doubts that." Barrett said she would "not comment on what any justice said in an opinion."

Trump's son Barron tested Covid positive, reveals Melania: Barron Trump, the teenage son of US President Trump, contracted coronavirus after his parents tested positive for Covid-19 but has since tested negative. First Lady Melania Trump has said.

In a blog posted on the White House website, Melania said that Barron, 14, exhibited no symptoms, a departure from herself and the president, who have both said they experienced mild symptoms.

"My fear came true when he was tested again and it came up positive. Luckily, he is a strong teenager," Melania said.

According to Biden's campaign, there were 37 attendees

Will provide access to citizenship to 11 m illegal immigrants: Biden

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 15 OCTOBER

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has vowed to provide citizenship to 11 million illegal immigrants if voted to power in the November 3 presidential election.

Biden identified this as one of his priorities in addition to beating the coronavirus pandemic, rebuilding the economy and figuring out how to restore American leadership around the world.

Responding to a question at a virtual fundraiser on Wednesday, Biden said there is a need to deal with what's going on at the border.

We're going to have to deal with the immigration crisis we have. I'm going to send the House and Senate an immigration bill that's going to provide access to citizenship to 11 million people, he said.

President Donald Trump has been repeatedly calling for the quick deportation of illegal immigrants who "invade" the US and lamented that the current immigration system is "unfair" to those who came legally to America.

Trump has been asserting that building a wall along the Mexico border is the only way to check illegal immigration, and on various occasions said that every day the US border patrol encounters roughly 2,000 illegal immigrants trying to enter the country.

If the American people elect me, we're going to have an enormous task in repairing the damage he's done, Biden said, referring to the policies of Trump, a Republican.

We have to be beating the virus, rebuilding the economy and figuring out how to restore American leadership



around the world, Biden said.

Biden said he would move to quickly implement his plan to deal with the pandemic and reopen safely.

The Democratic presidential candidate also made a note of the challenges facing the so-called Z Generation, the very young. They've really gotten screwed since they got out of school, Biden said.

The jobs aren't there, he said. But guess what? They're the most open, progressive and the brightest generation we've ever had, he added.

And we have to embrace them. They know the change we need to make and how we need to be much more, much more integrated in everything we do, he said.

Biden was critical of the policies of President Donald Trump.

The rest of the world is

wondering, what in the Lord's name is happening? What we're living through today is not normal, he said.

He reiterated his attacks on Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, nothing more than 215,000 Americans have died, and criticised the president for backing away from stimulus talks.

He didn't walk away. He never was part of em, Biden said.

Three days later, after he said he was walking back, he said he's coming back. One day, he's tweeting that the relief

package is too big next day it's too small. The longer he's president, the more reckless he gets, he added.

Dueling town halls for Trump, Biden

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 15 OCTOBER

coronavirus diagnosis.

As the pace of the campaign speeds up in its final weeks, the two candidates first are taking care of other electoral necessities Thursday: Trump has a midday rally in battleground North Carolina, and Biden is raising campaign cash at a virtual event.

Trump has also been trying to shore up support from constituencies that not so long ago he thought he had in the bag: big business and voters in the red state of Iowa.

In a Wednesday morning address to business leaders, he expressed puzzlement that they would even consider supporting Biden, arguing

that his own leadership was a better bet for a strong economy.

Later, the president held his third campaign rally in three nights, this time in Iowa, a state he won handily in 2016 but where Biden is making a late push.

Trump claimed to be leading in the most recent Iowa poll he saw. For me to only be up six, I'm a little bit concerned, he asserted. Multiple polls have shown a much closer race.

Biden, for his part, held a virtual fundraiser from Wilmington, Delaware, and used his appearance to say that Trump was trying to rush through Amy Coney Barrett, his nominee for

the Supreme Court, to help his efforts to repeal the Obama health care law, calling that an abuse of power.

Trump used his economic address on Wednesday to play up his administration's commitment to lowering taxes and deregulation of industry, and he didn't hide his frustration with signs that some in the business community are tilting to Biden.

I know I'm speaking to some Democrats, and some of you are friends of mine, Trump said in a virtual address to the Economic Clubs of New York, Florida, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Pittsburgh and Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

RUSH HOUR



People wearing face masks commute during rush hour in Beijing on Thursday. ■ AFP

Navalny poisoning: EU sanctions six Russians

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS, 15 OCTOBER

rity service and two deputy ministers in the Russian defense ministry.

The EU is also targeting the State Scientific Research Institute for Organic Chemistry and Technology.

EU foreign ministers agreed on Monday to impose the sanctions, following a push by France and Germany to freeze the assets of those suspected of involvement and ban them from traveling in Europe under sanctions to combat the use and spread of chemical weapons.

Navalny, an anti-corruption investigator and major political opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, fell ill on 20 August during a domestic flight in Russia. He was flown to Germany for treatment two days later and is still recovering there.

We probably simply have to temporarily stop talking to those people in the West who are responsible for foreign policy and don't understand the need for mutually respectful dialogue, he said.

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Think out-of-the-box

Stand-up comedy as a profession demands grit and determination to stay connected with the audience

SIDDHARTH DUDEJA

Stand-up comedy is a booming career in India right now. A lot of comedians have become popular on the internet. If you decide that you want to try out comedy, first ask yourself - How low is your self-esteem? If the answer is yes, it is lower than our GDP growth currently, congratulations, you have the potential to be a comedian.

The job of stand-up might sound glamourous because all you see are the top 10 per cent of comedians online. You watch videos that are shot in 4K, high production, with an auditorium audience. What you don't see (or rather we hide), are the shows done in shady bars, dance studios and restaurants where the audience is usually in single digit and most of them are there to avoid post-work peak hour traffic.

If you decide to do comedy, first prepare material for an open mic (usually five minutes). Register and perform and see how the audience responds to it. That's the main job. Keep writing material and getting on stage till the time you have a tight 60 minutes.

If you want to be a comedian, first thing is to not quit your job till you can match or make more than your monthly salary. As a lot of experienced comedians say - just like life, comedy is not a sprint, it's a marathon. Do keep it part time till you get good enough. It's a job which doesn't pay well till the time you are not famous enough to sell tickets. It's exactly like economics where the top five per cent make 95 per cent of the money. Just being an amazing comedian isn't enough in the world of social media. You might be Mitch Hedberg, but you still need to be active online because that's where the audience decides whether or not they want to buy your tickets.

Because of video sharing social networking sites, people have the attention span of a goldfish and you literally get five seconds to make an impression. If they like you, they might consider watching you in the offline world or else they'll move onto trying the latest filter on Instagram reels. The good news is that India is a country of 135 crore people and there is enough audience for someone who is doing good work.

The idea is to have a solid hour of jokes and then put out some of the best of that material online and let the audience decide for themselves. You might take 300 videos to break out, nobody knows. Even if you do make it, you have to go back to the same grind of writing new jokes and reinventing yourself.

The writer is stand-up comedian and writer

SAMEER NIGAM

The world has come a long way since the time artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) were merely sci-fi visuals or buzz words for businesses. Be it the shop floor or a remote working environment, digitalisation is helping businesses realign with every aspect of the new normal. Digital disruption has taken over every internal function today. And one of the highlights is how it is transforming HR operations and employee engagement.

The impact of AI and ML is gradually changing almost every aspect of the way HR functions today. From manpower and candidate forecasts to employee management and performance review- HR functions will now depend even more on digital tools, even more so in the coming years. People managers and HR leads have been influenced by the digital approach and are adapting to it.

Performance reviews is a key aspect of HR functions and increasingly so, many companies across the world are switching to digital tools to analyse employee performance and take decisions on appraisals. With Covid-19 having a drastic impact on businesses and demand all over, digital savvy routes will help in reducing operational costs and time and enable quality experience. Traditionally, managers and HR leads have relied on self-assessments, peer reviews, and the business outcomes delivered by employees to conduct appraisals.

All this determined their final word on their potential and career progression possibilities. An analysis conducted by Mercer's 2019 Global Performance Management Study concluded that only two per cent of companies feel their performance management approach delivers real value to the firm and the employees.

Therefore, use of AI and data analytics can allow an unbiased platform for managers to extract valuable insights on employee evaluation. Customised solutions that use AI and ML can help make data driven decisions based on performance indicators and review the employees. There is of course massive potential in data-driven decision-making and managers are now using it, especially for employee management and performance reviews.

The traditional review cycle as most companies feel today is still stuck in some legacy and bureaucracy age. The new digital tools can help perform predictive appraisals. For instance, these applications help man-

FACILITATING THE RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE

With rapid digitalisation, companies are adequately evaluating employee performance with digital tools

agers assess the entire employee history and come up with the best compensations to reward them for what they are capable of instead of what they delivered in the last six months. AI powered performance management systems allow an unbiased insight to employee performance, as human perspectives are often biased or driven by personal likes or dislikes.

By leading to an unbiased review, it leaves no room for any favouritism or personal prejudices on the part of the managers. Further, with evolved processes and tools, both employees and managers can analyse gap areas and provide recommendations for the future. With time, these changes will help inculcate a collective, transparent, and healthier work culture and promote a positive spirit amongst employees.

While the pandemic may end one day, it certainly has given a new perspective for businesses on how to evolve with technology. Digitalisation is here to stay, and we will see how organisations will imbibe this even more going forward. New technologies are the key drivers of this change and improve work cultures. Capabilities offered by AI and ML will cut across all aspects and will be critical to manage and empower the biggest assets for any organisation- its people. It surely is going to be thrilling for companies to witness and understand the possibilities of AI and implement these technologies now in people management, recruitment, learning and growth of their people management.

The writer is CEO, Stratbeans



PLUS POINTS

Unveiling talents



Institute of Management Studies (IMS) Noida recently organised Business Mark fest 2020 online programme for their students. It was under the aegis of IMS Marketing Club and was conducted by BBA final year students Rishabh, Megul and Muskan under the guidance of Neelam Sheoliha. The fest had various competitions like product development, logo making, brochure making and meme making. IMS president Rajiv Gupta, senior director Kulneet Suri, Dean Manju Gupta, BBA HOD Prof Neerja Anand along with teachers and students of the institute registered their presence in mark fest. Two rounds were kept for the contestants. In the first round, the creations of the students were voted through social media. Creations with the most likes, shares and positive comments were selected for the second round. In the second round, 10 selected participants presented their ideas in front of the jury.

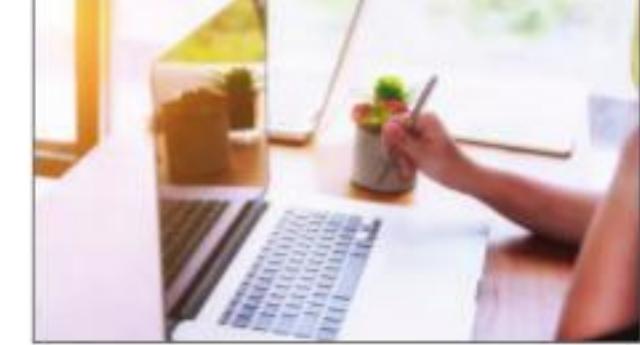
Inspiring students



Microsoft welcomed 4,366 Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts (MIEE) onboard its Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) programme from the Asia region - a twofold increase from the previous year and the largest representation from the region to date. In India, 2,669 experts joined the ranks of MIE experts.

The programme comprises more than one million educators worldwide who have joined the Microsoft Educator Centre and successfully completed professional development online courses, accessed resources, and shared learning with their colleagues. This year, 49 schools from India have joined the programme, including Welham Boys School, Dehradun, Indus Valley World School, Kolkata, Bluebells School International, New Delhi, Presidency School, Bangalore South and Delhi Public School, Ghaziabad.

Enriching minds



International Council for School Leadership (ICSL) launched Friday@5 - a weekly webinar dialogue series between the educators and experts recently. The one-hour session would focus on inspiring, enriching and empowering school leaders to rebuild India as a global superpower in education.

Friday@5 series was held with a special focus on challenges and problems engulfs school education so that school leaders, teachers and educators understand and try to convert problems into opportunities. Over 1000+educators across India are registering every week. It is a non-paid platform where teachers can participate and voice their concerns, views or queries on specific issues and listen to the insightful views of domain experts. For details visit: <https://www.icsl.org.in/friday-5>

Examining prowess



Tata Consultancy Services is set to organise its 22nd edition of TCS IT Wiz-an inter-school quiz competition. The knowledge initiative by TCS is more exciting than ever before as it has gone totally digital, enhancing its reach and hunt further for the brilliant young minds across the nation. This year, it has been re-imagined completely as there is no limit on the number of participants. Anyone can take the quiz from any part of the country and compete with their fellow quizzers from the comfort of their homes. There is no entry fee to register. Participants will go through a mock quiz to get their game-on for the prelims. The last date for registration is 22 October. For details visit: <https://bit.ly/3d0QTKr>

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS



Heading back: Cristiano Ronaldo could be heading back to Italy after testing positive for the coronavirus in Portugal. The Juventus forward was travelling by an "ambulance plane" from Lisbon to Turin to finish his isolation period. He is unlikely to face Barcelona.

Football ban: A West Ham United fan has been banned from football for three years after pleading guilty to racially abusing Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah during a Premier League match in January. Bradley Thumwood, 48, is from Pickford Road in Bexleyheath.

Panenka released: Czech legend Antonin Panenka, known for his trademark penalty kicks, has been released from hospital after a Covid-19 scare, it was said on Wednesday. "I picked up dad at the hospital at 11 am and took him home," Tomas Panenka said.

Napoli punished: Napoli have been handed a 3-0 defeat and had one point deducted for failing to play their Serie A match away to Juventus which was abandoned earlier this month amid confusion over Covid-19 rules. Napoli did not travel to Turin for the match.

Rescue package: The English Football League will discuss a £50m rescue package from the Premier League to League One and League Two clubs after Project Big Picture was rejected at an emergency meeting. The proposal would have centralised power.

Murali biopic: Actor Vijay Sethupathi will play Muttiah Muralitharan in the biopic 800. The motion poster release of the film will be launched in Tamil with Muralitharan and Sethupathi in attendance ahead of an Indian Premier League match in West Asia.

Shastri's appeal: India coach Ravi Shastri has urged South African batsman AB de Villiers to come out of international retirement after he hit an explosive 73 in the Indian Premier League. De Villiers ended his international career two years ago.

Superstitious Kohli: India captain Virat Kohli is superstitious. "I love playing in white shoes, especially batting. It's superstition for me," Kohli told Pep Guardiola, the Manchester City boss, during an Instagram live session. "When I bat, it's my zone," he said.



Murray out: Andy Murray suffered a first-round exit at the Association of Tennis Professionals tournament in Cologne, losing 4-6, 4-6 to Fernando Verdasco. In the day's last game, Verdasco converted his fourth match point just after midnight to seal the win.

Big worry: The International Olympic Committee said on Wednesday it was very worried about the situation in weightlifting following a report that the governing body's interim president had been ousted. Interim president Ursula Garza Papadreia had been removed.

CRUNCH TIME

Sport minister Nathi Mthethwa (photo, left) has informed the International Cricket Council he intends to intervene in the running of Cricket South Africa unless it commits to governance reforms by 27 October. CSA has been mired in controversy and claims of mismanagement since the suspension of former chief executive Thabang Moroe in December.

Mumbai Indians start favourites against KKR

PTI

ABU DHABI, 15 OCTOBER

An explosive batting line-up and a lethal-at-death bowling attack will give defending champions Mumbai Indians a definitive edge over Kolkata Knight Riders when the two teams clash in an IPL game here on Friday.

The defending champions are on a roll having won their last four games, while there are problems aplenty for KKR, who were decimated by the Royal Challengers Bangalore by 82 runs in their last game.

Mumbai Indians are thus unlikely to tinker with their playing XI.

For KKR, questions remain as to whether their key spinner Sunil Narine, who has been once reported for suspect bowling action, will play or not. He had missed the game against RCB, but the Jharkhand player needs to convert his starts into big scores

resolution" to the issues surrounding his controversial action.

In the event of Narine missing out again, Mumbai will fancy their chances even more at the Sheikh Zayed stadium, where skipper Rohit Sharma has scored both his half-centuries this season.

Sharma (216 runs), on his day, can pummel any attack to submission and particularly enjoys playing against Kolkata. When the two teams met last, Mumbai rode on his beligerent 80 to register a 49-run win.

Apart from Sharma, the Mumbai top and middle-order is in good form as it is Quinton De Kock (191 runs) or Suryakumar Yadav (233 runs), who would like to continue in the same vein.

Ishan Kishan (186 runs) has indeed his potential with a blistering 99 against RCB, but the Jharkhand player needs to convert his starts into big scores

to make his presence felt. Mumbai Indians coach Mahela Jayawardene would be pleased with the likes of Hardik Pandya and swashbuckling Kieron Pollard, who have been launching into the opposition attack with their big-hitting prowess along with Krunal Pandya.

Given the trio's abilities, they can rip apart the KKR attack, especially one sans Narine.

On the bowling front too, Mumbai looks a settled unit with Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah providing early breakthroughs. They are complemented by Australian James Pattinson and the trio has accounted for 31 wickets.

Spinners Rahul Chahar and Krunal will be aiming to contain the KKR batters.

Meanwhile, the biggest drawback for KKR is the inconsistent performance of their bats-

men, particularly Andre Russell, who has just managed a meagre 71 runs from seven games.

There was talk of Russell being promoted up the order, but he continues to bat down and hasn't done justice to his abilities.

Kolkata also possesses a number of batsmen who can take any attack to cleaners. It comprises the young and elegant Shubman Gill, England's

World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan, Nitish Rana and skipper Dinesh Karthik, but they have not got going barring the odd game.

The management would be hoping that come Friday, they fire in unison to reduce pressure on young guns Rahul Tripathi and Tom Barton.

KKR bowlers did well to fashion narrow victories against Kings XI Punjab and Chennai Super Kings, but were profligate against RCB when Pat Cummins and Prasidh Krishna leaked 38 and 42 runs respectively.

They would want to forget the hammering and regain form.

KKR may also look to play Kuldeep Yadav, who was dropped after playing just three games, in place of a third pacer.

He can come in handy along with mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy, who was economical in the game against RCB. Teams:

Kolkata Knight Riders: Dinesh Karthik (Captain), Eoin Morgan, Nitish Rana, Rahul Tripathi, Rinku Singh, Shubman Gill, Siddhesh Lad, Ali Khan, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Pat Cummins, Prasidh Krishna, Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Mavi, Varun Chakravarthy, Andre Russell, Chris Green, Middharth, Sunil Narine, Nikhil Naik, Tom Banton.

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Aditya Tare, Anmolpreet Singh, Anukul Roy, Chris Lynn, Dhawal Kulkarni, Digvijay Deshmukh, Hardik Pandya, Ishan Kishan, James Pattinson, Jasprit Bumrah, Jayant Yadav, Kieron Pollard, Krunal Pandya, Mitchell McClenaghan, Mohsin Khan, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Prince Balwant Rai, Quinton De Kock, Rahul Chahar, Saurabh Tiwary, Sherfane Rutherford, Suryakumar Yadav, Trent Boult.

Match starts at 7:30pm



There's nothing in cricket that was beyond Dilshan

THE ISLAND/ANN
COLOMBO, 15 OCTOBER

was Wettimuny who had picked Dilshan from total oblivion in 1999.

The rumblings continued. Despite setbacks, Sri Lanka won their maiden Test match in South Africa when they overcame the Proteas in Durban. Dilshan's leadership skills should have been celebrated. Yet, he was sacked unceremoniously at the end of the tour. The then president of Sri Lanka Cricket had conspired with a senior player to remove Dilshan after the tour came what may. It was a deal, sealed at Perera Gardens.

You tend to get the feeling that some seniors were disruptive elements during Dilshan's captaincy. Dilshan captained the side in nine Tests away from home. There was one particular senior who did not make a single half-century in those nine games. Yet, he shamelessly took up the captaincy when Dilshan was sacked.

Next up Australia. If someone did something wrong to you, you would naturally want to give them a taste of their own medicine? Not Dilshan. He came off with flying colours in Australia in a tri-nation competition finishing as the highest score of the tournament.

Mind you, this was the very next series after he had been sacked as skipper. His 513 was more than what David Warner (506) and Virat Kohli managed. So next time you hear rumours questioning Dilshan's honesty do keep in mind that Perera Gardens and not Maitland Place used to run our cricket a decade ago.

Rabada, who took one wicket to stay top of the IPL bowlers chart with 18 scalps in eight games, was all praise for his pace partner, who was picked by Delhi Capitals as the replacement for Chris Woakes ahead of the virus-hit season.

"He is a real fast bowler and I can learn some technical stuff from him. I have some experience which I can tell him about," said Rabada.

On Nortje hitting the fastest IPL delivery, Rabada said, "It looks like that every game. Really happy for him but not happy for the batter. When we play we only think about the delivery and not about the speed gun."

Dell skipper Shreyas Iyer made 53 and opener Shikhar Dhawan top-scored with 57 as Delhi scored 161 for seven after electing to bat first.

Iyer later walked off the field after injuring his shoulder while fielding and took no further part in the match.

Delhi have reclaimed top spot in the eight-team IPL table with six wins from eight games but second-placed Mumbai Indians have played just seven matches.

In reply, England's Ben Stokes hit an attacking 41 but the knock went in vain as the Steve Smith-led Royals lost regular wickets and managed just 25 runs from their last five overs.

Stokes, a left-hand batsman, started the Royals reply with a four off Rabada as he put on 37 runs with opening partner Butler attacked in his nine-ball stay.

Butler took on Nortje in the third over, hitting a six and two successive scoop shots for four over short fine leg on deliveries that went over 95 miles an hour and one that clocked 97 mph.

Nortje though had his revenge on the last ball as he got through Butler's defences to rattle the stumps on another quick ball.

"Didn't expect him to go for a six first ball. Maybe he was expecting something else off that delivery. Stuck to my strength

Kohli's 48, Morris' cameo take RCB to 171/6

PTI
SHARJAH, 15 OCTOBER

Kings XI Punjab finally put up a disciplined effort with the bowl to restrict Royal Challengers Bangalore to 171 for six in their must-win IPL match here on Thursday.

KXIP conceded only 25 runs from over 16-19 before Morris and Isuru Udana hammered Shami for three sixes.

After Kohli chose to bat, KXIP experimented by opening the bowling with Glenn Maxwell (0/28 in 4 overs). He was slog swept by his Australian teammate and close friend Aaron Finch on the final ball.

Other opener Devdutt

Padikkal (18) also went for his shots with his best hit of the night being the whip off Shami that went for a six over deep square leg. However, both Padikkal and Finch could not build on their starts. Padikkal was foisted by a slower one from left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh at 62 for two in the seventh over.

KXIP, whose bowling has been the weakest link, did rather well from 11-14 overs conceding just 20 runs to put pressure on the opposition.

RCB needed to move on and southpaw Shivam Dube pro-

vided the timely strike, dispatching Ravi Bishnoi to consecutive sixes to amass 19 runs from the over.

SCOREBOARD					
ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE					
Aj Finch	b Ashwin	20			
D Padikkal	c Pooran b Singh	18			
V Kohli	c Rahul b Shami	48			
W Sundar	c Jordan b Ashwin	13			
S Dube	c Rahul b Jordan	23			
AB de Villiers	c Hooda b Shami	2			
CH Morris	not out	25			
I Udana	not out	10			
Extras:	(b 4, lb 2, w 6)	12			
TOTAL:	(20 Ov, RR: 8.55)	171			
BOWLING:	G Maxwell 4.0, 28.0				
Md Shami	4.0, 45.2, Arshdeep Singh 2, 0, 20, 1 Ravi Bishnoi 3, 0, 29.0				

Nortje delivers fastest Indian Premier League ball at 97 mph

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI, 15 OCTOBER

South African quick Anrich Nortje (in photo) clocked the fastest ball of the Indian Premier League at 97 mph (156.22 kph) and claimed two key wickets to help Delhi Capitals beat Rajasthan Royals by 13 runs on Wednesday.

Nortje bowled England's Jos Buttler, 22, and Robin Uthappa, 32, as Royals faltered in their chase of 162 to manage just 148 for eight in Dubai.

Nortje, who was ably supported by fellow Proteas paceman Kagiso Rabada, consistently bowled at over 90 mph through his four overs of fearsome pace in a match where Royals quick Jofra Archer returned figures of 3-19.

"No ideal bowled at 156km tonight but good to hear it," said Man-of-the-Match Nortje.

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"Didn't expect him to go for a six first ball. Maybe he was expecting something else off that delivery. Stuck to my strength



and paid off," Nortje said of his battle with Butler.

"Didn't expect the second ramp. Luckily I stuck to it. We've got a good coach in

"Such a mockery of game, what! Dhoni keeps bullying umpires and gets away with it. I have just lost count of it," one cricket fan wrote on Twitter.