TUESDAY
20 OCTOBER
2020

The Statesman

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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

KAMAL NATH UNDER FIRE FOR SEXIST REMARKS P4

TURMOIL IN PAKISTAN P6

MORALES CLAIMS VICTORY IN BOLIVIA ELECTION REDO P9

SUPER-DUPER WIN MAKES SHAMI KING OF KINGS P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 34 and 16 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Max: 83% Min: 35%

TEMPERATURE
Max: 33.9°C (+1) Min: 16.0°C (-2)

SUN RISES 06:26 hrs
SUN SETS 17:47 hrs
MOON RISES 11:16 hrs
MOON SETS 20:49 hrs

THUMBNAILS

Idols of Goddess Durga being shifted from Kumartuli to puja pandal in Kolkata on Monday. SNS

TRP case: Bombay High Court on Monday said if the Mumbai police crime branch proposes to arraign *Republic TV* Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami in the television rating points (TRP) case, it should first issue summons to him as was done for eight others in the case. A division bench of the court said if such a summons is issued then Goswami shall appear before the police and cooperate with the investigation. The court also directed police to submit for its perusal investigation papers pertaining to the case by 5 November.

Muralitharan biopic: Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan on Monday requested Tamil actor Vijay Sethupathi to opt out of his biopic *800* considering opposition and the star acceded. he actor has been under tremendous pressure from some quarters to withdraw from the biopic project, the iconic cricketer said in a statement. "I don't like an outstanding artist from Tamil Nadu to be affected because of me. I request him to step aside since he should not face unnecessary hurdles in his careerin future," Muralitharan said.

HC bars public entry inside puja pandals

Treat all pandals as containment zones: Calcutta HC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 19 OCTOBER

Community puja pandals displaying different themes and vying for the attention of the crowds will wear a deserted look after a Division Bench of Calcutta High Court today directed that all puja pandals of the state to be containment zones/ no-entry zones during the puja days.

The Division Bench of of Justices Sanjib Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee passed this direction while hearing a Public Interest Litgation (PIL) praying for passing an order to stay "Sarbojanin Durgotsav 2020" publicly and comes in the wake of another PIL seeking that the grant of government funds for the community pujas be stayed.

In a slew of directions applying to all the pujas of the state, the Bench laid down that no-entry boards should be displayed five metres from the extremity of a small pandal and 10 metres of a bigger one declaring the specified areas no-entry zones which are to be barricaded. Not more than 25 members of the club will be allowed inside a pandal, while a list naming these members will be on display outside the pandal.

The number has to be fixed and cannot change daily, the Bench said.

All puja pandals are to be treated as containment zones, the court directed.

Police personnel will see to it that the court's order is implemented, the Bench directed. Let the crowds see the pujas in virtual mode, it directed.

The day's directions will be implamented all over the state.

The director genenral of police and city police commissioner will submit a report in the form of an affidavit about the implementation of the order. It is to be submitted to the court four days after Luxmi puja. How can a festival be held endangering human lives? the court asked.

The state government's puja guidelines were described as "well intentioned" by the court, which however, observed that they were not implemented.

It is surpising and unfortunate that in spite of having told the chief secrtetary, home secretary and police on Friday to submit a plan to implement the guidelines, it was not done, the court said. After all, the photographs which are coming out in the newspapers are horrifying, the Bench said, referring to the crowds in the streets.

No Puja celebrations at Chittaranjan Park

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Chittaranjan Park in south Delhi, and its adjoining areas will not host Durga Puja celebrations this year, agency reports add from New Delhi.

MLA and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Saurabh Bharadwaj on Monday said that the decision was taken in a meeting at CR Park's Kali Mandir with various puja committees.

Bharadwaj wrote on Twitter: "Today, around 12 Durga Puja Committees of Chittaranjan Park, GK2, GK1, Alaknanda, Kalkaji met at Kali Mandir, CR Park unanimously decided that Durga Puja Celebrations will be suspended this year due to Corona pandemic." Chittaranjan Park, the home of many of Delhi's Bengalis, hosts around 50 Durga Puja pandals every year.

With eye on China, India includes Australia in Malabar naval exercise

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

In a move that is bound to upset China, India today announced that Australia will join the upcoming Malabar naval exercise to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea later this year.

This effectively means that all the four member countries of the "Quadrilateral" grouping that includes India, the USA, Japan and Australia will be participating for the first time in the mega naval exercise.

India had started the Malabar series of naval exercises with the USA in 1992. Japan joined the exercise in 1992.

Despite Canberra's keenness, India was reluctant to include Australia in the exercise keeping in mind the sensitivities of China.

India has finally heeded to Australia's request to be part of the exercise amidst strain in ties with China over the ongoing military stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

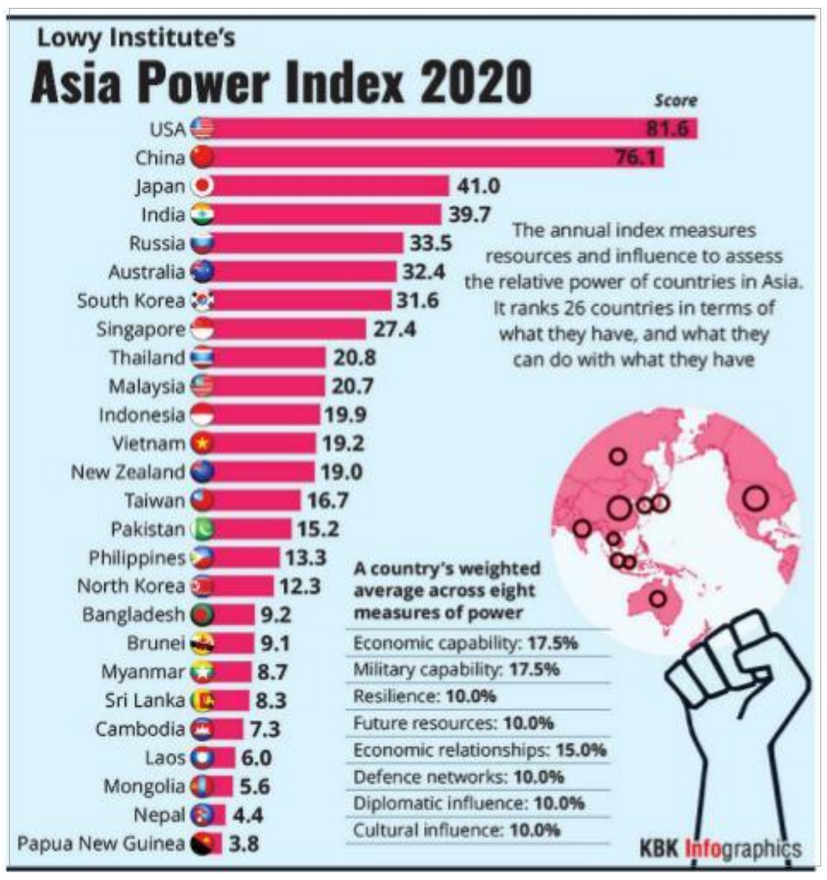
"As India seeks to increase cooperation with other countries in the maritime security domain and in the light of increased defence cooperation with Australia, Malabar 2020 will see the participation of the Australian Navy," the Defence Ministry said in a statement. It said the exercise has been planned in the 'non-contact - at sea' format.

"The exercise will strengthen the coordination between the navies of the participating countries," the statement said.

It said the participants in the Malabar Exercise were engaging to enhance safety and security in the maritime domain. They collectively support free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to rules based international order.

Reacting to the development, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne said the announcement was another important step in Australia's deepening relationship with India.

"It will bolster the ability of India, Australia, Japan and the United States to work together to uphold peace and stability across our region," she said.



Chinese soldier apprehended in Ladakh

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

A Chinese Army soldier was apprehended in the Demchok sector of Eastern Ladakh today after he strayed across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian Army said.

The soldier has been provided with required medical assistance including oxygen, food and warm clothes. "A PLA soldier, identified as Corporal Wang Ya Long, was apprehended in the Demchok sector of Eastern Ladakh on 19 October after he had strayed across the LAC," the Army said in a statement.

It said a request has also been received from the PLA about the whereabouts of the missing soldier.

Sources said the PLA soldier would be returned after completion of all formalities, including verification whether he actually strayed into Indian territory accidentally or was on a spying mission.

The soldier was apprehended amid the ongoing border military standoff between the two countries. The two countries are scheduled to hold the 8th round of talks at the corps commander level this week to find ways to resolve the standoff that has brought ties between them to a new low.

The *Global Times*, the mouthpiece of the Communist regime in China, said that the capture of the PLA soldier by the Indian Army would not affect the upcoming talks between the Chinese and Indian militaries.

China and India have been working together to resolve the incident and send back the missing soldier, it added. SNS

Covid-19 cases pass 40 million worldwide

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 19 OCTOBER

The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases across the planet has surpassed 40 million, but experts say that is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the true impact of the pandemic that has upended life and work around the world.

The milestone was hit Monday morning, according to Johns Hopkins University, which collates reports from around the world.

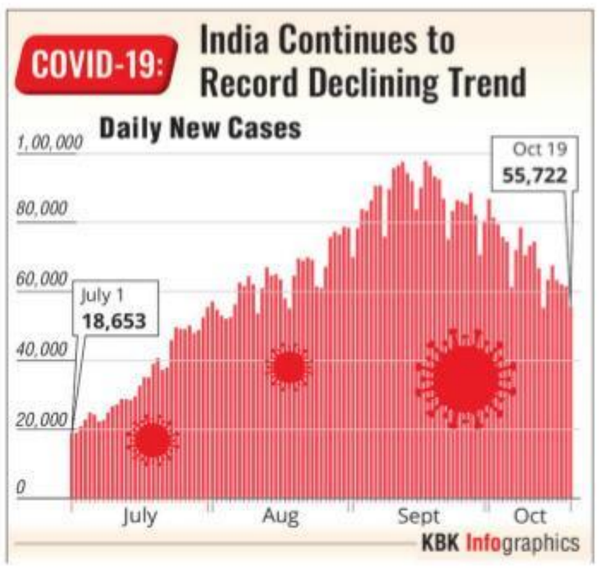
The actual worldwide tally of Covid-19 cases is likely to be far higher, as testing has been variable, many people have had no symptoms and some governments have concealed the true number of cases. To date, more than 1.1 million confirmed virus deaths have been reported, although experts also believe that number is an undercount.

The USA, India and Brazil are reporting by far the highest numbers of cases ~ 8.1 million, 7.5 million and 5.2 million respectively ~although the global increase in recent weeks has been driven by a surge in Europe, which has seen over 240,000 confirmed virus deaths in the pandemic so far.

Last week, the World Health Organization said Europe had a reported a record weekly high of nearly 700,000 cases and said the region was responsible for about a third of cases globally. Britain, France, Russia and Spain account for about half of all new cases in the region, and countries like Belgium and the Czech Republic are facing more intense outbreaks now than they did in the spring.

India's Covid caseload crosses 75-lakh mark

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER



With the addition of 55,722 coronavirus cases and 579 deaths in 24 hours, India's tally on Monday crossed the 75-lakh mark with a total of 75,50,273 cases.

Out of these, 7,72,055 are currently active; 66,63,608 have been discharged, while 1,14,610 lost the battle against the pandemic.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India's active cases have fallen below eight lakh after six weeks and continue to fall. The Ministry said: "22 states and UTs have less than 20,000 active cases, and only three are reporting more than 50,000 active caseload."

After denying it for months, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan stated that India is in the stage of community transmission but it is limited to only certain districts and states.

Vardhan said India, however, is on a steady trajectory of sustained fall in active cases which has stayed below 8 lakh for the third day.

India continues to report one of the lowest deaths per million population in the world... less than 1100 deaths reported for last 14 days, he said, adding that 22 states/UTs have deaths per million lower than the national average.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 15,95,381 cases including 42,115 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted 8,59,786 sample tests in a single day on Sunday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 9,50,83,976.

31 more die of Covid in Delhi, toll 6,040: Delhi today recorded 31 fresh Covid-19 fatalities, which took its coronavirus death toll to 6,040, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. The city had yesterday reported 28 Covid deaths.

The national capital today logged 2,154 cases of Covid-19 when 36,445 tests were conducted, the health bulletin said.

The positivity rate was 5.91 per cent. The city's Covid tally thus rose to 3,33,171. Delhi had yesterday reported 3,299 cases of coronavirus infection detected out of 49,414 tests. (SEE P2)

With Covid-19 under control, China's economy surges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING, 19 OCTOBER

China's economy, which suffered 6.8 per cent slump in the first quarter due to the coronavirus pandemic ~ the worst in 44 years ~ bounced back posting 4.9 per cent growth between July and September buoyed by the government's sweeping efforts to stimulate demand and consumption.

The world's second-largest economy, the first to have been hit by the Covid-19 early this year and the earliest to have recovered while the rest of the world reeled under the pandemic lockdowns, grew faster than the 3.2-per cent growth posted in Q2, data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Monday.

In the first three quarters, China's GDP expanded 0.7 per cent year-on-year, returning to growth after the 1.6-per cent contraction in the first half of the year and the 6.8-per cent slump in Q1, the data showed.

To soften the impact of the Covid-19 shock, the Chinese government has rolled out a raft of measures, including more fiscal spending, tax relief, and cuts in lending rates and banks' reserve requirements to stabilize growth and employment.

The near five per cent growth in Q3 is a far cry from the slump the Chinese economy suffered when coronavirus first emerged in Wuhan in December last year and led to shutdowns of factories and markets all over the country during the first three months of this year.

China's GDP took the worst hit since the disastrous Cultural Revolution in 1976, plummeting by 6.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2020 as the country took unprecedented measures to fight the coronavirus pandemic that brought the world's second-largest economy to a standstill.

It was the worst contraction of the economy since China started recording quarterly figures back in 1992.

But as the epidemic is largely brought under control domestically, factories and schools have reopened and tourist sites across the country have resumed their usual hustle and bustle, state-run Xinhua news agency said.

In Q3, major indicators returned to positive territory, with industrial output rising 5.8 per cent and retail sales reporting the first quarterly expansion this year, up 0.9 per cent year-on-year.

The country's fixed-asset investment went up 0.8 per cent year-on-year in the first three quarters, reversing a decline of 3.1 per cent in the first half of this year.

The per capita disposable income rose 0.6 per cent in the first nine months, compared with a decline of 1.3 per cent in H1.

"Seen from the trends of the key indicators, China's epidemic prevention and economic recovery are at the world's forefront, which shows the strong resilience and vitality of the economy," Liu Aihua, spokesperson of the NBS, told the media.

Among the bright spots, new growth drivers including the Internet-powered economy and new infrastructure have assumed a bigger role in boosting growth, and the contribution of domestic demand is steadily picking up, Liu said.

Farooq Abdullah quizzed by Enforcement Directorate

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 19 OCTOBER

Within days of the former chief minister and sitting MP Farooq Abdullah playing a key role in forging unity among Kashmir's mainstream political parties to struggle for restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned him in connection with alleged irregularities amounting to Rs.43 crores in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

Six mainstream political parties had last week met at the Srinagar residence of Abdullah to form the People's Alliance.

Abdullah was president of the JKCA between 2001 and 2011, when the alleged financial irregularities took place.

After more then six hours of questioning at the ED office at Srinagar's Raj Bagh, Dr Farooq Abdullah told media persons in the evening that the battle to restore Articles 370 and 35A will continue, whether "I am alive or dead". Abdullah said the ED did its job and I did mine. The court will give its verdict on the case once it is put there by the ED.

Earlier, opposition parties described the summons by the ED a "witch hunt" and "political vendetta" by the Modi government at the Centre.

Details on Page 5

epaper.thestatesman.com

They have been India's biggest assets, especially during the last few months. Be it containment or the issue of capacity building, they have achieved wonders

NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER

2.5K marshals to lead city's drive against air pollution

These 'environment marshals' will be deployed at 100 traffic signals across Delhi during 21 Oct-15 Nov to create public awareness about AAP govt's 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign, says Rai

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

The AAP-led Delhi government will deploy 2,500 'environment marshals' across the city to spread public awareness about its recently launched anti-pollution campaign, ''Red Light On, Gaadi Off," environment minister Gopal Rai said today.

These marshals will be deployed at 100 major traffic signals across Delhi's 11 districts, the minister said. He said the shortlisted traffic signals will be those where the red light signal lasts for two minutes.

Addressing a press conference, Rai said it will be an awareness campaign and not an enforcement drive and that environment marshals will give red roses to violators at traffic signals to create awareness.

"From October 21 to November 15, a ground-level awareness drive on 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign will be launched at 100 traffic signals. We are in the process of appointing 2,500 environment marshals who will spread awareness about the campaign at these signals. It is an awareness drive, not an enforcement drive," Rai said.

He said local SDM and traffic police (ACP rank) will monitor this campaign and if required, the transport department's deputy commissioner (enforcement) will also oversee the campaign.

"This campaign is targeted at initiating a behavioural change. It is an awareness campaign and not enforcement. It is the campaign of the 2 crore people in Delhi, people who are concerned about the catastrophic consequences pollution can have amidst the ongoing pandemic. This campaign is about taking ownership," he said.

The marshals will be working in 2 shifts, and 10 of them will be positioned at each traffic point. The first shift will be from 8 am to 2 pm and the other will be from 2pm to 8pm, Rai said.

"Apart from this, places like ITO, which are slightly bigger in size will see civil defence officers in double the numbers. Ten such places have been identified. Around 2,000 marshals for 100 crossroads and extra 200 for the 10 slightly bigger in size. 300 marshals have been kept as reserve in case of need," Rai said.

He said the Delhi government will write to all MPs, MLAs, councillors, RWAs, industrial and other social agencies to take part in this campaign.

"The marshals will adopt the principle of 'Gandhigiri'. They will give red roses to those not switching off the ignition at red lights. They will be made aware as to why it is important for them to do it and how they can fight pollution through the move," he added.

The ''Red Light On, Gaadi Off'' campaign was launched by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on 15 October to curb air pollution caused by vehicles' fuel burning at red traffic signals.

Experts say on an average a vehicle stops at a red light for 15-20 minutes in a day, consuming 200 ml of fuel and creating air pollution. If 10 lakh vehicles switch off ignition at red lights, 1.5 tons of PM10 and 0.4 tons of PM2.5 will be prevented from polluting the air every year, they said.

Kejriwal seeks monthly meetings with CMs of Haryana, UP, Punjab to curb air pollution

PTI
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal requested Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday to hold monthly meetings with the CMs of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and UP to curb air pollution, saying there is a lack of political will at the level of the states to address the problem of stubble burning.

In a virtual press briefing, he said the affected states have been unable to find a solution to stop stubble burning and prevent air pollution. "I believe pollution due to stubble burning can be controlled in a short span of time. But a lack of political will is visible in doing that."

Kejriwal said the crop residue can be biodegraded or converted into biogas, coal and even cardboard. The paddy straw can be converted into compressed biogas or cooking coal which some factories are doing in Karnal in Haryana, he said, adding crop residue can be "converted into an opportunity" within a year, provided there are strict timelines to move away from stubble burning.

He said he agreed with Javadekar that air pollution is not limited to one state, adding that all the state governments should come together to fight it.

Kejriwal, however, added that Javadekar had said it will take at least four years to control pollution, but he believed if all the state governments and political parties "work honestly by keeping aside their political differences then we can check air pollution in much less than four years."

The chief minister said although scientists and engineers have come out with solutions to reduce the incidents of stubble burning, such as the biodecomposer developed by the Pusa Institute in Delhi, there is a lack of political will to adopt these methods.

"We must not consider stubble as a liability but need to transform it to an opportunity. If all state governments adopt these conversion measures, it will benefit farmers monetarily and generate employment," he said.

"Politics was recently being done on the extent of pollution caused by stubble burning. But even the Supreme Court has now said that in these two months of the year, pollution is caused mainly by stubble burning. The pollution caused by stubble burning is not limited to Delhi. It affects the whole North India and I am worried about farmers and their children where stubble is burnt."

Kejriwal said the Central government has been convening meetings only with the environment ministers of the states but they have not been able to find a solution to the issue.

"I want to request the Union environment minister to call a meeting of the chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi every month because this is a big issue and it can't be managed only at the level of the environment ministers of these states. The environment ministers, senior officials and experts from these states should also be present in these monthly meetings," he said.

"We all should meet with an open mind and discuss the problem. We should not indulge in any kind of blame game," he said.

Delhi's new cultural policy will transform mindset of society: Sisodia

PTI
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

Delhi's new cultural policy will be an instrument in transforming the society's mindset and would not be limited to cultural events only, deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said on Monday.

Speaking at the first virtual meeting of the Delhi Cultural Policy Advisory Committee, Sisodia said Delhi belongs to everyone and it should reflect the diverse culture and heritage of the nation.

He said art and culture should play a part in enabling the society to stand against hatred and violence.

"Violence and hatred is increasing and an all-round collapse of the moral fabric is evident these days. In such a situation, the government of Delhi is formulating a comprehensive cultural policy to ensure meaningful contribution of art and culture towards transforming the mindset of the society," he said.

The Delhi government wants to create a cultural atmosphere in the city. Just like people go to cinemas and restaurants, now they will have many options to choose from in terms of cultural events as plenty of them will organised in the city, he said.

Participating in the meeting, actor and member of the committee Manoj Vajpayee said children from the slums should be introduced to theatre education to help them join the mainstream.

Citing the example of French capital of Paris where street artists performing in public spaces is a common sight, he suggested that the Delhi government provide spaces where artists can showcase their talent so that the city can be projected as a cultural capital.

Sisodia said the cultural policy is being formulated by a 15-member advisory committee and it will submit its report within two months.

In addition to Bajpayee, the advisory committee consists of personalities and experts from the field of art and culture including actor Javed Jaffrey, JNU's School of Arts and Aesthetics Professor Ira Bhaskar among others.

Sisodia said that the Delhi government has taken many steps to advance arts and culture but until now, there was no clear structure of these activities.

"This is the reason why we want to create a holistic cultural policy so that it is possible to create a better cultural environment in a systematic way," he added.

Missing boy's decomposed body found at construction site in Noida

PTI
NOIDA (UP), 19 OCTOBER

The partially decomposed body of a 10-year-old boy, who had gone missing on October 11, has been found hidden at a construction site near his home in Noida, police said on Monday.

The child lived with his daily-wage earning father and a mother, who is a domestic help, at their home in Sarfabad village under Sector 49 police station. He had gone missing on October 11, according to officials.

A 'missing' complaint was made the next day and an FIR lodged in the case at the local police station, a police official said.

On Sunday, a Sarfabad local informed the police about a foul smell emanating from a nearby construction site. When checked, a child's body was found from there which was later identified as the boy who had gone missing, the official said.

The body was partially decomposed and that had led to the stench, the police said.

31 more people die of Covid in Capital, toll hits 6,040

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

Delhi today recorded 31 fresh Covid-19 fatalities, which took its coronavirus death toll to 6,040, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. The city had yesterday reported 28 Covid deaths.

The national capital today logged 2,154 cases of Covid-19 when 36,445 tests were conducted, the health bulletin said. The positivity rate was 5.91 per cent. The city's Covid tally thus rose to 3,33,171. Delhi had yesterday reported 3,299 cases of coronavirus infection detected out of 49,414 tests.

Delhi had on 17 October recorded 35 fatalities related to coronavirus infection. The city had then reported 3,259 coronavirus cases detected out of 55,715 tests. On 16 October, it had reported 3,428 Covid cases out of 58,145 tests.

The national capital had on 16 October recorded 22 Covid deaths.

This figure was 26 on 15 October. The coronavirus death count on 14 October was 44 while it was 45 on 13 October.

On 10 October and 29 September as well, 48 Covid fatalities were logged in Delhi, which was stated to be the highest Covid death count in a day since 16 July, when the city had recorded 58 deaths.

According to today's health bulletin, the number of patients who recovered and were discharged from different hospitals over the last 24 hours was 2,845 and with this, the cumulative figure of cured cases in the city increased to 3,04,561.

There were 22,570 active cases Delhi now with the number of those getting treatment under home isolation being 14,164.

The number of containment zones in the city was 2,782 now, the bulletin added.

As many as 10, 640 of the 15,704 hospital beds available for Covid-19 patients were vacant. The dedicated covid care centres had 6,342 vacant beds and the number of such beds at dedicated Covid health centres was 230.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF SH. ARVIND BANSAL, ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(SOUTH EAST) SAKET COURTS, NEW DELHI.
SS-57/2020
ANJU KHANNA VS. STATE & ORS.

Whereas, on application U/s 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by Mrs. Anju Khanna successor of Late. Sh. S.K. Khanna for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts / securities of deceased.
And whereas the said applicant shall come for hearing on 03.12.2020 at 10.00 A.M.
Therefore, the public at large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of succession certificate in favour of the said applicant, he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and time.
Given under my hand and seal on 15.10.2020.

(ARVIND BANSAL)
ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East)
Room No. 203, Second Floor
Saket Courts: New Delhi

IN THE COURT OF SH. ARVIND BANSAL ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East) Saket Courts, New Delhi SS-12/2020
Chander Prabha Sharma
Versus
State
Whereas, an application U/s 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by Smt. Chander Prabha Sharma, successor of Late. Smt. Vidhya Devi for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts/securities of deceased.
And whereas the said applicant shall come for hearing on 28-11-2020 at 10-00 a.m.
Therefore, the public at large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the said applicant, he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and time.
Given under my hand and Seal on 08-10-2020.
ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East)
Saket Courts, New Delhi
Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL ACJ/CCJ/ARC Room No. 03, Ground Floor Patiala House Courts, New Delhi Petition No. SC-45/2020
Prithi Pal Singh Dugal, s/o Sh. Har Charan Singh Dugal, r/o S-17, 3rd Floor, Front Side, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017.
Versus
The State (Govt. of NCT Delhi) & Ors.
(Petitioner)
FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925
To,
All concerned.
Whereas in the abovenoted petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased Late Mrs. Hardeep Dugal, w/o Sh. Harcharan Singh Dugal died on Dt. 24-03-2004 at ISIC Escorts, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undermentioned Court, to be standing in the name of deceased.
Whereas the 14-01-2021 at 10 O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing and the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 15-10-2020.
ACJ/CCJ/ARC
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi.
Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF SHEFALI BARNALA TANDAN Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller (Central) Room No. 323, Third Floor Tis Hazari Court, Delhi Petition No. SC/50/2020 N.D.O.H. : 21-12-2020
Shri Amar Singh Goel
Versus
The State & Ors.
Shri Amar Singh Goel, s/o Shri Shyam Sunder Goel, r/o 5665, Kucha Khan Chand, Nai Sarak, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-110006.
— Petitioner
FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925
To,
All Concerned.
Whereas in the abovenoted petition the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs. xxx. As per record to be standing in the name of Late Sh. Meera Goyal deceased.
Whereas the 21-12-2020 at 10 O' Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing or the application notice is hereby given to this concerned.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 17-10-2020.
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller (Central)
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL ACJ/CCJ/ARC Room No. 03, Ground Floor Patiala House Courts, New Delhi Petition No. SC-108/2019
Mrs. Achla Khanna.
Versus
State of Delhi & Ors.
(Petitioner)
FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925
To,
All concerned.
Whereas in the abovenoted petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased Late Dr. Satya Priya Khanna, w/o Mr. Keshav Das Khanna, died on Dt. 28-09-1999 at I/I Telegraph Lane, Janpath, New Delhi. Are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undermentioned Court, to be standing in the name of deceased.
Whereas the 27-10-2020 at 10 O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing and the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 05-10-2020.
ACJ/CCJ/ARC
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi.
Seal of the Court
FMG

IN THE COURT OF SH. AKASH JAIN Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Commercial Civil Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller (West), Court Room No. 112, 1st Floor Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi Petition No. SC-82/2020
To,
Sh. Ashok Kumar, s/o Lt. Sh. Ramesh Chand, r/o A-3/78, Sunshine Apartment, Paschim Vihar, Delhi.
Versus
State.
FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925
To,
All concerned.
Where in the abovenoted petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities of amount of Rs. 31,73,753/- to be standing in the name of Late Mrs. Nirmala Kumari deceased.
Whereas the at 10 (Ten) O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for 20-01-2021 hearing on the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 14th day of October, 2020.
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Commercial Civil Judge-cum-Addl. Rent Controller (West),
Seal of the Court
FMG

TENDERS

WEST BENGAL UNIVERSITY OF ANIMAL AND FISHERY SCIENCES
Sealed tenders are invited for a civil repair work at Chakgaria Campus and catering services for Canteen at Belgachia and Mohanpur Campuses. Details given in http://wbuafscl.ac.in
Registrar

e-QUOTATION NOTICE
NIQ No. 07/20-21 Dt: 14.10.20 & ID: 2020_ZPHD_301723 (1 to 9) Supply of materials at 9 No. G.Ps (Total scheme - 9 Nos.) under MGNREGA under Chapra Development Block. Maximum Amt. Rs. 38,35,804. Last date of documents Downloading & bid sub. 30.10.2020 up to 4.00 p.m. (other details collect from the office and website: https://wbtenders.gov.in
Sd/-
P.O. & BDO
Chapra Dev. Block-Nadia

The Statesman

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AIR-SURCHARGE; Kathmandu - Re. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1
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epaper.thestatesman.com

Everybody appreciated what we did when the pandemic started. We never went after awards. It is understandable that some people became restless when we got appreciated for containing the spread

PINARAYI VIJAYAN
KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

Punjab Assembly session begins on a stormy note

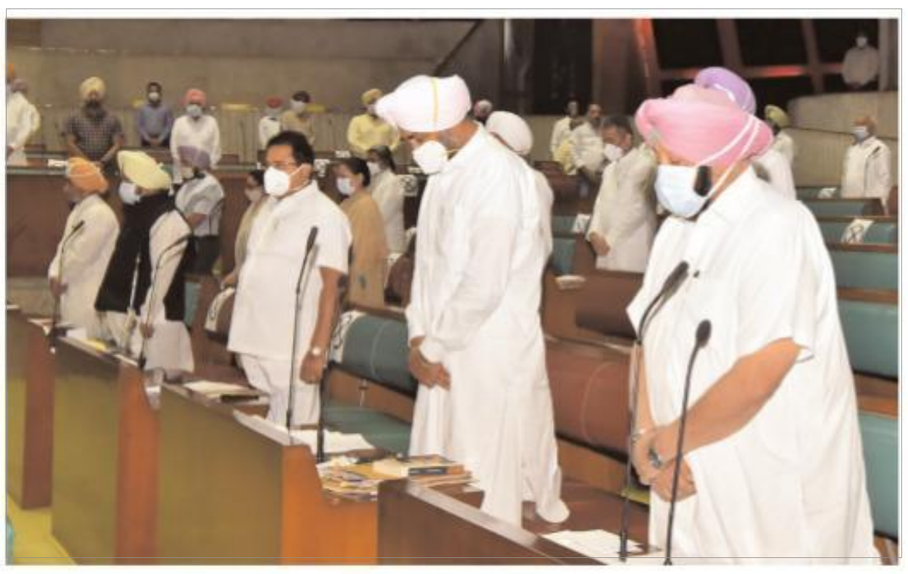
CM Amarinder is to move a Bill in the House today to negate the Centre's 'anti-farmers' agri laws

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 19 OCTOBER

On the first day of the special Assembly session convened to counter the Centre's farm laws, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Monday led the House in paying homage to all farmers who have lost their lives during the ongoing agitation in protest against the Narendra Modi government's "draconian" agricultural laws.

The House was adjourned for an hour after paying tributes to Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh Sandhu of Tarn Taran, lance naik Karnail Singh, besides freedom fighters Mahinder Singh, Sardar Singh, Rai Singh Patanga and Hemraj Mittal, who passed away recently. The session resumed around noon but was adjourned for the day after adopting a resolution to extend the duration of the special session by a day.

The Punjab Cabinet on Sunday authorised Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh to introduce the Bill to counter the Centre's three "anti-farmers" agri laws. It would be presented in the House for approval on Tuesday.



Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh and other legislators paying homage to the farmers, who lost their lives during the ongoing agitation in protest against the Centre's farm laws, on the first day of special session of the state Assembly on Monday. SNS

The Punjab government had last Wednesday decided to convene a special session of the Punjab Assembly on 19 October "to bring in legislation to counter the dangerous anti-farmer farm laws of the Central government".

The CM had earlier announced that his government will fight the "anti-federal" and "vicious" farm laws tooth and nail through legislative, legal and other routes. He had said some days ago that he would call a special session of the Assembly to bring in necessary amendments to the state laws to "negate the dangerous impact of the central legislations, which are designed to ruin the farmers as well as the state's agriculture and economy".

Earlier in the day, the Shiromani Akali Dal and two Congress' Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) rode tractors to the Assembly but were stopped by police at a roundabout near the Assembly complex. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs came to the Assembly wearing black capes.

The AAP MLAs staged a dharna in the Well of the House, demanding copies of the Bill against the farm laws to be tabled in the Assembly. SAD leader Bikram Majithia told reporters that they chose a tractor as a vehicle associated with farmers to mark their protest against the farm laws. Before going into the House, Akalis burnt copies of farm laws outside the Assembly.

Meanwhile, the Punjab Congress's chief Sunil Jakhar said the Punjab Assembly should pass a unanimous resolution condemning the humiliating treatment meted out to the farmers representatives by the Modi government. "In doing so BJP has insulted not just the farming community but Punjab itself," he said in a tweet.

HP minister warns Cong leaders of legal action over Covid allegations

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 19 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Health and Family Welfare minister Rajeev Saizal on Monday asked the state Congress leaders to refrain from making "false accusations" against the health department on purchases during Covid-19 pandemic.

"If they continue with baseless allegations to mislead the public on the issue, the government will not hesitate to take legal action against them," he said.

Saizal said the recent allegations by former health and family welfare minister and senior Congress leader Kaul Singh Thakur against refilling of medical oxygen cylinders and purchase of pulse oximeters by the health department at higher rate during Covid-19 were totally false.

"Proper procedures were followed by the department at every step. The oximeters initially were purchased at higher rates because there were issues of availability, mobility etc during Covid lockdown. It was an extraordinary situation," he said.

The minister said the health department has the biggest responsibility in Covid-19, so the questioning is obvious. "However, the former health minister has spoken in public so irresponsibly, without facts. This creates an environment of doubt and unrest in public. The senior leader should not have done it," he said.

The Himachal health minister says the government had already admitted 'community spread' of coronavirus in the state

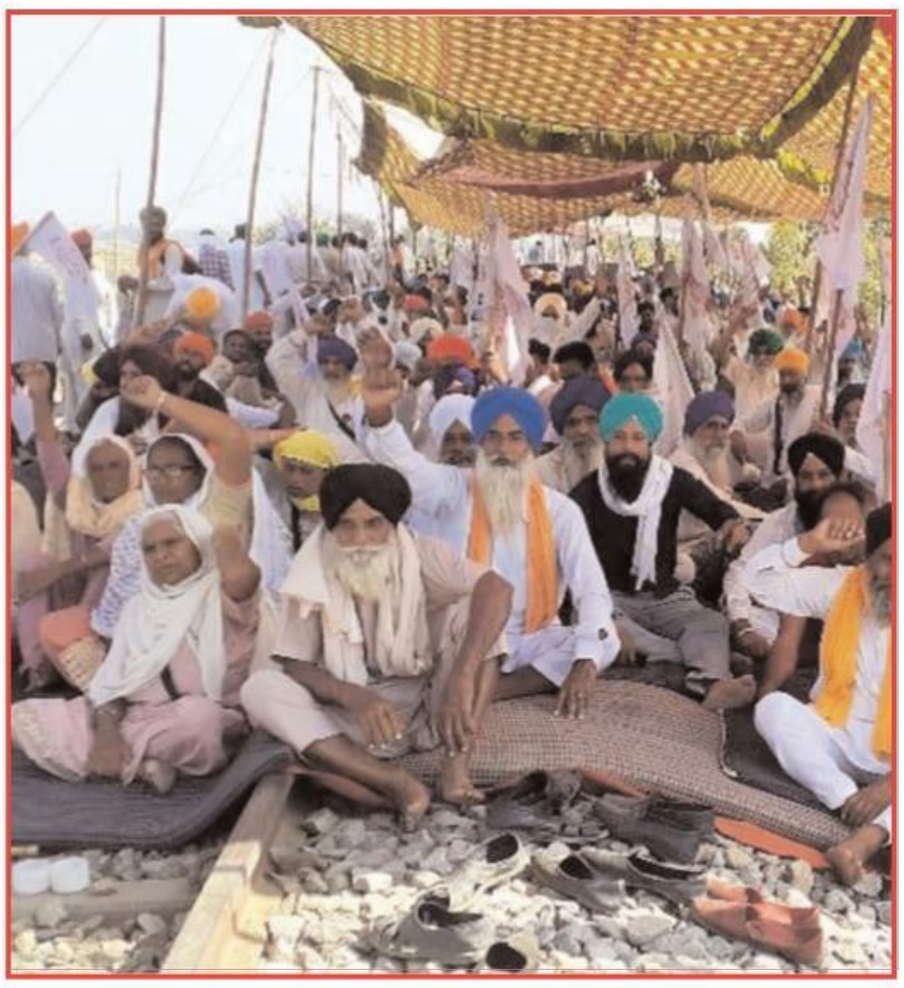
Saizal said the inquiry into the incident of alleged suicide by Covid patient in Deen Dyal Upadhyaya (DDU) hospital was complete and action is being taken into it. Asked that the Medical Superintendent of DDU hospital was on leave those days and is still being charged sheeted, the minister said, " One can't shun responsibility even if he or she is on leave. I am the health minister. If I am on leave, it does not mean, I am not responsible," he said.

The health minister said the 'community spread' is already there in Himachal Pradesh and the state government had admitted it during the Monsoon session of state assembly.

He said the state government has done good work during Covid-19. "The figures show it. At present there are 2640 active cases in Himachal, 263 deaths. The recovery rate is 84.5 per cent. The death rate of HP is 1.39 per cent, which is lesser than Chandigarh (1.52 %), Punjab (3.1 %), Uttarakhand (1.60 %) and J&K (1.5%)," he said. He said 99 per cent deaths due to Covid have occurred in co-morbid conditions in patients, and just one per cent is classic Covid death in HP.

Saizal said the graph of new Covid cases is likely to go down, given the situation. He said it is wrong to say that the testing is being reduced. "Right now 3100-3200 Covid tests are being done everyday in HP and the state government intends to increase them to 4000 per day," he said.

OUTCRY



Farmers block railway tracks during their 'Rail Roko' protest against Farm Laws 2020, in Amritsar on Monday IANS

Cong slams BJP for building its offices in HP amid Covid crisis

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 19 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Congress chief Kuldeep Singh Rathore on Monday raised objections on the construction of the ruling BJP's offices at the district level, saying that the party should instead help the people affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Addressing mediapersons in Shimla, Rathore said BJP national chief JP Nadda will be laying the foundation stones of district unit offices in Covid period when the state government was claiming that they were facing fund crunch.

"Congress wants to ask the party, though it is their internal matter to construct offices, as to from where they are getting money to construct the offices at a time when the state and Centre governments are, as per claims, didn't have enough funds," he added.

Rathore said COVID-19 lockdowns had left lakhs of people of the state unemployed while all sectors including small and medium industries had been badly affected.

The state government citing fund crunch had raised charges for electricity and water bills and didn't provide any relief to the common man or businesses.

But the party seemed to have become so rich that it was constructing lavish offices, he said, adding the BJP should instead have used the money to provide relief to needy people.

He questioned Nadda on the source of funds that will be used for construction of offices in Himachal and said BJP should reveal as to from where they had got funds that it had now become the richest party in the world.

"Only few businessmen and BJP have become richer in the Corona period while common man and businesses are facing cash crunch," he said.

He accused the BJP of using money power to suppress the voice of opposition and said the democracy and nation was in danger in BJP rule.

The party, as had been rightly pointed out by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, was using communalism and pseudo nationalism to further its interests and gain power in the country which was against democratic norms, he added.

State Congress chief further stated that all constitutional posts and offices were in danger in BJP rule and Congress would fight for saving democracy in the country as it had fought for the freedom of the country in the past.

He also raised questions on paper leak in recruitment of conductors in HRTC and said the state government was playing with the emotions of unemployed youth by failing to take strict steps to curb such malpractices.

'BJP building offices with workers' contributions'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 19 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh BJP general secretary Trilok Jamwal criticized state Congress chief Kuldeep Singh Rathore's statement on BJP offices and said the construction is being carried out with the contribution of party workers.

Jamwal said BJP in its national executive committee meeting in 2019 had decided to construct party district offices across the country and the work was now being carried out as per the decision.

"Congress party doesn't understand the value of party office for its workers as it was in the habit of occupying other properties to run its party work.

BJP has constructed its office in 1990 in Shimla while Congress used to run its office from private property which the party had to vacate on court orders," he added.

Durga Puja in Delhi to go online; home delivery of prasad, Covid-19 test for priests planned

PTI
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

Online darshan, home delivery of prasad and COVID-19 test for priests and cooks are some of the unique measures that Durga Puja organisers in the national capital have come up with to safely host the festival in the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic.

Some organisers said they will rope in two priests to avoid any last-minute scrambling if the main priest gets infected with COVID-19, while others plan to maintain a record of visitors for easy contact-tracing.

Most Durga Puja committees in Delhi have decided not to allow entry of people and limit physical darshan to their members only.

The Chittaranjan Park Kali Mandir Society, which organises one of the biggest Durga puja festival in Delhi, has decided not to allow entry of general public to the temple premises this year due to COVID-19.

It has tied up with a DTH service provider and a local cable operator so that devotees can have a darshan of Durga idol from their houses. The temple society also has plans to facilitate online darshan on its Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Most Durga Puja committees in Delhi have decided not to allow entry of people and limit physical darshan to their members only. The Chittaranjan Park Kali Mandir Society, which organises one of the biggest Durga puja festival in Delhi, has decided not to allow entry of general public to the temple premises this year due to COVID-19.

"Around 2.5 lakh people attend our Durga Puja. Due to COVID-19, we have decided to organise the festival in a simple manner this year. Only a few members of our management committee will be in attendance.

"We have hired certified cook to prepare prasad and he has to show negative COVID-19 report. As devotees will not be allowed, we will deliver prasad at their doorsteps within a 2-km radius for which an agency has been engaged," Society Joint Secretary Prodip Ganguly said.

Ganguly said there will be live telecast of aarti and devotees can can offer 'pushpanjali' from their homes with all rituals being live streamed. The size of Durga idol this year is just 5 ft, against the usual 12 to 14 ft every year, he added.

Purbanchal Bangiyo Samiti, an umbrella body of 38 Durga puja committees in East Delhi, said only 10 members of each committee will be allowed to have darshan at a time and they have to register their entry to the pandal so that contact-tracing can be easy.

"In view of the pandemic, Durga idol will be worshipped in 13 temples while 12 committees will organise only 'Kalash' puja," Samiti General Secretary Mrinal K Biswas said, adding, "We have also decided to hire two priests due to COVID-19. If the main priest gets infected, the other can perform the puja."

He said social-distancing will strictly be adhered to and people without face masks won't be allowed entry to the premises while alcohol-based hand sanitisers would be available both inside and outside temples.

Delhi Durga Puja Charitable and Cultural Committee in Kashmiri Gate, which claims to be organising Durga puja in the city for 111 years, will conduct COVID-19 test on the six labourers engaged in building pandals.

Committee General Secretary Robin Bose said this time, they would conduct 'kalash' puja and entry of devotees will be very limited. The devotees will be encouraged to download the Aarogya Setu app in their mobile phones, he added.

Mata Mandir Sarbojanin Durga Samity will also not allow "outsiders" and only committee members will be permitted to the puja. Chief coordinator Debashis Saha said devotees can have darshan on the committee's Facebook page.

Meanwhile, a meeting of Durga puja committees of Chittaranjan Park, Greater Kailash 1 and 2, Alaknanda amd Kalkaji was convened by Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj at CR Park Kali Mandir on Monday and it was that Durga puja celebrations in these areas will be suspended this year due to the pandemic.

Chittranjan Park Kali Mandir Society's joint secretary said that those pujas, which used to be held in housing societies and streets every year, will not be held this time.

DU admission: Over 9,700 students apply under second cut off, 2,580 applications approved

PTI
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

Over 9,700 students applied for admission in undergraduate courses at Delhi University on the first day of admission under the second cut off list on Monday, according to officials.

"A total of 9,785 students applied today. So far, 2,580 admissions have been approved out of which 2,602 students have paid the fees," a senior varsity official said.

The Delhi University released its second cut-off list on Saturday with admissions to many courses being closed and some programmes seeing a minor decline in the score required for admission.

Lady Shri Ram College for Women had pegged 100 per cent score for three courses -- BA (Honours) Psychology, BA (Honours) Political Science and BA (Honours) Economics.

Seats are available under the three courses with aspirants requiring 99 per cent for BA (Honours) Economics and 99.75 per cent for both BA (Honours) Psychology and BA (Honours) Political Science.

Similarly, BA (Honours) Journalism, which was available at a cut-off of 99.50 per cent at LSR, is available at 99.25 per cent in the second list.

BA (Honours) English course is not available at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Hindu, IP College for Women, Kalindi, Kamala Nehru, Rajdhani, Satyawati (Evening), Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Sri Aurobindo colleges.

Admission to BA (Honours) Economics is closed at Daulat Ram, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce (DCAC), Deshbandhu, BR Ambedkar, Gargi, Kamala Nehru, Kirori Mal, Maitreyi, PGDAV and Shivaji colleges.

Admission to BA (Honours) History is not available in Bharati College, DCAC, BR Ambedkar, Hansraj, Hindu, IP College for Women, Kamala Nehru, Kirori Mal, Laxmibai, Maitreyi, Motilal Nehru and Rajdhani colleges.

The course is available at LSR at a minimum score of 99 per cent, while the cut-off for the course at Miranda House and Ramjas stands at 98.50 per cent and 97.50 per cent respectively.

Shri Ram College for Commerce (SRCC) also has seats available under BA (Honours) Economics and B Com (Honours). The college has not effected a decline in the cut-off for BA (Honours) Economics from the first list and is still at 99 per cent, while the cut-off for B Com (Honours) has dropped by one per cent from 99.50 per cent to 98.50 per cent.

Hindu College has kept the cut-off for BA (Honours) Philosophy unchanged at 97 per cent.

The first cut-off list was released on October 10. Almost 50 per cent of the seats have been filled under the first list. The varsity has 70,000 undergraduate seats.

The admissions under the second list will commence on Monday 10 am onwards and will end on October 21. This year, the admission process is completely being held online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

How to completely destroy an economy and infect the maximum number of people really quickly.

CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI
TARGETING THE CENTRE OVER THE HANDLING OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE ECONOMY

Changes being made in all sectors to ensure country's growth: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MYSURU, 19 OCTOBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said necessary changes are being made in every sector to ensure growth and to make this decade India's.

He also said that efforts are being made at all levels to make the country a global hub for higher education and its youth competitive.

"In the last six to seven months you might have seen the speed and the ambit of reforms is increasing.Whether it is agriculture, space, defence, aviation or labour. In every sector necessary changes are being made for growth," Modi said.

Addressing the centenary convocation of the University of Mysore through video conference, he said it is being being done for the sake of crores of youth in this country and to make this decade India's.

"This decade can be India's only when we make our foundations strong. This decade has brought an immense opportunity for young India," he added.

Modi said the all-round reforms that are taking place in the country now, have never happened in the past, and even if decisions were made in the past they were restricted to any one sector, leaving aside others. Noting that multiple reforms in multiple sectors have taken place in the last six years, he said if national education policy is ensuring the future of education sector, agriculture related reforms are empowering farmers, while that of labour, giving thrust to growth, security of both labourers and industries.

"While the direct benefit transfer has brought in reforms to public distribution system, with Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) home buyers have got protection.

If GST was brought in to save the country from the web of taxes, faceless assessment was brought in for the sake of tax payers," he said, also noting the benefits of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and FDI reforms. Karnataka Governor and Chancellor of Universities in the State, Vajubhai Vala and Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwath Narayan were present on the occasion.

The PM pointed out that consistent efforts have been made so that the country's education system helps students move ahead amid the needs of the 21st century, especially in the higher education sector where focus has been on infrastructure development to structural reforms.

"Efforts are being made at all levels from qualitative to quantitative, to make India a global hub for higher education and to make our youth competitive," he said, citing the increase in the number of IITs, IIITs, IIMs and AIIMS in the last six years.

Efforts being put into the higher education sector are not just limited to opening new institutions, but also towards reforms in governance and ensuring gender and social participation, by giving them more autonomy, he further said, adding that reforms in medical education are aimed at bringing in transparency.

This decade can be India's only when we make our foundations strong. This decade has brought an immense opportunity for young India

Lauding the University of Mysore and its rich legacy, Modi remembered the erstwhile Maharaja of Mysuru Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and Diwan Sir M Visvesvaraya for their vision behind it.

Recalling that Wadiyar during the first convocation of the University had spoken about seeing more women graduates, he said, today the gross enrollment ratio of girls is more than boys in all levels of education, even in the areas of innovation and technology, relating to higher education.

Chirag slams BJP leaders for calling LJP 'vote katua'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, 19 OCTOBER

LJP chief Chirag Paswan on Monday voiced strong displeasure over the use of term 'vote katua' for his party by some BJP leaders to keep Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar happy, and asserted his party will win more seats in the Bihar assembly polls than the JD(U).

'Vote Katua' is an expression used in the Hindi heartland for political parties and candidates in elections who are in the fray to eat into the votes of others without benefiting themselves.

"I am pained at the term vote katua being used against the LJP. They should apply their own wisdom and not use such words just to make somebody happy.

"I dont mind whatever BJP leaders say, because I know they are just putting words to the chief ministers thoughts, the 37-year-old son of Ram Vilas Paswan, one of the foremost Dalit leaders and the LJP founder, told PTI-Bhsha.

Several top BJP leaders including Union Minister Prakash Javadekar and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi have called LJP a 'vote katua' in the Bihar election fray.

They have also accused him of creating confusion in the minds of the electorate by claiming close proximity to senior BJP leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Chirag, who has the responsibility of carrying his father's impressive political legacy forward, has repeatedly professed his unflinching loyalty to Modi, saying he was like 'Hanuman' to the Prime Minister.

Urging more respect from the BJP towards his late father and former Union minister, he said they should not use such terms for a party built painstakingly by somebody who was their colleague in the government just until 11 days ago.

TENDER

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

The Executive Engineer,HP.PWD. Division Sarkaghat H.P. on behalf of Governor of HP.invites the item rate bids,in electronic tendering system,for construction of each of this following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HP.PWD.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	EMD	Cost of tender	Time limit	Eligible class of contractor.
1	Construction of Chamanu Batoh via Maira Kushari Road Km. 0/0 to 6/0 (SH:- Providing and laying Prime Coat Tack Coat 20mm permix carpet and seal coat in Km. 0/0 to 1/0	667801	13400	350	Two Months	Class-D
2	Construction of Rohan Tikkari Baggi Khudi Khahan Bhadroi Road Km. 0/0 to 6/0 (SH:- Providing and laying G-III 30mm Bituminous concrete and v- shape drain at Km. 0/0 to 1/0) WP	1510778	31000	500	Two Months	Class-D
3	Construction of Nai More to Upper Barot Badoi Road Km. 0/0 to 3/500 (SH:- Providing and laying WBM G-II and mettalling at Tarring at Km. 0/200 to 1/0) SCSP	734775	15000	350	Two Months	Class-D
4	Construction of Gang Hut Nagla to Thana Road Km. 0/0 to 1/500 (SH:- Mettalling at Tarring and V- shape drain at Km. 0/0 to 1/500) SCSP	1248096	15000	350	Two Months	Class-D

1. Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement: **30.10.2020**

2.Cost of Bid Form:- As Shown against work above (non-refundable)only in form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer,HP.PWD. Sarkaghat, payable at Sarkaghat.

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

Non-registered bidders may submit bids,however,the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

3.Submission of Original Documents:-The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand draft towards the cost of bid document pay able at Sarkaghat (b) Earnest Money - indicated in Schedule F (FDR duly pledged in favour of Executive engineer HPPWD Sarkaghat (c) Contractor Registration - Gen. Rule Sr. No. 23 and 26.3 (d) GST Registration- Refer Gen. Rule Sr. No. 21 and 26.4 (e)Labour License (f) Permanent Account No. (PAN No) (g) Employees Provident Fund Number (h) Proof of Mandatory Machinery Tool and Plant as per Gen Rules 25 and Schedule F Sr. No. 6. 19 (i) Similar nature ofWork done Certificate on prescribed format given in bidding Document without liquidate. (j)Work in hand Certificate on prescribed format given in bidding Document without as per General Rule 19. (k) List of Both Gazttedand non Gaztted officer HPPWD employees related to him (General Rule 19) An affidavit that information furnished with the bid (Name of work) is correct in all respect (l) Affidavit regarding no litigation with the department. (m) An affidavit that the contractor has not more than two work in (General Rule No. 28.1) (Bidder should must be uploaded working programme. (n) form No.8 duly signed by contractor with bid document as per provisions of general rule No-27 (o) Any other information bidder / firm may like to be provide. (p) Affidavit regarding seen the site as per general rules and direction No. 29 (q) The radius distance of hot mix plant to site of work should be within 25 Km. (r) Those contractor who are having requisite machinery such as paver hot mix plant and vibratory road Roller etc. on production of those documents on BC only works. The contractor should have completed the similar nature/ double lane standard road work not less than 40% of estimated cost with Executive Engineer HP.PWD. Sarkaghat prior to the time of opening of technical qualification, failing which the bids will be declared non responsive. Financial turnover for the last five years duly certified by the chartered Accountant be uploaded 9Condition for more than (Fifty Lakh) only.

4.Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: w.e.f. 30.10.2020 at 11:00 A.M. to 10.11.2020 up to 11.00 A.M.

The site for the work is available.

5. Only online submission of bids is permitted,therefore:bids must be submitted online on website http://hptenders.gov.in.The bids shall be opened on 10.11.2020 at 11:30 A.M. in the office Executive Engineer,HP.PWD.Division Sarkaghat,HP. by the authorizedofficer. In the interest of tenders are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified,the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

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

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

8. The bidder shall submit the details of HMP & others machinery required for tarring along with Bid.

Executive Engineer,
Sarkaghat Division
HP.PWD.Sarkaghat.
For behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

3772/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

NORTHERN RAILWAY
(E-Tender Notice)

The Sr Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites online e-tender through website https://ireps.gov.in, for the parking contracts, for the period of 3 (Three) Years, to be closed on 11.11.2020 at 15:00 hrs, at the following stations/locations:

SN	Name of work with its location / Railway Station	Advertise Value/Reserve Price of one year in (Rs)	Cost of Tender document & 18% GST (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs)	Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen
1	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Bahadurgarh Railway Station (BGZ), "B" Category, with measuring an area of 711 sq mtrs	8,17,272/-	3,540/-	49,100/-	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking93-2020
2	Parking contract of Car at Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Station (DEE), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 1500 sq mtrs	25,30,656/-	5,900/-	1,51,900/-	https://ireps.gov.in/ tender no: Parking94-2020

*Applicable GST and TCS has to be paid by licensee extra, over and above the Advertise value/Reserve Price/license fee. 2280/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM.	PROVIDING ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHT ON FARRUKH NAGAR JATAULI ROAD VIA MAHSANA ROAD AT FARUKH NAGAR IN DISTRICT GURUGRAM. + 2 OTHER WORKS	17.10.2020 02.11.2020	69.44 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_129751_2 + 2 OTHER	Pwd-eeed-gurgaon@hry.nic.in 0124-2320874
2	PWD B&R, AMBALA	CONST. OF ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE / V.V PATES WARE HOUSE FOR 4000 UNITS IN MINI SECTT COMPLEX AT JAGADHRI IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTT. (PDG EI). + 4 OTHER WORKS	21.10.2020 04.11.2020	168.27 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2630877 pwd-eeed-ambala@hry.nic.in
3	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, ROHTAK	RE-CONSTRUCTION V.R. BRIDGE AT RD 5200 OF JLN FEEDER.	CLOSING DATE 27.10.2020	2.01 CRORE	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812111077 xenfdirtk@gmail.com
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	PROVIDING E.I. IN HANDI CHOUPAL ISRANA, C.C. BINJHOL, BAZIGAR CHOPAL ASSAN KALAN, 5 NO. SHOP EAST UGRAKHARI, 5 NO. SHOP WEST UGRAKHARI, S.C. C.C. RAJAPUR DISTT. PANIPAT. + 2 OTHER WORKS	16.10.2020 26.10.2020	10.69 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	98020-58718 / 0171-2980510/ prexeengelec.amb@hry.nic.in
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	PDG E.I. IN VILLAGE KNOWLEDGE CENTER V. BAPOLI, JAMANA, UJHA (BAPOLI), BUANA LAKHU, DIDWARI, ISRANA, NAULTHA DUNGRAN, PUTHAR (ISRANA), GANJBAR & RAJAPUR (PANIPAT). PANIPAT + 1 OTHER WORK	16.10.2020 05.11.2020	14.32 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	98020-58718 / 0171-2980510/ prexeengelec.amb@hry.nic.in
6	PANCHAYATI RAJ SIRSA	CONST. OF ANGANWARI CENTRE AT VILLAGE MITHANPURA BLOCK ELLENABAD DISTRICT. SIRSA	17.10.2020 23.10.2020	8.83 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-247479
7	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	PDG E.I. IN COMMUNITY CENTRE & TOILET AT VILLAGE GONDAR DISTT. KARNAL (KDB SCHEME) + 1 OTHER WORK	16.10.2020 26.10.2020	3.40 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	98020-58718 / 0171-2980510/ prexeengelec.amb@hry.nic.in
8	HEALTH DEPARTMENT CIVIL SURGEON FATEHABAD	E TENDER MEDICINE / MEDICINE, SURGICAL ITEMS, LAB ITEMS, DENTAL ITEMS ETC	09.10.2020 02.11.2020	EMD 2 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Dr. Sangeeta Mehta & Dr Sunita Sokhi (Dy Civil Surgeon Fatehabad)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

DIVINE CIRCLE

A shopkeeper arranges idols during the Navaratri festival in Chennai on MOnday. AFP

Kerala HC restraints Customs from arresting Sivasankar till 23 Oct

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOCHI, 19 OCTOBER

The Kerala High Court on Monday directed the Customs Department not to arrest M Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to Kerala CM, till 23 October in connection with the case registered by it.

The court will consider his anticipatory bail applications in cases registered by the Customs department as well as that by the Enforcement Directorate(ED) on 23 October.

The single bench of Justice Ashok Menon, who heard the plea, also directed the Customs to file a counter affidavit in the petition.

P Vijayabhanu, counsel for Sivasankar submitted that his client is willing to appear before any investigating authority. He pleaded the court to protect Sivasankar from arrest. Senior Advocate K Ramkumar, who appeared for the Customs, opposed this plea and quoted Supreme Court judgment that economic offences has to be treated differently.

P Vijayabhanu, counsel for Sivasankar submitted that his client is willing to appear before any investigating authority

Sivasankar developed uneasiness while being taken to the Customs office for questioning in connection with the smuggling of 1.90 lakh dollars abroad by gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh. He was hospitalised with chest pain and backpain and been under observation since Friday.

Sivasankarhad on Monday moved a petition seeking anticipatory bail in the case registered by the Customs in relation to the gold smuggling case. Earlier, the High Court had granted him interim protection from arrest till 23 October in the case registered by the Enforcement Directorate(ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Kamal Nath slammed for calling Imarti Devi an 'item'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 19 OCTOBER

The ruling BJP in Madhya Pradesh which is getting adverse reports about many of its candidates in its internal surveys regarding the upcoming bye-elections on 28 Assembly seats, received a shot in the arm on Sunday, as Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath allegedly called state Cabinet minister Imarti Devi an 'item' during an election rally at Dabra in Gwalior-Chambal region.

Extremely adept at immediately and effectively mobilizing public opinion on issues, the BJP did not delay in mounting scathing attacks from all corners on Nath and the Congress on this issue. MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan sat on a 'maun upvaas' (silent fast) along with other BJP leaders and ministers at Bhopal on Monday in protest of Nath's use of words about a woman. After being on silent protest for two hours, Chouhan said Nath has crossed all limits of decency by calling Imarti Devi an 'item'. Chouhan also used the occasion of ongoing Navratri to further attack Nath and said that while people worship Goddess Durga and daughters during Navratri, the former Congress CM not only used derogatory words against a woman but also laughed disgracefully in public over her.

The BJP has lodged a formal complaint with the Election Commission (EC) against Nath and Imarti Devi is also likely to lodge a police complaint against Kamal Nath over the issue. At Indore, Congress turned BJP Rajya Sabha MP Joytiraditya Scindia observed a silent protest against Nath and Congress.

NCW seeks explanation from Nath

NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

The National Commission for Women on Monday sought an explanation from Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath for his "item" jibe against state minister Imarti Devi.

The NCW has also forwarded the matter to the Election Commission for necessary action. PTI

FATF to meet this week; Pak likely to remain on grey list

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

Pakistan is likely to remain on the 'grey list' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which will hold its virtual meeting from 21-23 October, sources said today.

Pakistan has failed to fulfil six key obligations, including action against two of India's most wanted terrorists Maulana Masood Azhar and Hafiz Saeed, and the abrupt disappearance of more than 4,000 terrorists from its official list.

The global watchdog is expected to announce its decision on Pakistan after a thorough review of Islamabad's performance in fulfilling its global commitments and standards in the fight against money laundering and terror financing.

The FATF had given Pakistan a total of 27 action plan obligations for completely checking terror financing of which it has so far cleared 21 but failed in some of the key tasks, sources said. The action plan obligations on which Pakistan has made little progress during the last six months include action against all UN-designated terrorists.

Besides, the FATF has strongly noted the fact that there was a sudden disappearance of the names of more than 4,000 terrorists from its original list of 7,600 of terrorists under Schedule IV of its Anti-Terrorism Act.

Sources explained that the threat of being black-listed by FATF would always continue to hang over Pakistan until it takes verifiable action against terror financing.

The Samajwadi government had made the 1090 helpline a shield for the protection of women but the BJP made it ineffective

SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT AKHILESH YADAV

DESCRIBING THE MISSION SHAKTI LAUNCHED BY THE YOGI ADITYANATH GOVERNMENT AS FALSE PROPAGANDA

J&K cricket association scam: ED questions Farooq Abdullah

Opposition parties describe move as witch-hunt and political vendetta by the Modi government

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 19 OCTOBER

Within days of the former Chief Minister and sitting MP Farooq Abdullah playing a key role in forging unity among the Kashmir mainstream political parties to struggle for restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned him in connection with the alleged irregularities amounting to Rs 43 crores in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

Six mainstream political parties had last week met at the Srinagar residence of Abdullah to form the People's Alliance.

Abdullah was summoned to the ED office in Srinagar's Raj Bagh for questioning.

Abdullah was president of the JKCA between 2001 and 2011, when the alleged financial irregularities took place.

After more then six hours of questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Dr Farooq Abdullah told media persons in the evening that the battle to restore Articles 370 and 35A will continue, whether "I am alive or dead".

He said restoration of these Articles is the struggle of people of J&K and not my alone.

Abdullah said the ED did its job and I did mine. The court will give its verdict on the case once it is put there by the ED.

Earlier, reacting to the summons by the ED, the Opposition parties have described it a "witch hunt" and "political vendetta" by the Modi government at the Centre.

Former CM Omar Abdullah, who is son of Farooq Abdullah, in a tweet described the ED action as "nothing less than political vendetta coming days after the formation of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration". The party will be responding to this ED summons shortly, he added.

It is learnt that Abdullah was served the summons in the morning and he appeared before the investigators in the ED office. His statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, reports said.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti too sharply reacted to these developments by tweeting; "ED's sudden summon to Farooq sahab displays the extent of Government of India's nervousness about mainstream parties in J&K fighting as one unit. Also reeks of political vendetta & wont in the least blunt our collective resolve to fight for our rights".

A former minister, Naeem Akhtar tweeted: "This is sheer intimidation. Funny that even after arresting so many of us, imprisonment of an entire population, unleashing of all laws and brute force and failure in breaking people of Kashmir you still believe such actions will break us. With Dr Abdullah."

Peoples Conference leader, Sajad Lone, who is also part of the newly formed alliance, tweeted; "What a sorry state of affairs. Dr Farooq sahib summoned by ED. Reeks of vendetta. Contrary to what they want coercively achieve this will certainly have the opposite impact.

Meanwhile, the National Conference called it a "witch hunt" and said the ED summons to Farooq Abdullah was clearly "the result of the unity that Dr Sahib has been able to forge among mainstream political parties in J&K".

"The BJP after failing to politically fight Farooq Abdullah has resorted to employing its agencies for the task".

"This is the price one faces when opposed to BJP's ideology and divisive politics," a party spokesperson said in a statement.

"Recent history is a witness to how BJP has been employing coercive and intimidative measures through various departments to target opposition leaders across the country. The recent ED summon to Dr Farooq Abdullah is a case in point."

The National Conference also questioned the timing of the investigation.

"His previous summons were just before 5 August last year (when J&K's special status was abrogated) and today's summon comes within days of forming the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration of which Dr Farooq Abdullah has taken a lead," the statement added.

"Dr Farooq Abdullah continues to maintain his innocence and will cooperate with the authorities in what is nothing but a witch hunt."

Meanwhile, reports claimed that the ED summoned him for questioning after taking cognisance of a FIR filed by the CBI in the case in July last year.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) granted Rs 112 crore to the JKCA between 2002 and 2011 to develop the sport.

The CBI had alleged that around Rs 43 crore of this amount was siphoned off. The CBI took over the case from the state's vigilance department in 2015 following an order by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

Assam-Mizoram border clashes: Sonowal briefs PM

NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

With tension running high along the Assam-Mizoram border following clashes, the Centre on Monday asked both the state governments to resolve their border dispute amicably and restore peace, officials said.

The chief ministers of Assam and Mizoram, Sarbananda Sonowal and Zoramthanga, also discussed the issue and agreed to work for bringing peace in the violence-hit area. Sonowal also briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and apprised them of the steps taken to restore peace along the Assam-Mizoram border. PTI

Value Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. & others
CIN No. U45200DL2006PTC154261
website: http://orbitinformatics.in/
A-13A, 3rd Floor, Green Park Main, New Delhi-110016
Tele No. 011-41682795, 011-26567665

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Value Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. **("Company")** is undertaking development of a Commercial Colony **("Colony")** on **land measuring 3.4375 acres, Sector — 104, Gurugram under the provisions of Licence No. 17 of 2013 dated 17.04.2013,** granted by Director, Town and Country Planning Department, Haryana **("DTCP")**.

And Whereas, the Company has not booked /allotted / entered into purchase agreement / buyer agreement with any individual/ person/entity w.r.t. any unit in the colony and hence there are no existing allottees in the colony.

And Whereas, the existing approved building plans vide **DTCP Memo no. ZP-890/AD (RA)/2014/4884 dated 10.03.2014 ("approved building plans")** have now been in- principally approved for revision vide **DTCP memo no. ZP-890/AD(RA)/2020/17632 dated 07.10.2020 ("revised building plans")** However, before grant of final approval to the revised building plans, DTCP has directed the Company to seek objection, if any/consent from the existing allottees on the revised building plans.

Accordingly vide this Public Notice, objections, if any / consent is hereby invited from the existing allottees on the proposed revision of the building plans. For this purpose, a copy of the i) earlier approved building plans; ii) in-principle approved revised building plans & iii) super-imposed plans showing changes in earlier approved building plans, have been hosted on the Company website i.e. http://orbitinformatics.in/ A hard copy of the same is also kept at a) in the office of The Senior Town Planner, Gurugram at HSVP Complex, Sector-14, Gurugram; b) in the office of the undersigned & c) at the site office for perusal of the existing allottees.

All the existing allottees, if any, having any objection on the proposed revision of the building plans may file his/her/their objection/consent in the office of the Senior Town Planner, Gurugram or in the office of the undersigned within 30 days of the publication of this Public Notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections / consented to the proposed revision of the building plans.

For Value Buildcon Pvt. Ltd.
Authorized Signatory

Date: 16.10.2020
Gurugram

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs Northern Region

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of M/s Ramsons Organics Limited having its registered office at A-12, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018

Applicant

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting/ Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 07th September, 2020 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change / status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director, B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi- 110003, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and on behalf of the Ramsons Organics Limited
Yogesh Sachdeva
Managing Director
00171917
A-12, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs Northern Region

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of M/s MAG Infrastructure Limited having its registered office at A-12, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018

Applicant

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting/ Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 07th September, 2020 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change / status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director, B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and on behalf of the MAG Infrastructure Limited
Yogesh Sachdeva
Director
00171917
A-12, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018

JKPCC protests against proposed levying of property tax

JAMMU, 19 OCTOBER

The J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Monday took out a protest march against the proposed levying of property tax in Jammu and Kashmir and also demanded removal of toll plazas that have been set up on many roads. Police foiled the attempt of Congress activists to march towards the Tawi Bridge that links the old and the new parts of the city.

Led by the JKPCC Vice-President Raman Bhalla, they also demanded restoration of statehood of J&K and roll back on various other taxes. JKPCC leaders, Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney and Chaudhary Gharu Ram also participated in the protest march that started from the party headquarters at the Residency Road.

Congress activists accused the BJP of unleashing fresh taxes in Jammu and Kashmir amidst worst economic crises in the country apart from Covid-19 crisis and unprecedented price hike. SNS

SEARCH FOR MISSING

SUMITRA

General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely:** Sumitra, **W/o:** Amjad Ali, **R/o:** H.No. 773, Shanti Samiti, Kusth Ashram, Tahirpur, Delhi, **Age:** About 26 Years , **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Blue Colour Suit-Salwar and Ladies Chappal in Feet with her **Son Name**: Nihar Ali, **Age:** About 5 Years and **Daughter Name**: Alisha, **Age**: About 8 years has been missing since 07.09.2020 from the her house. In this regard **DD No. 97-A, Dated 08.09.2020** has been lodged at **P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady with her son and daughter but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing lady with her son and daughter please inform the undersigned.

Phone: 011-24368638 and 24368641, Ext. 2101
Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/314/NE/2020

SHO
P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22583307, 22585985

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL

Sahiba

General public is here by informed that this girl namely Sahiba D/o Sadik R/o H.No. E-301, behind Chatai Wali Masjid, Janta Colony, Welcome, Delhi **Age :** About 16 years 6 months, **Complexion :** Fair, **Height :** 5', **Face :** Round, wearing pink colour kamij, black colour payjama and black colour jutti in feet, has been kidnapped since 17.06.2020. In this regard FIR No. 269/20 dated 19.06.2020 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Welcome, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Fax: 24368639,
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO - P.S. Welcome, Delhi
Tel. No. : 011-22822746

DP/242/NE/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

POOJA

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely**: Pooja **D/o** Subhash Chand **R/o** Jhuggi No. 4, AGCR Colony, Near Central School, Anand Vihar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 06.02.2015 from the area of P.S Anand Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 111/15 u/s 365 IPC dated 09.02.2015 has been registered at Police Station Anand Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 20 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion**: Fair, **Face:** Round **Built** : Normal, **Wearing**: Yellow colour frock suit and payjami & raxin chappal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Anand Vihar, Delhi, E-mail Id – cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Phone:
011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/239/SHD/2020

SHO
P.S. Anand Vihar, Delhi
Shahdara Distt., Delhi
Ph. No. 011-21210294, 21210296

A 'Fauzi' Durga Puja at home in Gujarat

RATHIN DAS
AHMEDABAD, 19 OCTOBER

Discipline, perfection, dedication, integrity and solidarity are some of the glorious principles followed by Indian armed forces. Adhering to same value system has empowered and enabled a 'Fauzi' couple to host a Durga Puja at their home in Ahmedabad, for six years in a row.

Retired Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter pilot Group Captain Subhashish Chatterjee and his wife Asmita have successfully transplanted their 'Fauzi' experience into devotion for goddess Durga.

Popularly known as the "Chatterjee barir pujo", this is Gujarat's only Durga Puja held at some one's home though there are dozens of other celebrations held by various Bengali clubs spread over many cities.

Though IAF fighter pilot Gp Capt Chatterjee (now retired) had always been in Durga puja committees of the eleven Air Force stations during his three-decade service, his wife Asmita got involved much more with the process "emotionally and physically".

Even after retirement and the family settling down here, Asmita Chatterjee continued to be involved with a Durga puja celebrated by some air warriors attached to a small IAF unit nearby. But, the venue was too far and remote for her to continue.

Thus, almost as an impulse, Asmita decided to hold the Durga Puja at her home despite family and elders reminding her about the strict and rigorous nature of the rituals regarding invocation of the deity symbolising universal power.

Once determined to host 'Maa Durga' at home, everything else became easy as many people, including neighbours of all communities and the Air Force Association (AFA) chipped in with logistics help.

"No discrimination, no gender inequality, no caste, creed or religion…it was an eye opener for me…", she recollected about her getting involved with Durga Pujas at Air Force stations all over India. But, this year was different, with the shadow of Covid-19 pandemic over every aspect of life. Biggest problem was getting the idol made as no artisans are coming from West Bengal.

Just then a facebook post by a 20-year-old student, Rahul Solanki came as a big relief for Asmita. She called him make the idol of Ganpati, just as a trial and it was a wonderful job done. The day Ganeshotsav was over, Asmita ordered Rahul to start making the idol of Durga and all others who accompany her.

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during forthcoming Festival Season, Railways have decide to run the following Festival Special trains as per details given below:-

09611/09612 Ajmer-Amritsar-Ajmer Express Special Train (Bi-Weekly) — 24 Trips

Train No. 09611 ARR.	Train No. 09611 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 09612 ARR.	Train No. 09612 DEP.
----	17:55	AJMER	10:00	----
14:45	---	AMRITSAR	----	14:30

Days of run : 09611 Ex. Ajmer from 22.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every **Thursday, Saturday** and **09612 Ex. Amritsar** from 22.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 on every **Tuesday, Thursday.**
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); **Stoppages:** Kishangarh, Jaipur, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Getor Jagatpura, Dausa, Bandikui Jn., Baswa, Rajgarh, Alwar Jn., Khairthal, Rewari, Bhiwani, Hisar, Sirsa, Kalanwali, Bhatinda, Gangsar Jaitu, Kot Kapura, Faridkot, Firozpur Cantt., Talwandi, Moga, Jagraon, Ludhiana Jn., Phagwara Jn., Jalandhar City and Beas Stations.

01115/01116 Pune-Gorakhpur-Pune Express Special Train (Weekly) — 12 Trips

Train No. 01115 ARR.	Train No. 01115 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 01116 ARR.	Train No. 01116 DEP.
----	16:15	PUNE	04:05	----
01:05	---	GORAKHPUR	----	15:30

Days of run : 01115 Ex. Pune from 22.10.2020 to 26.11.2020 on every **Thursday** and **01116 Ex. Gorakhpur** from 24.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every **Saturday.**
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); **Stoppages:** Daund Jn., Kopargaon, Manmad Jn., Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Jn., Varanasi Jn., Mau Jn. and Deoria Sadar Stations.

84406/84405 Anand Vihar (T)-Bhagalpur-Anand Vihar (T) Suvidha Superfast Exp. Spl. Train (Bi-Weekly) — 24 Trips

Train No. 84406 ARR.	Train No. 84406 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 84405 ARR.	Train No. 84405 DEP.
----	18:35	ANAND VIHAR (T)	15:25	----
15:00	---	BHAGALPUR	----	18:45

Days of run : 84406 Ex. Anand Vihar (T) from 23.10.2020 to 30.11.20 on every **Friday, Monday** and **84405 Ex. Bhagalpur** from 24.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 on every **Saturday, Tuesday.**
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); **Stoppages:** Kanpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna, Mokameh Jn., Kiul, Jamalpur and Sultanganj Stations.

84410/84409 New Delhi-Darbhanga-New Delhi Suvidha Superfast Spl. Exp. Train (Bi-Weekly) — 22 Trips

Train No. 84410 ARR.	Train No. 84410 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 84409 ARR.	Train No. 84409 DEP.
----	19:25	NEW DELHI	17:30	----
16:00	---	DARBHANGA	----	20:55

Days of run : 84410 Ex. New Delhi from 22.10.2020 to 26.11.2020 on every **Monday, Thursday** and **84409 Ex. Darbhanga** from 23.10.2020 to 27.11.2020 on every **Tuesday, Friday.**
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); **Stoppages:** Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Barabanki, Gorakhpur, Sewan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur Stations.

05045/05046 Gorakhpur-Okha-Gorakhpur Mail Express (Weekly) — 12 Trips

Train No. 05045 ARR.	Train No. 05045 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 05046 ARR.	Train No. 05046 DEP.
----	04:45	GORAKHPUR	19:25	----
03:55	---	OKHA	----	21:00

Days of run : 05045 Ex. Gorakhpur from 22.10.2020 to 26.11.2020 on every **Thursday** and **05046 Ex. Okha** from 25.10.2020 to 29.11.2020 on every **Sunday.**
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); **Stoppages:** Basti, Gonda, Barabanki, Badshahnagar, Aishbag, Kanpur Central, Etawah, Tundla Jn., Raja Ki Mandi, Agara Cantt., Dhaulpur, Morena, Gwalior, Jhansi, Bina, Mugaoli, Ashok Nagar, Guna, Ruthiyai, Biyavra Rajgarh, Maksi, Ujjain, Nagda, Ratlam, Godhra, Chhayapuri, Anand Jn., Ahemdabad Jn., Viramgam Jn., Surendernagar, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Dwarka Stations.

02883/02884 Durg-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Durg Superfast Express Special Train (Tri-Weekly) — 34 Trips

Train No. 02883 ARR.	Train No. 02883 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 02884 ARR.	Train No. 02884 DEP.
----	12:00	DURG	15:10	----
09:05	---	HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN	----	17:25

Days of run : 02883 Ex. Durg from 22.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every **Mon, Thu & Sat** and **02884 Ex. Hazrat Nizamuddin** from 23.10.2020 to 29.11.2020 on every **Tue, Fri & Sun.**
Accommodation : 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); **Stoppages:** Raipur Jn., Bhatapara, Bilaspur Jn., Pendra Road, Anuppur Jn., Shahdol, Umaria, Katni Murwara, Saugor and Jhansi Stations.

02165/02166 Lokmanyatilak (T)-Gorakhpur Lokmanyatilak (T) Superfast Spl. Exp. Train (Bi-Weekly) — 24 Trips

Train No. 02165 ARR.	Train No. 02165 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 02166 ARR.	Train No. 02166 DEP.
----	05:23	LOKMANYATILAK (T)	21:30	----
11:25	---	GORAKHPUR	----	15:45

Days of run : 02165 Ex. Lokmanyatilak (T) from 22.10.2020 to 30.11.2020 on every **Thursday, Monday** and **02166 Ex. Gorakhpur** from 23.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 on every **Friday, Tuesday.**
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); **Stoppages:** Thane, Kalyan Jn., Igatpuri, Nasik Road, Manmad Jn., Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Jn., Janghai Jn., Bhadohi, Varanasi Jn., Mau Jn. & Deoria Sadar Stations.

02530/02529 Lucknow Jn.-Patliputra-Lucknow Jn. Superfast Special Train (5 Days a Week) — 60 Trips

Train No. 02530 ARR.	Train No. 02530 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 02529 ARR.	Train No. 02529 DEP.
----	05:00	LUCKNOW JN.	02:35	----
14:50	---	PATLIPUTRA	----	15:50

Days of run : 02530/02529 Ex. Lucknow Jn./Ex. Patliputra from 20.10.2020 to 30.11.2020 on every **Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat.**
Accommodation : AC 3 Tier, Executive Chaircar, Chaircar & Second Seating (Reserved); **Stoppages:** Badshahnagar, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Ekma, Chhapra & Dighwara Stns.

04656/04655 Firozpur-Patna-Firozpur Express Special Train (Weekly) — 12 Trips

Train No. 04656 ARR.	Train No. 04656 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 04655 ARR.	Train No. 04655 DEP.
----	19:00	FIROZPUR	23:55	----
21:25	---	PATNA	----	23:25

Days of run : 04656 Ex. Firozpur from 23.10.2020 to 27.11.2020 on every **Friday** and **04655 Ex. Patna** from 24.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every **Saturday.**
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); **Stoppages:** Kot Kapura, Bhatinda, Rampura Phul, Barnala, Dhuri, Patiala, Rajpura, Ambala Cantt., Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Sultanpur, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations.

04084/04083 Delhi-Katihar-Delhi Express Special Train (Weekly) — 12 Trips

Train No. 04084 ARR.	Train No. 04084 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 04083 ARR.	Train No. 04083 DEP.
----	23:00	DELHI	22:50	----
22:00	---	KATIHAR	----	23:50

Days of run : 04084 Ex. Delhi from 23.10.2020 to 27.11.2020 on every **Friday** and **04083 Ex. Katihar** from 24.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every **Saturday.**
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); **Stoppages:** Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur Via Shahpur Patoree, Barauni, Begu Sarai, Khagaria, Naugachia & Katihar Stations.

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

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Turmoil in Pakistan

The coming together of political parties opposed to Prime Minister Imran Khan and by extension to the Army which supports him was on view at a massive protest rally organised in Karachi on Sunday, the second such event after an equally large rally in Gujranwala two days earlier. The 11-party alliance called the Pakistan Democratic Movement was formed last month and alleges that the present government was installed in 2018 after an election rigged by the Army and the country's intelligence agency. It wants Mr Khan to step down immediately. While exiled former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who played a key role in the formation of the alliance, has accused Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa of orchestrating his ouster in 2017 and rigging the election that saw Mr Khan assume power, his daughter, Maryam Sharif while maintaining that the opposition is not against the military, has refused to accept those "who crush ballots under their boots." In response to the first protest rally at Gujranwala, Mr Khan had promised he would get "tougher" on his opponents. A rattled establishment reacted by naming Maryam's husband Captain Mohammad Safdar in a First Information Report alleging sedition and inciting hate against the Army on Friday. He was accused of exhorting followers to topple the provincial and federal governments by force. The next day it slapped fresh charges against Safdar and Maryam - of violating the sanctity of the mausoleum of the country's founder, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, in Karachi. The latest reports from Pakistan say that Captain Safdar was arrested early on Monday from his hotel room. This may well lead to an escalation of the political turmoil for he is reported to have warned that his followers would besiege the home of senior Army officers if he was arrested.

The political discourse in the country has plummeted in recent weeks and especially after the Opposition decided to come together. At Sunday's rally, Maryam taunted Mr Khan that kids should keep away from the fight between elders, suggesting that the real battle was between her father and the Army establishment. Another Opposition leader, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, told General Bajwa to stay away from "foolish friends", suggesting that the Army had backed the wrong horse in its choice of Prime Minister. Just two years old, the government has faced increasing criticism for double digit inflation and negative growth, and for increasing intolerance towards critics and the Press. The government has also been accused of mismanaging the coronavirus epidemic, for while the case load is nowhere near India's, the government has been accused of both under-reporting numbers and inadequate testing. While the next elections are only due in 2023, it is clear the Opposition is not prepared to wait that long, nettled as it is by allegations of corruption against leaders of its two most prominent leaders, Mr Sharif and former President Asif Ali Zardari. In the ultimate analysis, though, Mr Khan's fate will rest in the hands of the powerful Army.

Performance rewarded

As politicians around the world fight against falling popularity ratings in the wake of ravages wrought by the coronavirus epidemic, the return to power of New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern with a record-breaking majority suggests that voters are prepared to reward good performance. The irony is that Mrs Ardern was trailing in opinion polls last February until she used her robust handling of the epidemic to force a change in her fortunes. While her Labour Party's 49.1 per cent vote share is its best performance since 1946, it also means Mrs Ardern will have few excuses to offer should her government fail to meet ambitious social and economic goals, which include affordable housing, an increase in minimum wage and creation of jobs in environmentally-friendly projects. Already, the severe lockdowns that New Zealand announced as part of Mrs Ardern's "go hard, go early" approach have resulted in plummeting revenues from tourism, an important component of the country's economy that once used to contribute about 10 per cent of GDP. Unemployment, currently at four per cent, is expected to double by next year. Mrs Ardern had assigned a whopping NZ$62 billion to bail out the economy and this money was mainly in the form of wage subsidies. With public debt having risen hugely as a result of this bailout package and with no plans for tax reforms, her government's options have shrunk significantly. Efforts to bring tourists back will have to be tempered by fears of a recurrence of the virus, now almost entirely under control in the country. Thus, even in victory, Mrs Ardern will have her hands full. Yet, New Zealanders can take pride in a Prime Minister who has been hailed around the world for her decisiveness and for the empathy she has displayed in dealing with challenging situations. Even as her peers around the world have pushed increasingly divisive agendas, she has displayed an inclusive approach to governance as in the wake of the horrific mosque attacks last year that saw a white supremacist gun down 51 Muslims. But for her handling of the aftermath, New Zealand could easily have been rocked by turmoil. The Kiwis can also take credit for having voted in the most diverse Parliament the country has ever had. More than half the MPs elected on Labour tickets are women, as many as 16 members of the 120-seat House hail from the indigenous Maori community, and the country for the first time has an MP of African origin. Adding to its diversity is the fact that 10 per cent of the House is made up of members of the LGBTQ+ community. These are significant achievements, and Mrs Ardern can expect the support of right-thinking people around the world as she sets about governing her country with compassion and a humane approach.

Catalyst for Change

In agriculture, AI can help us handle the complexity and uncertainty associated with production, making better sense of problems associated with epidemics, price volatility of raw materials and optimal usage of resources such as water, energy and fertilisers. It can empower farmers to deploy tailored interventions ranging from predictable crop planning to precision farming

The use of automation was one of the trends accelerated by the pandemic. The adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not limited to businesses, but economies have also turned their focus on building up their AI capabilities as a means to augment growth. Developed economies like the US, China and EU countries are already in the race. Now, India too is set to join them. In the last couple of years, the Government of India had established a Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and mandated the NITI Aayog to prepare a National strategy on AI with a view to leverage it for inclusive growth. However, AI adoption remained at a nascent stage in India. India's first Artificial Intelligence summit, Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE) 2020 has turned the possibility of AI adoption into an imminent reality.

Over the last couple of years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has changed from a technology with potential to an instrument of national importance across the world. The first demonstration of applications of AI happened in the consumer space, and significant economic value has been created, mainly through targeted advertising by internet giants in the US and China. According to a report by PwC, AI could contribute a whopping $15.7 trillion to global GDP by 2030. However, for India, AI is much more than just a piece of this pie.

For India, the real power of AI lies in its transformative potential to address massive societal challenges that were traditionally considered to be beyond the purview of computing. For example, India stands to lose $4.58 trillion before 2030 due to non-communicable diseases and mental health conditions. Cardiovascular diseases (accounting for $2.17 trillion) and mental health conditions (accounting for $1.03 trillion), will lead the way in economic loss. In rural India, approximately 70 per cent of households still depend primarily on agriculture for their livelihood, with agriculture having a shrinking share in GDP. In the transport sector, as per a Government of India report, road accidents led to 17 deaths on roads every hour in the year 2016, outlining the urgent need for smarter infrastructure.

Traditionally such problems require building massive hard infrastructure, which needs significant capital expenditure. Therefore, supply perpetually lagged demand, and vast inefficiencies were created. Today advanced research is shining a light towards a path to address such challenges through AI and computing to enable effective interventions that can grossly reduce capital expenditure.

ANUPRIYO MALLICK

The writer is with Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management (EIILM)Kolkata. The views are personal

Amidst the accelerated adoption of AI-based technologies, India seems to stand at the precipice of the fourth industrial revolution. The competitive advantage of low-cost labour may fade away in the near future as economies begin to reap the benefits of AI in the form of increased productivity and cost advantages, and become more profitable than labour. Hence, it would be a timely move for India to build its AI capabilities, lest the global digital divide widens even more and we are left behind.

A report titled "Rewire for Growth" by Accenture estimates that AI has the potential to add $957 billion to India's economy in 2035. As the post-Covid economy begins to rebuild itself, AI will present an opportunity to leapfrog by opening up newer sources of value and growth, beyond the physical limitations of capital and labour. However, AI elicits excitement and apprehension in equal measures. As much as AI and machine learning (ML) hold immense possibilities for the future of the economy, there are a number of issues and apprehensions surrounding it, and one of them is job displacement and by extension, unequal growth. The ongoing Covid 19 pandemic seems to generally have dispelled a few hardened organisational "myths" (for example, large scale work-from-home is not possible) and forced companies to relook at how they work and interact with key stakeholders. Companies, and subsequently employees have been compelled to innovate-on-the-go (for example, quickly shipping large screen monitors and printers to the home of employees before lockdowns closed the markets). Perhaps, it would not be an exaggeration to say that even the best drafted Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) for most companies were stretched to the limit and yet struggled to cope with the rapid and unpredictable evolution of the pandemic.

From the evidence available thus far, it seems apparent that the world will have to learn to adapt swiftly and significantly to a "new normal" of work to deal with the current (and potential future) phases of Covid-19. Automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) can play a very important role in defining this "new normal" of work in the Covid-19 (and post-Covid-19) world. More specifically, automation and AI can help companies infuse three key attributes of agility/flexibility, responsiveness, and frugality, enabling companies to better adapt to the fast changing situations in the times of Covid-19.

Non-communicable diseases like depression can be treated by achieving a better understanding of the brain and mind using AI and computing. With the rise of wearables, AI can allow individuals much greater control over their health and empower them to make better decisions about their well-being. In agriculture, AI can help us handle the complexity and uncertainty associated with production, making better sense of problems associated with epidemics, price volatility of raw materials and optimal usage of resources such as water, energy and fertilisers. It can empower farmers to deploy tailored interventions ranging from predictable crop planning to precision farming. In India's smart cities, AI algorithms in collision avoidance systems can give an approximate 1.5 seconds advance notice to drivers to avoid 93 per cent of road accidents.

AI, therefore, provides a strategic instrument in the hand of government to address monumental challenges of unprecedented scale, and an opportunity for global leadership by creating foundational technologies and digital infrastructure. India has been a pioneer in bringing power of technology at a population scale of 1.3 billion citizens with deployment of Aadhaar based services, highest mobile penetration, UPI and largest medical coverage programme in Ayushman Bharat. Now, with the power of AI, it can help the world reimagine implementation and delivery of public services in the 21st century.With the underlying values of social empowerment and inclusion, and building upon the data empowerment mind-set (Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas), India is now embarking on a bold and ambitious journey to bring the power of AI to billions of citizens of this planet and meaningfully improve people's lives. All this, while upholding the foundational principles of individual privacy, security and user consent. The first step in this direction was taken when, as part of the Union Budget 2020, the finance minister set aside $1.14 billion to invest in artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, machine learning (ML), and data analytics. It is important to mention that AI is not a silver bullet. Tackling these challenges requires a concerted, collaborative effort across all sectors of society - academia, the engineering community, government officials, policy-makers and other stakeholders.

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

It is now or never

In 2003, when much of the Thimphu valley we know today were paddy fields and our planners had a grand vision for developing the capital city, there was an obstacle. Planners needed landowners to contribute land to create public amenities. Some agreed. Others resisted tooth and nail. Those who agreed, especially farmers, were convinced by the greater good a planned city would bring. Those who did not were smarter. They knew the value of land and loopholes in the planning process. The city corporation, as it was known then, didn't have the legal teeth. Nor did the parent ministry, the works and human settlement ministry. Six Thimphu residents filed a case against the land-pooling plan. The High Court ruled that the concept was in violation of the law.

The urban development and municipal authorities suffered a blow to their credibility after losing the case. It was not a total loss. Planners became wiser. They wanted an Act to implement the grand Thimphu Structural Plan 2002-2027. Without legislation, it was difficult to push the rich and the powerful to agree to the concept of a well-planned, beautiful city, the capital city. Nearly two decades on, we are still talking about the same issue. In the meantime, the capital city has become the opposite of what many dreamt of. The grand master plan for the capital city, some concluded, is an example of policy implementation failure. Nothing much could be done. The plan based on what is called intelligent urbanism remained on papers. The works and human settlement ministry drafted a Bill in 2015, the Spatial Planning Bill. It was to guide urban development and prevent a planning disaster. It never made it to Parliament to

KUENSEL

become an Act providing planners with a basis to implement and stick by the grand plan envisioned. Without an Act, planning it is said, is sabotaged by the landowners. The landowners don't want to part with their land. The land is a valuable asset in the land-scarce capital city and those who know the loopholes resist urban planning, notwithstanding the general benefit. Today, some of the harshest critics of the ill-planned city are those who outrightly resisted the plan knowing there are loopholes. Without an Act, the thromde or the ministry couldn't do anything. The farmers believed in the Zhung (planners). Ironically, we needed an audit observation to point out the flaws. Still, a legal backing for planners is not ensured. The Spatial Planning Bill should have been an urgent Bill if our decision-makers were wiser. It was drafted in 2015. Even today, it is not sure if it has caught the attention of the policymakers. Such a Bill has become a priority. We see no reasons to stop planners from having legal backing in implementing their decisions. Thimphu, it is said, has been damaged beyond repair. We have several other towns. They should not repeat the Thimphu mistake. We see no reason why such a good idea should be stopped. An elected government need not worry about not making a populist decision for enacting an urban planning Act. For instance, in the capital city, only 2,557 people voted for the Thrompon whose decision affects more than 100,000 people in the capital city.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

Court's credibility at stake

SIR, This refers to the editorial 'Storm in court', (The Statesman, October 17). The judiciary has hit the headlines for the wrong reasons once again. In an unprecedented move, Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has written to Chief Justice of India SA Bobde, levelling serious allegations against NV Ramana, the senior most Supreme Court judge and some judges of the state high court.

He has talked of attempts to "destabilise" his government alleging that Justice Ramana is close to TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu. Reddy wrote to the CJI that "Justice Ramana has been influencing the sittings of the high court, including the roster of a few hon'ble judges and instances of a few matters important to Telugu Desam have been allotted to a few judges".

Chandrababu Naidu and his close associates are facing charges in connection with land deals. Last month the Andha Pradesh high court restrained the media from reporting about allegations of corruption in Amaravati. But the issues involved are far more serious than the corruption charges. Justice Ramana is likely to be the next CJI in April 2021, after Justice Bobde demits office. Mr Reddy's letter raises serious questions which can't be simply termed as an attempt to scandalise the judiciary. He is neither an activist like advocate Prashant Bhushan nor disgruntled judge like C S Kannan who levelled mindless allegations against several judges, inviting contempt proceedings from the Supreme Court. What is at stake is the very credibility of the judiciary as an institution.

Yours, etc., N Sadhasiva Reddy,
Bengaluru, 17 October.

WELCOME REPRIEVE

SIR, Upholding a 2011 order of the Madras High Court on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, the Supreme Court in a welcome verdict last Wednesday affirmed the right of passage in favour of the animals in the Nilgiri biosphere reserve which is the largest protected forest area in India, spanning Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. In the process, the apex court affirmed the order of closing all resorts etc. that are operating in the area.

The fight against human encroachment in protected ecosystems and in this case elephant corridors isn't a new one or even limited to the Nilgiris. In India,100 plus such corridors have been estimated of which 70 odd are used by elephants every day. For years, urbanisation encroached into these corridors. Mushrooming of hotels and resorts in the corridors had severally restricted the movement of animals and caused an increase in incidents of human-elephant conflicts.

As regards tte demolition of the commercial establishments including 39 hotel and resorts, the defendants argue that they are part of an eco-tourism effort and as such cause no major harm to the animals. Additionality, many have claimed that these resorts provide valuable employment in the region and promote development. However the court has rejected such claims and has made its stand clear: this is not a matter of development, sustainable or otherwise.This is matter of conserving an endangered species and 'man must make way for the elephant'.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das,
Kolkata, October 17.

WELCOME INITIATIVE

SIR, In a society where professional career counselling is a luxury and students remain befuddled with multitude of career options, the strengthening teaching-learning and results for States (STARS) project has come with a new ray of light.

The Ministry of Education recently took to Twitter to announce the STARS project envisaged under the national education policy (NEP) which aims to "revolutionise the educational kaleidoscope" by emphasising on local school governance, entrepreneurship, apprenticeship, internships and most importantly introducing a proper "career counseling programme".

CBSE and ICSE had made it compulsory for their schools to appoint a full-time professional counsellor, however students from various state boards remained deprived of any professional career guidance.

Students after 10th and 12th class exams are confused by varying opinions of their parents, teachers and the so-called counselling portals and apps and are unaware of the admission notifications of colleges of their interest, weightage of their extra-curricular certificates, proper approach for the career of their choice and viable alternatives. Career counseling will help these students make a judicious career choice. STARS will greatly benefit all sections of students.

Yours, etc., Aryaputra Parthasarathi Das,
Bhubaneswar, 17 October.

epaper.thestatesman.com

A battle won, a war lost?

HARSHA KAKAR

China waded into Ladakh hoping to regain its claim lines, involve India in endless rounds of negotiations and project its power across the globe. It sought to warn India that the PLA is powerful enough to inflict punitive damages in case India seeks to assert itself and refuses to accept Chinese supremacy. India's rejection of the Chinese-proposed Belt Road Initiative (BRI) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership was an affront to its status.

It was also irked by Indian political comments on regaining Aksai Chin and Gilgit Baltistan, which remain its weakest links in the Himalayas. The creation of Ladakh into a UT directly under the Centre enables enhancement of military deployment in the region. No nation that invests 60 plus billion dollars in developing a trade route (CPEC) would seek to place its very source at risk of intervention by hostile forces.

China is aware that India is not a current threat but could become one as its military power develops. Enhancement of infrastructure in Ladakh was a worry as it opened its strategic highways to Indian interdiction. Hence, it sought to grab territory that threaten its vulnerabilities before Indian military power grew.

It was also irked by growing Indo-US relations and the QUAD, which could pose a challenge to its sea lines of communication in the Indo-Pacific. The closer India moved to the US, the greater would be its role in the region, which could be a major challenge to China. If it subdues India it could place its terms and conditions on Indo-US ties.

Chinese operations in Ladakh were planned months in advance and had concurrence of its top leadership. Its soldiers came prepared for violence, within the agreements but armed with handheld weapons, which were first displayed at the clash at Galwan. It occupied areas north of Pangong Tso and in Depsang. It had planned to occupy its claim lines without firing a bullet.

iStock

China had not envisaged the speed with which India countered the aggression and deployed forces to block the advance. It had never expected Indian troops to display levels of violence which occurred at Galwan. Nor did it anticipate Indian quid pro quo actions by occupying heights on the Kailash Ridge, which placed their camps and deployment under Indian observation and possible interdiction in case China escalated the situation.

Indian political and economic countermeasures were also not part of their plans. While economic decoupling and banning of Chinese apps by India may not have a major impact, however, with other nations following suit, China has begun feeling the pinch. They have regularly sought to push India to reverse its measures, but to no avail. The global support India received has resulted in China being diplomatically sidelined.

Within India, possibly for the first time in decades, the support to Taiwan on its national day was resounding. In addition, there is the growing hatred for procuring anything even remotely linked to China forcing China to change labels stating, 'made in China' to 'made in PRC.' While the government, possibly for diplomatic reasons, continues with its One-China policy, there is a growing voice within India to discard this. At some stage, the government will be compelled to bend. Such anti-China sentiment has never been experienced in India.

China has been stalled in its tracks. It can neither move forward nor retreat, without escalating levels of conflict, which in turn could cause more damage than benefit. The few fingers into which it has advanced north of Pangong Tso have been rendered worthless with Indian forces deployed on heights overlooking them. It only holds some ground in Depsang, which remains way behind its own claim lines. Domestically, China has projected this small gain as a victory, though aware that it remains on a weak wicket.

China has been forced to maintain its forces through the winters in Ladakh, again a first. This confirms that its plans have gone awry. With winters yet to set in, the Chinese are experiencing medical casualties with reports from the ground stating daily evacuations. As winters become severe these cases will increase, compelling the PLA to rotate troops. China has begun paying the price for its misadventures.

The Indian deployment on the Kailash Ridge has placed both nations on a level platform in the ongoing talks. India is no longer discussing resolution from a position of weakness. Its current deployment enables it to reject Chinese demands which do not suit its own stance. It is China which has suggested that military and diplomatic talks continue to seek a resolution.

Chinese has three reasons to continue talks. Firstly, it has no other option left. It cannot attempt to attack Indian positions, where soldiers are well entrenched and prepared for escalation. Indian warnings on breaking the protocol on firing in case China crosses Indian red lines has been registered by China. Secondly, it is now seeking a face-saving solution, which cannot include moving back. To avoid losing face, it must have some gains to display. Thirdly, China cannot risk another Galwan or occupation of positions akin to the Kailash Ridge and heights on Fingers.

The ongoing military talks, at levels where there can be no decision, have a reason. In every set of talks, both nations are placing their viewpoints on resolving the standoff, new confidence-building measures and protocols to avoid clashes. These are subsequently discussed by decision-making bodies in national capitals and decisions conveyed. While currently all suggestions are being rejected, however, they are leading to a narrowing down of differences. As these reduce, they open doors to enhancing levels of dialogue to announce an agreement.

Enhanced distrust is the primary concern on both sides. There is always a perception that territory vacated by one would be grabbed by the other, creating new regions of conflict. Resolving this will be a priority.

China waded in hoping to win the battle of Ladakh, but in the bargain was stalled, forced to remain in Ladakh, lost the Indian market and in the overall context lost the war.

The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.

Over-reacting to GDP numbers?

FAHMIDA KHATUN

The latest report on World Economic Outlook by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published in October 2020 has created a lot of noise both in Bangladesh and India. To recap, the IMF has projected that in 2020 per capita GDP of Bangladesh will be $1,887.97 at current prices. India will have a per capita GDP of $1,877 in 2020. These changes in the respective economies will be due to a 3.8 per cent increase in Bangladesh's GDP and 10.3 per cent decline in India's GDP in 2020.

The IMF outlook also indicates that in 2021 India will see a rise of its per capita GDP by 8.8 per cent while Bangladesh will see a rise of 8.0 per cent. As a result, in 2021 India's per capita GDP will reach $2,030 and Bangladesh's $1,990. IMF's projection till 2025 indicates that in 2024 India will surpass Bangladesh and in 2025 Bangladesh will be ahead of India in terms of per capita GDP.

Reactions to these estimates have been divergent in both the countries. In Bangladesh, the government is understandably happy and proud of this accomplishment. Some analysists have credited the government for its efforts while many others have suggested it should do better by addressing existing challenges.

In India, many media outlets have lauded Bangladesh's achievement and suggested that Indian policymakers reflect on what went wrong in India and what worked for Bangladesh. Indian opposition political party saw it as the failure of the current Modi government. Many have blamed the weak management of Covid-19 which had a negative impact on the Indian economy.

Yet another group of Indian media was rather unkind in expressing their views on the IMF's projections. While interpreting the numbers, they stretched their words to undermine Bangladesh's achievement. They referred to non-compliance in the readymade garments (RMG) industry, violent political confrontation, corruption and Islamic radicalism.

iStock

But not all of it is correct. Also, these are not unique to Bangladesh.

Many countries around the world which have much higher incomes than Bangladesh are facing various types of limitations. Political violence and corruption are typical to all least developed and developing countries including the South Asian countries. During the last several years, Bangladesh's RMG entrepreneurs have been working hard to improve compliance and have been successful in earning buyers' confidence by doing so. The current government of Bangladesh has been strongly controlling Islamic radicalism in the country after a few incidents. One should not forget that this is a global problem and therefore, without global effort it is not possible to root out religious extremism.

For both countries, there is no reason to overreact to these projections on per capita GDP for several reasons. First, using GDP as an indication of achievement has been criticised by economists for long. The very method of calculating GDP is flawed, and it fails to show the real health of the economy. To avoid repetition, I am not discussing those here. Second, comparing nominal GDP of one country with another is not correct. One dollar does not have the same value across countries. For example, one dollar in Bangladesh will not buy the same amount of goods and services in another country. The cost of living varies from country to country. That is why GDP based on purchasing power parity (PPP) is used while making GDP comparisons among countries, instead of nominal GDP. Hence in terms of PPP based GDP India is still ahead of Bangladesh. India's GDP at PPP is $6,284 and Bangladesh's $5,139.

Third, these GDP numbers are only projections and they keep changing as economic performance changes. Sometimes they change radically due to circumstances beyond our control. Who could predict that the world economy would struggle to survive in 2020? Who could foresee the deadly coronavirus pandemic coming? Haven't all projections made last year been revised?

Fourth, feeling competitive with neighbours is politically unhealthy. India is the largest democracy in the world. It is a much larger economy than Bangladesh. Still, having economically stronger neighbours is good for India. Higher purchasing power of Bangladeshi people will create higher demand for Indian goods and services. This will in turn increase India's export income from Bangladesh. Medical tourism to India by Bangladeshi patients is increasing every year. Many Bangladeshi students are also pursuing education in India. As a big neighbour India's responsibility also lies in working towards removing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers for Bangladeshi products. Water sharing is a long-standing agenda to be resolved between the two neighbouring countries.

For Bangladesh, higher per capita GDP than India is a noteworthy achievement indeed. India is a developing country while Bangladesh is still a least developed country (LDC). Bangladesh has been experiencing steady and high growth over the last decade. At the same time, Bangladesh has been successful in reducing population growth since its independence through active interventions. This has helped increase its per capita income.

Even during the pandemic Bangladesh has been able to maintain growth. This has been possible due to bumper agricultural harvest, good exports and high remittances. Bangladesh's success in social indicators is also well known to the world. The country has been an impressive performer in achieving several Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In continuation to the MDG achievements, Bangladesh is committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By achieving higher per capita gross national income and meeting the human assets index and the economic vulnerability index of the United Nations, Bangladesh has also fulfilled all three criteria to graduate from an LDC to a developing country by 2024. Also, in 2018 Bangladesh achieved the status of a lower middle-income country graduating from a low-income country, according to World Bank's classification criteria.

However, Bangladesh should not be complacent about the projections of per capita GDP. Despite high growth, various weaknesses within the economy are obvious. Low revenue generation and investment are major challenges. The IMF report also mentions that Bangladesh's revenue-GDP ratio will be only 8.17 which is the lowest among South Asian countries. Due to low revenue generation the government has limited expenditure capacity. Total government expenditure is also lowest in South Asia and stands at only 14.97 per cent of GDP. Investment-GDP ratio is 27.73 per cent, much lower than Nepal and Bhutan and close to India (27.77 per cent). As a result, the economy is constrained when it comes to creating adequate employment. High growth has not been able to reduce inequality. Strong measures are needed to improve governance and establish rule of law. Institutional reform to improve transparency and efficiency is still an unfinished agenda.

The writer is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue. The views are personal.
The Daily Star/ANN.

CROSSWORD

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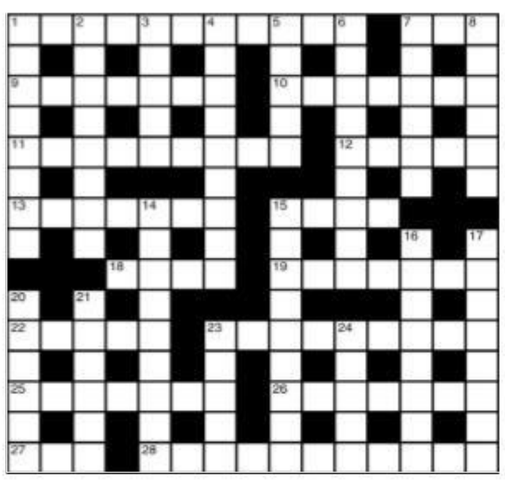
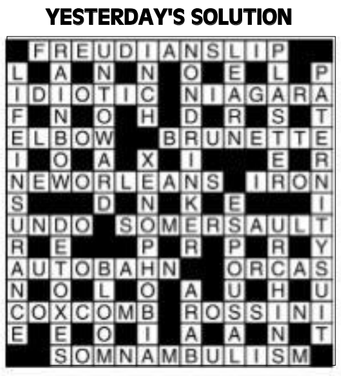


YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

1 Cameron, perhaps fated to spill daughter's secret (11)
7 Dinghy for one dropping off old fly-by-night? (3)
9 ITV say Detective Charlie McCluskey's retiring (7)
10 Pirate singing bawdy sea shanty (7)
11 Naval officer to requisition one leaving base? (9)
12 School with American vowel sound? (5)
13 Neil got ugly freckle (7)
15 Rump steak's prime cut to swallow (4)
18 See 7 Down
19 Eclipse London-bound coach (7)
22 Will the writer – asks Connery – store books here? (5)
23 One anchored at sea sparks up joint (9)
25 Produce bake with light crust and a very soggy bottom! (4,3)
26 Optical illusion on a butterfly's wing? (7)
27 Tarnish articulate BBC politics presenter (3)
28 Secret coup I organised, being fixated on sovereignty (11)

DOWN

1 About to probe Chanel, the French globally-recognised brand (4-4)
2 Marginal difference causing concern (8)
3 Summer party Ms Summers set up (5)
4 24ct, very aged cover, good lining (5,4)
5 Suffer a bit of pain currently (5)
6 English charitable foundation endlessly preserves old Europeans (9)
7/18 Cliff Richard's last after Sandie Shaw on the radio ... yeah, weird (6,4)
8 Warning nurse about hospital (6)
14 Fiancée regularly skipped introduction to fairy tale – beyond words! (9)
15 They traffic sheepskin boots in all sizes all over Queens (9)
16 Court impounding cheapo plastic vase from France (8)
17 Tyrannical Democrat in charge detaining, torturing poets (8)
20/21 UK releases my work – I'm not welcome here (6,6)
23 Chap stowing away boy-king? (5)
24 Bottomless sea motif (5)

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

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The European Association is frequently charged with doing nothing. Another charge brought against the Association is that it does nothing to find out the views of individual members on matters of public importance in which they may be interested. The charges are justified, but this is really due to the attitude of Europeans in the past towards political problems generally. The ordinary European has had no vote, he has had no means of giving expression to his political opinions, and it has therefore been assumed that he has none. In fact it seems to have been considered bad form to have any. He has been content in the past to allow his interests to be safeguarded by the Indian Civil Service, and by the President and Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce. Times have now changed: the non-official European must now come forward and take his share in the responsibility for the future political progress of the country and in the welfare of its inhabitants. The Calcutta Branch of the Association has taken up the matter and is endeavouring to arouse an interest amongst the Europeans in Calcutta. The policy that has been put forward is one of co-operation. It is hoped that non-official Europeans who are interested in the future of the country will attend the meeting and give the Calcutta Committee their support.

NEWS ITEMS

RENT RESTRICTION

An interesting case, revealing a significant defect in the Bombay Rent Restriction Act, has been decided in the Court of Small Causes. In this case the plaintiff, a tenant, sought to recover from the defendant, the landlord, excess paid by him over the standard rent. The plaintiff's case was that he had paid at the rate of Rs 800 per month for a godown, while the standard rent for it should be Rs 522-0-0. The defendant-landlord admitted the standard rent, but contended that the defendant, having sublet the premises to another firm on Rs 1,000 per month was not entitled to claim any excess. The judge, in giving his decision, granted the refund of excess rent paid, and remarked that there was nothing in the present Bombay Rent Restriction Act which would enable him to refuse the relief claimed by the plaintiff.

RETURNING "MUHAJARIN"

Parties of Muhajarin are still making their way to Peshawar, despite the publication of the Amir's firman discouraging Hijrat. At this moment, the movement, though existing in same tahsils of Peshawar district, is on the whole less marked, but there are signs of its spreading to outlying centres, such as Jhelum and Rawalpindi. Small numbers of Muhajarin are beginning to return, with graphic stories of hardship endured after passing Landikotal, up to which point they state they were well looked after. A strong barrier has been erected, so they say, across the Khyber Pass, owing doubtless to the high state of excitement in Peshawar. The air is thick with rumours that the Amir's early favourable reception of the Muhajarin has now changed into an attitude of severity and sternness.

A WARNING

In view of the forthcoming elections it was thought desirable to draw the attention of all grades of Government servants in the province to rule 23(a) of the Government Servants Conduct Rules, which runs as follows:- A Government servant may not, by canvassing or otherwise interfere or use his influence in any way in an election to a Legislative Council except that he may record a vote if he is qualified to do so. In that case he should as far as possible avoid giving any indication beforehand of the direction in which he intends to vote. A case has recently been brought to notice in which a circular has been sent round to Patwaris, asking them to let the sender know whether they are in favour of a certain prospective candidate.

SANTAL MISSION

The Santal Mission Council propose to erect a gravestone to mark the place where the late Dr. Andrew Campbell is buried at Pokhuria, and, if funds are available, to provide also a memorial tablet in the local church. It is proposed that the gravestone should consist of a slab of grey granite with a simple inscription recording the name, age, and date of death, with possibly an appropriate text of Scripture. The memorial tablet in the church would contain a short statement regarding his missionary career. The council believe that many of Dr. Campbell's friends in India, Scotland and elsewhere will be glad to contribute towards the cost of these memorials. It is estimated that a granite gravestone would cost over Rs 600, and the same amount would have to be allowed for the tablet.

Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd's privatisation bid deadline will not be extended for the fifth time

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY
SECRETARY, DIPAM

THUMBNAILS

IL&FS V-C quits: Debt-laden Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) Group on Monday announced the resignation of Vineet Nayyar, its executive vice-chairman. Nayyar has requested the IL&FS board to relieve him of his duties with effect from 31 October 2020, on grounds of indifferent health, the group said in a release. PTI

Coal supply to power: The supply of coal by state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) to the power sector dropped by 10 per cent to 197.89 million tons (MT) in the first half of the ongoing financial year. Coal India had supplied 219.85 MT of coal in the April-September period of the previous fiscal, according to official data. PTI

LG Electronics: LG Electronics has unveiled its Charcoal Healthy Heart microwave oven, with NeoChef design. The microwave oven is an all-in-one multi-faceted smart technology that helps users prepare healthy and hygienic food in a fast and convenient way, said the company in a release. SNS

CPSEs told to meet 75% of capex target by Dec

Government's move to support economic growth hit by the Covid-19 crisis

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman today directed large Central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to achieve by December this year 75 per cent of their planned capital expenditure (capex) target for financial year 2020-21, to support economic growth hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic.

She held a virtual meeting with secretaries of coal and petroleum & natural gas, along with the chairman and managing directors (CMDs) of 14 Central public sector enterprises belonging to these ministries, an official statement said. This was the fourth in the ongoing series of meetings that the finance minister is having with various stakeholders to accelerate the economic growth amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

While reviewing the performance of CPSEs, Sitharaman said capital expenditure by CPSEs is a critical driver of economic growth and needs to be scaled up for the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22. The finance minister asked the concerned secretaries to closely monitor the performance of CPSEs in order to ensure the capital expenditure to the tune of 75 per cent of the capital outlay by the end of the third quarter of financial year 2020-21 and make appropriate plan for it.

She expounded that more co-ordinated efforts are required at the levels of secretary of concerned ministries and chairman and managing directors of CPSEs to achieve capex targets. In financial year 2019-20, against the capex target of Rs 1,11,672 crore for these 14 CPSEs, the achievement was Rs 1,16,323 crore that is 104 per cent, the statement said. It added that the capex target is pegged at Rs 1,15,934 crore for these companies for the current financial year.

It further said the achievement in the first half of the current financial year stood at Rs 37,423 crore (32 per cent of the target), while it was Rs 43,097 crore (39 per cent) in the previous financial year.

While mentioning the significant role of CPSEs in giving a push to the growth of the Indian economy, the finance minister encouraged the CPSEs to perform better to achieve their targets and ensure that the capital outlay for financial year 2020-21 is spent properly and within time.

The finance minister said better performance of CPSEs can help the economy in a big way to recover from the impact of Covid-19.

The CPSE capex review is carried out jointly by the department of economic affairs and the department of public enterprises, it added.

TIME TO INVEST

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday held a virtual meeting with secretaries of coal and petroleum & natural gas, along with the CMDs of 14 CPSEs belonging to these ministries.

The finance minister asked the concerned secretaries to closely monitor the performance of CPSEs in order to ensure the capital expenditure to the tune of 75 per cent of the capital outlay by the end of the third quarter of financial year 2020-21 and make appropriate plan for it.

The capex target is pegged at Rs 1,15,934 crore for these companies for the current financial year and the achievement in the first half of the current fiscal stood at Rs 37,423 crore (32 per cent of the target).

Assessing impact of pandemic on economy: FM

NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the government has begun an exercise to assess the impact of the pandemic on the economy and likely contraction in GDP, even as she did not rule out the possibility of another stimulus to boost growth.

"I have not closed the option for another stimulus ... Every time we have announced one, it has been after a lot of consideration... I have not closed the option to come up with one more stimulus," she said at the launch of a book ~ Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside ~ by the 15th Finance Commission chairman N K Singh. To a question on whether the finance ministry would come out with an assessment of economic contraction, Sitharaman said the ministry has started doing some assessment since the beginning of October and would soon come with a projection.

"We have only now started doing some kind of an assessment. We waited for the commencement of the second half, which has just started. And we have got a lot of inputs which are very different from what we had in July. And ideally, it should be so," she said. PTI

Govt to ease valuation norm for AI, bid deadline may be extended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

To attract potential suitors, the government will ease asset valuation norms for Air India by allowing bidders to put in offers on an enterprise value basis, a source said today.

To begin with, the government is likely to further extend the deadline for putting in a preliminary expression of interest for the loss-making national carrier to 15 December.

The source said bids will be sought on an enterprise value basis ~ a popular valuation methodology for takeover deals.

Enterprise value (EV) is a measure of a company's total value, often used as a more comprehensive alternative to equity market capitalisation. EV includes in its calculation the market capitalisation of a company but also short-term and long-term debt as well as any cash on the company's balance sheet. The source said the government would remove from the preliminary information memorandum (PIM) the quantum of debt to be assumed by the bidder.

The bidders would also be asked to place offers for the entire company, 85 per cent of which would be considered to go towards debt repayment and the balance would accrue to the government, the source said.

"Changes are being made to the valuation method. CGD (core group on disinvestment) has approved it and it would be placed before AISAM (Air India specific alternative mechanism). The deadline for Air India bid is proposed to be extended till 15 December," the source said.

This would be the fifth extension to the Air India bid deadline with the current one ending on 30 October.

After its unsuccessful bid to sell Air India in 2018, the government in January 2020 restarted the divestment process and invited bids for selling 100 per cent of its equity in the state-owned airline, including Air India's 100 per cent shareholding in AI Express Ltd and 50 per cent in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Ltd.

'Sustainable mining of bauxite needed for India to be global aluminium hub'

IANS
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

Import of bauxite, one of the most abundant ores in India, has caused an estimated forex loss of over $400 million in the last 5 years alone and caused missed opportunities of generating mass scale employment.

Experts say bauxite mining creates livelihood opportunities in regions which otherwise have limited potential for other economic activities. Opening of a single Bauxite mine has the potential to generate over 10,000 livelihood opportunities and can garner over Rs 5,000 crore to the State revenue over the life of the mine.

Aluminium, a metal of strategic importance for India to attain its goal of becoming a $5 trillion economy, continues to be a highly imported metal.

This is in addition to the fact that India is the 3rd largest producer and consumer of aluminium globally with domestic demand expected to expand from current 4 MTPA to 12 MTPA by 2030. To this essence, tapping the country's 3.8 billion tonne Bauxite reserves is a key step to gravitating India towards becoming self-reliant.

"It is a travesty that even with such abundant bauxite reserves and available aluminium capacity for value addition in the country, no Metallurgical Grade Bauxite Mines have been successfully auctioned in the last 5 years since inception of MMDR Act 2015 forcing the domestic industry to import. The eco-friendly and sustainable mining methods lead to economic, social and environmental harmony. Thus, utilizing India's natural bauxite dividend should be a policy priority to realise the vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," said Ansuman Das, ex-chairman and managing director, NALCO and metals & mining expert.

PM may talk on India's energy roadmap at annual conclave

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

At a virtual annual conclave of global energy giants and state energy representatives from various countries from 26 to 28 October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to dwell on the world energy scenario and broad roadmap to meet India's and global energy needs among other things.

"In charting its path to a new energy future, India has captured the world's attention. This event will expand the important discussion on the opportunities, challenges and strategies in a rapidly-changing energy world and India's role in it," event organiser IHS Markit in a statement said here.

Daniel Yergin, IHS Markit vice-chairman, giving details of the topics of discussion said it would cover topics such as impact of Covid-19 pandemic on India's future energy requirements, securing supplies for India's economic growth, energy transition and climate agenda, natural gas in the energy mix, and strategies for refining and petro-chemicals.

The three-day event titled 4th "India Energy Forum by CERAWeek" is expected to see energy leaders from across the world gather to discuss India's new energy future. Besides international group of speakers and delegates, a community of a thousand delegates from India and regional energy companies and industries, institutions and governments are expected to brainstorm during the event. India's oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan, US energy secretary Dan Brouillette, OPEC secretary-general Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo and Saudi energy minister Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud are scheduled to address the gathering.

BP Group executive Bernard Looney, Total SA chairman Patrick Pouyann, Petronas Group CEO Tengku Muhammad Taufik, RIL head Mukesh Ambani, Tellurian Inc president Meg Gentle are among a galaxy of who's who of energy leaders who are also likely to share their views at the energy meet.

Senior vice-president and chief energy strategist at IHS Markit Atul Arya said India would significantly impact the future of energy markets in the world.

Equity benchmarks rise on positive global cues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 19 OCTOBER

Equity benchmarks made a winning start to the week today as banking and financial counters saw robust buying amid largely positive cues from global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 448.62 points or 1.12 per cent higher at 40,431.60 points. The broader NSE Nifty surged 110.60 points or 0.94 per cent to finish at 11,873.05 points.

ICICI Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, jumping 5.33 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Nestle India, SBI, HDFC, IndusInd Bank, ONGC and Kotak Bank.

On the other hand, Bajaj Auto, TCS, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel and Maruti were among the laggards, shedding up to 2.12 per cent.

In the Sensex pack, 23 constituents logged gains while seven closed in the red.

The domestic market opened on a positive note tracking largely positive cues from global markets, traders said.

During the afternoon session, markets held on to opening gains with sustained interest seen in banking, financial, oil and gas, metals and realty stocks.

Bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended on a positive note, while Shanghai closed lower after the release of China's GDP numbers.

China's economic growth accelerated to 4.9 per cent over a year earlier in the latest quarter as a shaky recovery from the coronavirus pandemic gathered strength.

The economy "continued the steady recovery", China's National Bureau of Statistics said in a report. However, it warned that "the international environment is still complicated and severe". It also said China still faces "great pressure" to prevent a resurgence of the virus.

Meanwhile, stock exchanges in Europe opened on a positive note.

"Domestic markets witnessed sharp recovery in the backdrop of strong rebound in heavyweight financials space, which was in focus today led by strong numbers reported by HDFC Bank and positive commentary by the management. Additionally, positive global cues led by strong GDP data from China also supported markets. However, auto, pharma and IT indices ended in red today.

PUBLIC SECTOR ROUNDUP

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA INSTALLS NEW ATM

Bank of Maharashtra installed new ATM at Anand Vihar Railway Station. The ATM will cater the needs of travelers besides the local residents. The ATM was jointly inaugurated by RK Singh (director, IRSDC) and Chitra Datar (GM & ZM, Bank of Maharashtra) in presence of Rajesh Kr. Singh (DGM & Dy Zonal head, Bank of Maharashtra) and S S Agarwal (GM, customer experience, IRSDC).

NBCC DIRECTOR (COMMERCIAL) CALLS ON AMBASSADOR OF DRC

Rajendra Chaudhari, Director (Commercial) accompanied by Pradeep Sharma, GM (BD), called on H.E. Mossi Nyamale Rosette, Ambassador of Democratic Republic of Congo at Congo Embassy, Delhi on 14 October to discuss NBCC's participation in upcoming infrastructure Development works in DRC.

Educational YouTube channels for school students

In view of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, to provide digital audio-visual learning platform to NDMC teachers and students, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) chairperson, Dharmendra has launched two educational YouTube Channels - "Atal Adarsh Shiksha" and "Navyug Pragati".

Dharmendra said, "Today the entire world is going through a very difficult time due to the outbreak of covid-19 pandemic. Education institutions have also been hit hard as the schools have been shut down since March, 2020." In this 'New Normal' which we may call this period, our schools have risen to the occasion and switched to online teaching.

Unprecedented times require unprecedented measures, so despite all odds, our educators have been working hard to find innovative solutions to make learning better and accessible to all, he added.

SCOPE highlights new initiatives

The 46th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) was chaired by Rakesh Kumar CMD, NLC & Chairman, SCOPE, who highlighted renewed efforts of SCOPE to reposition as an innovative, impactful and inspiring apex body of PSEs by exploring new opportunities and resolving concerns with the support of policy makers and concerned authorities.

The AGM also saw a series of new initiatives undertaken by SCOPE especially during the current pandemic period by turning Crisis into Opportunity.

Downward revisions, stability in fuel prices benefit common man, poor, says Indian Oil

Substantial downward revision and stability in the prices of essential petroleum products ~ petrol, diesel, LPG cooking gas and kerosene ~ in the recent months, has brought much-needed relief for the common man as well as the poorer sections of society, stated Indian Oil in a Press release statement.

For instance, the Retail Selling Price (RSP) of diesel sold through Indian Oil Corporation's (Indian Oil) fuel stations has come down by Rs 2.93 per litre, and petrol by 97 paise per litre at Delhi, during September 2020, with corresponding price reduction in other markets across the country. In the current month, diesel prices have been reduced by a further 17 paise per litre in Delhi so far, while there has been no change in the price of petrol. This has come as a great relief to motorists and transporters alike.

Similarly, there has been virtually no change in the RSP of LPG for domestic use at Delhi and other markets across India since 1 July 2020. With an average monthly sale of about 13 crore domestic LPG cylinder refills on industry basis, as many households have benefited from stability in the price of LPG cooking gas.

SAIL announces incentive for 2020

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has announced an increase of more than 6 per cent in the annual payment of SAIL performance incentive, ex-gratia, bonus in comparison to previous year to the non-executive employees on the upcoming festive occasion.

It was finalised based on discussions and mutual agreement between SAIL management and Sr. Central Trade Union leaders representing the workers and belonging to the constituent unions of NJCS viz. INTUC, CITU, AITUC, HMS & BMS.

In line with the government's initiative to boost economy by way of incentivising the working class, SAIL has also announced the distribution of ex-gratia during the festive season.

POWERGRID WINS AWARDS

Seema Gupta, director (operations), Power Grid wins Gold Stevie Award in 2020 Stevie Awards for women in business

B N De Bhowmick, ED (TD) POWERGRID and Expert of IEC Technical Committee 122, UHVAC Transmission Systems has been awarded the prestigious IEC 1906 Award by the International Electrotechnical Commission. It recognises the major inputs made in furthering standardisation in the field of electrotechnology.

Sany India takes measures to combat Covid-19 impact

Sany India, one of the leading manufacturers of construction equipment & heavy machinery, has taken a slew of measures to help its partners sail through the Covid pandemic with ease.

It helped all its 35 dealers steer through the challenging phase by implementing multiple initiatives to sustain and improve the cash flow for the dealer partners.

This included an extension of credit period on all the receivables against supply of construction equipment & its spare parts, extended warranty support to customers and helping the dealers with salary support for around 1100 employees during the pandemic.

Deepak Garg, managing director, Sany India & South Asia said, "Our judicious support has helped all our dealers combat this crisis without the fear of an imminent shutdown of their business."

Hari Mohan Gupta takes over as DFCCIL infra director

Hari Mohan Gupta, an Indian Railway officer of 1989 Batch (Indian Engineering Services, IES - 89), taken over as DFCCIL infrastructure director.

Before joining Rail Ministry office, he worked for 7 years on deputation on a challenging Iconic Project as Chief Project Manager of Rewari-Dadri section of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor in DFCCIL organisation and was instrumental in acquisition of land in 7 Prime Districts (Rewari, Mewat, Gurgaon, Palwal, Faridabad in Haryana, Alwar in Rajasthan & Gautam Buddha Nagar in UP) of National Capital region territory, ensuring Forestry clearances in all Districts by making a tunnel in the Aravallis.

36th edition of AAHAR-2021 to be organised in March

The 36th edition of AAHAR 2021 (March 9-13) - the International Food and Hospitality Fair will be organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) in accordance with the COVID-19 'SOP' specified by the Department of Commerce, Government of India.

In view of Covid pandemic, ITPO has given its priority to hold all events at Pragati Maidan embracing an appropriate 'SOP' to fight off the virus. The event will be held with the support of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA) and Apex Industry Associations.

HUDCO makes dividend payout to MoRD

Union Minister of Rural Development, Narendra Singh Tomar, was presented the final dividend cheque of Rs 97.52 crore for the year 2019-20, by M. Nagaraj, director (corporate planning) HUDCO. Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary MoRD, D. Guhan, Director (Finance) HUDCO and other senior officials were also present on the occasion. The Ministry of Rural Development with a 20.73 per cent share holding has received a total dividend of Rs 128.65 crore.

In its Golden Jubilee year, HUDCO has made an all-time high dividend payout of 31 per cent amounting to Rs 620.59 crore for the year 2019-20. HUDCO also paid dividend of Rs 428.68 crore to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affair (MoHUA), and Rs 63.26 core to public shareholders.

epaper.thestatesman.com

Do not scare us (by declaring us) traitors. When you (Khan) are pressed for answers, you hide behind the armed forces.

MARYAM NAWAZ, DAUGHTER OF FORMER PAK PM

ACCUSING PAKISTANI PM IMRAN KHAN OF USING THE ARMED FORCES FOR HIS FACE-SAVING

Thai authorities seek to censor coverage of student protests

Mostly young protesters have been gathering en mass across Bangkok, caling for reform of monarchy

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BANGKOK, 19 OCTOBER

Thai authorities worked Monday to stem a growing tide of protests calling for the prime minister to resign by threatening to censor news coverage, raiding a publishing house and attempting to block the Telegram messaging app used by demonstrators.

The efforts by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's government to drain the student-led protests of support and the ability to organise comes as they have grown in the capital and spread around the country, despite an emergency decree, which bans public gatherings of more than four people in Bangkok, outlaws news said to affect national security and gives authorities broad power to detain people.

The mostly young protesters have gathered en masse across Bangkok the past six days to push their demands, which also include a controversial call for reform of the monarchy.

A pro-democracy protester gives the three-finger salute during an anti-government rally in Bangkok on Monday, as they continue to defy an emergency decree banning gatherings. AFP

The protesters charge that Prayuth, an army commander who led a 2014 coup, was returned to power unfairly in last year's general election because laws had been changed to favour a pro-military party. The protesters say a constitution written and passed under military rule is undemocratic.

But their more recent demand for checks and balances on the monarchy has deeply angered conservative Thais and broken a taboo since the monarchy is considered sacrosanct and tough laws protect it from insult.

It has also raised the risk of confrontation in a country where calls for political change have a history of being met with military intervention or even violence.

Authorities are now increasingly turning to censorship to try to clamp down on the demonstrations after protesters heckled a royal motorcade last week in a once unthinkable scene.

With protesters starting to gather for three new rallies in Bangkok on Monday evening, a top official with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission confirmed reports that the agency had been ordered to block access to the messaging app Telegram.

Suthisak Tantayothin said it was in the process of talking with internet service providers to discuss doing so, but so far the encrypted messaging app favored by demonstrators the world over was still available in the country. Police also searched the office of a publishing house that handles books by Thai and foreign scholars with sometimes controversial perspectives. Same Sky publishing house said police took away copies of three titles that had been sold at a recent book fair in a bundle it called Monarchy Studies, and asked their publisher to come for questioning at their station.

Deputy police spokesman Kissana also confirmed an order signed by the chief of police that could allow officials to block access to news sites that give what he called distorted information.

Under existing laws, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society are empowered to ban broadcasts and block internet content. Police themselves can also do so under the emergency decree, which went into effect 15 October.

IN SOLIDARITY

Pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong (L) demonstrates in solidarity with ongoing pro-democracy protests in Thailand, outside the Thai consulate building in Hong Kong on Monday. AFP

Nagorno-Karabakh truce frays amidst fresh shelling reports

ASSOCIATED PRESS
YEREVAN, ARMENIA, 19 OCTOBER

More reports of shelling on Monday challenged the new cease-fire in the conflict over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, where heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces has raged for over three weeks.

The new truce was announced Saturday. It was a second attempt to establish a cease-fire and end the fighting that killed hundreds since 27 September, when clashes resumed in a conflict that has simmered for decades. A cease-fire deal brokered by Russia earlier this month quickly frayed as both sides blamed each other for repeated violations.

The Nagorno-Karabakh military said Monday that Azerbaijani forces in the morning resumed shelling in the northern and the southern directions. Armenian Defense Ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanian also reported "heavy fighting" in the southern direction of the conflict zone. Azerbaijan, in turn, accused Armenian forces of shelling its Goranboy, Terter, and Aghdam regions overnight and targeting the Aghjabedi region in the morning.

The new truce was announced on Saturday. It was a second attempt to establish a cease-fire and end the fighting that killed hundreds since 27 September, when clashes resumed in decades-old conflict

Also Monday, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev announced that his forces have taken control over 13 villages in the Jabrayil region near the Iranian border.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a war there ended in 1994. By the time the war ended, Armenian forces not only held Nagorno-Karabakh itself but also captured substantial areas outside the territory borders.

According to Nagorno-Karabakh officials, 710 of their servicemen have been killed the fighting since Sept. 27. Azerbaijan hasn't disclosed its military losses, but says 60 civilians have died so far and 270 have been wounded.

The recent fighting involved heavy artillery, rockets and drones and has continued despite repeated calls for cessation of hostilities coming from around the globe. It marked the biggest escalation of a decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and raised concerns of a wider conflict involving Turkey, which has publicly supported Azerbaijan, and Russia, which has a security pact with Armenia.

On 9 October, Moscow hosted foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan. After more than 10 hours of talks, they announced a cease-fire deal, which was violated minutes after it took force.

The new truce announced on Saturday followed Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's calls with his counterparts from Armenia and Azerbaijan, in which he strongly urged them to abide by the Moscow deal.

Imran Khan incapable and clueless, betrayed Pakistanis: Opposition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI, 19 OCTOBER

Prime Minister Imran Khan is "incapable and clueless", and his government is worse than a dictatorship, Pakistan's opposition leaders said at the second rally of an alliance formed to oust the premier.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance of 11 opposition parties formed on 20 September, has launched a three-phased anti-government movement under an "action plan" to remove the Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) government.

Under the plan a number of rallies public meetings and demonstrations will be held across the country, before a "decisive long march" to Islamabad in January next year.

The first of these rallies was held on Friday in Gujranwala near Lahore.

"This incapable and clueless prime minister will have to go home," Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Sunday at the Bagh-e-Jinnah, which was packed with people including supporters and workers of the alliance's members. History has proved that the biggest dictators could not survive and "what standing does this puppet have?", Zardari said targeting Prime Minister Khan and added that "this is not a new fight but this will be a decisive fight".

The rally here also marked the 13th anniversary of the twin blasts in Karsaz that targeted the homecoming procession of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto in 2007.

The blast left around 200 people dead.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice presidents Maryam Nawaz and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chairman Mehmood Achakzai and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman were among the opposition leaders who attended the rally.

Maryam Nawaz, daughter of exiled former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, attacked the PTI government for declaring opposition leaders and her father as "traitors". "When answers are demanded, you say we are traitors," said the PML-N vice president.

Addressing the first power show of the PDM in Gujranwala via video link from London on Friday, Sharif had accused the military and Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI of being behind his ouster as premier and installing their "puppet government" by bringing Imran Khan into power.

Japan, Vietnam agree to boost defence ties, resume flights

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HANOI, 19 OCTOBER

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, in his first overseas summit since taking office last month, agreed with his Vietnamese counterpart to step up defence and security cooperation in the face of China's expanding influence in the region.

In talks in Hanoi on Monday, Suga and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc set a basic agreement allowing Japan to export defence equipment and technology to Vietnam.

Japan has been pursuing such agreements in recent years to bolster ties with Southeast Asia and sustain its own defence industry.

Suga says his four-day trip to Vietnam and later Indonesia is key to pursuing the free and open Indo-Pacific vision for multilateral economic and security cooperation to counter China's growing power and protect sea lanes in disputed areas of the South China Sea.

Vietnam is crucial to achieving our vision of 'the Free and Open Indo-Pacific,' and our valuable partner', Suga said after his meeting with Phuc. Japan, as an Indo-Pacific nation, will continue to contribute to the peace and stability in this region.

Suga said Vietnam, at the centre of the Indo-Pacific, was the most suitable destination for his first trip abroad as Japan's leader.

In its first delivery, Japan in August exported a radar surveillance system to the Philippines. Suga called the agreement a major step for a bilateral defense cooperation.

Morales aide claims victory in Bolivia's election redo

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LA PAZ, 19 OCTOBER

Evo Morales' party claimed victory in Bolivia's presidential election as official results trickled in from Sunday's high-stakes redo of last year's annulled ballot that saw the leftist leader resign and flee the country.

More than nine hours after polls closed, barely 6% of all ballot boxes had been counted and they showed Morales' handpicked successor, Luis Arce, trailing a conservative rival. But with a private quick count of sampled polling stations favoring Arce by a wide margin, even interim President Jeanine ez, an archrival of Morales recognized that the socialist movement looked set to return to power in what looked to be a major jolt to South America's beleaguered left. I congratulate the winners and I ask them to govern thinking in Bolivia and in our democracy, ez said on Twitter.

Bolivians have long been accustomed to quick preliminary results in presidential elections. But after allegations of fraud and days of unrest marred last year's ballot, newly installed electoral authorities had been appealing for patience, reminding voters that they have up to five days to declare a winner.

Bolivia's leftist presidential candidate Luis Arce (C), celebrates poll win with running mate David Choquehuanca in La Paz. AFP

While voting was peaceful, the long wait Sunday night for results fueled speculation that something was awry. Adding to intrigue, publication of two exit polls was also withheld after private pollsters said they didn't trust their own survey results.

Morales broke the tense silence by declaring Arce the winner. Later, two pollsters said a quick count of official tally sheets at select polling stations showed Arce had garnered more than 50% of the votes, compared to 31% for former President Carlos Mesa, the top finisher of four rival candidates.

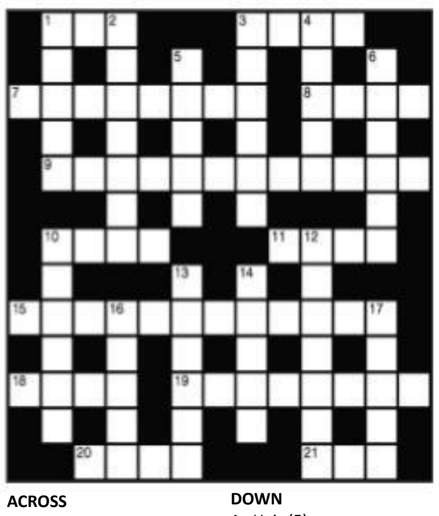
We've recovered our democracy, Morales said in brief remarks from exile in Argentina. Lucho will be our president. Arce took a less strident tone and appealed for calm, saying he would seek to form a government of national unity.

I think the Bolivian people want to retake the path we were on, Arce declared around midnight surrounded by a small group of supporters, some of them in traditional Andean dress in honor of the country's Indigenous roots.

Arce, who oversaw a surge in growth and reduction in poverty as Morales' economy minister for more than a decade, would face an uphill battle trying to jumpstart growth this time.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Chimney (Scottish) (3)
3 Avian creature (4)
7 Without penalty (4,4)
8 Provoke (4)
9 Large manned artificial satellite (5,7)
10 Distort (4)
11 Musical work (4)
15 IVF child (4-4,4)
18 Humble request (4)
19 Inborn intuitive power (8)
20 Indolent (4)
21 Beverage (3)

DOWN
1 Hair (5)
2 Fuel gas (7)
3 Single respiration (6)
4 Correct (5)
5 Sorrow (5)
6 Renowned (6)
10 Malodorous (6)
12 Musician (7)
13 Rebellion (6)
14 Web-footed birds (5)
16 Jewelled headdress (5)
17 House plant (5)

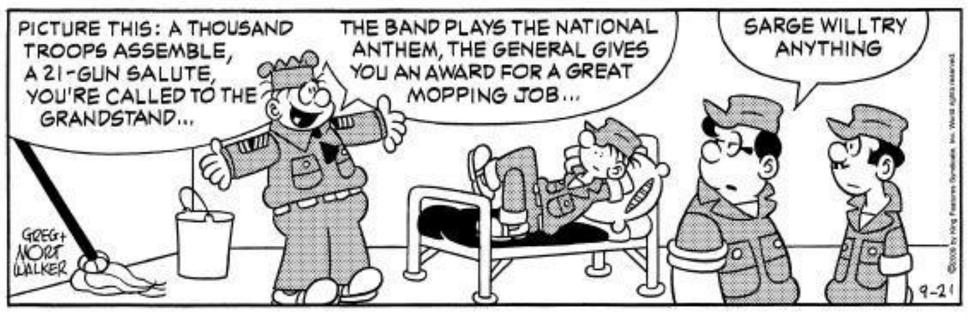
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Tine, 3 Sighed (Tyneside), 8 Curia, 9 Blarney, 10 Businesslike, 11 Paella, 12 Beacon, 15 Plain sailing, 18 Athlete, 19 Niece, 20 Frenzy, 21 Gnat.

DOWN
1 Tact, 2 Nurture, 3 Sobbed, 4 Glass ceiling, 5 Ennui, 6 Magic lantern, 7 Wyvern, 11 Poplar, 13 Concern, 14 Barely, 16 Abhor, 17 Felt.

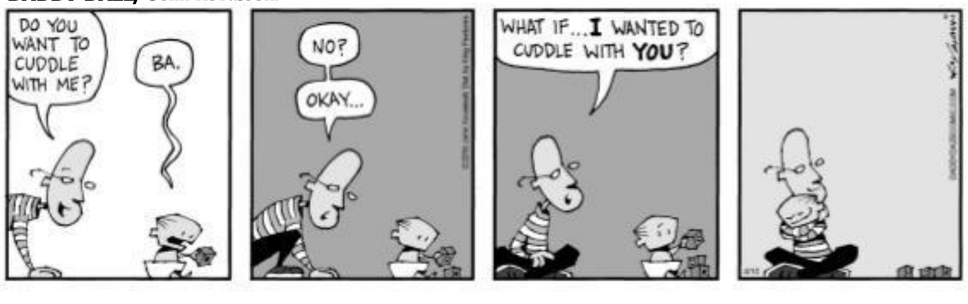
By arrangement with The Independent
Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson

DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

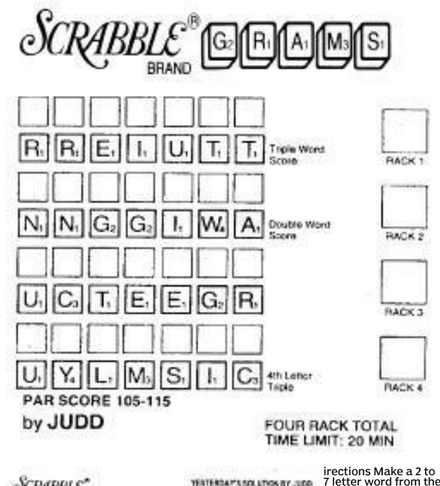
HOSPITALS
- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY
General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800112511
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

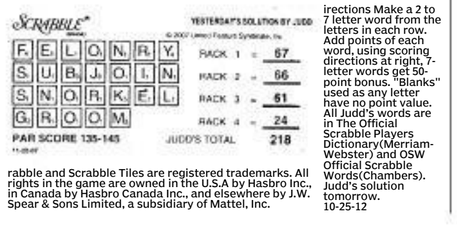
ROADWAYS INQUIRY
- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- Haryana Roadways 23861262
- Himachal Roadways 23717473, 23325320
- Punjab Roadways 23867842, 23860626
- Rajasthan Roadways 23864470
- U.P. Roadways 23868709

FLIGHT INQUIRY
- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airport 011-25671580; Terminal I-B 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838
- JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111
- EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377
- Air Canada Flight Inquiry 25656421/25656431 Reservation 41528181
- Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25652294 (Airport)
- Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS



PAR SCORE 105-115
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN



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irections Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary(Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words(Chambers). Judd's solution tomorrow.
10-25-12

SUDOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

		2	7				1	
		5			4	6		9
6	7		5				8	
4		9		5			3	
			8	4	2			
	8			9		1		5
	1				8		5	6
5		6	3			8		
	9				5	3		

Difficulty Level ★ 7/22

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answer to previous puzzle

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

epaper.thestatesman.com

The door is still ajar for post-Brexit talks to continue with the European Union if officials in the bloc change their position on key points.

SENIOR BRITISH OFFICIAL MICHAEL GOVE
IN HOPE THAT UK CAN AVOID THE HIGH TRADE TARIFFS IT FACES FROM 31 DEC, WHEN THE TRANSITION PERIOD ENDS

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)	
SINGAPORE	31	26	H
HONG KONG	28	22	S
TOKYO	22	12	CL
LONDON	18	14	CL
DUBAI	34	23	S
SAN FRANCISCO	22	12	CL
NEW YORK	23	18	R
MOSCOW	4	-1	R

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

THUMBNAILS

European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde attends the 16th Congress of Regions in Saint-Ouen, Paris on Monday. AFP

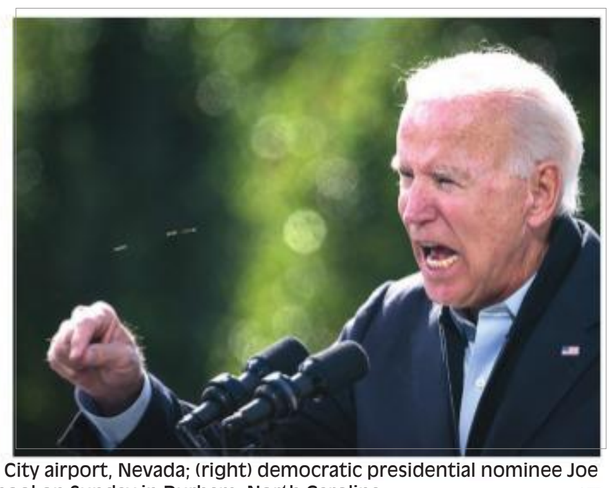
Sexual assault charge: The chair of Britain's Hay literary festival said on Sunday the event will not return to Abu Dhabi after one of the festival's curators alleged that she was sexually assaulted by the tolerance minister of the United Arab Emirates while working with him. Lawyers for the minister later denied her account. AP

Fiji clash: China and Taiwan traded accusations on Monday over a violent altercation that broke out between Chinese diplomats and Taiwan government employees at a recent Taiwan National Day reception in Fiji. Both China and Taiwan confirmed the 8 October incident which resulted in one Taiwanese staffer being sent to a hospital with a head injury. AP

Trump, Biden go on offensive in rival states

While Trump addresses rally in Nevada which has not swung for a Republican contender since 2004, Biden campaigns in conservative N. Carolina

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CARSON CITY, NEVADA, 19 OCTOBER



US President Trump gestures as he speaks during a rally at Carson City airport, Nevada; (right) democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden speaks during a drive-in campaign rally at Riverside High School on Sunday in Durham, North Carolina. AFP

President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden went on offense over the weekend as both campaigned in states they are trying to flip during the 3 November election, just over two weeks away.

Trump began his Sunday in Nevada, making a rare visit to church before a fundraiser and an evening rally in Carson City. Once considered a battleground, Nevada has not swung for a Republican presidential contender since 2004.

The rally drew thousands of supporters who sat elbow to elbow, cheering Trump and booing Biden and the press. The vast majority wore no masks to guard against the coronavirus, though cases in the state are on the rise, with more than 1,000 new infections reported on Saturday.

The Republican president, as he often does, warned that a Biden election would lead to further lockdowns and appeared to mock Biden for saying he would listen to scientists. "He'll listen to the scientists. If I listened totally to the scientists, we would right now have a country that would be in a massive depression," Trump said.

Biden, a practicing Catholic, attended Mass in Delaware before campaigning in North Carolina, where a Democrat has not won in a presidential race since Barack Obama in 2008.

Both candidates are trying to make inroads in states that could help secure a path to victory, but the dynamics of the race are remarkably stable. Biden enjoys a significant advantage in national polls, while carrying a smaller edge in battleground surveys.

Earlier in the day, Trump sat in the front row at the nondenominational International Church of Las Vegas as the senior associate pastor, Denise Goulet, said God told her early that morning that the president would secure a second term.

"At 4:30, the Lord said to me, 'I am going to give your president a second win,'" she said, telling Trump, "you will be the president again." Trump spoke briefly, saying "I love going to churches" and that it was "a great honor" to attend the service. He dropped a wad of $20 bills in the collection plate before leaving.

The message was far different in both style and substance later in the day, when Biden attended a virtual discussion with African American faith leaders from around the country.

Biden held up a rosary, which he said he carries in his pocket every day, and described it as "what the Irish call a prisoner's rosary" since it was small enough to be smuggled into prisons.

"I happen to be a Roman Catholic," Biden said. "I don't pray for God to protect me. I pray to God to give me strength to see what other people are dealing with." Earlier, at a drive-in rally in Durham, North Carolina, Biden focused heavily on promoting criminal justice changes to combat institutional racism and promised to help build wealth in the Black community.

He noted that Trump had said at one of his rallies that the country had turned the corner on the pandemic.

"As my grandfather would say, this guy's gone around the bend if he thinks we've turned the corner. Turning the corner? Things are getting worse," Biden said.

In addition to public polling that indicates Biden has an edge, the former vice president enjoys another considerable advantage over Trump: money.

Trump raked in $12 million during a fundraiser Sunday afternoon at the Newport Beach home of top GOP donor and tech mogul Palmer Luckey, which also featured a performance by the Beach Boys.

But over the past four months, Biden has raised over $1 billion, a massive amount of money that has eclipsed Trump's once-overwhelming cash advantage.

That's become apparent in advertising, where Biden and his Democratic allies are on pace to spend twice as much as Trump and the Republicans in the closing days of the race, according to data from the ad tracking firm Kantar/CMAG.

Though Trump has pulled back from advertising in Midwestern states that secured his 2016 win, he's invested heavily elsewhere, including North Carolina, where he is on pace to slightly outspend Biden in the days ahead.

In Nevada, which Trump came close to winning in 2016, Democrats are set to outspend Trump in the closing days by a more than 3-to-1 ratio. Trump's visit to the state is part of an aggressive schedule of campaign events, where he has leaned heavily into fear tactics.

Trump's Carson City rally was held at an airport with a golden scrub brush-covered hill providing a dramatic backdrop. He relived fond moments from his 2016 campaign against Hillary Clinton, revisited his long-running feud with NFL players and went on an extended rant about water management policy, which he blamed for people having to "flush their toilet 15 times."

He also added to his litany of hyperbolic attacks against Biden, claiming that, if Biden were elected, he would mandate new lockdown measures that would make Carson City "a ghost town" and "the Christmas season will be cancelled."

As he surveyed his crowd, Trump expressed disbelief that he could possibly be tied (in fact losing, according to public polls) to Biden in the state.

"How the hell can we be tied?" he asked. "What's going on? ... We get these massive crowds. He gets nobody.... It doesn't make sense!" Biden has held very small and virtual events in recent months because of the ongoing pandemic. Biden started his day with Mass in Delaware at St. Joseph's on the Brandywine, as he does nearly every week. He and his wife, Jill, entered wearing dark-colored face masks. She carried a bunch of flowers that including pink roses.

The church is a few minutes' drive from Biden's home. Biden's son Beau, who died of brain cancer in 2015, is buried in the cemetery on its grounds. Joe and Jill Biden visited the grave after the service.

Trump attends church far less often but has drawn strong support from white Evangelical leaders and frequently hosts groups of pastors at the White House.

Trump often goes to the Church of Bethesda-By-The Sea near Mar-a-Lago in Florida for major holidays, including Easter, and he attended a Christmas Eve service last year at Family Church in West Palm Beach before the onset of the pandemic.

If elected, Biden would be only the second Roman Catholic president in U.S. history and first since John F. Kennedy. The former vice president speaks frequently about his faith and its importance in his life.

Wales locks down as Covid-19 cases spike; Manchester resists

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 19 OCTOBER

A pedestrian walks past Palace Theatre, temporarily closed down due to Covid-19, in Manchester, on Monday. AFP

Wales has become the second nation in the United Kingdom to lock down large swaths of its economy to combat rising coronavirus infections, even as British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is resisting loud calls to do the same throughout England.

Wales' First Minister Mark Drakeford said on Monday that his administration was backing a short, sharp "firebreak" to slow the spread of Covid-19. All non-essential retail, leisure, hospitality and tourism businesses will close for two weeks beginning at 6 p.m. Friday ~ a lockdown similar in scope to the U.K.-wide measures imposed in March.

"This is the moment to come together to play our part in a common endeavor to do everything we can together to protect the (National Health Service) and to save lives,? Drakeford said.

Authorities across the U.K. are imposing new restrictions on business and social interactions as Covid-19 infections rise throughout all age groups and parts of the country, filling hospital beds and intensive care wards.

One of their main goals is to reduce the strain on the NHS ahead of the winter flu season. Public health experts say a lockdown can help reset the pandemic at a lower level, giving doctors time to treat the ill and providing breathing room for the government to improve its response.

Britain has the deadliest coronavirus outbreak in Europe, with over 43,700 confirmed deaths. Drakeford said the Welsh lockdown will definitely end 9 November.

"The benefit will be seen in the weeks that follow,? Drakeford said.

Northern Ireland has already ordered schools to close for the next two weeks, banned most social gatherings and shut down many businesses including bars and restaurants for a month.

The Welsh decision came as officials in Greater Manchester continue to reject efforts by Johnson's Conservative government to move the region into the highest level of restrictions in the three-tier system Johnson unveiled for England a week ago.

While the government's scientific advisers have recommended a short national lockdown, Johnson says his tiered, regional approach limits the economic and social damage from the pandemic on areas where infection rates are lower.

Johnson's government says the talks with authorities in Manchester must be completed Monday because the public health situation is deteriorating, but local officials are holding out for more financial assistance for those hurt by the restrictions.

Under the U.K.'s system of devolved government, the regional administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales control health policy in their areas and the U.K. government makes the rules for England.

Thethree-tier strategy applies only to England, but he says he will coordinate with the devolved administrations in other parts of U.K.

Beheading case: French police raid Islamist groups

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS, 19 OCTOBER

French police on Monday raided the homes of dozens of suspected Islamist militants three days after the beheading of a teacher who had shown his pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, the interior minister said.

The raids came a day after tens of thousands of people took part in rallies countrywide to honour slain teacher Samuel Paty and to defend freedom of expression.

Gerald Darmanin said the swoop on Islamist networks was designed to send a message that "enemies of the Republic" would not enjoy "a minute's respite". He said over 80 investigations had been launched for online hate speech following the attack, which has drawn parallels with the 2015 massacre at *Charlie Hebdo* satirical magazine, where 12 people were gunned down for publishing the Mohammed cartoons.

That attack~the first in a string of assaults that have killed over 240 people in France~ brought over a million people onto the streets to denounce extremism.

On Sunday, people again congregated on Place de la Republique in Paris, where world leaders had marched alongside the French in 2015.

Some in the crowd chanted "I am Samuel", echoing the 2015 "I am Charlie" rallying call by supporters of free speech. Paty, 47, was murdered on his way home from the school where he taught in a suburb north-west of Paris on Friday afternoon.

A photo of the teacher and a message confessing to his murder was found on the mobile phone of his killer, an 18-year-old Chechen man, Abdullakh Anzorov, who was shot dead by police.

Eleven people are being held over the attack, including a known Islamist militant and the father of one of Mr Paty's pupils who had railed against him online and called for his dismissal.

Mr Darmanin accused the two men of having issued a "fatwa" against Mr Paty, using the term for an Islamic edict that was famously used to describe the 1989 death sentence handed down against writer Salman Rushdie by Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini.

"They apparently launched a fatwa against the teacher," the minister told Europe 1 radio. Anzorov's family arrived in France when he was six from the predominantly Muslim Russian republic of Chechnya.

Four members of his family, which sought asylum in France, are being held for questioning.

Paty had been the target of online threats for showing the Mohammed cartoons to his civics class.

Depictions of the prophet are widely regarded as taboo in Islam. According to his school, Paty had given Muslim children the option to leave the classroom before he showed the cartoons, saying he did not want their feelings hurt.

PLAY AND LEARN

Newly-immigrated primary school children take part in a lesson during a visit of NRW Minister of Education at a high school in Ratingen, Germany, on Monday. AFP

Top British bishops slam 'disastrous' Bill as Brexit talks teeter

LONDON, 19 OCTOBER

The UK's most senior Anglican bishops warned on Monday that legislation breaching part of the Brexit divorce deal the government signed with the European Union will set a disastrous precedent and could undermine peace in Northern Ireland.

The top archbishops in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland condemned the Internal Market Bill in a letter published in the *Financial Times*.

They said the Bill asks the country's highest law-making body to equip a government minister to break international law. This has enormous moral, as well as political and legal, consequences.

We believe this would create a disastrous precedent, said the letter, signed by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who heads the Church of England, and four other archbishops. If carefully negotiated terms are not honored and laws can be 'legally' broken, on what foundations does our democracy stand? they asked.

The Internal Market Bill has been approved by the House of Commons and begins its passage through the House of Lords on Monday. It is likely to face strong opposition in Parliament's upper chamber, where the governing Conservative Party does not have a majority.

The Bill has triggered a crisis of trust between Britain and the EU, who have been attempting to strike a new trade deal since the U.K. left the bloc on 31 January.

If passed, the Bill will allow the British government to override parts of the legally binding Brexit withdrawal agreement relating to trade with Northern Ireland, the only part of the U.K. to share a border with the EU.

British PM Boris Johnson's government says it needs the legislation as an insurance policy in case the EU behaves unreasonably after a post-Brexit transition period ends on 31 December and tries to impede the flow of goods between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K. AP

Irish regulator investigates *Instagram* over children's data

LONDON, 19 OCTOBER

Irish privacy regulators have opened two investigations into Instagram over the social media site's handling of young people's personal data.

Ireland's Data Protection Commission said it launched the investigations in September after receiving complaints about the company. Facebook, which owns Instagram, said it's in touch with the commission and is "cooperating with their inquiries.

The investigations were first reported late Sunday by Britain's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, which said they came after a US data scientist aired concerns that Instagram made public the email addresses and phone numbers of people under 18.

The minimum age to use Instagram is 13.

Data scientist David Stier said last year that his analysis found users, including those under 18, who switched their account types to business accounts also had their contact information displayed on their profile.

Users were apparently switching to business accounts in order to see statistics on how many likes their posts were getting, after Instagram started removing the feature from personal accounts in some countries to help with mental health.

One investigation will look into whether Facebook has adequate safeguards in place for children and whether it has a legal basis to process their data.

The other focuses on whether Instagram's profile and account settings are appropriate for children. AP

Vaccine storage issues could leave 3 billion without access

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GAMPELA (BURKINA FASO), 19 OCTOBER

The chain breaks here, in a tiny medical clinic in Burkina Faso that went a year without a working refrigerator.

From factory to syringe, the world's most promising coronavirus vaccine candidates need non-stop sterile refrigeration to stay potent and safe.

But despite enormous strides in equipping developing countries to maintain the vaccine cold chain, nearly 3 billion of the world's 7.8 billion people live where temperature-controlled storage is insufficient for an immunization campaign to bring Covid-19 under control.

The result: Poor people around the world who were among the hardest hit by the virus pandemic are also likely to be the last to recover from it.

The vaccine cold chain hurdle is just the latest disparity of the pandemic weighted against the poor, who have little access to medical oxygen that is vital to Covid-19 treatment.

Maintaining the cold chain for coronavirus vaccines won't be easy even in the richest of countries, especially when it comes to those that require ultracold temperatures of around minus 70 degrees Celsius (minus 94 F). Investment in infrastructure and cooling technology lags behind the high-speed leap that vaccine development has taken this year due to the virus.

With the pandemic now in its eighth month, logistics experts warn that vast parts of the world lack the refrigeration to administer an effective vaccination program. This includes most of Central Asia, India and southeast Asia, Latin America and Africa.

As virus flares globally, strategies target hot spots

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, 19 OCTOBER

While countries including Israel and the Czech Republic have reinstated nationwide closures, other governments hope smaller-scale shutdowns can work this time, in conjunction with testing, contact tracing and new initiatives

After entire nations were shut down during the first surge of the coronavirus earlier this year, some countries and US states are trying more targeted measures as cases rise again around the world, especially in Europe and USA.

New York's new round of virus shutdowns zeroes in on individual neighbourhoods, closing schools and businesses in hot spots measuring just a couple of square miles.

Spanish officials limited travel to and from some parts of Madrid before restrictions were widened throughout the capital and some suburbs.

Italian authorities have sometimes quarantined spots as small as a single building.

While countries including Israel and the Czech Republic have reinstated nationwide closures, other governments hope smaller-scale shutdowns can work this time, in conjunction with testing, contact tracing and other initiatives they've now built up.

The concept of containing hot spots isn't new, but it's being tested under new pressures as authorities try to avoid a dreaded resurgence of illness and deaths, this time with economies weakened from earlier lockdowns, populations chafing at the idea of renewed restrictions and some communities complaining of unequal treatment.

Some scientists say a localized approach, if well-tailored and explained to the public, can be a nimble response at a complex point in the pandemic.

It is pragmatic in appreciation of 'restriction fatigue' ... but it is strategic, allowing for mobilization of substantial resources to where they are needed most, says Dr Wafaa El-Sadr, who is following New York City's efforts closely and is on some city advisory boards. Other scientists are warier.

If we're serious about wiping out Covid in an area, we need coordinated responses across as wide a swath as possible, says Benjamin Althouse, a research scientist with the Institute for Disease Modeling in Washington state.

In a study that has been posted online, Althouse and other scientists found that amid patchwork coronavirus-control measures in the US this spring, some people travelled farther than usual for such activities as worship, suggesting they might have responded to closures by hopscotching to less-restricted areas.

Still, choosing between limited closures and widespread restrictions is "a very, very difficult decision, Althouse notes. "I'm glad I'm not the one making it.

Early in the outbreak, countries tried to quell hot spots from Wuhan, China where a stringent lockdown was seen as key in squelching transmission in the world's most populous nation to Italy, where a decision to seal off 10 towns in the northern region of Lombardy evolved within weeks into a nationwide lockdown.

After the virus's first surge, officials fought flare-ups with city-sized closures this summer in places from Barcelona, Spain, to Seoul to Melbourne, Australia.

epaper.thestatesman.com

Considering the current situation, it is important to introduce students to 3D virtual prototyping, which will serve as an ideal technology for fashion universities

Bridging the skill gap

iStock

MITHUN BHARDWAJ

Online classrooms present particular challenges for students seeking hands-on skills - but creative solutions are on the horizon. While some of these changes may or may not be permanent, certain tectonic shifts in industries like fashion are inevitable. If ever there was a time for fashion to reinvent itself, it is now.

Myths versus reality

Expectations of impractical, uncomfortable work attire are floating away. People will consume fashion in a different way now; this means more personalisation for brands, relaxed fundamental clothing and the need for students to get closer to understand the pulse of the modern age customer.

While "fast fashion" is flying out of the shelf, durable and sustainable clothing is making its presence felt like never before; style will sure take a 360-degree turn in a post Covid-19 world.

So while the virus continues to flex its muscle, new curriculum should be added where they should be taught to create creative concepts of practical, cost-effective, affordable fashion to influence customer's journey.

Improvisation will be the key

Trends in the fashion industry changes very fast with designs and patterns evolving every day in the market. Designers need to keep pacing with new styles and AI algorithms can analyse designs through images to copying popular styles.

3D virtual prototyping is an ideal technology for fashion universities to work with considering distance learning. But most of the students are not well equipped with handling these softwares because these are completely new in the market. Introducing them to these advanced tools will play an important part in the fashion education now more than ever.

More tech apps are coming in which are using augmented reality and virtual reality to give a new consumer experience while shopping and these technologies should be inculcated in the syllabus.

They should learn how to fill skill gaps in the fashion industry, many fashion degrees offered by universities focus too much on the design and marketing aspects of fashion, failing to teach students the revenue aspect of it and how the brand will be scalable in terms of number. They should also be taught how to build brand which will be scalable in terms of revenue.

Technology is crucial but will not replace craft

However, as important as digital technologies have become, at the same time there will be a growing interest in traditional craftsmanship. As many consumers are going for local, crafted products instead of generic, mass-produced options.

The kinds of skills that fashion students should be acquiring now and into the near future have more to do with how they are thinking about and using design, rather than skills specific to a certain technique or process. While there are platforms that allow students to construct patterns, drape and fit virtually, these will not entirely replace the need for hands-on training with the craftsman as we know it today. If anything, we may see the more traditional craftsman techniques being used in tandem with newer digital technologies and more hybrid learning models where students study through a combination of on-site and online education.

Importance of data science for a successful career in fashion

It's like the story of *The Beauty and the Beast*; the apparently incompatible but surprisingly perfect match for each other. The "Beast" in reference here is the chaotic multi-billion dollar fashion industry and the "Beauty" here is the works of a powerful and clear model produced by data science. It's this Beauty that'll drive the Beast forward.

The fashion industry is an extremely competitive market. In fashion, creative minds work together for endless hours to create global trends for one runway event, and the impact of their designs is simply reduced to a simple Hot or Not verdict by fashion pundits. But data science is here to help create trends that will always be in. Data science will help students with various predictive algorithms that will help them make wiser business decisions. For example, fashion trends can be forecasted to tell them whether the latest collection will get a good response or not or even something as basic as helping them decide whether should design clothing for women or men.

Fashion schools to work more closely with companies and each other

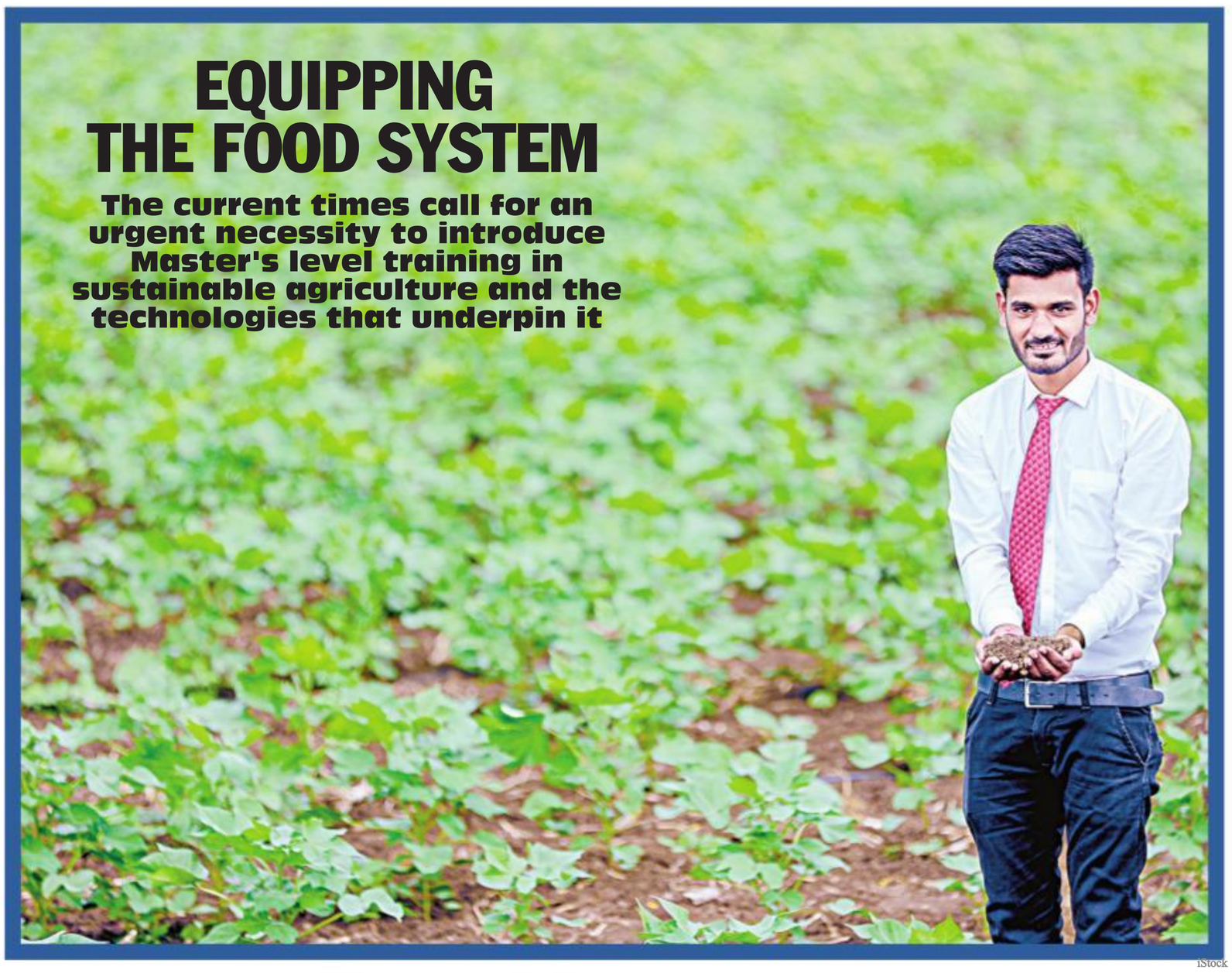
Fashion schools should collaborate more with fashion businesses and other schools. There is a need of more and more academic-corporate partnerships. This will help them learn more practical knowledge than the bookish ones they used to consume.

Companies should help universities to create curriculums and course materials, and universities will equip companies with learning tools so employees can be continuously trained and remain relevant.

The writer is director, Zashed Fashiontech

EQUIPPING THE FOOD SYSTEM

The current times call for an urgent necessity to introduce Master's level training in sustainable agriculture and the technologies that underpin it



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DUNCAN CAMERON & JO HERCBERG

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility of just-in-time food supply chains, the vulnerability of many communities to food insecurity and our reliance on migrant farm workers. But even before this latest crisis, it was clear that our current food system was unsustainable, facing a perfect storm of coinciding risks that demand truly interdisciplinary solutions.

Research from the Institute for Sustainable Food at the University of Sheffield has shown that understanding this complexity is critical for building a sustainable food future, recognising the sources of pollution generated by our food, sustainability trade-offs and perverse outcomes embedded in the way we produce and consume our food.

Climate breakdown is already impacting farmers' ability to grow staple crops, as floods, fires, droughts, heatwaves and storms become more frequent and intense. The soils that support all terrestrial life on earth are being eroded by deforestation, intensive agriculture, urbanisation and the climate crisis far faster than they can regenerate.

At the same time, the world demands more. The global population is estimated to reach 10 billion people by 2050. Already, according to the World Health Organisation, 462 million adults are underweight - while 600 million are obese. The crisis of food security touches every corner of the world, every part of government and every academic discipline.

There is a real need for Masters'-level training in sustainable agriculture and the technologies that underpin it to help us overcome these challenges. We know there is a global skills gap in agriculture, for example as precision farming approaches develop and molecular genetics and biochemical methods are used to breed crops and fight emerging pests and diseases, there is an urgent need to future-proof the workforce experienced in these cutting-edge technologies.

The complexity of the food system opens many avenues for students wanting to develop careers in agriculture, sustainability and technology to help meet these challenges.

Students in such a course will develop a strong understanding of the fundamentals of crop production, such as adaptation to climate and other environmental changes, crop management techniques for sustainability, long term improvements in productivity and learn about the advanced techniques used in crop and soil science.

Research in areas such as crop science, biotechnology and breeding, agricultural ecology in a changing world, soil science, issues in global food security, advanced analytical techniques in agricultural research, scientific skills and project management opens doors to careers in a range of public, private, and third sector organisational contexts.

As precision farming approaches develop, the agricultural industry is becoming increasingly high-skilled, calling for trained graduates to become future leaders in the agronomy sector. There is also a global skills gap in the application of cutting-edge technologies to agricultural systems.

Extensive discussions with industry partners have revealed a dire necessity for training in sustainable agriculture at a specialised level to get a grasp of the concepts that defines agronomy and agricultural consultancy sectors.

Studying sustainable agricultural technology equips graduates for careers in agricultural extension, farming, agricultural and environmental policy, soil science and crop science as well as graduates being well equipped to pursue PhDs in soil science, crop science, microbiology or food supply and beyond.

The writers are director and communications officer, Institute for Sustainable Food, University of Sheffield, UK, respectively

PLUS POINTS

Showcasing culture

Hindusthan Art and Music Society arranged an annual general virtual meet for Bharat Sanskriti Utsab 2020 recently. It was organised in Tridhara Sammelani club, Kolkata. President of the festival Dr Debashish Kumar, secretary Prosenjit Poddar, illustrious dancers Aloka Kanungo and Madhumita Roy and about 110 eminent artists and teachers across the world were present in the meet. The president of the festival and member of Kolkata Municipal Corporation's administration committee declared that the festival would held from 15-30 December 2020 abiding by all the rules and regulations of the state government and maintaining the safety measures against Covid-19 in ICCR Auditorium, Kolkata.

Lastly, Prasenjit Poddar declared that they would help the adversely affected artists due this pandemic situation from their fund. The institute had already made contribution towards the society during this adverse situation. They contributed ration to 3500 needy people and monetary assistance to 200 artists.

Incredible invention

BeSingular, an international tech education platform for children and young adults between the age group of six to 18 years, introduces "Brobot" - a robot that's been programmed and coded by Indian students, and operating in their Global Tech Laboratory in Germany. The young innovators performed distant programming for this robot, and have taught it to draw out the logo for the company. With this invention, the innovative edtech venture is enabling technological exposure for children from across the globe, who can learn how to programme and operate robots, 3D printers, and work with live technologies from anywhere in the world. It has also invested in a tech lab, which provides students from across the world with first-hand experience and knowledge to use and explore different technological advancements.

Of celebration

Sanskriti University celebrated the 10th Foundation Programme - 2020 on Zoom platform recently. Arun Singh, Member of Parliament and national general secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party was the chief guest. Apart from him there were many other dignitaries. The programme started with a welcome message by Dr Rana Singh, vice-chancellor, Sanskriti University where he extended a warm welcome to all the new students by wishing them good luck.

While talking about New Education Policy Singh said, "In the policy, the emphasis has been on practical education / internship from class six, which will enhance their skills."

The programme was made memorable by the cultural performance in online and offline mode. It ended with a vote of thanks.

Detailed learning

JK Business School (JKBS) is inviting applications for its BBA programme for the batch of 2020. The three-year degree programme with contemporary and exhaustive course curriculum imparts requisite knowledge, skills, and expertise along with the ability to lead and manage multiple business functions. Those who cleared +2 with minimum 50 per cent marks can apply. Those who have cleared +2 exams or equivalent examination from CBSE/Board of School Education, Haryana/or other recognised board/or its equivalent are eligible to apply for these programmes. The last date for application is 31 October. Application form can be downloaded from www.jkbschool.org

For details, visit: *https://admission.nopaperforms.com/jk-business-school/ug*

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BOYS WILL BE BOYS

Arsene Wenger (photo, left) has brushed off Jose Mourinho's reaction to being left out of the Frenchman's autobiography despite their fiery touchline clashes over the years, saying that dealing with the Portuguese made him feel like he was in kindergarten again.

THUMBNAILS

Covid lifeline: A multi-million dollar lifeline was announced on Sunday by the UK culture and sport secretary Oliver Dowden to help lower league football clubs in England. The $13 million bounty aims to keep struggling clubs afloat during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Okuhara wins: Nozomi Okuhara showed she would be a strong contender to win badminton gold in the Tokyo Games after defeating Olympic champion Carolina Marin 21-19, 21-17 at the Denmark Open on Sunday. She returned after a two-year absence.

Tokyo initiative: A competition in gymnastics is scheduled to be held in Tokyo in November. It will be the first such event hosted by it since the start of the novel coronavirus pandemic. About 80 athletes and coaches from Japan and other countries will participate.

Damp squib: Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said that his side had shown less enthusiasm than promoted Cadiz in their shock 1-0 home defeat in La Liga on Saturday, adding that his team could have been two or three goals down before half-time.

Barca charge: Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman claimed that Getafe player Allan Nyom had insulted him during the 1-0 defeat by the Madrid side on Saturday after speaking to opposite number Jose Bordalas about the winger's behaviour, a serious charge.

Surgery needed: Virgil van Dijk has released a statement following the news that he is set to undergo surgery for an injury he suffered in Liverpool's Merseyside derby draw at Everton on Saturday. Van Dijk was scythed down by Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

Let off: Sergio Aguero will not face retrospective action from the Football Association for the incident involving assistant referee Sian Massey-Ellis. The Manchester City striker was criticised for grabbing Massey-Ellis' shoulder during his side's win against Arsenal.

'Review reviews': Liverpool have requested a review into the application of referrals during the Merseyside derby, circling two incidents. The champions were held 2-2 by Everton at Goodison Park on Saturday afternoon, a game bookended by the controversial decisions.

Oldest pro: Egyptian grandfather Ezzeldin Bahader has been recognised as the world's oldest professional soccer player after completing a second full match just short of his 75th birthday. Bahader was awarded the title by *Guinness World Records*.

Pak claim: Just three days before Zimbabwe are to touch down in Islamabad for a three-one-day and three-T20I series, the Pakistan Cricket Board has reportedly iterated it has not paid any extra money to the visitors to undertake the tour as in 2015.

KXIP to face mighty Delhi Capitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, 19 OCTOBER

The nail-biting win over defending champions Mumbai Indians was certainly a morale-lifter but the inconsistent Kings XI Punjab have another tough battle at hand when they take on table leaders Delhi Capitals in an IPL match here on Tuesday.

Having lost two tight games they should have won at the start of the season, KXIP managed to get on the right side of the results in the last couple of games, although it was too close for comfort by their own admission.

Needing seven off the last two overs with nine wickets in hand, they should have wrapped the game against RCB much before the last ball and even in the IPL's first double Super Over against Mumbai Indians on Sunday night, the KL Rahul-led side could have closed it out in regulation time.

Death bowing and the form of star player Glenn Maxwell in a shaky middle-order remain a concern for a team that needs to win its remaining five games to make the play-offs.

The fact that KXIP have struggled this season despite having tournament's top two run-getters in openers Rahul (525) and Mayank Agarwal (393) best sums up their erratic run.

On a positive note, the successful return of Chris Gayle has reduced the burden on the shoulders of the star openers, especially allowing Rahul to play more freely.

Nicholas Pooran has shown his lethalness time and again but is yet to play a match-winning knock and the pressure is increasing on Maxwell the batsman, who is proving to be more useful as a spinner operating in the powerplay.

However, the team is likely to stick to him in the game against Delhi Capitals.

Delhi are clearly the team to beat in the tournament and have gained in confidence with a close win against Chennai Super Kings on Saturday night.

While Prithvi Shaw needs to be back among the runs after a couple of ducks, his opening partner Shikhar Dhawan elevating his game bodes well for the team that has won seven out of the nine matches it has played.

Axar Patel has shown his utility not just with the ball but also with the bat. His three sixes off Ravindra Jadeja helped Delhi get over the line in the final over finish against CSK.

With an envious bowling line-up, Delhi have shown they can defend even below-par totals. Playing in the absence of an injured Rishabh Pant, time is running out for Ajinkya Rahane to make an impact.

The match went into a Super Over last time the two teams met and more than Delhi, KXIP will be hoping that it doesn't come to that again.

World T20: ICC is taking up our India visa issue with BCCI and we have set January deadline, says PCB CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

The Pakistan Cricket Board wants the ICC to assure visas for its players and officials when India hosts the T20 World Cup in October next year, by January 2021, CEO Wasim Khan has said.

The PCB CEO also confirmed that there is "no chance" of an Indo-Pak bilateral series in "foreseeable future" and neither will it be a part of fresh the Futures Tours Programme (FTP) that starts in 2023.

India would be hosting the global T20 event in October and given the tense diplomatic ties between the two neighbours, the PCB has sought assurances that the visa process of their players and support staff would be dealt with by the ICC.

"This is an ICC matter. We have discussed our concerns. There is a 'Host Agreement' that states very clearly that host nation (India in this case) will have to provide visas and accommodation for teams that are due to participate in T20 World Cup and Pakistan is one of them," Khan told PTI in an exclusive interaction.

"We have sought assurances from the ICC that our players will receive visas and ICC is now taking this up with the BCCI because that directive and confirmation will clearly need to come from their government," Khan said.

He then clarified that it's only fair that there is a time-frame for such a deadline.

"We have asked for a deadline till December-January, which we believe is the right thing. We expect a response from the ICC on whether our players and officials will receive visas to participate in the tournament.

"If it (visas) isn't (there), then like any nation would expect, we would also expect ICC to take that up directly with India and the Indian government through the BCCI to resolve this matter."

Pakistan athletes' participation in global events held in India has always been contentious subject. Last year, Pakistani shooters could not get visas for a World Cup in Delhi, which kicked up quite a storm.

Unlike his predecessors in the Pakistan Cricket Board, Khan seemed practical when he clearly said that India and Pakistan aren't going to play any bilateral series in near future in the current climate.

"I think we have to be realistic about India and Pakistan bilateral series... BCCI needs to get permission before they can play Pakistan in any bilateral series, home, away or even on neutral venues," he said.

"I think on both sides, there is plenty of cricket to be played against other countries, but sadly for fans and players in both countries, it does not look like that India and Pakistan will be playing bilateral series in foreseeable future.

"So there is no current planning that we can factor into the next FTP (2023-31) unless circumstances and viewpoint changes of the Indian government," the PCB CEO added.

Khan didn't wish to comment on the impasse surrounding the ICC chairmanship but made it clear that contrary to popular notion, there is no animosity between BCCI and PCB at the global forum.

It was widely speculated that the PCB was opposed to any candidate backed by the BCCI.

"I am not aware that there is any dispute around voting with regards to the BCCI and PCB. It's the domain of BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and PCB chairman Ehsan Mani. I have no knowledge or information on that," Khan added.

Shami planned an over of yorkers, says Rahul

AGENCIES
DUBAI, 19 OCTOBER

Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul has stated that he decided to back Mohammed Shami's **(in photo)** plan and instinct as they defended a target of six against Mumbai Indians in the first super over at Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

The over ended in a tie, thus prompting another super over in which KXIP came out on top last evening.

"You can never prepare for super overs. I don't think any team do. Something I have learnt is that you have to trust your bowler's gut," said Rahul in the post-match presentation ceremony, in which he was also adjudged the Player of the Match for his 51-ball 77.

"I might think as a batsman so it is important you let them go by their instinct and gut. He (Shami) was very clear he wanted to send down six yorkers. He has been phenomenal, and keeps getting better every game. It is important that senior players put their hands up and win the games for the team and that's what is happening," he added.

This was KXIP's second win on the trot after they had gone six games without a win before their previous game. "When you haven't won too many in the first seven games, every victory is sweet and lifts the mood of the team a lot more," said Rahul.

"The talk in the dressing room is always to focus on the process. Win or lose, go and do the best we can on the day and that is the kind of mood I and the coach want to set in the dressing room. Everyone is hungry and professional, so we know we need to win everything from here, but we can't forget the processes and remember to enjoy ourselves," he added.

Rahul smashed 77 off 51 deliveries as Punjab equalled

Mumbai's score of 176 in the second match of the day after the opening game also ended in a tie.

Kolkata Knight Riders edged out Sunrisers Hyderabad in Abu Dhabi with New Zealand quick Lockie Ferguson making an impact in his first Indian Premier League outing this season.

Chris Gayle and Mayank Agarwal combined to get their team's 12-run target after Mumbai had managed 11 for one in the second super over of the match and the third of the day.

"It was a dream come true to play the IPL and to have exciting games like this is amazing. This kind of a match will go down in history," Agarwal, who hit the winning runs, said after the tense win.

"Having an opportunity to learn from the game's greats is quite incredible. KL is a wonderful player and the kind of performance he's put forth as a captain so consistently is incredible."

The International Cricket Council changed the super over rules after England had beaten New Zealand on a boundary count in the final of last year's 50-over World Cup. England were awarded the Cup as they scored more boundaries during their innings despite New Zealand matching their score at the end of 50 overs and in the super over at Lord's.

Punjab have improved to sixth in the eight-team table and are level with four teams on six points with three wins and six losses from nine matches. Mumbai's Indian speedster Jasprit Bumrah took 3-24 and West Indies batsman Kieron Pollard smashed an unbeaten 34 off 12 deliveries.

Earlier, in game one, Ferguson returned figures of 3-15 in the Hyderabad innings and then claimed two wickets including Hyderabad skipper David Warner in the super over. Warner became the fastest to 5,000 IPL runs in 135 innings as he hit an unbeaten 47 but Hyderabad could only equal Kolkata's score of 163 and the match ended in a tie.

Ferguson then bowled a superb super over to send Warner back on the first ball and took another wicket to keep down Hyderabad to two, a score Eoin Morgan's Kolkata surpassed in four balls.

RR bowlers restrict CSK to 125/5

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ABU DHABI, 19 OCTOBER

Rajasthan Royals produced a fine bowling effort to restrict three-time champions Chennai Super Kings to a modest 125 for five in an Indian Premier League match here on Monday.

Opting to bat, CSK never got going and lacked the fire power to put up a decent score after being reduced to 56 for four in 10 overs.

Ravindra Jadeja top-scored for CSK with a 30-ball unbeaten 35 and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, playing in his 200th IPL game, made a run-a-ball 28 while adding 51 runs for the fifth wicket.

Jofra Archer (1/20) was terrific with the new ball but he would be disappointed with his outing on the field.

Besides Archer, the spin duo of Shreyas Gopal (1/14) and Rahul Tewatia (1/18) were economical in the middle overs, while young Kartik Tyagi (1/35) too was impressive.

Dhoni's decision to bat first backfired as RR picked up wickets at regular intervals to make life difficult for CSK.

CSK lost the in-form Faf du Plessis (10) in the third over, caught by Jos Buttler off Archer and then an over later, Shane Watson was sent back by Kartik.

Opening the batting again, Sam Curran made 22 off 25 balls before being dismissed by Gopal.

After that, a lot depended on Ambati Rayudu but he too disappointed, perishing in the next over off Tewatia's bowling as CSK slumped to 56 for four.

Dhoni and Jadeja tried their best to resurrect the innings and then up the ante, but it proved to be too little too late.

Dhoni was run out in search of a double in the 18th over.

Kedar Jadhav continued to struggle with the bat as RR bowlers didn't give the CSK batsmen any leeway.

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS INNINGS

SM Curran	c Buttler b Gopal	22
F du Plessis	c Buttler b Archer	10
S Watson	c Tewatia b K Tyagi	8
A Rayudu	c Samson b Tewatia	13
MS Dhoni	run out (Archer/Samson)	28
RA Jadeja	not out	35
KM Jadhav	not out	4
Extras:	(b 1, lb 2, nb 1, w 1)	5
TOTAL:	(20 Ov, RR: 6.25)	125

BOWLING: J Archer 4,0,20,1 AS Rajpoot 1,0,8,0 K Tyagi 4,0,35,1 B Stokes 3,0,27,0 S Gopal 4,0,14,1

ICC Chairmanship: Only two contenders file nominations

NEW DELHI, 19 OCTOBER

New Zealand Cricket's Gregor Barclay and Imran Khwaja of Singapore are the only two prominent names who will be fighting for the ICC chairman's post to replace Shahshank Manohar.

October 18 was the last day for filing nominations and a one-month window has been kept by the ICC Board to see if it can have an unanimous candidate.

"As of now, it looks like there will be an election between Barclay and Khwaja, who is ICC's acting chairman. They are the only two who have filed nominations. Both have their share of support in board," a senior official, privy to developments in ICC Board, said on Monday.

In a 17-member ICC board, 16 can cast their vote (17th member is CEO Manu Sawhney without voting rights) and as per the existing rules, either Barclay or Khwaja would need 11 votes (2/3rd of board) to become the next chairman.

In case Cricket South Africa (CSA) gets suspended by the ICC over government interference, then the number of voters will come down to 15. However, in case Barclay fails to get 11 votes, Khwaja can still continue as the acting chairman of the ICC.

While Colin Graves, the former England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman was the favourite to win it was learnt that he didn't file his nomination after it became certain that he is an unanimous choice nor does he have the numbers to win an election.

Not a happy homecoming for Tottenham Hotspur's Bale

AGENCIES
LONDON, 19 OCTOBER

When Gareth Bale **(in photo, left)** came off the bench in the 72nd minute to begin his second chapter at Tottenham Hotspur the hosts were 3-0 ahead and cruising against London rivals West Ham United.

Little more than 20 minutes later Bale and his team mates trudged off crestfallen after Manuel Lanzini's stoppage-time screamer earned West Ham an unlikely 3-3 draw.

Of all the scenarios around Bale's homecoming, few would have chosen this one.

Much more likely that the 31-year-old Welsh winger would mark his return on loan to the club he left seven years ago to join Real Madrid with a goal.

Bale, who left in 2013 for a then world-record 100 million euros ($117 million), was given the chance to do something special when his first touch was to take a free kick from a dangerous area. But his tame

shot went straight at Lukasz Fabianski.

After Fabian Balbuena's 82nd-minute header and Davinson Sanchez's own goal gave West Ham a lifeline, Bale then looked poised to score after a trademark mazy run, but his shot grazed the outside of the post.

Then Lanzini struck with a thunderbolt to completely take the gloss of his return.

Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho rejected a suggestion that his side had taken their eye off the ball when Bale came on.

"Don't think so, honestly don't think so. The decision not to start him was I think a good decision. A decision to show that he doesn't have a beautiful chair waiting for him in the team and he sits there the first time he can," Mourinho said.

"So everything is positive and the focus was not on him. The focus was on the game and he was on the bench for 65 minutes or so and I don't think so, I don't think at all.

"It's a pity that he couldn't score that fourth goal which was a beauty and would have killed the game. That's football."

Son Heung-min gave Spurs the lead inside a minute before Harry Kane scored twice to put his side 3-0 up in 16 minutes.

Victory would have put Tottenham in second place but when West Ham pulled a goal back the jitters were evident.

"After the first goal their belief went up and my guys were not strong enough to cope psychologically. The clock was ticking and in the last few seconds we lost two points."

West Ham manager David Moyes charged on to the field when Lanzini's shot hit the net and he said he always believed his side could get something out of the game.

"Even in the first half our play was very good," he said. "It was a proud moment to be manager of the team today."

Mohammedan Sporting register goalless draw with FC Bengaluru United in I-League qualifier

PTI
KOLKATA, 19 OCTOBER

Having already qualified for the I-League, Mohammedan Sporting finished their qualifying campaign with an unbeaten run after registering a goalless draw against FC Bengaluru United (FCBU) in their final fixture at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Stadium here on Monday.

With this result, Mohammedan finished at the top of the table with 10 points, while Bengaluru signed off third with five points.

Sporting made a bright start through Hira Mondal, who cut in from the left in the third minute and sent a low right-footed shot but FCBU custodian Kunzang Bhutia put his body behind the ball and his defenders helped him safely get rid of the rebound.

The game opened up with chances at both ends in the 12th minute. Mondal intercepted a pass, initiating a counter-attack with his through header towards Willis Plaza. The Trinidadian laid it off for Sattyam Sharma, who dragged his shot wide.

Bengaluru responded quickly with William Opoku releasing Asraf Mondal on the right flank but his cross was just a tad too high for Azharuddin Mallick, allowing Hira Mondal to hack it out for a throw-in.

In the 15th minute, Opoku played a quick pass into the feet of Mallick, but the forward failed to bring it under control.

Vanlalbiaa Chhangte sprung into action in the 20th minute as he skipped past Asraf Mondal but failed to pick out Plaza.

There was a scare for Sporting in the 25th minute as custodian Priyant Singh failed to collect a corner but he was lucky as the rebound fell kindly for him to collect at the second time of asking.

Singh was again called into action, just two minutes later, and this time picked up a booking for a foul on Mohammad Rehbar.

Ronaldo Oliveira found Rehbar with a perfectly weighted pass over the Mohammedan defence, and the midfielder managed to poke the ball past the onrushing goalkeeper who subsequently brought him down with a late tackle.

Opoku took charge of the resulting free-kick but sent it flying well over the bar.

Plaza exchanged a quick one-two with Sattyam in the 36th minute and unleashed a powerful shot looking for the top corner. However, Bhutia made the save as both teams remained goalless at half-time.

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