



'SECRET
EXTRADITION TO
BRING MALLYA'

P4



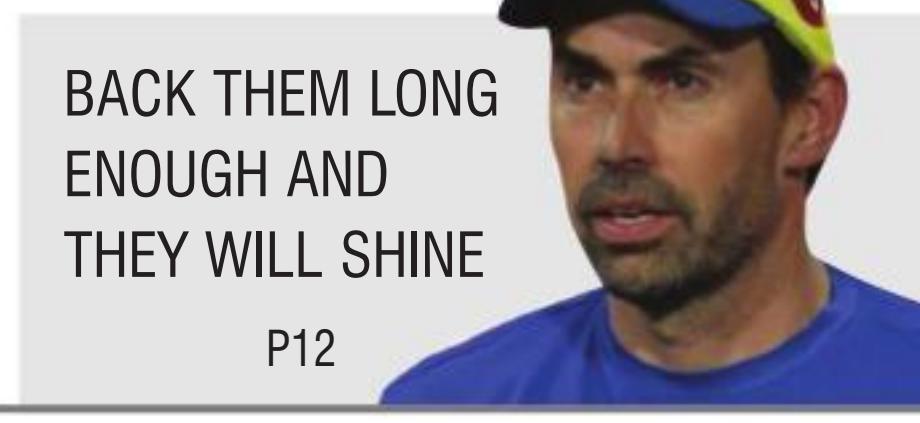
UPPER IN NAME

P6



TRUMP'S SURPRISE
DRIVE-BY OUTSIDE
MILITARY HOSPITAL

P10



BACK THEM LONG
ENOUGH AND
THEY WILL SHINE

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 35 and 19 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 85% Min: 41%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 35.2°C (+1) Min: 19.3°C (-3)

SUN RISES

06:17 hrs

MOON RISES

20:49 hrs

SUN SETS

18:01 hrs

MOON SETS

10:50 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Three girls wearing face masks amid the Covid pandemic sit on a roadside in the Capital on Monday.

DEEPAK

10pc of world's people may have been infected with virus: The head of emergencies at the World Health Organization said Monday its best estimates indicate that roughly 1 in 10 people worldwide may have been infected by the coronavirus more than 20 times the number of confirmed cases and warned of a difficult period ahead. Dr Michael Ryan, speaking to a special session of the WHO focusing on Covid, said the figures vary from urban to rural, and between different groups.

P9

Bombay HC order on compensation to kin if patient dies due to hospital laxity: The Bombay High Court on Monday said if a COVID-19 patient dies in a state or civic-run hospital due to culpable negligence on part of the medical facility, then his/her family members would be entitled for compensation. A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice N J Jamadar said the state government has a duty and responsibility towards its citizens.

SC upset with Centre-RBI's response on loan moratorium

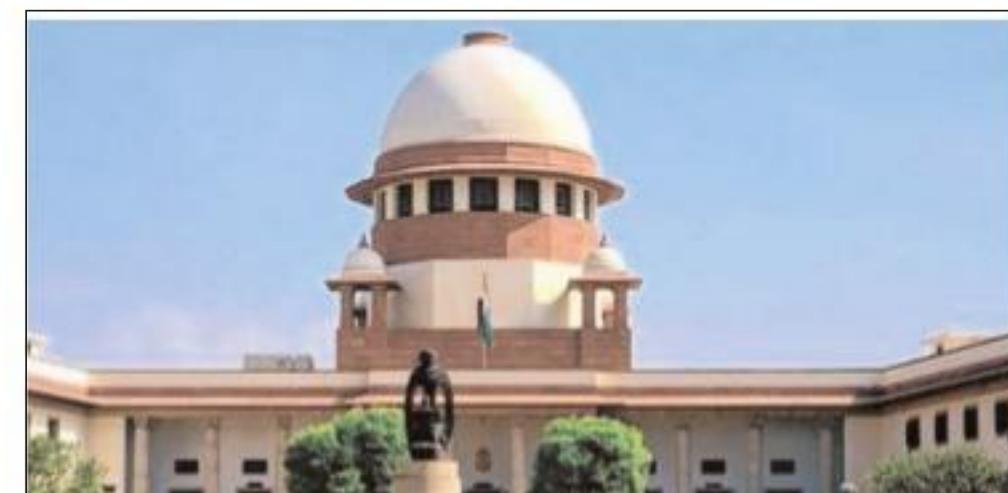
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

Expressing dissatisfaction over the response filed by the Centre and RBI on the loan moratorium issue, the Supreme Court on Monday sought a clarification on the implementation of the Kamat Committee recommendations.

The top court has sought specific reply from the Centre on the recommendations by Kamat Committee, which have been accepted and also queried, as to "how many of them have been put in the public domain?"

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan gave one week to the Centre to file an additional affidavit in the matter clarifying the implementation of the Kamat Committee recommendations.

The bench observed that the Kamat Committee recommendations and follow up action on individual sectors has also not been placed before it.



The bench said "Why was it not placed before us?"

Senior advocate VV Giri representing the RBI submitted before the bench that decisions have been taken at the highest level and the government has assured hand-holding of small borrowers.

Giri said the government proposal will take care of large chunk of small borrowers, who fear interest on interest during the moratorium.

The bench said no consequential orders, circulars have been issued by the Centre or Reserve Bank of India to enforce the decisions, and also Kamat Committee recommendations have not been placed before the court.

The top court emphasized that the RBI should make public the recommendations that have been accepted. The bench allowed the Centre and RBI to file additional affidavit on

policy decision and its implementation, and scheduled the next hearing in the matter on October 13.

The Centre in an affidavit informed the Supreme Court that it has taken a decision to waive "interest on interest" on loans up to Rs 2 crore during the six-month moratorium period.

The affidavit said the only solution is that the government should bear the burden resulting from waiver of compound interest.

"After careful consideration and weighing all possible options, the respondent Union of India has decided to continue the tradition of hand-holding the small borrowers," it said.

The categories of loans up to Rs 2 crore include: MSME loans, education loans, housing loans, consumer durable loans, credit card dues, auto loans, personal loans to professional and consumption loans.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Misleading content is being shared with forged logos of media houses, a police officer said. Some accused are circulating material that could trigger caste-based conflict, the officer said, adding the investigation is underway. According to local officials, the Hathras police have so far registered around

a dozen complaints under the IT Act related to the Dalit girl's case and they are being probed by the Cyber Cell. The incidents have triggered a massive outrage across the country, bringing severe flak for the government of UP which has now recommended a CBI probe into the whole episode.

In a related development, the security of the family of the Dalit woman who died a fortnight after being allegedly gangraped in Hathras district has been tightened and her brother has been provided with two gunners, a senior Uttar Pradesh government official said on Monday.

Three win Nobel medicine prize for hepatitis C virus discovery

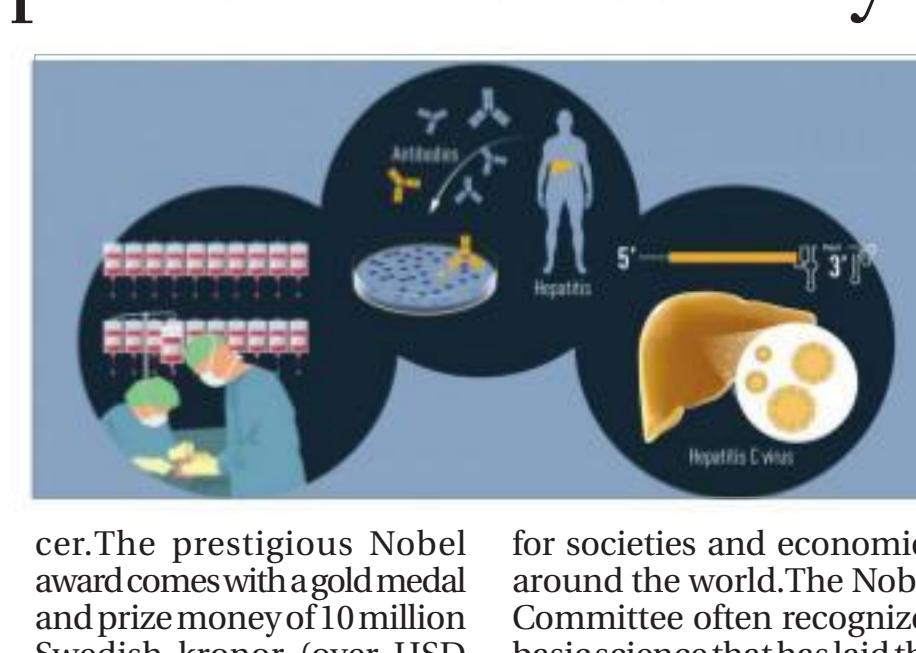
ASSOCIATED PRESS
STOCKHOLM, 5 OCTOBER

Americans Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice, and British scientist Michael Houghton were awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology on Monday for the discovery of the hepatitis C virus. Announcing the prize in Stockholm on Monday, the Nobel Committee noted that the trio's work helped explain a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the hepatitis A and B viruses. Their work makes possible blood tests and new medicines that have saved millions of lives, the committee said. Thanks to their discovery, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in



many parts of the world, greatly improving global health, the committee said.

Their discovery also allowed the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at hepatitis C, it added. For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising



many parts of the world, greatly improving global health, the committee said.

Hopes of eradicating hepatitis C virus from the world population. The World Health Organisation estimates there are over 70 million cases of hepatitis worldwide and 400,000 deaths each year. The disease is chronic and a major cause of liver inflammation and can-

cer. The prestigious Nobel award comes with a gold medal and prize money of 10 million Swedish kronor (over USD 1,118,000), courtesy of a bequest left 124 years ago by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. The medicine prize carried particular significance this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has highlighted the importance that medical research has

for societies and economies around the world. The Nobel Committee often recognizes basic science that has laid the foundations for practical applications in common use today. The award is the first of six prizes being announced through October 12.

The other prizes are for outstanding work in the fields of physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics.

Centre to release ₹20,000 crore to states as GST compensation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

The Centre on Monday said it will tonight release Rs 20,000 crore to states on account of GST compensation dues.

Briefing reporters after the meeting of the 42nd GST Council here, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the states which received less apportionment of Integrated GST (IGST) for 2017-18, the Centre will next week transfer a cumulative Rs 24,000 crore to them.

On the issue of releasing compensation to the states, Sitharaman said: "This year whatever we have collected till now, Rs 20,000 crore will get disbursed tonight."

The compensation requirement of states between April and July stood at Rs 1.51 lakh crore.

On the issue of IGST, she said excess IGST apportioned to certain states would be retrieved. However, the minister did not mention the amount.

Sitharaman said Rs 24,000 crore would be released by the middle of next week to those states which have received less IGST share against their actual dues.

The minister said the proposal to extend GST compensation cess levy beyond 2022 was cleared by the GST Council.

"Levy of Compensation Cess to be extended beyond

the transition period of five years i.e. beyond June, 2022, for such period as may be required to meet the revenue gap," an official statement said.

Under the GST structure, taxes are levied under 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent slabs. On top of the highest tax slab, a cess is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods and the proceeds from the same are used to compensate states for any revenue loss.

Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said with effect from January 1, 2021, GST refunds would be paid/disbursed in a validated bank account linked with the PAN and Aadhaar of the registered taxpayer.





China had realised that Modi had weakened India, and had taken advantage of this to take control of 1,200 kms of our land

RAHUL GANDHI
CONGRESS LEADER

CM launches major campaign against Delhi's air pollution

Declaring a 'war on pollution', Kejriwal says that polluted air might be life-threatening amid the pandemic



SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today launched a major anti-air pollution campaign in the city, pointing out that polluted air might be life-threatening in the midst of the raging Covid pandemic.

Under this campaign "Yuddh Pradushan ke Virudh", separate plans have been prepared for each of the 13 pollution hotspots in Delhi, the CM said during his virtual press conference.

"Polluted air can be life-

Under this campaign "Yuddh Pradushan ke Virudh", separate plans have been prepared for each of the 13 pollution hotspots in Delhi, the CM said during his virtual press conference.

threatening in view of the Covid pandemic. Both affect lungs," he said.

Kejriwal said a "war room" was being set up to monitor all anti-pollution measures being taken by his government.

The government was also preparing a "Green Delhi" mobile application, he said. "Using it, people can bring pollution causing activities, such as garbage burning or industrial pollution, to our notice. There will be a deadline to address complaints. I will get a daily report about resolved and pending grievances," the CM said.

Kejriwal has also issued directions to departments concerned to fill potholes to reduce dust emissions, which, he said, is a major contributor to air pollution in the city. "Teams have been inspecting construction sites to check dust

pollution," he said. He said mechanical sweepers would be intensively used by civic bodies across Delhi to curb pollution due to road dust. Anti-smog guns have also been installed across the city to reduce the impact of pollution.

The Delhi CM also said that one of the major reasons for high levels of pollution in the national capital and the adjoining region is stubble burning. "The month of October has started, and we know that every year the level of pollution rises in October, November and December in the national capital. One of the

biggest reasons for this rise in pollution is the burning of crop stubble in Delhi and the nearby states due to which farmers and their families have to suffer the maximum," he said.

Kejriwal also appealed to the neighbouring states to take measures to tackle stubble burning in their areas by providing alternatives to farmers and by addressing issues in thermal power plants and brick-kiln plants that are major sources of pollution.

"Scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (Pusa Institute) here have found an economical way to deal with the problem. They have prepared a solution which can turn stubble into manure," the CM said.

"We are going to prepare this solution at a large scale from Tuesday under the supervision of experts from the Institute. This solution will be used in Delhi this year. Next year, we will urge other states to use it," he said.

He also said that 11 thermal power plants within 300 kms of Delhi have missed the December 2019 deadline to meet new emission norms. "We shut down our two thermal power plants. These 11 plants need to reduce their emissions," the CM said.

He said that action is also needed against a large number of brick kilns using outdated technology in nearby areas.

"Now we are declaring a war against pollution from today by launching an anti-pollution campaign, Yuddh Pradushan Ke Viruddh. Apart from what I am announcing today, we will keep on adding new activities in the coming days," Kejriwal said.

Delhi's Covid recovery rate crosses 90 pc; containment zones top 2.7K

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

Delhi today recorded 32 fresh Covid-19 fatalities that took its coronavirus death toll to 5,542, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The city today reported 1,947 new coronavirus cases, which raised its caseload to 2,92,560. The relatively low number of fresh cases came out of 35,593 tests conducted yesterday. On weekdays, the average number of Covid tests conducted in the city ranges between 50,000 to 55,000.

The number of Rapid Antigen Tests conducted yesterday stood at 28,008 while the RT-PCR, CNAAT and True NAAT tests were 7,585, thereby adding to 35,593, according to the bulletin.

Delhi's tally of active cases currently stood at 23,080, the health bulletin said. The positivity rate was 5.47 per cent, the bulletin said, adding that the case fatality rate stood at 1.89 per cent.

The city's health care facilities discharged 3,588 recovered coronavirus patients over the last 24 hours, which took the cumulative total of such patients to 2,63,938. The recovery rate again crossed 90 per cent, reaching 90.21 per cent.

The number of hospitalised Covid patients in the national capital was stated to be

7,228. The number of patients getting treatment under home isolation dipped to 13,905 from yesterday's 14,700, the health bulletin said.

The number of containment zones or Covid hotspots in Delhi rose to 2,707 from yesterday's 2,696, the bulletin added. Their number went up from 1,751 on 17 September to over 2,000 on 24 Septem-



Jain today held a meeting with medical directors and medical superintendents of all Delhi government hospitals to review the status of testing.

Delhi chief secretary Vijay Deo also held a review meeting with all district magistrates on Covid management.

The Delhi government has significantly ramped up testing in the past few weeks, with the count on several days crossing the 60,000-mark.

The number of tests done per million, as on date, was over 1.74 lakh while the total number of tests stood at over 33 lakh.

Since September, daily Covid cases had begun to surge in Delhi. From the last week of September, the new cases started to come down.

According to the bulletin, out of the total number of 15,832 beds in Covid hospitals in the city, 10,030 were vacant. It said 774 beds in Covid care centres were occupied by persons under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by Vande Bharat Mission and "bubble" flights.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client namely Harpreet Kaur Sawhney, w/o Sh. Manjit Singh Sawhney, r/o P-15(GF), Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110077, has been informed that her husband namely Sh. Manjit Singh Sawhney has taken loans and borrowed huge amount of money from his near and dear ones and the persons who are completely not known to my client and neither her husband informed her that what loan amount he has borrowed from those persons and further my client have not been any party towards borrowing the said amount whatever may be. Therefore my client is not liable for any liabilities of her husband, past, present or future towards any loan amount or any other person whatsoever may be who has given any amount to her husband. Further my client shall not be held liable for recovery of any amount as may be due from her husband as stated above and whatsoever amount due to be recovered if any, the said amount may be recovered directly from her husband whatsoever the case may be.

In future also if, any person deals with him, he/she shall be doing so at their own risks and consequences, my client shall have no responsibility for the said acts and transactions entered into by her husband.

Nitish Angrish Advocate
Enr. No. D/1573/2001
Ch. No. 693, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001.
Mob.: 9899176303

LOST & FOUND

IT is notified for the information that the Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main Secondary Examination of year March, 2018 with Roll No. 2139331 issued by CBSE of my son Aditya Verma has been actually destroyed/mutilated.

Name of the Candidate : Aditya Verma, s/o Sh. Nitin Verma, r/o Flat No. 7/4B, Rail Vihar, Sector-56, Gurugram-122011, Haryana, Mob. No. 9971779955.

TENDERS
JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
Sealed tenders are invited for Tender No: JU / NIT / STN / 02 / 20-21 for J.U. Press (Printing).

Details are available on the website at www.jadavpur.edu.in under tender link.

Registrar

THE INSTITUTION of Engineers (India), 8, Gokhale Road, Kolkata-

700020, invites sealed quotation for "Tailor-made Group Mediclaim Floater Policy" for 532 Nos. (approx.) of its employees / retied employees including their dependants. For details please visit our website: www.ieindia.org For IEI

QUOTATION NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited within 15 days for Purchase of Dress (without Stitching) for Students of Siliguri College, amounting expenditure Rs. 4.20 lakh. For details, visit: www.siliguricollege.org.in Principal Siliguri College Advt. No.-01/SC/Dress Date: 06.10.2020



BY VIRTUE of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Aska, Dist.: Ganjam (Odisha) I, Diptimayee Rana, D/o. Rabindra Kumar Rana and Diptimayee Nayak, W.O. Simanchal Nayak is one and same person. Hence, I will be known as Diptimayee Rana in all official and non-official purpose.

I, ASHEEN Ahmed, W.O. SK. Ashrujeet Ahmed, R/O. 13A, Central Road, Modern Park, Santoshpur, Kolkata have changed my name from Rolly Dutta to Asheen Ahmed by an affidavit dated 05 Oct., 2020 at City Civil Court, Kolkata.

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The Statesman

**AIR-SURCHARGE; Kathmandu - Rs. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1
All other stations in India - Re. 1**

China had realised that Modi had weakened India, and had taken advantage of this to take control of 1,200 kms of our land

RAHUL GANDHI
CONGRESS LEADER

Capital

Delhi's Covid recovery rate crosses 90 pc; containment zones top 2.7K

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

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7,228. The number of patients getting treatment under home isolation dipped to 13,905 from yesterday's 14,700, the health bulletin said.

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Najafgarh Jheel waters recede, forcing migratory birds to leave

ASHA RAMACHANDRAN
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

Despite the early arrival of at least seven species of migratory birds in the Capital's Najafgarh Jheel, receding waters saw the birds move to adjacent smaller marshland and mudflats instead of the wetland's peripheral marshlands, according to a team of ecologists who monitored the avian population in the lake, which had seen a revival following Covid-19 lockdown.

"My recent field visit cum monitoring of the wetland habitat and waterbirds status recorded a good number of resident water bird species," said T K Roy, Delhi state coordinator of Asian Waterbird Census, which is part of Wetlands International South Asia. "However, by the time (of the monitoring) we observed the waterlevel of the revived wetland partially decreasing as its perennial water source, the Sahibi River, whose flow is controlled by a check dam upstream, had reduced."

Further, the Najafgarh Jheel faces serious threats due to fishing and water plants. Regular net fishing using floating car tubes by several small teams of local fishermen causes much disturbance to birdlife and may lead to shortage of prey species, in other words, food for waterbirds. "Greater Flamingos have left the jheel two months ago," pointed out Roy, indicating that lack of food was the cause of the birds moving out.

Secondly, the wetland surface is largely covered by fast growing Water Hyacinth, which has already completely choked the peripheral marshland, the habitat for waders. As a result, the early arrival of seven species of waders was recorded on the adjacent smaller marshland and mudflats instead of the wetland's peripheral marshlands.

Najafgarh Jheel, a large water body, is partly located in Gurugram district of Haryana and partly in Southwest district of Delhi. It is a potential wetland habitat for water and water dependent

chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel, had directed the Delhi and Haryana governments to jointly prepare an Environment Management Plan within three months to clear encroachments in order to revive the Najafgarh Lake. The N.G.T. also asked the Union Environment Ministry to steer the process and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to act as the coordinator.

In 2017, in response to a PIL (public interest litigation) by the NGO INTACH, the N.G.T. had ordered the Haryana and Delhi governments to conserve Najafgarh Jheel. As there had been no conservation action by the respective governments, INTACH further filed an Execution Application in 2019.

Due to Covid-19 lockdown, least human interference and disturbance at the Najafgarh Jheel and surrounding habitats had led to undisturbed birdlife



Now we are declaring a war against pollution by launching an anti-pollution campaign, 'Yuddh Pradushan Ke Viruddh'

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 06 OCTOBER 2020

03

Will pass Bill in Punjab House against central farm laws: CM

Capt Amarinder Singh tells a public rally that his govt will take all steps, whether legislative or legal, to counter the Modi govt's agri laws' 'dangerous impact on the nation'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHAUANIGARH/SANGRUR,
5 OCTOBER

Enough as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi described the Narendra Modi government's controversial farm laws as "an attack on India's soul", Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday said his government is going to pass in the Assembly whatever resolution or Bill which will be needed to counter the Centre's agri laws' "dangerous impact on the nation".

Addressing a public rally in Bhawanigarh on the second day of the Congress party's three-day Kheti Bachao Yatra as part of its campaign against the Centre's contentious farm laws, the CM warned that these "anti-farmers" laws would destroy the Mandi Board and bring all rural development to a standstill, and would "end the



public distribution system system as the Adanis and Ambanis will not care one bit for the poor". Capt Amarinder vowed to do whatever it takes to protect the farmers and the

state from the devastating effects of these "black laws".

"Will you go to Adanis and Ambanis when in need, as you do with the Arthiyas (grain commission agents) at present?" he asked the farmers rhetorically.

The Punjab CM told the people in the heartland of the Malwa region, which produces the highest yield in

wheat and paddy crops, that the Modi government had backtracked on every single promise, be it the constitutional promise of Goods and Services Tax or employment or doubling of farmers' income".

For seven months, Punjab has not got its share of GST, leaving the state struggling to manage amid the Covid pandemic, he said.

Asserting that the Congress and its members, with Rahul Gandhi leading the way, will fight for the farmers till their last breath, the CM appealed to Rahul to "repeal the black laws once he becomes Prime Minister".

The Modi government does not know how agriculture works in Punjab and the country, Capt Amarinder said, adding that these central farm legislations would pave the way for scrapping MSP and winding up the Food Corporation of India as per the Shanta Kumar com-

mittee recommendations.

Warning that these laws will lead to closure of the mandis, Capt Amarinder said his government could not let the Union government do that and will take all steps, including a Assembly session to counter the new legislations and a move to challenge the Centre's laws in the Supreme Court.

The CM said the future of agriculture itself in the country was at stake because of the farm laws, which the government sitting in New Delhi had forced on the farmers and the states. The small farmers, constituting 70 percent of the farming community, would be totally ruined, he warned.

Vowing not to let the farming community come to any harm "come what may", Capt Amarinder said Punjab and its farmers faced a long-drawn battle, exhorting the farmers to be ready for a long and difficult struggle.

Implementation of NEP challenging: Dattatraya

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatraya on Monday conferred state awards on 16 teachers and honoured one national award winning teacher at a World Teachers' Day function here.

Dattatraya said that the Government of India has implemented a new National Education Policy in the country after 34 years.

"In the current perspective, this new national education policy, which provides affordable education, skill development education to all, has many features but its implementation is also challenging," he said.

He said that it is necessary to understand and implement broader aspect and this responsibility is more on teachers.

The Governor said that it is an important opportunity for Himachal Pradesh to take the lead in the field of education. Himachal has always excelled in the field of education and the state may work better in some educational reforms suggested in the National Education Policy, he added.

He said that keeping in view of COVID-19, it was initially decided to conduct the programme through virtual media. He said that there is a need to identify areas in which the state could take an edge.

Dattatraya said that there are three major elements that contribute towards the progress of a nation and these were education, employment and empowerment. He said that India is a young nation and its 62.5 percent of the population is in the age group of 15-59 years, which would become 65 percent by the year 2036.

"It is the right time when a commitment is needed to build a strong nation with universal image. It is possible only when the active participation of youth is ensured," he said.

"We can make full use of our demographic dividend in nation building only when

India is able to develop skills in line with the needs of the world. And, the teacher can play an important role in this direction," he added.

While congratulating the awardees, he appealed to the teaching community to work with more commitment for the overall development of the future generation.

Education Minister Govind Singh Thakur said that the cooperation of teachers is expected in the implementation of National Education Policy effectively in the state. He said that the New Education Policy has been announced after much deliberation, which is teacher and student centric.

"By implementing New Education Policy, we would produce good citizens in the country," he added.

He said that on 3 October, 2020 Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the world's largest and strongest Atal Tunnel Rohtang to the country. He said that this tunnel would definitely confer a new look to the economy of the state.

He said that keeping in view of COVID-19, it was initially decided to conduct the programme through virtual media but since this is an important day for teachers as they are honoured, the programme was held actually.

Earlier, Education Secretary Rajeesh Sharma said the teachers have done an excellent job during the corona pandemic to run the education system smoothly, which was praiseworthy. He said that education has been made accessible to all children under the programme 'Har Ghar Pathshala' and with the active role of teachers, video lessons have been delivered to students through various media. About 7 lakh parents were connected through ePTM, an app for parents and teachers meeting.

FIR against over 500 Congress workers for 3 Oct ruckus at DND

PTI
NOIDA (UP), 5 OCTOBER

The Gautam Buddha Nagar Police has filed an FIR against over 500 Congress workers, charging them with unlawful assembly two days ago at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border in Noida amid the COVID-19 outbreak, officials said on Monday.

The FIR has been registered against Congress' Gautam Buddha Nagar unit president

Manoj Chaudhary, Noida unit chief Shahabuddin and 500 unnamed party workers, the police officials said.

Hundreds of Congress workers and leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were on their way to Hathras on Saturday afternoon to meet the family of a woman who died after an alleged gangrape.

There were scuffles involving Congress workers and the Gautam Buddha Nagar

(Noida) Police at the DND toll plaza during which police personnel had baton charged the crowd. Some party leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi, were manhandled, while some policemen were also hurt.

According to the FIR lodged a little earlier before midnight on October 3, the Congress workers have been booked under IPC sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public ser-

There were scuffles involving Congress workers and the Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida) Police at the DND toll plaza during which police personnel had baton charged the crowd

vant), 269 (unlawfully or negligently spreading infection of any disease dangerous to

life), 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and under section 3 of the Epidemic Diseases Act.

The FIR has been lodged on a complaint by Rakesh Kumar Singh, the SHO of the Sector 20 police station.

On October 2 also, the Gautam Buddha Nagar Police had lodged an FIR against around 200 Congress workers and leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra,

under the Epidemic Diseases Act for not maintaining social distancing and not wearing face masks.

The party workers were detained while they were on foot on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida in a bid to go to Hathras.

Gautam Buddha Nagar is currently under CrPC section 144, which restricts assembly of more than four people, in view of the pandemic.

HP University to focus on teacher-student relation



Himachal Pradesh University Vice-Chancellor Prof Sikander Kumar.

SNS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh University Vice-Chancellor Prof Sikander Kumar on Monday emphasised on the need for a strong relationship between teachers and students and said the varsity will focus on this aspect of education.

Speaking on the occasion of World Teachers' Day, Prof Kumar said that the recent time had shown a decline in the strong teacher-student relationship and

there was deterioration in the student-teacher bonding.

"The recent years have given a signal of discontentment in the all-round development of the students which has led to the poor nation building activities worldwide," he added.

HP University Vice-Chancellor said the National Education Policy (NEP) needs to be implemented in full letter and spirit. "Full dedication and true devotion is required for the best results from the NEP," he added.

Dalai Lama promotes vegetarianism

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 OCTOBER

The Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has urged people to adopt vegetarianism and said the world cannot do without animals.

In his message on World Animal Day, Dalai Lama said if the world consists of only human beings and the animals disappear, it will be a lonely world.

"It's effect will be seen especially in the cold climate regions like northern Tibet and Mongolia whose primary source of livelihood through generations depend on animals.

Whereas countries like India have a rich supply of vegetables and is known for vegetarianism, it should be encouraged in other parts of the world," he added.

Tibetan spiritual leader said that his effort in the last few years has been to encourage monasteries and schools to serve more veg-

itarian meals and added that more fruits and vegetables should be grown to maintain the balance of food biodiversity.

It is worthwhile to mention here World Animal Day is celebrated annually on 4th October with an aim to promote animal rights and improve the welfare status of animals around the world.

Devotees attending the evening prayer at Kedarnath on Sunday.



National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)



Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, PTI Building, 4-Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

F.No. NHIDCL/2(7)/Rect Tech & Fin/2020/HR

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has been set up by the Government of India as a Corporation under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to fast pace construction/ up-gradation/ widening of National Highways in the North-Eastern Region and areas that share International boundaries with neighbouring countries.

Applications are invited from dynamic, effective and experienced eligible retired Officers from Central Government Ministries/ Departments, Army, Navy, Airforce, BRO (GREF), Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government Departments and State Government Public Undertakings on Engagement on Contract basis on the Terms & Conditions indicated below:-

SI. No.	Name of the Posts & Place of Postings	No. of Vacancy*	Pay Matrix Level in CDA Pattern
1.	Executive Director (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	02	Pay Matrix Level-14 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs.37,400 - 67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.10,000/-]
2.	General Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-13 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs.37,400 - 67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.8,700/-]
3.	Deputy General Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-12 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 3 of Rs.15,600 - 39,100/- plus Grade Pay Rs.7,600/-]
4.	Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-11 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised Pay Band-3 of Rs.15,600 - 39,100/- plus Grade Pay Rs.6,600/-]
5.	General Manager (Land Acquisition & Coordination) [For NHIDCL HQs]	01	Pay Matrix Level-13 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs.37,400 - 67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.8,700/-]
6.	Deputy General Manager (Fin.) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	06	Pay Matrix Level-12 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 3 of Rs.15,600 - 39,100/- plus Grade Pay Rs.7,600/-]

* The number of vacancies in the Posts may vary, depending upon the requirement. Further, NHIDCL reserves the right to prepare Panels (one for Roads Sector and another for Infrastructure Sector) of selected Candidates for filling up the indicated and future vacancies that may arise in NHIDCL. Panel would be valid for a period of 12 months, unless further extended.

Last date for submission of Application: 02.11.2020 (Monday) up to 18.00 hrs.

For detailed Terms and Conditions please visit - www.nhidcl.com

NOTE 1: Officers presently serving in the Central Government Ministries/ Departments, Army, Navy, Airforce, Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government Departments and State Government Public Undertakings and satisfying the prescribed eligibility criteria may also apply for the post on Deputation basis in the prescribed proforma along with copy of APARs for last five years, No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Vigilance Clearance (VC).

NOTE 2: Any change or amendment to this Vacancy Circular will be posted on the NHIDCL Website only.

NOTE 3: Incomplete applications or those received after the prescribed date shall be summarily rejected.

Dy. General Manager (HR)

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION

The Uttarakhand Char Dham Devasthanam Management Board has issued fresh directions, allowing an increase in the number of pilgrims who could visit Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri daily now. Earlier a smaller number of people was permitted to visit the 'Char Dham' daily, but their huge response has inspired the Board to raise its daily cap on their numbers.

It is mandatory for every tourist to register and obtain e-pass from the Uttarakhand Char Dham Devasthanam Management Board (UCDDMB). Till recently only 1,200 devotees were provided daily e-passes for Badrinath, while 800 others were allowed to visit Kedarnath, 600 to Gangotri and 400 other to



SNS

Yamunotri.
The UCDDMB issued a new guideline on Sunday and under it now 3,000 pilgrims can visit Badrinath and 3,000 others Kedarnath daily. Nine hundred pilgrims can tour Gangotri and 700 others can visit Yamunotri. Now this

norm does not exist and tourists are required to register on the UCDDMB web portal. Ravinath Raman, CEO of Uttarakhand Char Dham Devasthanam Management Board, said, "Now big number of tourists can tour the Char Dham."



THUMBNAILS



A bird flies over Marine Drive promenade as the sun sets in Mumbai on Monday. APP

Tejal sexual assault case: The Supreme Court sought to know on Monday as to why witnesses in the 2013 sexual assault case against *Tejpal* magazine founder Tarun Tejpal cannot be examined via video-conferencing when trials are being held this way due to the Covid-19 pandemic. PTI

HC closes arguments on Kangana's plea: The Bombay High Court on Monday closed all arguments and reserved its verdict on the petition filed by actor Kangana Ranaut against the demolition of a part of her bungalow in Mumbai by the city civic body. PTI

Sushant's death case: The AIIMS on Monday said the medical board has submitted its report on the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput to the CBI and any input regarding it should be obtained from the central probe agency. The medical board has ruled out murder in Rajput's death, terming it 'a case of hanging and death by suicide,' the premier institute's forensic chief Dr Sudhir Gupta had said last week. PTI

Raj Cong chief whip likens Yogi to N Korean leader Kim Jong-un

Says victim's family is being suppressed and such things have never happened in country's history

SNS & PTI
JAIPUR/NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

The chief whip of the ruling Congress in Rajasthan on Monday compared Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un over the gang-rape-cum-murder of a 19-year-old girl in Hathras district and her hurried cremation.

Industry minister Parsadi Lal Meena said probably no government in the history committed such a crime.

Left team

A joint delegation of six leaders of the Communist Party of India (CPI) and Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPIM) will reach Hathras tomorrow in the forenoon to meet the family members of the girl who was brutally raped and killed in the UP town.

CPI leaders in the delegation are General Secretary D Raja, National Secretary and AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur, and UP state secretary Girish Sharma.

The CPI (M) leaders will include general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Politburo member Brinda Karat, and Party UP state secretary Hira Lal Yadav.

We have no hopes from the UP police. The way they are working cannot be trusted, Joshi told reporters after the protest.

The BJP has no moral right to raise questions, he added.

They should demonstrate to get justice for the Hathras victim and against the Yogi government instead. I pray to God to create circumstances for the accused in the Hathras case to get the harshest possible punishment, he said.

On being pointed out the apparent violations of sec-

Kanimozhi leads DMK's candle light march

The DMK women's wing took out a candle light march in Chennai on Monday, protesting the Hathras incident with its secretary Kanimozhi demanding justice to the 19-year old woman.

Kanimozhi, who led the march titled "Save our daughters", and others, including some DMK men, were detained when they attempted to breach police barricades and proceed towards the Raj Bhavan, police said.

Arretired judge Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking an investigation into the role of police officials and registration of FIRs against them in connection with the Dalit woman who died a fortnight after being allegedly gang raped in Hathras district.

The PIL filed by ex-judicial officer Chandra Bhan Singh alleged that "callousness and highhandedness" of the state administration and police offi-



Jawaharlal Nehru University students along with other demonstrators condemn the alleged gang-rape and murder of a 19-year-old woman in UP's Bohl Garhi village, in New Delhi on Monday. AFP

Retired judge moves SC seeking investigation into role of police officials in Hathras incident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

Aretired judge Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking an investigation into the role of police officials and registration of FIRs against them in connection with the Dalit woman who died a fortnight after being allegedly gang raped in Hathras district.

The PIL filed by ex-judicial officer Chandra Bhan Singh alleged that "callousness and highhandedness" of the state administration and police offi-

cials in giving treatment to the victim led to her death and sought a probe by any agency other than affiliated to Uttar Pradesh government.

A 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped by four upper-caste men in Hathras on 14 September. She died on 29 September.

The victim was cremated in the dead of the night near her home on 30 September. Her family alleged they were forced by the local police to hurriedly conduct her last rites. Local police officers, however, said

the cremation was carried out "as per the wishes of the family".

The state government has already recommended a CBI probe in the matter and quoting FSL reports, it has denied the rape charge. The petition filed through advocate Smarhar Singh, contended that visual surfaces in electronic media shows that bones of the victim still scattered in the open field and there is a complete embargo on the press, media, any civilian, or even law maker to enter inside the village.

WB govt rejects NEP for removing ranking system

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 5 OCTOBER



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today said that the state has not accepted the National Education Policy and condemned the Centre for doing away with the ranking system.

"It is being heard that the new education policy has abolished the merit list concept. If ranking system is abolished then the pride that ranks instill in students would not exist. Rank is a certificate of the hardwork of a student. If there is no rank then students will feel bad about it. Some students rank in the top 10 while some qualify in third

have secured the top 10 positions in class X and XII boards and joint entrance exams through video conference.

Miss Banerjee said that the state government has not accepted the new education policy as merit and capability of the students will not be judged without a ranking system.

"Ranks instill a sense of pride and satisfaction among students for their hardwork. It is the prize for all the sacrifices and efforts that a student puts in. Now if the ranking system is withdrawn then students will lose the opportunity to feel proud of themselves," Miss Banerjee added.

On the occasion Miss

Banerjee announced Jai Hind University as a mark of honour to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. We have set up universities in the name of all eminent personalities, she said.

Chief Minister told students that they were the pride of the state and the country and assured that the state government will extend all assistance to help them in pursuing higher education.

Miss Banerjee directed the education department to ensure that students don't face any problem in securing admission in colleges.

Further she said that she would meet all the meritorious students in person after the pandemic situation was

over.

The felicitation ceremony

has been held at Netaji Indoor Stadium for the last few years.

"We couldn't organise a similar programme this year for

maintaining the physical distancing norms due to Covid pandemic," she said.

The district magistrates

handed over laptops, wrist

watches, certificates, books,

sweets, flowers, chocolates, pen

and notebook to the students

in their respective district

headquarters.

Most of the students lauded

the state government for

providing them the benefits

of schemes namely Sabuj

Sathi, Kanyashree and Shik-

shashree.

STAY AWAY



A farmer with her daughter harvest the yield from a field growing multiple crops on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Monday. AFP

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)	
NIT No.	221-S4/2/AMC/FSD/2020-21/ML-IV
Name of work and its location	*Annual Maintenance Contract of Fog Safe Device (FSDs) for 04 months from 16 Nov '20 to 15 March '21 as per scope of work.
Approx Cost of Work	Rs. 1258870/- (Twelve Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy only) With GST
Earliest Money	Rs. 25200/-
Completion period of work	Four Months i.e. 04 months from the date of execution of work
Cost of tender document on cash/by post	Rs. 2360/- with GST@18%
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 29.10.2020, Opening of Tender at 15.00 hrs
Website particulars/ notice board location	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. 221-S4/2/AMC/FSD/2020-21/ML-IV Dated: 05.10.2020	2147/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
The Chief Administrative Officer/Const.-II/Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-	
Mode of Tender	E-Tender (Two Packet)
Tender Notice No.	74-W/3/2/431/W/LKO Dated 05.10.2020
Full name of work	Jaunpur-Shahganj Section (Zone-I)- Supply and Stacking of 65mm gauge machine crushed hard stone ballast as per RDSO specification for track ballast IRS-GE-I (June-2016) (with update correction slips) in between Jaunpur (Including) to Shahganj (Including) in connection with "Proposed Doubling of Jaunpur-Akbarpur of Lucknow Division on Northern Railway"
Approx. cost	Rs. 32.62 crores
Completion period	12 (Twelve) months
Earliest money amount	Rs. 17,81,100/- only
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 07.10.2020 to 27.10.2020 up to 11:30 hrs.
Last date/Time of upload of tenders	27.10.2020 up to 11:30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 13.10.2020 to 27.10.2020
Date and time of opening of tender	27.10.2020 at 11:30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date & time to be notified later on

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	
Mode of Tender	E-Tender (Two Packet)
Tender Notice No.	74-W/3/2/431/W/LKO Dated 05.10.2020
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STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 5 OCTOBER

Citing the pandemic situation the Telangana State Election Commission has decided to opt for ballot boxes instead of electronic voting machine to conduct the upcoming Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections.

The SEC had sought opinions of various political parties on the contentious issue and while the ruling TRS had opted for ballot boxes the BJP had favoured EVM apprehending manipulation by the ruling

a statement. The past two elections of GHMC in 2009 and 2016, respectively were conducted with EVMs but without VVPATs.

Since SEC does not have VVPATs the commission had requested ECIL, Hyderabad and BEL, Bangalore to send quotations for procurement of VVPATs.

The ECIL and BEL in turn informed the commission it will require permission from ECI to manufacture VVPATs. However, the ECI is yet to respond to their request. The recent elections for local bodies were conducted with ballot boxes.

Of the 11 recognised political parties eight had responded to the request of the SEC and sent their opinions while among them only one favoured EVMs and 5 favoured ballot boxes and 2 refrained from giving definite opinions.

The SEC is also planning to introduce facial recognition system in at least 150 polling stations during GHMC election. However, TRS ally AIMIM is opposing this move of the commission.

Bineesh Kodiyeri leaves to appear before ED

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
T'PURAM, 5 OCTOBER

The ED on Saturday directed Bineesh Kodiyeri to be present at its Bangalore office for questioning on Tuesday.

Last week, the ED had asked Bineesh to undergo a Covid-19 test since his second round of questioning was expected soon.

Accompanied by his elder brother Binoy and a friend, Bineesh left for Bangalore from Thiruvananthapuram



Thousands of hawkers earn their livelihood, and we will not allow it to happen

SAMAN PATHAK, DARJEELING DISTRICT CITU SECRETARY

ON THE RAILWAYS' ALLEGED PLAN TO EVICT HAWKERS FROM RAILWAY STATIONS

The Statesman

05

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 06 OCTOBER 2020



A commuter wearing face-mask waits for a public bus along a street in New Delhi on Monday. AFP

Ex-minister Masood passes away: Veteran Congress leader and former Union minister Hazi Rasheed Masood (73) passed away on Monday morning in a private hospital in Roopkee. His burial would be performed at Gangoh in Saharanpur district. He tested positive for corona on 27 August. He suffered multiple organ failure and passed away. He was MP nine times from different party - Janta Dal, Lok Dal, Janata Party, Rashtriya Lok Dal, Samajwadi Party and Congress - and had a mass following in Saharanpur. SNS

FIITJEE: Vedang D Asgaonkar and Harshvardhan Agarwal, students of FIITJEE, secured 7th and 9th rank respectively in top 100 all India ranks in JEE-Advanced 2020 result announced on Monday. "JEE-Advanced result shows commitment of hard work of our faculty members, pedagogy and the academic processes which help students to bring out the best," said FIITJEE Punjab Bagh centre head Partha Halder in a press release statement. SNS

India successfully tests SMART torpedo system

BHADRAK, 5 OCTOBER

Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) was successfully flight tested at 11.45 am today from Wheeler Island off the Odisha coast.

All the mission objectives, including missile flight up to the range and altitude, separation of the nose cone, release of Torpedo and deployment of Velocity Reduction Mechanism (VRM), have been met perfectly, said a Press release of ITR (Integrated test range).

The tracking stations (Radar, Electro Optical Systems) along the coast and the telemetry stations, including down range ships, monitored the test flight.

SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations far beyond Torpedo range.

This launch and demonstration is significant in establishing Anti-Submarine warfare capabilities.

A number of DRDO laboratories, including DRDL, RCI Hyderabad, ADRDE Agra, NSTL Visakhapatnam, have developed the technologies required for SMART.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO scientists for the success. Secretary DD R&D & Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy, said that SMART is a game changer technology demonstration in the Anti-Submarine Warfare, added the release. SNS

JEE-Advanced results announced; Pune boy Chirag Falor tops exam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

Pune boy Chirag Falor has bagged the top rank in the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Advanced, results of which was announced by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on Monday, according to officials.

IIT-Delhi was responsible for conducting the exam this year. In total, 1.6 lakh students had registered for the exam and 1.5 lakh appeared for it. Over 43,000 candidates, including 6,707 girls, have cleared the exam.

Falor has scored 352 out

China dared enter India & kill soldiers, Modi has weakened nation: Rahul

Says Modi ruined country to help his capitalist & industrialist friends and India is going backward

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SAMANA (PATIALA), 5 OCTOBER

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the Chinese had dared to enter India and kill our soldiers because the Narendra Modi government had weakened our nation with its anti-national policies and actions, of which the farm laws were the latest example.

Addressing a rally on the last leg of Day 2 of Congress' 'Kheti Bachao Yatra' in Punjab, Rahul said China had realised that Modi had weakened India, and had taken advantage of this to take control of 1,200 kilometers of our land.

He said the Prime Minister had broken the backbone of the country, whose economic growth had plummeted from nine per cent under Dr Manmohan Singh to 24 per cent at present.

Accusing Modi of ruining the country to help his capitalist and industrialist friends, Rahul said India was going backward, which the Chinese had seen.



"Why else would China dare enter our territory? How could they kill 20 of our soldiers, who were on our side of the LAC, if the Chinese did not enter India, as Modi claims?", asked Rahul, warning the people that they could

shut their eyes to these facts at their own peril.

He also castigated the Modi government for controlling the media through the corporate houses and thus stifling all voices of dissent.

Warning the farmers ag-

ainst the dangerous designs of the Narendra Modi government, as part of a deliberate and malicious agenda to destroy their lives to promote the interests of a handful of industrialists, Rahul said the Prime Minister was only inter-

ested in helping out three-four of his industrialist friends. Modi does not care for the people, said Rahul, recalling the plight of the migrants during the lockdown period, and the crisis triggered by demonetisation and GST. Rs 3.50 lakh crore in loans was waived off for industrialists after demonetisation, and even amid Covid, they were being given incentives while the poor were only getting subsides, he said.

On the Covid pandemic, Rahul said Modi had claimed the war against the pandemic would be won in 22 days. "Has it happened? If so, then why are people wearing masks?" he asked.

Warning the farmers that the new laws of the Centre would lead to dismantling of the minimum support price and Food Corporation of India system and the Mandis, Rahul said this might not happen in the next two-three years but was the final game plan of Modi, who only wanted to promote the interests of his industrialist friends, particularly Ambanis and Adani.

No parting with land for Gorkhaland: Deb

MANAS R BANNERJEE
SILIGURI, 5 OCTOBER

related to Gorkhaland Territorial Administration."

The ministry has invited the Home Secretary, Government of West Bengal, Darjeeling District Magistrate, Principal Secretary of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) and the president of Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha (Bimal Gurung camp) to the meeting.

"We will give blood, but will not allow the mutilation of Mother Bengal," he told reporters.

Addressing the press in his office here, he said that the decision of the central government to call a tripartite meeting and issue letters to officials directly without informing the state government is totally against the system of parliamentary democracy, the country's federal structure and as such, objectionable.

While the Union Home Affairs Ministry had invited state government officials and the Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha for a meeting to discuss "issues related to Gorkhaland" in Delhi on 7 October under the chairmanship of G Kishan Reddy, the Union Minister of state for Home Affairs, the ministry today issued a corrigendum, stating that the talks would be held for "issues

BURNING ISSUE



Jawaharlal Nehru University students along with other demonstrators burn a cut-out of UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath during a protest to condemn the alleged gang-rape and murder of a 19-year-old woman in Bhopal Garhi village, in New Delhi on Monday.

Anarchists out to create communal frenzy, caste violence: Adityanath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW, 5 OCTOBER

he said everyone is aware that the Samajwadi Party is synonymous with anarchy, while the Bahujan Samaj Party stands for corruption.

As for the Congress, it has no strength on the ground, therefore, no one is in contest with the BJP and its victory on all the seats going for bypolls is almost certain, he said, exhorting the workers to work for ensuring a record win on all seats.

He further asked the workers to tell the people about the works done by the state and Central government for their interest and use social media to reach out to the masses. He reminded them that elections would be different this time due to Covid-19.

On Sunday, the CM had directed police to act in cases of crime against women and girls with full sensitivity, amid a mounting Opposition attack on his government over the alleged gang-rape and death of a Dalit woman in Hathras.

He also directed the police to act fast and seriously in

cases pertaining to SC/ST, the government said in a statement.

Citing the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data of 2019, the statement said the state reported a punishment rate of 55.2 per cent in cases of crime against women which is the highest in the country.

In 2019, conviction was done in 8,059 cases (in crime against women) ~ the highest in the country, followed by Rajasthan (5,625 cases), the statement said.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav tweeted in Hindi that "people with families will have to come together today for the safety of our sisters and daughters. Only then the rulers will be woken out of their arrogance."

In each case of rape, whether in Hathras or Bara or Balrampur, every respective government will have to take a pledge for women safety leaving aside the partisan politics of religion, caste, class, vote and influence, he said.

Delhi talks for GTA issues, Centre now says

REZA PRADHAN &
SANKHA GHOSH
DARJEELING/SILIGURI,
5 OCTOBER

The Bimal Gurung faction of the Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha has invited a representative each of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) and the Communist Party of Revolutionary Marxist (CPRM) to join talks called by the Centre to discuss "issues related to Gorkhaland Territorial Administration."

Union Home Ministry issues 'corrigendum'

The union home ministry has called the meeting for 7 October and has also invited state government officials, apart from the Morcha. However, while the invitation letter sent earlier said talks would be held for "issues related to Gorkhaland," a purported corrigendum issued by the home ministry today said the talks would be held on "issues related to the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA)." Today's invitation to the two other Hill parties comes after questions were raised yesterday as to why no other political party or other stakeholders were asked to attend the meeting.

In a letter to the two political parties, Morcha leader Roshan Giri said, "This talk presents us with an opportunity for a new beginning and will help lay the foundation stone for a

GNLF may not attend meeting; CPRM says they won't go if discussions are for GTA

secure, peaceful and prosperous future for our people and the region. Given the significance of the talks, our party President Bimal Gurung feels that all Gorkhas concerned should stand on the same platform and take a united stand."

The letter further says that they were looking forward to working together towards fulfilling their collective dreams.

Speaking on the latest development, the CPRM central committee member, Shekhar Chettri, had earlier in the day said, "The main agenda of the meeting is Gorkhaland, so we welcome it. We wanted other parties also to be part of it and Raju Bista (Darjeeling MP) had called us today, inviting us to the meeting, so as the BJP is our alliance party, we will be attending the meeting." However, after a copy of the "corrigendum" went viral on social media, Mr Chettri, later said they will not join the talks if it were for the GTA instead of Gorkhaland.

Too early to comment: Ajoy Edwards

On the other hand, GNLF leader Ajoy Edwards said they do not want to comment to rape.

much on it right now. "We have called an emergency meeting to discuss all this on 7 October, after which we will issue a statement," he said. However, with the party meeting scheduled on the 7th, it is clear that the GNLF will not be attending the Delhi meeting.

BJP has no value for Gorkhas: Anit Thapa

"Everyone was happy and welcomed the meeting that was to be held as it was a meeting on Gorkhaland. But the way they changed the subject to issues of the GTA, they have once again fooled the people here and humiliated them. They did this out of pressure from their Bengal unit, but it shows that they have no value for the Gorkhas. It was just an election stunt and no matter what pressure was created on them they would not have changed their stance," said the leader of another faction of the Morcha, Anit Thapa.

BJP fooling people: Binny Sharma

Trinamul Congress leader in the Hills, Binny Sharma, said today's development is a clear indication that the BJP has made a fool of the people here again. "They will never fulfill the aspirations of the Gorkhas. They have changed their stance after pressure from the state BJP, showing they are not sincere towards the Gorkhas. The GTA and the state government are the ones who are

working for the benefit of the people here," he said.

CPI-M questions meeting significance

Meanwhile, the CPI-M has raised questions on the significance of the meeting called by the Centre.

According to the party, such talks will go futile if all the stakeholders are not invited.

While the Home Ministry has invited only the Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha for the talks, apart from state government officials, the Bimal Gurung camp of the Morcha today invited the GNLF and the CPRM to the discussions to be held in Delhi.

"The Centre has called the meeting ahead of the elections. We want a permanent solution to the Hill issue and in view of that we believe all the stakeholders should have been invited for such talks. We do not know whether the representatives of the state government will attend the meeting. But such a meeting loses its significance if all the stakeholders are not invited," said Darjeeling district CPI-M secretary Jibesh Sarkar.

Mr Sarkar said many political parties and organisations had significant roles to play on this issue.

"We have been demanding the highest form of regional autonomy under the constitutional framework within the state to address the issue," he said.

Himachal CM goes into home quarantine

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 OCTOBER

As spokesman of the Himachal Pradesh government said on Monday that Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has decided to go into home quarantine for next three days as a precautionary measure.

He said that for the next three days, Chief Minister would work from his residence. The spokesman said that, Chief Minister, on 3 October, had come in contact with some person at Manali, who was tested positive on Sunday.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown, Age: About 35 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Hair: Black and black beard & moustaches, ID: A tattoo mark as 'e' on right hand forearm, Wearing: White coloured shirt and grey coloured pant, was found on 02.10.2020 at 5:32 PM in unconscious condition on Footpath, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg, LHM Hospital Gate No. 02, Near Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi. He was admitted in Lady Hardinge Medical College Hospital vide MLC No. 3108/20 dated 02.10.2020. Where during treatment doctors declared him dead. The dead body has been preserved in Lady Hardinge Medical College Hospital mortuary for 72 hours. In this regard a DD No. 50A dated 02.10.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers. SHO P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi DP/129/NDD/2020 Ph.No.: 011-23364100, 23366730

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

Pune boy Chirag Falor has bagged the top rank in the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Advanced, results of which was announced by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on Monday, according to officials.

IIT-Delhi was responsible for conducting the exam this year. In total, 1.6 lakh students had registered for the exam and 1.5 lakh appeared for it. Over 43,000 candidates, including 6,707 girls, have cleared the exam.

Falor has scored 352 out

Falor to head to MIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/PUNE, 5 OCTOBER

of 396 marks, Vijaywada's Gangula Bhuvan Reddy and Bihar's Vaibhav Raj bagged second and third rank, respectively. Kanishka Mittl, who bagged the 17th rank, is the topper among girls. She scored 315 out of 396 marks.

Union education minister Ramesh Pokhrayan 'Nishank' took to Twitter to congratulate the candidates who cleared the exam. "I congratulate all students of #JEEAdvanced who got their desired rank and request them to work for #AtmaNirbhari Bharat in the near future. Plenty of opportunities are

available for students who couldn't get their desired rank. Students should remember that an exam cannot define them," the minister said.

JEE-Advanced was conducted on 27 September amid precautions in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The JEE-Main for admission to engineering colleges was conducted from 1 to 6 September. Staggered entry and exit of candidates, use of sanitizers at gates, distribution of masks and social distancing as candidates queued up, were followed at examination centres across the country.

Upper in name

Well might Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath vow to bring those responsible for the outrage in Hathras to book, his efforts may be stymied by some members of his own party who seem determined to impart a caste-driven and misogynist spin to the events that have rocked the country. Keeping aside for the moment the grandstanding that Opposition politicians have indulged in, certain truths that have emerged in the aftermath of the gruesome rape-murder cause grave concern. While Mr. Adityanath was quick to announce that the case would be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation, this has not evoked a positive response from the family of the victim. They have demanded a judicial probe, not surprising given the recent abysmal performance of the CBI and its propensity to allow politically sensitive inquiries to be derailed. Second, with members of the upper castes that make up the core of the BJP's vote bank being the suspects in the Hathras matter, some members of the party have either rushed to their defence or sought to downplay the heinous crime. Shockingly, a former BJP MLA, Rajveer Pahalwan, called a meeting of members of the upper caste over the weekend in Hathras in support of the accused. From all accounts, the meeting was well-attended; more important none of the overzealousness that the State displayed when blocking Opposition leaders and journalists was in evidence when 700-800 people gathered at Mr. Pahalwan's house. Certainly, there was no evidence that the ruling dispensation's exaggerated concerns about social distancing had been communicated to the former MLA or his supporters. Already, a bizarre effort is being made by other party legislators in the state to somehow blame the victim for her rape and murder. A BJP MLA, Surendra Singh, has suggested that incidents such as at Hathras can be avoided if parents teach their daughters "good values". While it is difficult to imagine a more insensitive statement, the MLA appears to have got away without so much as an official reprimand from the party.

The bias inherent in UP's ruling dispensation was evident from the results of the last Assembly election, when nearly half of those elected on BJP tickets were found to belong to the upper castes. Overall, this assembly saw a huge jump in the numbers of upper caste winners, a 12 percentage-point increase over the previous election. While no political party can be blamed for picking candidates with the best chances of winning, pandering to a caste-based agenda will have the sort of consequences that are now visiting Mr. Adityanath's administration. For even if the Chief Minister is serious about cracking down on rape and murder, especially of lower caste women, it is unlikely that his efforts will win unstinting support from his fellow legislators who might be conditioned by the same prejudices that Mr. Pahalwan and Mr. Surendra Singh seem to have in feeling a misplaced sense of entitlement.

Crisis for democracy

Those who cherish democratic values will find chilling confirmation of their worst fears in a report of Freedom House released over the weekend that says the condition of democracy and human rights has worsened in 80 countries as a direct consequence of the coronavirus epidemic. They will be further chagrined by the conclusion of 64 per cent of the experts interviewed that conditions for democracy and human rights will worsen in the next three to five years because of Covid-19. These experts believe the four issues that have been most impacted are: transparency of information on the epidemic, corruption, protection for vulnerable communities and governmental abuse of power. The report notes that in at least 91 of the 192 countries reviewed, the outbreak of the virus had led to restrictions on the news media. As the president of Freedom House, Michael J Abramowitz noted at the release: "What began as a worldwide health crisis has become part of the global crisis for democracy. Governments in every part of the world have abused their powers in the name of public health, seizing the opportunity to undermine democracy and human rights." Research was carried out between January and September and involved experts from 102 countries and Freedom House's own analysts.

A key finding was that notwithstanding the nature of government - authoritarian or democratically elected - the extent of distrust in official information about the disease was widespread, with 62 per cent of respondents saying they did not believe what governments told them, with distrust significantly greater in countries with fewer or no freedoms. The report also highlights how some governments have applied lockdown measures in a discriminatory fashion or made scapegoats of minority communities - the report cites instances of such scapegoating with Muslims in India and Sri Lanka, with migrants in Serbia and with non-citizens in Kuwait. As Freedom House notes: "Leaders around the world who fear public condemnation for their handling of the crisis have diverted attention by scapegoating marginalised groups, attacking their critics, or downplaying the severity of the health situation." The report notes that government abuses are affecting elections and draws attention to the situation in the United States where local authorities seem ill-prepared for the elections in November, citing staff shortages and last-minute changes to electoral rules. The only note of positivity offered by the report is that despite greater restrictions, protest movements have persisted with their efforts. Though 158 countries had placed restrictions on demonstrations, at least 90 of them saw significant protests during the epidemic. Freedom House notes: "The persistence of public protests, under every type of regime, shows that citizens remain willing to challenge authorities. The erosion of political rights and civil liberties began long before the pandemic, but people in every region of the world are clearly committed to reclaiming their freedom."

Passage to Peace

Yoga, in a word, is concentration of mind. When the mind gets extremely concentrated it becomes supremely subtle and powerful to be able to realise the Self within. Realising the Self, it gets rid of the notion of the unreal puny self, to which it ignorantly clings and brings sufferings unnecessarily

We have no idea regarding the antiquity of Yoga. The popular belief is that it has come to us from God Himself. All we can say about Yoga is this that it has arrived through guru-shishya parampara (teacher-student tradition) from time immemorial. Swami Vivekananda says: "Yoga can only be safely learnt by direct contact with a teacher." It is therefore a Gurumukhi vidya. That it is extant for such a long time is proof of the fact that it is ever relevant and essential for our peaceful survival, especially the Yoga of Meditation (dhyana-yoga).

Traditionally, Yoga of Meditation is non-theistic. One of its greatest exponents is Kapila. Basing Kapila, Patanjali gives his Yoga Sutras. Unlike Kapila, he, however, introduces God though as an aid for practicing concentration. His is the most popular work today. Vyasa (not the composer of Mahabharata) writes a rich commentary on it. Swamiji also writes one in English for the modern man.

Gita highlights the importance of Yoga in numerous ways. There are thought-provoking discussions on Yoga all over its text. Sri Krishna urges Arjuna to become a yogi and teaches him Yoga of Meditation for achieving the highest good. Impact of Shradha on a practitioner of Yoga is tremendous. The word Shradha is not translatable. It is defined as an unfaltering faith in the words of teacher. Vyasa says like an affectionate mother it intimately protects and raises a yogi.

Yoga, in a word, is concentration of mind. When the mind gets extremely concentrated it becomes supremely subtle and powerful to be able to realise the Self within. Realising the Self, it gets rid of the notion of the unreal puny self, to which it ignorantly clings and brings sufferings unnecessarily. "Wonderful is the nature of the Self," says the preceptor of the Self.

Buddha practises Yoga of Meditation meticulously and conquers his puny self. In consequence, he attains the eternal Self. He follows the dictum, "Let a man be lifted up by his own self." During his meditation he conducts a rigorous search into his puny self and at last discovers its falsehood. He observes that it doesn't have any real existence at all, hence denies its existence altogether. His search, as Sri Ramakrishna has said, is like peeling an onion from its outermost covering in order to look for its core content and see a naught in the end. He, accordingly, puts forth his idea of anatta. But all he actually does is that he controls his mind and meditates to experience the ever-blissful Self in place of that puny self which causes him suffering like a mirage in the desert.

Buddha learns the technique of Yoga from an expert yogi at the outset of his peripatetic life. He in turn uses it with due expertise



for the purpose of his meditation. So, his teachings are akin to the teachings of those ancient Yogis who teach to be free from dukha. The legend has it that Buddha relentlessly dances for seven days in ecstatic joy after achieving nibbana. The beatific smile on his face in his Mathura school sculptures is indeed a reflection of his perpetual blissfulness.

Buddha gives us a perfect posture for Yoga of Meditation. From his statues one could perceive what ought to be a perfect asana, firm yet relaxed and suitable for prolonged squatting. We come across the same in a photograph of Swamiji as well.

Gita defines Yoga as: "That in which the mind, restrained by concentration, rests quiescent; that in which, seeing the Self through the self, one rejoices in one's own Self." Thus, control of mind is its key. Therefore, we must have a clear understanding of the nature of mind first. An impure mind is not fit for the practice of Yoga.

Impurity of mind comes basically from kama (lust), krodha (anger) and lobha (greed). Krishna exhorts Arjuna to leave them, should he wish to become a yogi. Vyasa ramifies mind in its five conditions, namely, mudha (inert), kshipta (agitated), vikshipta (scattered), ekagra (one-pointed) and niruddha (absorbed/locked). The first two are not congenial to Yoga. The third one is when mind settles on a thing but shortly and then slips away. Yogi starts from here, trying to bring it back again and again in order to hold it on his chosen aspect within.

He does it till he is able to fix his mind on it for a long time. The more he resolutely endeavours the more his mind gets calm to be one-pointed. This one-pointed mind, sticking to his chosen aspect, gradually loses the idea of time. His mind ripening in this position becomes absorbed and ultimately realises oneness with it.

His outer consciousness now takes leave of him. As a result, he finally gains Samadhi. The yogi then realizes an omnipresent formless (nirakara) Self. His mind loses its individual identity in this state of direct perception (pratyakshanubhuti). So Swamiji remarks:

"The whole theory of Yoga is to go beyond the mind."

Yogi now "rejoices in the Self and is satisfied with the Self and is content in the Self alone".

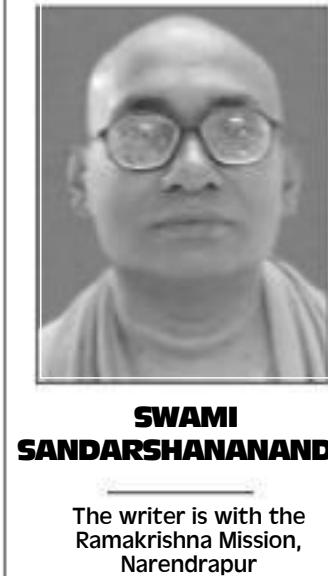
He sees "the Self in all beings, and all beings in the Self", for he is "established in Yoga". The goal of Yoga isn't achieved by giving short shrift to practice and non-attachment. For its accomplishment abhyasa (practice) and vairagya (non-attachment) should go hand in hand. Sankaracharya says, "Abhyasa, practice, consists in the repetition of the same kind of thought, uninterrupted by any contrary thought, with regard to the aspect of concentration." Vairagya, says Patanjali, "comes to those who have given up their thirst after objects (vishaya), either seen or heard". Swamiji

allows banks to earn more interest than the loan amount given. The RBI needs to give substantial relief to borrowers.

It is true that banks survive on the difference between the interest earned on loans and that paid on deposits, besides other service charges debited to the accounts of depositors and borrowers. But a heavy chunk of the EMI being apportioned for interest impoverishes borrowers.

This is nothing but Interest Terrorism. It is strange that

RBI has remained a silent



SWAMI SANDARSHANANDA

The writer is with the Ramakrishna Mission, Narendrapur



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

An amazing achievement

SIR, This refers to your editorial 'Important feat' published today. It is no doubt a proud moment that a tunnel connecting Lahaul to Spiti valley of Himachal Pradesh has been inaugurated by the Prime Minister. It is certainly an amazing achievement by our engineers to have constructed such a sophisticated tunnel in a hard terrain. But we need more tunnels to provide all-weather access to Ladakh.

After the humiliating defeat to China in the border conflict of 1962, the Nehru government had resolved to build infrastructure like roads and tunnels connecting border areas and strategic points. But nothing was done by Congress governments though they ruled for more than 35 years after the 1962 aggression. Even the defence budget was inadequate. However, the present dispensation has judged the situation well and felt the need for preparedness. We cannot brook

further national humiliation and disgrace.

Yours, etc., Nimai Charan Swain,
Bhubaneswar, 4 October.

HELP THE NEEDY

SIR, This is with reference to your report today, 'City's charitable hospitals crying out for grants'. It is really tragic that when the state government is going through a financial crunch due to Covid-19 pandemic and non-payment of legitimate

dues from the Centre, it is doling out crores of rupees to imams, priests and every durga puja committee. The government has no right to destroy public funds in this way to gain cheap popularity.

Rather it would have been appreciated if the government had given grants to charitable hospitals like ICH, RKMS and Missionaries of Charity as these organisations are providing health care services to the weaker



sections of society.

Yours, etc., Sumit K Das,
Baidyabati, October 4.

INTEREST TERRORISM

SIR, It is disturbing that banks are not only charging exorbitant rates of interest on those availing Home Loans but also crediting a good chunk of EMIs towards interest. Shockingly only about 10 per cent of the EMI is credited to the principal amount and 90 per cent to the interest component. At least 50 per cent of the EMI must be credited to the principal. But the present system

allows banks to earn more interest than the loan amount given. The RBI needs to give substantial relief to borrowers.

It is true that banks survive on the difference between the interest earned on loans and that paid on deposits, besides other service charges debited to the accounts of depositors and borrowers. But a heavy chunk of the EMI being apportioned for interest impoverishes borrowers. This is nothing but Interest Terrorism. It is strange that

RBI has remained a silent

NOT JUST PANDALS

SIR, It needs to be remembered that Durga puja and the festive season are not only about crowds in puja pandals. Festive celebrations also include gatherings in restaurants, pubs, discotheques, markets, theaters, amusement parks and other places of recreation. It is good to see that after the West Bengal CM's announcement of the support grant for puja organisers, there has been growing consciousness on the need to impose crowd control restrictions in puja pandals. However, caution also needs to be exercised in other crowd-prone places. Let's hope that the state administration spreads awareness and imposes strict restrictions in those areas too, so that it doesn't get blamed for a second wave of infections.

Yours, etc., Abhishek Dey, Santiniketan, 4 October.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Accepting transgender

Sexual identity is not a mental illness, but the lack of sociocultural and institutional support for trans-people is causing psychological harm to many. Going, going, gone. That blue Longchamp. The green Coach. Weather-beaten, soft-looking leathers. All at a fraction of their market prices, for these are second-hand, "preloved" items. Hundreds of spectators are gathered online, as the hunting and finding of the branded clothes, bags and boots, are aired live on Facebook. The host, one potential buyer says, "looks like a baci [sissy]", drawing hilarious comments, for indeed, one says, the seller is a drag queen. Gay activist Hartoyo started the now-popular online shop called Sriloved. Part of the proceeds support waria - transwomen - among the groups hardest hit by COVID-19. Mobility restrictions have closed their main livelihood sources - the beauty salons and streets for busking or konser - concerts in waria-style. Another part supports the continued advocacy work of his group Suara Kita (Our Voice), from defending criminalized men attending a "gay party" in South Jakarta to supporting a young gang rape survivor.

The pandemic unwittingly gave birth to new fundraising ideas. The "preloveds", Hartoyo told me, had become "a red carpet, a bridge to breaking the rigidity" of all the politicized frenzy that has landed the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people - in the position of public enemy no. 1, along with "communists" especially around election

The Jakarta Post

seasons. Then, when things cool down, social and cultural acceptance of minorities in Indonesia returns, along with the difficulties, such as accessing public services. One waria said it was even hard to get a burial plot for a deceased friend. Fundraising with "preloveds" had become a fun education tool, Hartoyo said, adding that most buyers and sellers were not gender minority activists. But many happily buy goods for, say, Rp 300,000 (US\$20) but pay Rp 1 million, he said, knowing they could help the wellbeing of waria. "So many of the middle class in Greater Jakarta, not just celebrities, have tons of unused stuff," he adds. Sounds familiar! The transwomen were featured on International Day of Peace, Sept. 21, with a webinar discussing a new book titled Santri Waria: Kisah Kehidupan Pondok Pesantren Waria Al-Fatah Yogyakarta (Transwomen Islamic Boarding School Students: Stories from the Al-Fatah Waria Islamic Boarding School in Yogyakarta), written by researcher Masturiyah Sa'dan.

The activist of NGO Solidaritas Perempuan (Women's Solidarity for Human Rights) said she had been accompanying santri waria studying the Quran, since Islamic vigilantes forced temporary closure of the school in 2016. The talks emphasized the struggles for full citizenship of gender minorities.

The activist of NGO Solidaritas Perempuan (Women's Solidarity for Human Rights) said she had been accompanying santri waria studying the Quran, since Islamic vigilantes forced temporary closure of the school in 2016. The talks emphasized the struggles for full citizenship of gender minorities.

IN MEMORIAM

ROY AJIT MOHAN (I.R.S.) — Retired Assistant Collector, Customs, Kolkata, left us for Heavenly Abode on October 6, 1995. May his Soul Rest in Peace. Remembering your presence always. — Bulai, Mumi, Kalu, Buju, Kutu.

Yours, etc., KV Seetharamaiah, Hassan, 4 October.

NO FEAR OF LAW

SIR, This refers to the news, 'Another gang rape victim dies in UP's Birlampur, 2 held' published today. The most heinous rapes and murders in UP are being condemned throughout the country. This is a great evil in society. The perpetrators have shown no fear of the Almighty or of the rule of law. They deserve the harshest penalty. They should be tried in fast-track courts and punished.

Yours, etc., Yugal Kishore Sharma

Faridabad, 2 October.

Corporatation vital to make OFB productive

HARSHA KAKAR

A recent report released by the Army stated that 403 accidents have taken place due to faulty ammunition since 2014. It also highlighted that casualties due to Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) manufactured ammunition and armament were unacceptably high, with 27 soldiers losing their lives and nearly 160 injured. Financially, the cost incurred by disposing off faulty ammunition was almost Rs 960 crore, which could have enabled the government to purchase over 100 medium guns.

In a counter press release, the OFB stated, "for the accidents which occurred between Jan 2015 to Dec 2019, where defect investigation has been completed, only 19 per cent of cases are attributable to the OFB." Which Indian can ever forget the callousness of the OFB in refusing to collect its defective mines from the Pulgaon ammunition dump leading to a fire on 31 May 2016, which resulted in the loss of 16 valuable lives. The army had been requesting the OFB for six years to collect and dispose of the mines, but it ignored the requests.

To add to the army's problems, the OFB functions directly under the Ministry of Defence which provides it with additional protection. In the inquiry on the Pulgaon case, there was no comment on the failure of the OFB; on the contrary, the MoD returned the case to Army HQs questioning the firefighting capability of the depot. If a criminal is protected by those who should be questioning it, how can performance ever improve? After this accident, mines worth Rs 303 crore were destroyed.

On ammunition alone, multiple parliamentary committees on defence and Comptroller and Auditor General reports have criticized OFB for failing to meet quotas in production. They have also been hauled up for poor quality products leading to accidents. The OFB accepts every order of the armed forces but fails to deliver. As per reports available, the

OFB shortfalls in fulfilling accepted orders varied from 51 to 67 per cent in the period between 2013-18, most being in the ammunition category.

In one of the enquiries after a firing accident, the statement of the OFB which controls all ammunition factories was, "the important reasons (for failures) can be manufacturing deficiencies, improper handling and storage in ammunition depots, improper maintenance of weapon systems and improper handling of ammunition and weapons during firing. The OFB is not aware of the storage/handling/maintenance conditions at the army's end, which are equally responsible for defects/accidents." There was no attempt by the OFB to mention improving its manufacturing practices.

Ammunition accidents have occurred with artillery guns, tanks, mortars, mines and air defence equipment involving different depots, different units and different ranges. However, all ammunition was manufactured by the OFB. In every case, there has been an investigation, after which ordnance factories have washed their hands off. There may be an error in one depot or one unit or one kind of equipment, not across the country.

The OFB comprises of 41 ordnance factories and employs approximately 80,000 people over 24 locations. They have, till recently, remained the main supplier to the armed forces for most of their needs, including items available in the open market. However, in desperation to show profit and cater for overtime for their work force, their products have been overpriced and targets rarely achieved. Earlier when the army began placing orders for non-core items from the open market there was marked resistance from the OFB claiming its quality and cost cannot be matched.

Every army personnel has experienced different coloured uniform shirts and trousers delivered by the OFB, leading to many being compelled to purchase their own. In anger, the army switched to procure-



ment of cloth, rather than stitched uniform.

An assessment done by the army indicates that cost when purchased from the open market is far lower. An example is the variation in cost of the Ashok Leyland Stallion vehicle between assembly at the OFB factory in Jabalpur and purchase from the main manufacturing unit at Hosur. The OFB charges Rs 28 lakh against the factory cost of Rs 17 lakh. Added to this are problems on repair of vehicles manufactured at Jabalpur, which the OFB refuses to honour. Similar variations exist for other products.

Another recent case is of the joint venture with Russia for producing AK 203 rifles at the OFB plant in Amethi. The defence ministry was compelled to appoint a costing committee as the price quoted by the OFB was far higher than the benchmark price. This was also submitted after repeated exten-

sions. The government's decision to corporatise OFB has been met with resistance and anger. Rather than seeking to prove that they remain a national asset, especially during the ongoing crisis, they have announced their decision to proceed on a strike from 12 October, only on concerns for job cuts, layoffs and losing privileges of being defence employees.

A statement issued prior to an earlier announced strike in August 2019 said, "82,000 Central government employees working as defence civilian employees will lose their status and they will become employees of a corporation, thereby depriving them of various benefits available to them." Surprisingly, a statement on the website of the OFB states, "undoubtedly, we are the force behind the armed forces." They are anything but that.

The move to incorporate the pri-

vate sector into defence production has also been met with strong resistance. Ravindran Pillai, vice president of one of the unions of the OFB stated, "Any private manufacturer always only looks at profit. His national interest will be the last. Quality assurance in the private sector will be done by third party inspection and self-certification. It is putting the lives of our jawans and armed forces at risk. Ordnance factories only work for national interest." These words ring hollow when the current performance of the OFB is considered. Globally, it is the private sector which arms national forces.

Despite all these theatrics and resistance, the government must not yield to pressure. Corporatisation is the only way forward.

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

Prosperity of hills siphoned off

MAHENDRA P LAMA

The economies of the Eastern Himalaya have mostly followed a growth model that has intrinsic and complex mechanisms of promoting the outflow of development multipliers. While defying and disproving most of the orthodox theoretical underpinnings of development, the highlands in Nepal, Bhutan and various hill provinces in India have unconsciously recorded a trend of siphoning off the cream of development mostly to the lowlands or the mainstream theatres.

One can attribute this deleteriously unending phenomenon to the dominant and mindless development planning far away from the remote action centres. The agents involved in the process are primarily outsiders with a huge capital base, entrepreneurial history and market capture. The underdeveloped nature of physical infrastructures, nascent institutional structures and the very presence of government in the form of tightly bureaucratised systems make the hills and mountains deeply vulnerable to backwardness syndrome and incremental practices.

Several examples can be cited. Darjeeling's tea industry is a typical example of how the outflow of development gains has consistently occurred and been institutionalised. The very pattern of ownership, modes of the production system and linkages with the markets ensure that nothing remains in Darjeeling except low wages and fringe benefits to the workers. Most of the sales proceeds derived from both national and global

markets get directed to metropolitans, consistently usurped by merchant capitalists and other intermediaries. Only a trickle flows down to the hapless workers who struggle for generations to recover their own savings of gratuity and provident funds. The much-celebrated new dictum of 'fair trading' has actually justifiably consolidated these outflows. Tea workers and people at large remain as ignorant and deprived in terms of how their development gains have been redeployed to build lowland industries like jute, sugar, leather, tobacco and other business ventures.

The states in Northeast India and the Western Himalaya have witnessed this vicious practice even in the process of operationalising special development packages generously extended by the government of India like the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (1997-2014) and the North East Industrial Development Scheme (2017-22). Under these packages, investors, mostly from the lowlands, enjoyed unparalleled incentives in these 'special category states' of 100 per cent income tax and excise duty exemptions, capital investment and transport subsidies and interest and insurance benefits. Many of these entrepreneurs who had never climbed the hills found the highlands suddenly fertile and productive, at least till these incentives remained. In this case, too, the cream of development flowed down to the lowlands as profit-driven entrepreneurs had no inkling of development commitments.

The failure of the respective state government to devise ways and

means to monitor some of these 'fly by night operators', legally retain them for at least a few decades and institutionalise the participative process has led to a huge industrial development vacuum and credibility gap as reflected in increasing local resistance to such outside participation.

The most glaring example has been that of Sikkim. With the third-highest per capita income of Rs 357,000 and the state gross domestic production growing at 11 per cent, Sikkim should have been a model of development in terms of structural composition, employment generation, institutionalised progress, availability of local entrepreneurship and skills, and more importantly, development budgets. In the last more than two decades, in all these critical development parameters and performance variables, this highland state remained a laggard. The core attribution to this laggard syndrome could be once again pinpointed to the steady and unhindered outflow of development benefits.

This phenomenon is widely prevalent across sectors. In agriculture, Sikkim's most valuable cash crop, cardamom, has developed a value chain wherein farmers receive hardly 10 to 20 per cent of total realisations as the supplier of raw cardamom. The rest of the value chain, including the last critical segment of processed spices, ingredients in Pan Parag and pharmaceuticals, remains outside the state boundary and purview of traditional farmers. The agents in value additions, merchants and partners in market disposal, usurp 80 to 90 per cent of this value chain realisation.

Sikkim was one of the highest global producers of cardamom.

A more telling story has been that of the manufacturing sector like pharmaceuticals where some of the top brands of India have set up their factories in Sikkim, mostly to harness both the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy and the North East Industrial Development Scheme. With the manufacturing sector suddenly sharing 62 per cent, the state gross output has galloped. However, its impact on the state's revenue generation is very negligible as the raw materials, packaging amenities and carriers and warehousing are brought from and located outside Sikkim. Except employment in the low-skill segments, no major development benefits are retained in the state.

This sordid story abounds in haphazardly drawn contractual conditions and trading models with hydropower producers. As a result, even with an installed capacity of over 2,200 megawatts, Sikkim carries staggering debt burdens. With a firm 39 megawatts capacity in 2000, Sikkim made unplanned, unscientific and unprofessional interventions without any institutional capability and regulatory agency. Over 20 projects have either been discontinued or terminated or are in the judicial realms at huge financial, administrative and environmental costs to the state. The leakages were inevitable and the technical and commercial loss remains at 29 per cent incurring over Rs680 million in losses annually.

Despite strong local sensitivity, an overwhelming portion of the hotel and concomitant businesses are leased out

to management partners from outside. It is estimated that the outflow of three-fourths of the benefits injected by the over 1.5 million annual tourist arrivals actually makes the lowlands happier and more prosperous. The pari passu benefits to the locals are not at all robust. The state government has been a silent policy supporter. Many of us in the State Planning Commission tried to permanently correct these severe ills and predatory practices in the early 2000s, but the political leadership was numb and indifferent, and surreptitiously brought policies that actually consolidated this virulent process. As a result, Sikkim's dependence on finances from the Centre and debts has immensely deepened.

Therefore, the vision, commitment and sagacity of the political leadership to usher in a new growth model are the first-order conditions of long-term peace, stability and happiness in Sikkim. The change in the government and political leadership in 2019 has been a significant and blessed departure. The present Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, an astutely sagacious and popular politician, has a non-traditional responsibility of reversing the development model itself that kept Sikkim superficially in a high-growth regime with questionable feats and achievements. Rebuilding a class of local entrepreneurs, injecting newer technology and skills, bringing a variety of national institutions, rejuvenating the rural economies, inducing global multilateral development and philanthropic organisations, and playing a key role in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's India's Act East Policy must adorn this government's agenda for the next decade or so.

The Kathmandu Post/ANN

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

It is a comfort to be told by Professor J. Russell Smith, of Columbia University, that there is no danger of a world shortage of food; but the fact that the Professor has to write a book of 616 pages to prove this indicates that the truth is not self-evident. It may become necessary to use substitutes for pure wheaten flour, but we need never be without bread. The unused agricultural resources of the world are sufficient to supply all the food that is likely to be needed. These resources are of two kinds. There are those which we might, but do not, use under present conditions, and there are those which the advance of science may help us to develop by improved methods. Very little of the soil of North America is as yet intensively cultivated, and double cropping might be introduced on a much more extensive scale there as elsewhere. Large tracts of country in Asia and Africa could be made much more productive if they were cultivated as the Dutch have cultivated Java. Then the scientific achievements of the past seem to justify the hope that we shall soon be able to extract an abundant supply of nitrogenous fertilisers from the air and perhaps of phosphates from the sea and in these and many other ways to reinforce the productive powers of nature but we cannot afford to waste our substance on war.

NEWS ITEMS

POLAND

The military situation in Poland is arousing considerable anxiety in view of the uncompromising attitude of the Bolsheviks. The question of helping Poland to defend her frontiers as defined by the Allies is complicated by Germany's obstructionist tactics regarding the use of the Danzig corridor, which is the sole communication with Poland. Germany, despite her protestations to the contrary, is strongly suspected of playing the Bismarckian role of fishing in trouble waters. There is at present no idea of sending British troops to Poland, but French circles seem to favour sending some Colonial detachments. The Bolshevik advance in Eastern Galicia, furthermore, raises the problem of preventing the isolation of Rumania and the invasion of Hungary. The Daily Telegraph understands that in view of the breakdown in the Baronovitch negotiations the obvious Bolshevik intention is to crush Poland.

KARACHI AND THE EXCHANGE

At a special meeting yesterday the Karachi Chamber of Commerce discussed the position of exchange, and decided to send the following telegram to the Government of India, the Finance Department, and various Chambers of Commerce:- In continuation of the Chamber's telegram, a special general meeting of members held this afternoon again urge most strongly that Government will support two shilling sterling rupee with all resources at their command. The Chamber urge that the weekly sales of Reverse Councils be considerably increased in support of this announcement. To uphold this policy the Chamber press that further sales of gold in India should cease forthwith, and that the Government's gold be shipped at once to London to meet Reverse Council drafts.

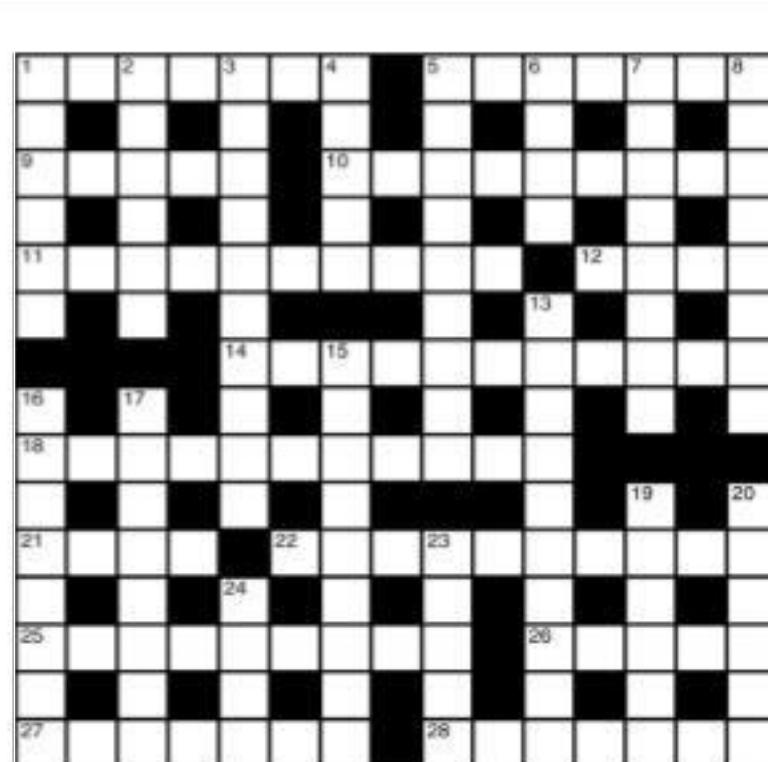
OFFICIALS AND LABOUR

The report of the Committee appointed by the Government at the instance of Mr. Bhurguri, who moved a resolution on the subject in the Legislative Council in 1918, to enquire into "Rasai, Lapo and Chher" prevailing in Sind, has been published, together with three huge volumes of evidence recorded by the Committee. The report traces at length the origin, survival and expansion of these three systems of receiving of free supply of labour by officials of Sind while on tour. The Committee point out that these three systems lie deep rooted in past traditions; defying all efforts for their suppression. They make various recommendations to stop the evil, including camping grounds, employment of independent subsidised contractors, and substantial increase of travelling allowances of the subordinate and menial establishment.

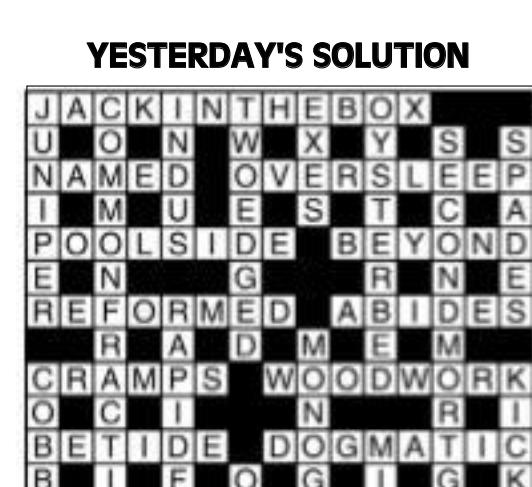
DECCAN LIBERAL PARTY & NON-COOPERATION

The Executive Committee of the Deccan Liberal party view with strong disapproval and grave concern the movement of non-cooperation inaugurated under the leadership of Mr. Gandhi. The Committee feels the movement is sure to lead to disastrous consequences, and is likely to hamper the work of political reconstruction, and will set back the general progress of the country. The Committee calls upon all Liberals in the Deccan to educate public opinion on right lines on this question. The Committee further thinks that the attitude of the British Government and the Parliament about the Punjab disorders has caused deep soreness and irritation in the public mind and they appeal to the Government to take immediate steps to restore public confidence.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

- 1 Record decisive win finally for white (7)
- 5 Compartment for passenger's compartment (7)
- 9 Established standards in mock exams externally (5)
- 10 Draw of Spooner's patriarchy (9)
- 11 'Dunno ... he maybe on the end of ward C' (3,7)
- 12 See 6 Down
- 14 Having issue on drug price reviewed (11)
- 18 Expert on board relative's trailer when train missed (11)
- 21 Certainly not free for cycling (4)
- 22 Catholi in with another crowd to see magic (10)
- 25 Text English channel pics

DOWN

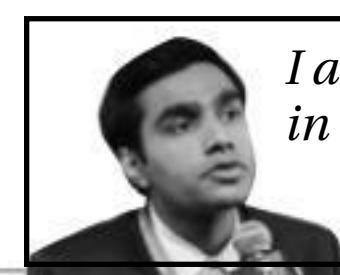
- 26 Take in circuit ahead (3,2)
- 27 Follower of silly thing from the East in river (7)
- 28 Knight crossing main road by city is fairly close (7)
- 1 Rook flies south from farm on old moor (6)
- 2 Economical move essentially strategic (6)
- 3 See drama unfolding around Queen's Ball (10)
- 4 Pried regularly into US deeds (5)
- 5 Blame safari company initially over simian attack (9)
- 6/12 Player with chips went up and down (4,4)
- 7 Old comic features a bishop's

8 junior colleague? (8)

- 8 Appear again stripping trees and verges, stopped by 1st of May (2-6)
- 13 Course of spicy food unfinished on ICU by smoker (10)
- 15 Empty remark by priest on allowance (9)
- 16 Couldn't decide if San Diego was lousy (8)
- 17 Perhaps one with match over in outskirts of Kiev (8)
- 19 Floral part of short Persian cover possibly left (6)
- 20 Lethargy of Poltiburo put Stalin in the ascendant (6)
- 23 Duke's wife skipping half of dull musical (5)
- 24 Drunk gets pawn in position (4)

NO 28095

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



I am happy that KPCL, the second largest private port in India, has now become part of APSEZ portfolio

KARAN ADANI

CEO & WHOLE-TIME DIRECTOR, APSEZ

THUMBNAILS

Radware, Airtel pact:
Radware, a leading provider of cyber security and application delivery solutions, and Bharti Airtel, India's largest telco, announced a partnership under which Radware's Cloud DDoS Protection, Cloud WAF, and Bot Manager cloud security services will be offered to enterprise customers by Airtel. As part of the agreement, traffic from Airtel's customers will be secured via a new India-based scrubbing service center, which is hosted by Airtel's Nxtra Data, says a Press release statement. SNS

Cipla Health launches 'Maxrich Tulsi Drops':
Maxrich, the flagship multivitamin brand of Cipla Health Ltd launched Tulsi Drops, a natural immunity booster, that effectively supports respiratory and digestive health, gives relief from cough and cold and helps in stress management during the ongoing Covid pandemic in the country. Cipla Health Ltd CEO Shivan Puri said, "With this launch we convey the importance of a strong immune system to ensure that people are not just protected from the outside but from the inside as well." SNS

TCS board to consider share buyback on 7 Oct

TCS board to consider share buyback on 7 Oct

In the EPIC Systems matter, it would be providing ₹1,218 cr as exceptional item

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

India's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services' board will meet later this week to consider a share buyback proposal.

"...the board of directors will consider a proposal for buyback of equity shares of the company, at a meeting to be held on 7 October 2020," Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) said in a regulatory filing on Sunday night. No other details of the buyback plan were disclosed.

The board is also slated to consider its financial results for the September quarter and declaration of a second interim dividend to the equity shareholders at that meeting.

In 2018, the Mumbai-based company had undertaken a share buyback programme worth up to Rs 16,000 crore. The buyback, at Rs 2,100 per equity share, had entailed up to 7,61 crore shares. In 2017 too, TCS had undertaken a similar share purchase programme.

M-cap surpasses ₹10 lakh cr mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) today became the second Indian firm after Reliance Industries to attain a market valuation of more than Rs 10 lakh crore helped by a rally in its share price.

In the morning trade, the stock jumped over 6 per cent ahead of its board meeting later this week to consider a share buyback proposal.

The stock rose by 6.18 per cent to reach its record high of Rs 2,678.80 on the BSE.

TCS had announced the mega buyback offer as part of its long-term capital allocation policy of returning excess cash to shareholders.

In a separate filing, TCS said in the EPIC Systems Corporation matter, it would be providing Rs 1,218 crore as

exceptional item, in the financial results for the three and six months ended 30 September 2020.

In October 2014, EPIC had filed a legal claim against TCS in the court of Western District Madison, Wisconsin alleging infringement of Epic's

proprietary information.

"On 20 August 2020, the US Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit, Chicago, returned a verdict on the appeal filed by TCS, reducing the damages award. The court held that the punitive damages award of \$280 million is constitutionally excessive, vacated the punitive damages award and directed the trial court to reassess the punitive damages," TCS said in its filing.

The court upheld the compensatory damages award of \$140 million, it added.

"TCS is legally advised that it has the correct and the strongest possible arguments in its favour and the order and reduced damages are not supported by facts presented during the trial. In September 2020, TCS has filed petition seeking re-hearing on both compensatory and punitive damages," TCS said.

The company said EPIC has also filed a petition seeking re-hearing on the decision of the Appeals Court invalidating award of punitive damages exceeding the amount of compensatory damages.

Angel Broking makes weak debut on bourses



NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

Shares of Angel Broking Ltd made a weak debut on the bourses today, declining over 10 per cent from the issue price of Rs 306 apiece.

The stock tumbled 10.13 per cent to Rs 275 on the BSE in its opening trade. During the day, it tanked 16.14 per cent to Rs 256.60. Finally, it closed at Rs 275.85, lower by 9.85 per cent.

On the NSE, it closed at Rs 274.25, down 10.37 per cent after plunging 10.13 per cent to Rs 275 in debut trade.

The company's market valuation was at Rs 2,256.42 crore on the BSE. In terms of volume, 8,94 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and over 85 lakh on the NSE.

The initial public offer of Angel Broking was subscribed nearly four times last month. Price range for the company's Rs 600-crore offer was fixed at Rs 305-306 apiece. PTI

Sebi comes out with uniform timeline for listing securities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

Markets regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India today came out with a uniform time period for listing securities, including municipal bonds, issued on private placement basis.

The timeline will be applicable for non-convertible redeemable preference shares, debt securities, securitised debt instruments and security receipts and municipal bonds, the Sebi said in a circular.

The move comes after the regulator received several requests from various market participants for clarification on the time period within which such securities need to be listed after completion of allotment.

After taking feedback from market participants, the Sebi has decided that allotment of securities will be completed by T+2 trading days after receiving funds. T day refers to closure of the issue.

It further said issuer needs to make listing application to stock exchanges and obtain

approval from the bourses by T+4 trading day.

In case of delay in listing of securities issued on private placement basis beyond the timeline, the issuer will pay penal interest of 1 per cent per annum over the coupon rate for the period of delay to the investor (i.e. from date of allotment to the date of listing), the Sebi said.

In addition, issuer will be permitted to utilise the issue proceeds of its two subsequent privately placed issuances of securities only after receiving final listing approval from stock exchanges, it added.

According to the regulator, depositories will activate the ISINs (international securities identification numbers) of debt securities issued on private placement basis only after the stock exchanges have accorded approval for listing of such securities.

Further, in order to facilitate re-issuances of new debt securities in an existing ISIN, depositories have been asked to allot such new debt securities under a new temporary ISIN which will be kept frozen.

Global industry leaders to participate in summit on AI

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 5 OCTOBER

Industry leaders are scheduled to discuss using artificial intelligence technology for health, education, economic inclusion and social empowerment during the five-day online RAISE 2020 global summit starting today.

Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at 7.00 pm, the five-day summit will have more than 45,000 stakeholders from academia, research and government representatives from 133 countries.

The Government of India is organising this first-of-its-kind global virtual summit on artificial intelligence (AI), along with the ministry of electronics and information technology and NITI Aayog.

Titled "Responsible AI for

Social Empowerment 2020", (RAISE-2020), the summit is to be a brainstorming festival to explore how artificial intelligence can be used to "radically transform the economic and social fabric of the world we live in."

The summit website (www.raise2020.indiaai.gov.in) that calls artificial intelligence as one of the defining moments in human history expects AI "to be the next giant technological leap similar to electricity and the Internet".

Governmental statement described the RAISE 2020 as a "global meeting of minds" on using AI to drive India's vision and roadmap for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment through responsible AI.

Participants include Google Research director Dr Manish

Equity benchmarks rise for 3rd straight session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 5 OCTOBER

Equity benchmark the Sensex rose for the third consecutive session today, buoyed by robust gains in IT and banking stocks amid a broad upmove in global markets. TCS soared over 7 per cent after the IT major said it will consider a share buyback proposal later this week.

Starting off on a high note, the 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed to the day's peak at 39,263.85 points, before ceding some ground to settle at 38,973.70 points, up 276.65 points or 0.71 per cent. Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty rose 86.40 points or 0.76 per cent to close at 11,503.35 points.

TCS was the top performer on the Sensex chart, rallying 7.30 per cent. In the process, the IT giant became the second Indian firm after Reliance Industries to cross the Rs 10 lakh crore market valuation mark.

Other prominent gainers included Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Infosys, Tech Mahindra,

SENSEX UP 277 POINTS



► On the forex market front, the rupee closed 16 paise lower at 73.29 against the US dollar.

IndusInd Bank, HCL Tech, ICICI Bank, HUL, Kotak Bank and HDFC Bank, spurring up to 4.71 per cent. On the other hand, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Auto, PowerGrid and ITC were among the major laggards, shedding as much as 2.70 per cent. With the global markets' focus turning to US President Donald Trump's Covid-19 treatment,

reports of an improvement in his health boosted investor sentiment, analysts said. Asian shares rose following Trump's health update, while European markets too opened on a firm footing.

"Indian indices had a very positive start, taking cues from the global market and in anticipation of the Supreme Court verdict of the compounding of

loans during the moratorium period. Gains came off when the decision was deferred to next week, this delay is unlikely to change the framework for small borrowers and the banking sector as the government and the RBI are expected to maintain the buoyancy of the market.

"In the near-term, the market is expected to maintain its optimism based on Trump's recovery, development of stimulus in US and India, upcoming Q2 FY21 results in India and Supreme Court final verdict," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, the BSE IT index rose 4.06 per cent, followed by tech, metal, healthcare and bankex. In the broader market, the BSE mid-cap index shed 0.18 per cent, while the small-cap gauge rose 0.38 per cent, underperforming the benchmark.

Global crude oil benchmark Brent was trading nearly 3 per cent higher at \$40.41 per barrel. Analysts further

INDIAN BANK INAUGURATES MID-CORPORATE BRANCH



Mid-Corporate Branch of Indian Bank Zonal office-Delhi Central was inaugurated by Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, Indian Bank on 24 September. Vikas Kumar, FGM, Delhi, Rakesh Kumar Agrawal, ZM Delhi Central, Himanshu Kansal, ZM Delhi South and Roopal Singh, branch manager MCB branch was also present on the occasion.

50TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HUDCO



The Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) held its 50th annual general meeting through video conferencing on 30 September. M. Nagaraj, director corporate planning HUDCO chaired the meeting and addressed the shareholders to apprise them of the outstanding performance of the company in its Golden Jubilee year.

'HEALTH TALK' BY SBI



On the occasion of World Heart Day on 29 September, State Bank of India, Local Head office, New Delhi, organised a health talk and an interactive session through webinar in association with Medanta, The Medicity Hospital, Gurugram.

PUBLIC SECTOR ROUNDUP

Bank of Baroda inaugurates 3rd edition of 'Baroda Kisan Pakhwada'

Bank of Baroda, the country's third-largest public sector bank, inaugurated the 3rd edition of 'Baroda Kisan Pakhwada' which is being organised from 1 October to 16 October.

This event is earmarked to appreciate the spirit and vigour of the farming community for their contribution towards

sustaining the economy during the pandemic and for the development of the country.

'Baroda Kisan Pakhwada' is an pan-India initiative to encourage farmers to get connected with the services offered by the Government and the Bank. Last year over 6,11,779 farmers were benefitted by various

outreach programmes conducted by the Bank.

This year the Bank has focused on organising similar programmes in virtual mode for the benefit of farmers at large. This year, the Bank will also include promotion of new schemes under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The pakhwada

will conclude on 16 October with the celebration of Baroda Kisan Diwas, coinciding with the "World Food Day". The Bank recently taken initiatives to bolster tractor financing in India by providing better financial services to farmers as a step to support and empower them for farm mechanisation.

ESIC guidelines for Covid-19 safety measures at workplace

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment, jointly released safe workplace guidelines for industry & establishment to combat Covid-19 in New Delhi on 29 September.

V K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, whose constant guidance these guidelines have been prepared, also joined the release as guest of honour. Vardhan informed about the steps undertaken by government in combating Covid-19 pandemic.

Gangwar hailed the recently passed three labour codes. He said that with passage of these bills now more workers will get the benefits of social security. He further said that these bills will also ensure the ease of doing business.

Jabalpur airport will be upgraded to provide better services to the travellers of the region. The upgradation work undertaken at the airport includes construction of new terminal building, ATC tower and technical block, fire station category VII, other buildings and extension of runway & associated works. State government handed over 468.43 acres of land to AAI for development work in 2015, for

total land measuring to 775 acres. The new terminal building equipped with world-class passenger facilities will have the capacity to handle 500 passengers during peak hours. Spread over an area of 115180 sq ft, the terminal building will have three aerobridges, advanced baggage screening system, modern food court in the landscape area and well-planned car parking for more than 250 cars and buses.

The proposed terminal building will welcome the passengers with glimpses of vibrant Gond paintings, local handicrafts, murals and popular tourist destinations of Madhya Pradesh.

Jabalpur Airport to be upgraded



It shows the government's confidence and commitment towards supporting the exhibition sector which plays an important role in promoting businesses and trade across the country. Now it's time for the exhibition industry to come forward and work collectively towards holding of trade shows with strict adherence to SOP and requisite Covid precautions in place.

2 MW Solar Power plant at IIM Tiruchirapalli

REC Limited CMD SK Gupta inaugurated the power plant in the presence of Ajay Choudhury, director (finance) – REC Limited, along with S N Srinivas, CEO – REC Foundation and Bhimarama Metri, director – IIM Tiruchirapalli. REC foundation, the CSR arm of REC Limited has funded the setting up of a 2 MW solar power plant at IIM Tiruchirapalli. The inauguration of the power plant was held online through a digital platform.

SAIL supplies 9,000 tonnes of steel for Atal Tunnel

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), the largest steel producing Company in India, has supplied the majority portion of steel in the construction of the Atal Rohtang Tunnel, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3 October. SAIL has supplied more than 9000 tonnes of its quality steel, out of the 15000 tonnes of steel used in the entire project. The tunnel is set to become the world's longest road tunnel at an altitude of above 3,000 metres.

The company has once again partnered in building a vital infrastructure for the Nation and making India stronger.

HUDCO'S DIVIDEND P



Aucklanders and New Zealanders stuck to the plan that has worked twice now, and beat the virus again...

NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER JACINDA ARDERN
AS NEW ZEALAND IS EASING CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 06 OCTOBER 2020

09

FATF set to decide on Pak's grey list status

Islamabad was asked to implement plan of action by 2019 end but deadline was extended later on due to pandemic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 5 OCTOBER

The Financial Action Task Force is all set to decide on Pakistan's grey list status in a virtual meeting scheduled later this month, according to a media report on Monday.

The Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog had placed Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019 but the deadline was extended later on due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Seeking to wriggle out of the FATF's grey list, debt-ridden Pakistan in August imposed financial sanctions on 88 banned terror groups and their leaders, including 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

The virtual FATF plenary scheduled for October 21-23 will decide if Pakistan should be excluded from its grey list, based on a review of Islamabad's performance to meet global commitments and standards on fight against money laundering and terror financing (ML&TF), the Dawn News reported.

The meeting was earlier scheduled in June but Islamabad got an unexpected breather after the global watchdog against financial crimes temporarily postponed all mutual evaluations and follow-up deadlines in the wake of grave health risk following Covid-9 pandemic, it said.

The agency also put a general pause in the review process, thus giving additional four months to Pakistan to meet the requirements.

In February, the FATF gave Pakistan, which missed 13 targets, a four-month grace period to complete its 27-point action plan against ML&TF committed with the international community.



ditions set by FATF. In August, Parliament's lower house passed four FATF-related bills as part of the efforts by Pakistan to move from the FATF's grey list to the white list.

In September, the joint session of the Parliament amended about 15 laws to upgrade its legal system matching international standards as required by the FATF. The government has already submitted its report to the FATF and its affiliated review groups and responded to their comments, detailing compliance with the 13 outstanding action points, the Dawn reported.

The FATF meeting this month will review Pakistan's compliance with the 13 remaining action points. The FATF will examine if the country had demonstrated remedial actions and sanctions applied in cases of violations relating to terrorist financing risk management and terror financing sanctions obligations.

The FATF will also judge if competent authorities were cooperating and taking action

to identify and take enforcement action against illegal money or value transfer services and had proven implementation of cross-border currency and bearer negotiable instruments controls at all ports of entry, including applying effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions.

Pakistan has also to determine if law enforcement agencies were identifying and investigating the widest range of terrorist financing activity and that terrorist financing (TF) probes and prosecution target designated persons and entities, and those acting on behalf or at the direction of the designated persons or entities besides showing TF prosecutions result in effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, the report said.

The country's outstanding action areas also include effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions (supported by a comprehensive legal obligation) against all 1,267 and 1,373 designated ter-

rorists and those acting for or on their behalf, including preventing the raising and moving of funds, identifying and freezing assets (movable and immovable), and prohibiting access to funds and financial services, it said.

If the FATF in its meeting finds that Pakistan has failed to meet its requirements, there is every possibility that the global body may put the country in the 'Black List' along with North Korea and Iran.

In August, Prime Minister Imran Khan had warned that if blacklisted at the FATF, Pakistan's entire economy will be destroyed due to inflation and a massive fall in Pakistani Rupee. The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

The FATF currently has 39 members including two regional organisations - the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council.

Ex-Pakistan president Asif Ali Zardari indicted in Park Lane and Thatta Water cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 5 OCTOBER

An anti-corruption court in Pakistan on Monday indicted former president Asif Ali Zardari in the Park Lane and Thatta Water Supply cases.

Zardari, 63, the co-chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), was present in the Islamabad-based court and pleaded not guilty.

During the hearing, the court indicted 19 others accused in the Park Lane case and 15 others in the Thatta water supply case.

The court last week had indicted Zardari, his sister Faryal Talpur in a mega money laundering case.

In the Park Lane case, Zardari and his son Bilawal Ali Zardari are accused of purchasing 2,460 kanals of prime property in Islamabad at extremely depreciated rates using frontmen.

In the Thatta water supply case, a private contractor was illegally awarded project



contracts. In the money laundering case, it is alleged fake accounts were used by the former president and other accused to park and launder ill-gotten wealth.

The court has rejected Zardari's plea seeking acquittal in all three cases.

The husband of the country's first woman prime minister Benazir Bhutto was arrested last year by the National Accountability Bureau and probed for months before being released in December on medical grounds.

Zardari has maintained the allegations against him are a vilification campaign by Prime Minister Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

Oman reinstates ambassador to Syria after years-long hiatus

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI, 5 OCTOBER

Oman has sent an ambassador to Syria after an eight-year hiatus, the state news agency reported, the latest sign of deepening engagement between Gulf Arab states and Syria's President Bashar Assad.

The move on Sunday made Oman the first Gulf Arab state to reinstate its ambassador to Syria since the eruption of the country's ruinous civil war.

In 2012, Oman and other Gulf Arab countries withdrew their ambassadors in protest of the Syrian government's violent suppression of a year-old uprising.

Other Arab states shuttered their embassies but Oman, known for its neutrality and diplomacy between regional foes, kept its open throughout the years of conflict.

During the ambassador's reception in Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem expressed pride in Omani foreign policy and appreciation for the close fraternal relations between the countries, according to Oman's state news agency.

Oman's new ambassador, Turki bin Mahmood al-Busaidy, said he looks forward to expanding the paths of cooperation and shared interests between the two brotherly countries, the statement added.

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cooperation and shared interests between the two brotherly countries, the statement added.

Syria was expelled from the 22-member Arab League in 2011, and Arab countries have sanctioned Damascus and condemned its use of military force against the opposition.

Yet with the war winding down and the Syrian army recapturing most of the territory once lost to the opposition, a few Arab countries that had once boycotted Assad and backed his opposition are now pursuing a quiet rapprochement with his government.

The Syrian opposition, which now only controls one overpopulated stretch of territory in northwestern Syria, is mainly supported by Turkey, a rival of the United Arab Emirates and other Arab countries because of its embrace of regional Islamists.

BACK TO SCHOOL



School Children at the Freetown Secondary School for girls stand in line on their first day back at school in Freetown on Monday.

AFP

WHO: 10% of world's people may have been infected with virus

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GENEVA, 5 OCTOBER

The head of emergencies at the World Health Organization said Monday its best estimates indicate that roughly 1 in 10 people worldwide may have been infected by the coronavirus more than 20 times the number of confirmed cases and warned of a difficult period ahead.

Dr Michael Ryan, speaking to a special session of the WHO's 34-member executive board focusing on Covid-19, said the figures vary from urban to rural, and between different groups, but that ultimately it means the vast majority of the world remains at risk.

He said the pandemic would continue to evolve,

but that tools exist to suppress transmission and save lives.

Many deaths have been averted and many more lives can be protected," Ryan said. He was flanked by his boss, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who minutes earlier led a moment of silence to honor victims as well as round of applause for the health workers who have strived to save them.

Ryan said southeast Asia faced a surge in cases, Europe and the eastern Mediterranean were seeing an increase in deaths, while the situations in Africa and the Western Pacific were rather more positive. "Our current best estimates tell us that about 10 percent of the global population may have been infected by this virus," Ryan told

attendees from member governments who make up the executive board and provide much of its funding.

The estimate which would amount to more than 760 million people based on a current world population of about 7.6 billion far outruns the number of confirmed cases as tallied by both WHO and Johns Hopkins University, now more than 35 million worldwide.

Experts have long said that the number of confirmed cases greatly underestimates the true figure. The comments came during a special session of the executive board to consider the follow-up to its previous meeting, in May, that passed a resolution to look into the world's and WHO's response to the pandemic.

Singapore in stable position to fight Covid-19: Deputy PM Heng

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SINGAPORE, 5 OCTOBER

Singapore is in a stable position in its fight against the coronavirus pandemic, but the city-state must remain vigilant amid profound uncertainties, Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat told Parliament on Monday.

Heng, also the Finance Minister, said these uncertainties include how effectively other countries will be in

containing the pandemic and reopening their economies, as well as when an effective and safe vaccine can be developed.

"But Singapore will adapt to living with the coronavirus even with these unknowns," said Heng in a ministerial statement as an update on Singapore's response against the pandemic and its strategies to emerge stronger from the crisis.

To further reopen the economy safely, the government has

worked out the steps on how to further reopen the economy safely, with details of a Phase 3 roadmap to be released by the multi-ministry task force in the coming weeks, said Heng.

This will include the expected timeline for moving to Phase 3, changes to current regulations on the size of group gatherings and at mass events, he said.

To further reopen the economy safely, the government has

will focus on four key prongs: vaccination, testing, tracing and safe management.

Singapore is working very actively to secure early access to safe and effective vaccines, if and when they become available, said Heng.

This includes being an early supporter of the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility, a global initiative to accelerate the development and production of potential vaccines while ensuring equitable access.

Singapore is also looking at procuring vaccines from a number of pharmaceutical companies, while supporting local efforts in developing a vaccine and the building up of manufacturing capacity.

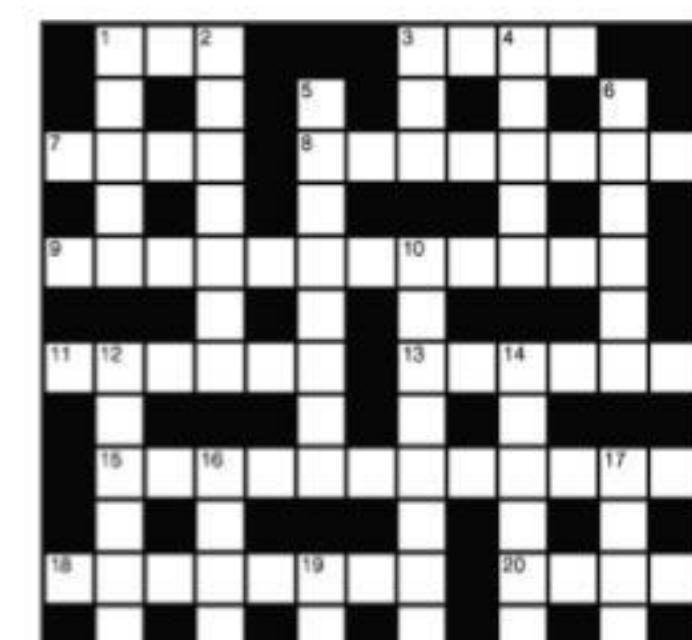
As overseas travel restrictions are progressively eased and more activities resume, it has become even more critical that each of us play our part to exercise social responsibility and adhere to the safe management measures.

management measures, in order to keep our family and friends safe as we progress towards Phase 3, said Health Minister Gan Kim Yong told the House on Monday.

The city state will also remain in Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (DORSCON) Orange for the time being, said Gan responding to Parliamentary questions on whether Singapore would be easing its COVID-19 safe management measures.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Perceive with the eyes (3)
3 Small notch (4)
7 Clenched hand (4)
8 African animal (8)
9 Condition requiring surgery (12)
11 Regain consciousness (4,2)
13 Feel bitter at (6)
15 Shady (12)
18 Publication (8)
20 Elliptical (4)
21 In this place (4)
22 Near (3)

DOWN
1 Stint (5)
2 Immoderate (7)
3 And not (3)
4 Crave (5)
5 Good-looking (8)
6 Gaol (6)
10 Merry-go-round (8)
12 Trying experience (6)
14 Fish, shellfish, etc (7)
16 Barrel strip (5)
17 Commit to memory (5)
19 Frozen water (3)

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

22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

• Toll Free Nos. 1800125151

• SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

• ISBT (General Inquiry):

23868836, 23865181

• AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407

• INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383383, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air

port 011-25671580; Terminal I 23860626

• Rajasthan Roadways 25671576, 18001803838

• JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 3737377

FLIGHT INQUIRY

• AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407

• INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383383, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air

port 011-25671580; Terminal I 23860626

• Air Canada Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181

• Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25652294 (Airport)

• Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

Instructions Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the 10 letters given above. Add points of each word, using scoring table given below. All 7 letter words get 50 points. Letters in the words can be used as any letter.

All 6 letter words are 40 points. All 5 letter words are 30 points. All 4 letter words are 20 points.

All 3 letter words are 10 points. All



No, definitely not. Seeing what the Prime Minister has to deal with, this is a job hard enough for me to do...

UK CHANCELLOR RISHI SUNAK

WEATHER

CITY	MAX°C	MIN°C
SINGAPORE	31	26
HONG KONG	29	24 H
TOKYO	22	16 H
LONDON	15	9 H
DUBAI	37	27 S
SAN FRANCISCO	22	12 H
NEW YORK	23	16 S
MOSCOW	20	10 H

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

THUMBNAILS



A picture shows a mock-colonne Morris advertising column displaying a poster of late French singer Juliette Greco during her funeral ceremony outside the Saint-Germain-des-Pres church in Paris, on Monday.

AFP

Malaysia PM quarantines as minister tests positive for Covid: Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said on Monday he will self-quarantine after a Cabinet minister he was in contact with tested positive for the coronavirus, as new cases in the country hit a record high. New virus cases hit a record daily high of 432 on Monday, bringing Malaysia's tally to 12,813 with 137 deaths. Nearly half were from a prison in a northern state, and 130 were in Sabah.

AP

Germany urges UK to make haste with Brexit trade talks

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, 5 OCTOBER

Germany is calling on the United Kingdom to make a big final push to agree on a trade deal with the European Union in the wake of Brexit especially since fallout from the coronavirus pandemic is already hitting the economies on both sides of the English Channel very hard.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Monday that Covid-19 has made an agreement even more urgent for both sides, even though the chances to get even a basic trade deal by the end of the year are declining by the day.

meet again in Brussels, while the 27-nation bloc itself said it would be feasible to negotiate until the end of the month.

After Britain left the EU on Jan 31, it remains in a transition period until the end of the year to make sure trade keeps flowing. If there is no trade deal by then, many fear a cliff-edge departure would hurt the economies on both sides and put hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk due to economic uncertainty, tariffs and red tape.

Germany, France, the

Netherlands and Belgium stand to take a big blow if there is no deal, however rudimentary. The EU has insisted that any economic setback would be even bigger in Britain.

Still Johnson has repeatedly said that Britain will thrive even if it ends the transition period without a deal. But economists disagree, saying a no-deal exit would be a heavy blow, introducing tariffs and other barriers to trade with the EU, which accounts for almost half of the UK's trade.

Our door remains open for a close and ambitious partnership with Great Britain. That is and will remain our goal," said Maas.

Talks have been soured by Britain's decision last month to introduce a bill that breaches the legally binding divorce agreement it struck with the bloc less than a year ago.

Maas and German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier on Monday.

Trial opens for failed Islamic State attack on French church

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LYON, 5 OCTOBER

A 29-year-old Algerian man went on trial Monday in Paris accused of killing a woman and trying to blow up a church near Paris, a failed 2015 attack that investigators say was orchestrated by Islamic State extremists in Syria.

Instead of bombing a Sunday Mass in the Paris suburb of Villejuif, Sidi Ahmed Gham shothimself in the leg and was soon arrested. The incident came amid a series of Islamist extremist attacks in 2015-2016 that rocked France.

Another Paris court is currently holding a two-month trial into the January 2015 attacks that killed 17 people at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket.

While all the gunmen in those attacks were killed by police, Gham survived his attempted bombing three months later, and began a monthlong trial starting Monday on charges of murder and attempted terrorist murder. Gham, who faces life in prison if convicted, denies wrongdoing.

Nine other defendants are being tried alongside him.

Some planets may have more suitable conditions for life than Earth: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 5 OCTOBER

Scientists have identified 24 planets outside our solar system that they say may have conditions more suitable for life than the Earth.

The study, published in the journal Astrobiology, details characteristics of potential "superhabitable" planets, that include those that are older, a little larger, slightly warmer and possibly wetter than Earth.

The researchers from the Washington State University (WSU) in the US noted life could more easily thrive on planets that circle more slowly changing stars with longer lifespans than our Sun.

The 24 top contenders for superhabitable planets are all more than 100 light years away, but the study could help focus future observation efforts, such as from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, they said.

"With the next space telescopes coming up, we will get more information, so it is important to select some targets," said Dirk Schulze-Makuch, a professor at WSU and the



Archive of transiting exoplanets. While the Sun is the centre of our solar system, it has a relatively short lifespan of less than 10 billion years, they said.

Since it took nearly 4 billion years before any form of complex life appeared on Earth, many similar stars to our sun, called G stars, might run out of fuel before complex life can develop, according to the researchers.

In addition to looking at systems with cooler G stars, they also looked at systems with K dwarf stars, which are somewhat cooler, less massive and less luminous than the Sun.

The researchers said K stars have the advantage of long lifespans of 20 billion to 70 billion years.

This would allow orbiting planets to be older as well as giving life more time to advance to the complexity currently found on Earth, they said.

However, to be habitable, planets should not be so old that they have exhausted their geothermal heat and lack protective geomagnetic fields.

Earth is around 4.5 billion years old, but the researchers

argue that the sweet spot for life is a planet that is between 5 billion to 8 billion years old. Size and mass also matter.

A planet that is 10 per cent larger than the Earth should have more habitable land, the researchers said. One that is about 1.5 times Earth's mass would be expected to retain its interior heating through radioactive decay longer and would also have a stronger gravity to retain an atmosphere over a longer time period, they said.

Water is key to life and the researchers argue that a little more of it would help, especially in the form of moisture, clouds and humidity.

They noted that a slightly overall warmer temperature, a mean surface temperature of about 5 degrees Celsius greater than Earth, together with the additional moisture, would be also better for life.

Among the 24 top planet candidates none of them meet all the criteria for superhabitable planets, but one has four of the critical characteristics, making it possibly much more comfortable for life than our home planet, the researchers added.

Particularly, the president has seized on an election worker's decision to discard nine military ballots in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which a state elections official said amounted to a mistake and not intentional fraud.

Multiple studies have debunked the notion of pervasive voter fraud in general and in the vote-by-mail process.

In an interview with CNN last month, Barr said he was basing his concerns on logic, though senior U.S. officials have said there is no intelligence to suggest that was happening.

Trump in surprise drive-by to greet supporters

The brief drive brought cheers to his supporters who have been praying for president's health ahead of the presidential poll next month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 5 OCTOBER



not telling anybody but you, I am about to make a little surprise visit, Trump said.

The president was seen wearing a mask and waving at his supporters from inside the black SUV. The windows were closed.

When I look at the enthusiasm. We have enthusiasm like probably nobody ever had, he said. Trump in his short video message said he has learnt a lot about Covid-19, literally going to school. This is the real school, he said in his video clip from inside the military hospital. I get it. I understand it, he said.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said appropriate precautions were taken in the execution of this movement to protect the President.

The movement was cleared by the medical team as safe to do, he said. "President Trump took a short, last-minute motorcade ride to wave to his supporters outside and has now returned to the Presidential Suite inside Walter Reed," Deere said in another statement soon thereafter.

"More than 205,000 Americans are dead. We need leadership. Not photo ops," tweeted Hakeem Jeffries, chairman of the Democrats in the US House of Representatives.

A senior doctor at the military hospital strongly criticised the president's motorcade ride due to the infection risk inside the car. "That Presidential SUV is not only bulletproof, but hermetically sealed against chemical attack. The risk of Covid-19 transmission inside is as high as it gets outside of medical procedures," Dr James Philips, Chief of Disaster Medicine, tweeted.

"Every single person in the vehicle during that completely unnecessary Presidential drive-by just now has to be quarantined for 14 days. They might get sick. They may die. For political theater. Commanded by Trump to put their lives at risk for theater. This is insanity," he wrote in another tweet.

The White House Corre-

SPONDENTS Association or WHCA expressed its outrage at the decision of the president.

It is outrageous for the president to have left the hospital even briefly amid a health crisis without a protective pool present to ensure that the American people know where their president is and how he is doing, the WHCA said in a statement. Two secret service agents wearing masks were seen inside the black SUV. The pool of reporters organised under the WHCA, who cover the president, were not informed in the presidential movement outside the hospital.

Now more than ever, the American public deserves independent coverage of the president so they can be reliably informed about his health, the WHCA said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK, 5 OCTOBER

Presidential politics move fast. What we're watching heading into a new week on the 2020 campaign: Days to general election: 29 Days to next presidential debate: 8

THE NARRATIVE

President Donald Trump spent the weekend in the hospital after testing positive for Covid-19, a stunning development that injected a new layer of chaos into an already turbulent 2020 contest just one month before Election Day.

No first-term president has suffered such a serious health setback so close to an election.

Trump's hospitalization has refocused the election right where Democrat Joe Biden wants it: on Trump's uneven leadership throughout the pandemic.

The Republican president has struggled to manage the nation's response to the health crisis.

After ignoring his own health experts' recommendations for several months, now he and several senior Republicans, not to mention first lady Melania Trump, are infected.

The revelation came days after an ugly debate performance that already had Trump's allies on the defensive. While things certainly seem to be trending in Biden's direction, 29 days is plenty of time for another October sur-

pise. Or three.

THE BIG QUESTIONS

How long will Trump be quarantined? There is nothing more important to the Trump campaign than having its principal healthy and back on the campaign trail. For now, no one knows when that might happen.

A best-case scenario might allow Trump to emerge just before the next presidential debate, scheduled for October 15. (The CDC says infected people can see others 10 days after symptoms first appear at the earliest, so long as symptoms are improving.)

Trump could leave the hospital on Monday at the earliest, his doctors said Sunday, but his health remains in flux.

This is a moment that transcends politics, yet millions of people are already voting and Election Day looms in less than a month. Campaign manager Bill Stepien, who's also infected, described Trump as the campaign's best asset over the weekend. Republicans want him back ASAP.

What does the Trump campaign do now? Trump's team over the weekend announced plans to aggressively dispatch Vice President Mike Pence and Trump's family to key swing states after Wednesday's vice presidential debate to help the campaign regain momentum.

It's unclear, however, how the plan dubbed Operation MAGA differs from the campaign's previous strategy. The president's top surrogates have been active on the campaign trail for months.

It may be too late to adjust the campaign's message, but after trying to downplay the pandemic for months, Republicans now have no choice but to take seriously the deadly disease toll.

Is the VP debate suddenly a much bigger deal? Pence and Sen. Kamala Harris are set to face off Wednesday night in Utah for the only vice presidential debate. Trump's health status makes the typically lower-profile affair more consequential.

Vice presidential candidates are typically quite cautious when in the spotlight, aware that their principal responsibility is to do no harm to the top of the ticket. The burden to get them to answer difficult questions falls to the moderator, Susan Page, the Washington bureau chief of USA Today.

Pence may be particularly vulnerable given his role as the head of the White House's coronavirus task force. By most standard measures, America has fared far worse than other developed countries in controlling the virus.

Can Biden keep his party focused? This is a delicate moment for Democrats.

We saw Republicans seize on a handful of ugly social media attacks from low-profile liberals who wished the president ill or worse in the immediate aftermath of his diagnosis. Such comments have largely faded away, which is good for everyone involved.

Trump seizes on small election issues to spread concern

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 5 OCTOBER

Nine ballots discarded in Pennsylvania. A mail carrier who altered a handful of affidavit ballot applications. People being sent double ballots.

In the run up to Election Day, President Donald Trump is seizing on small, potentially routine voting issues to suggest the election is rigged. But there is no evidence there is any widespread voter fraud as the president has suggested. Nevertheless, his comments have been amplified by his campaign, supporters and allies, including Attorney General William Barr, adding heft to the claims.

Mail ballots, they cheat, Trump said last month. During the presidential debate last week, he insisted the election had already been rigged, adding: As far as the ballots are concerned, it's a disaster.

But voter fraud has proved exceedingly rare. And even a panel commissioned by the Trump administration to explore the issue uncovered no evidence to support claims of widespread voter fraud.

Five states routinely send ballots to all registered voters so they can choose to vote through the mail or in person, and four other states and the District of Columbia will be adopting that system in November, as will almost every county in Montana.

Even as the president rails against mail-in voting, he has acknowledged that he voted by absentee ballot in the past. But Trump's decision to seize on the small number of issues they occur in every election exemplifies the president's monthslong effort to sow doubt about the integrity of the election before it's even arrived and to preemptively call into question the results.

Particularly, the president has seized on an election worker's decision to discard nine military ballots in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which a state elections official said amounted to a mistake and not intentional fraud.

Multiple studies have debunked the notion of pervasive voter fraud in general and in the vote-by-mail process.

In an interview with CNN last month, Barr said he was basing his concerns on logic, though senior U.S. officials have said there is no intelligence to suggest that was happening.



Reopening schools with truckload of changes will bear no fruit unless the institutions promptly work on restoring parents' faith

KADAMBARI RANA

The biggest challenge for schools in this pandemic has been to keep the faith of students and parents anchored in the system of school education. Teachers have worked determinedly to create a sense of continuity of learning for their students despite technological deterrents and poor accessibility to means of communication.

After rowing in the stormy waters of the virtual education world for almost eight months, schools are now preparing to open their campuses again. However, until the Covid-19 battle is wholly won, education for students will need to be a merger between learning at the school campus and at home-based study stations.

The dark clouds of distrust looming over the relationship space between the schools and parents, needs to be promptly cleared out. Re-opening the schools with a truckload of changes will bear no fruit unless this is done. And while they are at it, schools must also provide a tangible long-term vision to students. This will give them hope and will inspire them to keep learning with enthusiasm and continue to feel that the school is a valuable place, whether it is virtual or inside the premises.

Strengthening parent teacher association should be a top priority for all schools. Both parents and the school have expectations from each other which must be communicated thoroughly. The key to resolving most of the concerned issues lies at this stage. A strong and active association allows both sides to examine various issues collectively and this collaborative knowledge can help them deliver the necessary support required. No amount of infrastructural changes, teacher trainings and technological upgradations are likely to have any substantial impact on learning outcomes if winning the confidence of students and the trust of parents is bypassed.

The next thing that should be rigorously stressed upon includes mak-



Approaching with empathy

ing the schools' physical infrastructure Covid safe, by following all necessary government norms and protocols. A department, within the school should be formed to work full time in preventing and handling of Covid related contingencies. Schools should begin preparing blueprints to include changes such as installations of thermal scanners at the entry and exit points, socially distanced indoor classroom settings, physically distanced desk arrangements, outdoor class-rooms, plans for disinfecting classrooms and school furniture, systems for improved washroom practices and so on.

Coming to educational modules,

schools will need to redesign not only the method of teaching delivery but also the content that needs to be delivered. Curricula will have to be redesigned keeping in mind both face to face as well as online format. Those topics which necessarily require in-person interaction, a laboratory, crafts workshop or an art room can be deferred to be taken up in a post lockdown semester or face-to-face school days. For most parents who are unable to manage intensive home schooling due to their professional commitments, schools must consider shifting focus from advance knowledge to foundation concepts, as an interim solution during the pandemic.

Time tables, school working days and school working hours will also need to be reworked. Even if the schools reopen, it may still not be advisable to congest or overpopulate the premises. Ideally the institutes should follow a staggered re-opening approach, which is expected to offer a comfortable transition period for students. For such phased re-openings, some of the approaches could be – students attending schools residential-zone wise, opening the school class-wise or offering home schooling by teachers in small groups.

Another important consideration that must be kept in mind is focusing on students' mental well-being.

Teachers must be prompt in addressing any mental health disturbances or question students who may need such support during these times. It is not easy for children to make sense of "this will pass" because not all will have the maturity to understand the concept of such turbulences and accept them as a part and parcel of life. Finally, if the schools feel they are unable to cut back on the fee, they should explain their overheads to the parents.

The times call for a lot of understanding and empathy towards each other.

The writer is an educationist

PLUS POINTS

Creating awareness



Sakshi, a rights based NGO, through The Rakshin Project, a programme in partnership with the directorate of NSS, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, launched its pilot phase in March to empower and educate NSS volunteers across the country to prevent, prohibit and resolve gender-based violence with a focus on child sexual abuse. Recently, 31 Rakshin champions, (NSS volunteers) from seven colleges, selected from 2500 students across 25 colleges in Tamil Nadu, were awarded for successful completion of the Rakshin Fellowship (Level 2).

The online event saw the unique presence of all the stakeholders: the ministry, the educational institutes, the funding partners, participating students and their families. The participating students and their families highlighted their experience and learnings and shared how through the comprehensive modules, questionnaires, surveys, focused group discussions and tasks for peer and community engagement, they had for the first time had conversations amongst the family members and friends, analysing gender-based violence.

Commendable initiative



An online Sanskrit conclave titled "Significance and future of Sanskrit studies and allied areas" witnessed the convergence of academic experts recently. It was a joint initiative of Samaranam (an acronym for SAMSKRITAARYA Arpanam), a virtual group of students and faculty members from institutions of national importance, including IIT Roorkee. The objective was to encourage the study of Sanskrit discipline in India and sensitise the youth on the significance of the ancient language.

The keynote speaker on the occasion was Prof Anil Sahasrabuddhe, Chairman, AICTE. The conclave witnessed enlightening talks on computational thinking metaphor in Sanskrit based knowledge systems, science in Sanskrit literature and Sanskrit education in crossroads.

A healthy life



In an attempt to curb heart diseases, Jasudben ML School (JML) organised comprehensive educational sessions on cardiovascular healthcare for students and parents recently. The event entailed a cardio camp session and nutritionist session conducted by founder, director, performance fitness coach and mentor Edgar Mascarenhas and renowned dietitian/nutritionist Kamna Bhandari.

On the morning of the event was a cardio camp session that involved a fun fitness workout as well as a cardio balance challenge. Next was the nutritionist session that focused on reasons why heart diseases in younger people are pervasive. Some of the main reasons are genetics, food and lifestyle, and stress. The key takeaway of this session for students/parents was how to make lifestyle and dietary changes that will help keep the heart healthy.

Showcasing talents

Metamorphosis Edu – an ed-tech platform announced the start of their third edition of the Global Schoolpreneur Summit (GSS) 2020 recently. The event was quite successful in its previous editions. Metamorphosis Edu is expecting over 2000+ ideas being pitched from the students around the globe as the previous year's edition witnessed submission of 1500+ ideas from six countries and 300+ schools.

The global competition will be held in different rounds where the students will have to showcase their entrepreneurial talents to clear each of the rounds to secure a spot in the finale. The last date for the application is 15 November. For details visit: <https://www.metamorphosisedu.com/globalschoolpreneursummit>

STRIKING A BALANCE

International Law plays an important role in sustainable natural resource management and addressing specific challenges for fast-developing economies

TARCISIO GAZZINI

The exploitation and management of natural resources can play a pivotal role in the economic development of states, especially for emerging economies and developing countries. Yet, they pose formidable challenges, most prominently with regard to ensuring sustainability and opening the country to foreign investors. In both respects, international rules are of paramount importance.

It is undisputed that states have permanent sovereignty over natural resources, which give them the inalienable right to freely dispose of such resources, as proclaimed in a series of important resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, including resolution 1803 (1962). This has been upheld by the International Court of Justice as well as by arbitral investment tribunals. However, such a right must be exercised in accordance with the international commitments of states and particularly the obligations related to the protection of the environment and sustainable development, as well as those stemming from investment agreements.

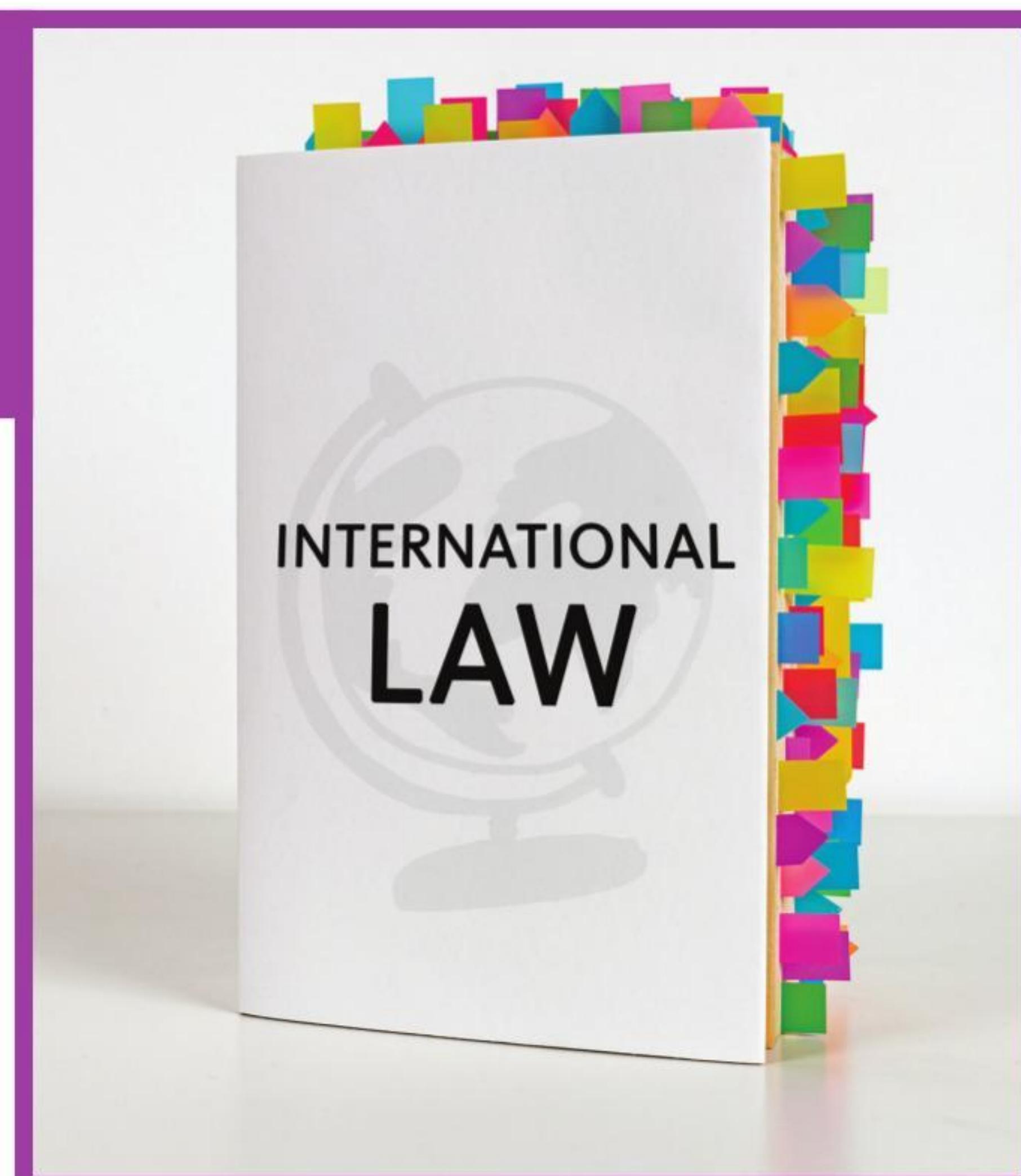
States have an obligation to reconcile their economic development with the protection of the environment with a view to preserving the capacity of future generations to meet their needs. This includes the duty to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources in combination with the observance of the precautionary principle, as proclaimed in the Declaration on the Principles of International Law Relating to Sustainable Development adopted by the International

Law Association in 2014 in New Delhi.

States may and often are compelled to allow the exploration, exploitation and management of natural resources by foreign investors. Indeed, foreign investments may be the engine of economic growth and States compete on the international market to attract them by offering economic incentives and legal protection. The legal instruments at the disposal of States are mainly treaties, legislation and contracts.

While in the past these legal instruments, and especially treaties, were clearly unbalanced in favour of foreign investors, states are currently recalibrating them in order to better protect public interests, including the exploitation and management of natural resources. Indian recent treaty practice offers an important illustration of this development. The bilateral treaty recently concluded with Belarus, for instance, expressly allows each party to take the measures it considers necessary to protect and conserve natural resources. The purpose of this provision is to avoid exposing the parties to claims by investors following the adoption of domestic policies in the natural resources sector.

Another interesting development is the legislation on natural resources recently adopted by Tanzania, which introduced a procedure for public scrutiny of contracts concluded by the government with foreign investors. Although problematic due to its retroactive effects, the legislation is to be welcome as it aims at ensuring that such contracts are conducive to economic growth and sustainable development.



Another development deserves to be mentioned. Some recent treaties, such as the bilateral treaty between Morocco and Nigeria, have introduced the obligation incumbent upon putative foreign investors to carry out environmental impact assessment before launching any project. Needless to say, this is particu-

larly important in the natural resources sector.

What emerges from the above considerations is a complex legal framework in which international rules contributes alongside legislation and contracts, to strike a balance between the private and public interests of all stakeholders. They are

increasingly sophisticated and may be expected to facilitate the sustainable use of natural resources. India, being one of the biggest economies and the biggest democracy on the planet, should and is already taking the lead in developing these rules.

The writer is professor of international law, school of law, University of East Anglia



For more updates

THE REALIST

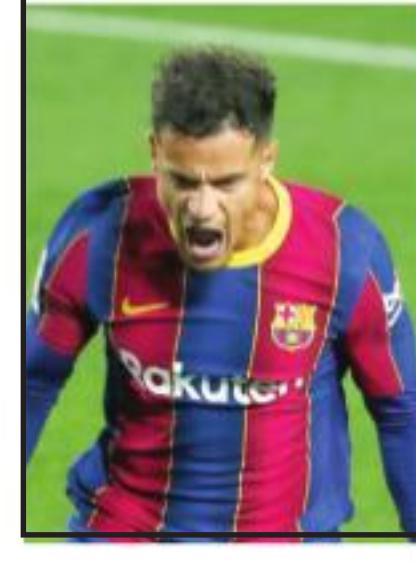
Pakistan cricket has a lot to look forward to without worrying about playing against India, says the neighbouring country's cricket board chief executive officer Wasim Khan (*photo, left*). According to him, India-Pakistan matches are highly unlikely in the near future.

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

New motto: The All India Football Federation announced the launch of their new motto - 'Indian Football, Forward Together' - defining the new brand direction. The motto is based on the core belief of the Federation to promote, grow and develop the game of football throughout India with the support of the football community, and creates synergy with the core values of the organisation - passion, respect, leadership, teamwork, integrity, professionalism and inclusivity.

Game abandoned: One of the top Serie A fixtures of the season was abandoned amid bizarre scenes on Sunday when Napoli failed to turn up to face Juventus, saying the local health authority had told their players to stay at home following positive Covid-19 tests.

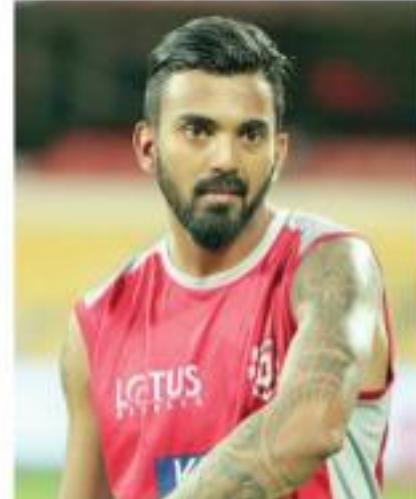


Barca held: Philippe Coutinho scored his first league goal since returning to Barcelona to help his side draw 1-1 at home versus an excellent Sevilla side in La Liga on Sunday as the Catalans dropped points for the first time under Ronald Koeman. Sevilla took an early lead.

New rule: Tottenham Hotspur's Eric Dier has said the new handball law has made things harder for defenders who now second-guess themselves before going in for a challenge in the box. Dier's handball last weekend has raised questions about handball interpretations.

Hijab row: A school volleyball player in the USA's Tennessee was disqualified for wearing a hijab during a match. Nahaj Aqeel, at Valor Collegiate Prep in Nashville, was warming up for a match on 15 September when her coach said a referee had objected to her hijab.

Dhoni's feat: Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni has become the second wicket-keeper in the Indian Premier League to claim 100 catches. Dhoni achieved the feat during CSK's emphatic 10-wicket win over Kings XI Punjab at Dubai International Stadium on Sunday.



New holders: Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul has taken the Orange Cap from team-mate Mayank Agarwal while Royal Challengers Bangalore spinner Yuzvendra Chahal holds the Purple Cap after the 18th match in the Indian Premier League.

Goodwill envoy: Bangladesh cricketer and former captain Mushfiqur Rahim said he felt honoured after becoming a part of the Unicef family as the organisation's goodwill ambassador. "The people of Bangladesh have seen me perform many roles," Rahim said.

Shaky Rajasthan Royals face rampaging Mumbai Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ABU DHABI, 5 OCTOBER

Rajasthan Royals may need to re-jig their Indian line-up slightly when they try to pull their IPL 2020 campaign out of the current rot against a supremely confident Mumbai Indians in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday (October 6).

Starting with a bang at Sharjah on a conducive batting surface, Royals have suddenly hit a slump on bigger grounds of Dubai and Abu Dhabi with their willow-wielders not looking half as menacing as they did during the first two games.

Mumbai Indians, on the other hand, have been solid in their last couple of games and are currently on top of the table by virtue of a better net run-rate compared to Delhi Capitals, also on six points.

After a heart-breaking loss to Royal Challengers Bangalore in the 'Super Over', the defending champions bounced back in style, defeating Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad by 48 and 34 runs respectively. Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma says he is in awe of these three power hitters.

The best part of MI's campaign so far is that they have ticked almost all the boxes with skipper Rohit Sharma (176) in good touch and now Quinton de Kock also looking ominous.



Kieron Pollard is consistent as ever, Ishan Kishan has looked solid and Hardik Pandya is also finishing games with the bat. Hardik's brother Krunal joined the party in the last game.

MI's replacement pacer James Pattinson (7 wickets) has been a revelation alongside the redoubtable Jasprit Bumrah and the crafty Trent Boult.

Once Hardik starts bowling, all the pieces of the puzzle will nicely fit in.

Rajasthan Royals' Ben Stokes gets a warm welcome for IPL 2020. In contrast, Royals would like to arrest the slide before Ben Stokes completes his quarantine and is available from the October 11 game.

One of the primary reasons of their fall has been the poor form of Jos Buttler (47 runs

from 3 games) along with yet another dismal show from Jaydev Unadkat (1 wicket from 4 games at 9.97 economy).

The young Riyan Parag has also seemed completely out-of-depth unlike last year. Skipper Steve Smith might consider dropping Parag, who is not exactly a top of the line off-spinner, and give another much-talked-about youngster Yashasvi Jaiswal a go at the top of the order. Smith might bring himself in the middle to give stability to the line-up.

In bowling, as mentor Shane Warne had told, Unadkat probably is still not sure of his role and has not been good either in Powerplay or at the death, which leaves Tom Curran and Jofra Archer with the task of holding it down. Smith may try out the experienced

A single guy cannot do everything: Pragyan Ojha defends MS Dhoni

ABU DHABI, 5 OCTOBER

The Chennai Super Kings have not got off to the best of starts in the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League.

With inconsistent performances in the tournament so far, CSK have faced a lot of flak for their inconsistent run and there has been a lot of debate over MS Dhoni's (*in photo*) reluctance to bat up the order.

Dhoni's captaincy has also come into question this season and now questions are also being raised on his fitness.

On being asked about the same, former India spinner Pragyan Ojha defended the CSK captain and said that Dhoni has done everything that he could do for CSK.

"In a team game, a single guy cannot do everything. He cannot lead you, score runs consistently so everybody has to contribute," Ojha was quoted as saying by Sports Today.

"Had they not lost early wickets in the last game against Sunrisers Hyderabad or Kedar Jadhav would have batted the way we wanted him to bat; I don't think MS Dhoni would have played those Rashid Khan overs carefully

Varun Aaron who has a lot more pace than Unadkat or



because he cannot afford to lose his wicket.

"Had he lost his wicket you wouldn't have seen Ravindra Jadeja get his 50, he got it because MS Dhoni was there at the other end. Dhoni at every stage has given his best," Pragyan further said.

Chennai Super Kings put an end to their poor run after registering a massive 10-wicket win against Kings XI Punjab in Dubai on October 4.

In pursuit of 179-run target, Shane Watson (83*) and Faf du Plessis (87*) exhibited an exemplary show as the duo remained unbeaten and chased down the target with 14 balls to spare. Watson hammered 11 boundaries and 3 sixes while du Plessis settled with as many fours.

the young Kartik Tyagi who can bowl at 140 kmph.

he gets on a roll, will be very important to us," he added. A 10-wicket win can cover a lot of problem areas in the team's performance but Fleming said CSK were far from their best in what was a marathon tournament. "Performances like that cover up a lot of things but we are by no means where we want to be. If (Du Plessis) has been in great form but if (Watson) finds some form, it makes us a lot more competitive," the coach said. Fleming also felt that the turning point of the game had been in the period between the 17th over and the 20th in the KXIP innings when they scored only 42. "Key for me were overs 17 to 20 where they went for 40 (odd), which could have been a lot more than that. Other games are going for high numbers. We kept them to 42 and that was very pleasing," Fleming said. For the former New Zealand captain, it's the overall "attitude" of players that helps him provide "selection security" to his players. "It's important for the individual as they shouldn't get too defensive. You have to be very courageous when things aren't going your way," he said. "Sometimes bowlers can be too good so there is so much to consider but attitude is something that you can control so that we can provide some selection security," said Fleming.

Watson vindicates Super Kings' game plan, says Fleming

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, 5 OCTOBER

Chennai Super Kings' conservative approach to change when faced with poor results has been the key to their success over the years, said head coach Stephen Fleming (*in photo*), citing veteran Australian all-rounder Shane Watson as a shining example of what he had achieved.

Fleming finally came good with an unbeaten 83 off 53 balls in his fifth game as an opener, helping the three-time Indian Premier League champions record an emphatic 10-wicket win over Kings XI Punjab here on Sunday after a hat-trick of defeats.

"I think it helps as players know they get more opportunities... We are reluctant to change the team other than realising the areas that we are not happy with. Also you are not sure if that change will help or not," Fleming said in his post-match online comments.

"We try and improve what players are doing the right thing we'll back them as long and even longer than possible," CSK's long-serving coach echoed what has been his skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's philosophy over a decade now. Asked what did Watson do differently to get out of the bad patch, Fleming responded, "Nothing. That's the strength of an experienced player. If Shane had been struggling in the nets, then it would have been a concern but he was solid. It was a matter of time, a little bit of fortune and some good positive thoughts from him. Shane, if

Tsitsipas waltzes into French Open quarter-finals

AGENCIES
PARIS, 5 OCTOBER

serve I knew my opportunities would come.

"My aggressiveness on return games and my focus on important points made the difference."

The 22-year-old raced to a 3-0 lead in the first set. Eighteenth seed Dimitrov went up a gear at 5-3, only to see three break points saved by Tsitsipas, who served it out to take the set.

The Greek fifth seed was solid on serve throughout and played neatly as his Bulgarian opponent lost focus at crucial times under the roof of Court Philippe Chatrier.

Last year's ATP Finals winner Tsitsipas, whose best result at a major is reaching the Australian Open semi-finals in 2019, will next face Russian 13th seed Andrey Rublev, with a last-four clash with world number one Novak Djokovic looming.

"I felt comfortable. Playing Grigor... he can be unpredictable so coming into the match you don't know what to expect," said Tsitsipas.

"We have a similar style of play so I knew if I could be as aggressive as possible and use my forehand and my



on to wrap up a straightforward win on Dimitrov's serve.

Korda asks Nadal for autograph after Paris rout

It's not often that a tennis player calls being on the wrong end of a 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 Grand Slam result "super awesome" or "definitely the best moment of my life."

It's also rather rare for a

player to go up to the net and ask the guy who just beat him for an autographed shirt. Sebastian Korda, the 20-year-old American qualifier who lost to Rafael Nadal by the above scoreline in the French Open's fourth round Sunday, still was beaming afterward.

"Ever since I was a kid, I mean, I was in love with him and everything about him. I would watch every single

match. Doesn't matter who he was playing or what tournament he was playing. He was the guy for me," said Korda, whose cat is named after the 12-time champion at Roland Garros.

"It was an unbelievable moment for me and I couldn't have written it any better."

Imagine how he might have reacted if he'd been in the room for Nadal's post-match news conference, when this assessment of Korda was offered: "I really predict that he going to have a very good future."

The 213th-ranked Korda was the youngest American man to make it to the fourth round in Paris since 1991 and made sure to soak up every moment in Court Philippe Chatrier on Sunday, even if wind that kept kicking loose dirt off the clay surface felt like a tornado, sometimes," he said.

After feeling tight in warmups, Korda -- whose father, Petr, won the 1998 Australian Open and was a finalist at the 1992 French

Open, and whose mother, Regina, was ranked in the Top 30 -- loosened up and hung in there with Nadal at the outset. OK, for one game.

Korda's cross-court backhand winner earned a break point, but Nadal erased it with a body serve that drew a netted return.

"I shouldn't have played," Zverev said after 19-year-old Jannik Sinner won 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 to reach the quarter-finals on his tournament debut. "I'm completely sick. I can't really breathe, as you can hear by my voice." About 3,000 coronavirus tests have been conducted by the French tennis federation, which put players in two Paris hotels.

Players wear masks when they walk into arenas for their matches, and when they leave after, but not during play; they generally tap racquets instead of shaking hands when the contests end. Two players whose names were not announced were removed from the girls' junior tournament that started Sunday after they tested positive for the coronavirus.

Stoinis, Shaw power Delhi to 196/4 against RCB

PTI
DUBAI, 5 OCTOBER



Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis (*in photo*) cracked a blistering 53 while Prithvi Shaw smashed 42 runs to take Delhi Capitals to a competitive 196 for four against Royal Challengers Bangalore in their Indian Premier League match here on Monday.

Stoinis, who was dropped on 30 by Yuzvendra Chahal, made RCB pay for the mistake as he raced to his 53 in just 26 balls, hitting two towering sixes and six fours at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Shaw, however, missed what would have been a well-deserved half-century.

Invited to bat, Shaw provided a blazing start, hitting three fours off pacer Isuru Udana in the game's very first over. His innings was laced with five boundaries and two maximums.

The opening duo of Shikhar Dhawan (32 off 28-balls) and Shaw put up a 68-run stand and looked to go

Huge loss is detected

THE INDEPENDENT & AGENCIES
MANCHESTER, 5 OCTOBER

NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER

The Delhi and District Cricket Association suffered a loss of Rs 1.72 crore in the 2018-19 financial year, a forensic audit report of the balances sheet has revealed.

The DDCA's total income was Rs 36.93 crores, but the bookshow that it spent Rs 38.66 crores.

The DDCA sustained this loss, as the forensic report indicates, due largely to a highly controversial contract worth Rs 6.25 crore awarded to a seemingly dubious joint venture at the historic Feroz Shah Kotla, now known as Arun Jaitly stadium.

The DDCA has already paid Rs 1.65 crore to the contractor even though the work remains incomplete, according to the report. Previous DDCA ombudsman Deepak Verma commissioned the forensic audit by ASA & Associates in August.

The tentative draft forensic audit report contains the findings of the first phase. A report on the second phase will come later.

IANS

the breathless, high-scoring start to a season being played out without fans in stadiums due to the pandemic. The 3.79 per game goal ratio is the highest in the English league in 90 years, according to statistics from Opta.

Villa thriller

To put into perspective the gulf between Villa and Liverpool, 64 points separated them last season. Coronavirus infections denied Liverpool both Sadio Mane and Thiago Alcantara. A shoulder injury meant Alisson Becker had to be replaced in goal by Adrian.

And it was Adrian's poor pass that was seized on by Jack Grealish to set up a summer signing Ollie Watkins for his first Premier League goal after four minutes. It was the start of a hat-trick for the recruit from second-tier Brentford. Captain Grealish was on target twice, while there were also goals for John McGinn and Ross Barkley on his debut after joining on loan from Chelsea.

"To go and get a result and a performance like that, against an exceptional team, takes something special," Villa manager Dean Smith said.

'Worst day'

Manchester United have now opened the season with back-to-back home losses for the first time since 1986. But they had started so well for United by winning a penalty inside 30 seconds that Bruno Fernandes converted. But Tottenham quickly turned the game around by exploiting United's switched defence, with goals from Tanguy Ndombele and Son Heung-min ensuring Jose Mourinho's side was in front by the seventh minute. United lost Anthony Martial to a card that came after Erik Lamela overreacted to a slap in the face, to the ground.

Harry Kane extended Tottenham's lead on the half-hour and completed the rout from the penalty spot in the second half after Son netted again and Serge Aurier hit the target. Mohamed Salah did score

SCOREBOARD	

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