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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

The Statesman

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

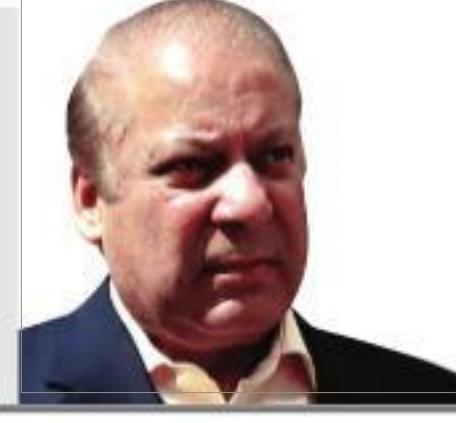


TYRANNY OF
THE MAJORITY



SHEIKH NAWAF
TAKES OVER AS
KUWAIT EMIR

P7



ISLAMABAD TO
PUSH FOR NAWAZ'S
DEPORTATION

P9

FRENCH OPEN
CONFRONTS
LEGAL THREAT

P12



WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 37 and 22 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 86% Min: 34%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 35.6°C (+1) Min: 21.8°C (-1)

SUN RISES

06:15 hrs SUN SETS

MOON RISES

18:10 hrs MOON SETS

06:23 hrs

THUMBNAILS



A trial run of a heritage river cruise on the Hooghly in Kolkata on Wednesday on the eve of its inauguration.

SNS

Kashyap summoned by cops: Mumbai Police have issued summons to filmmaker Anurag Kashyap in connection with a rape case filed against him by actress Payal Ghosh, an official said on Wednesday. Kashyap has been asked to appear before the Versova police here on Thursday for further probe into the case registered against him nine days back, the official said. The Versova police registered an FIR against Kashyap on September 22 after the actress lodged a complaint alleging that Kashyap had raped her in 2013.

SC says no to plea to put off UPSC exam: The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to postpone UPSC civil services preliminary exam, to be held on October 4, because of Covid-19 pandemic and floods in several parts of the country. A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, B R Gavai and Krishna Murari, however, asked the Centre to consider granting one more chance to those aspirants who may not appear in their last attempt allowed for the exam due to the pandemic.

Cinemas can open with 50 per cent capacity from 15 Oct; states to decide on schools

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) today issued fresh Guidelines to relax the Lockdown restrictions, permitting cinemas, theatres, multiplexes to open from 15th October, with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity.

The guidelines said that Business to Business (B2B) Exhibitions will be permitted to open in areas outside Containment Zones. Other activities being permitted are swimming pools used for training of sportspersons. Entertainment parks and similar places may open. All activities will be subject to standard operating procedures to be decided by the relevant ministry.

The relaxations announced today are called Guidelines, and not Unlock-5, according to the MHA.

As far as re-opening of schools and coaching institutions is concerned, State/UT governments have been given the flexibility to take a decision after 15 October, in a graded manner. The decision shall be taken in consultation with the respective school/ institution management, based on their assessment of the situation, and subject to the conditions that online/distance learning shall continue to be the preferred mode of teaching and shall be encouraged.

Students may attend schools/institutions only with the written consent of parents.

Attendance must not be enforced, the guidelines said.

The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education may take a decision

80,472 new infections push Covid caseload past 62 lakh

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER



SEE PAGE 2

The national capital had yesterday recorded 48 deaths due to Covid - highest in 75 days - which was the highest number of Covid deaths reported in a day since 16 July, when the city had recorded 58 coronavirus fatalities.

SEE PAGE 2

on the timing of the opening of Colleges/ Higher Education Institutions, in consultation with the MHA, based on the assessment of the situation.

On regulation of gatherings, state governments have been given the flexibility to permit social, academic, sports, enter-

tainment, cultural, religious and other political functions and other congregations beyond the limit of 100 persons, outside Containment Zones, after 15 October. In closed spaces, a maximum of 50 percent of the hall capacity will be allowed, with a ceiling of 200 persons.

Hathras teen cremated in dead of night, UP CM sets up SIT amidst outrage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HATHRAS, 30 SEPTEMBER

The 19-year-old Dalit woman, whose death in a Delhi hospital two weeks after she was brutally gangraped led to nationwide outrage, was cremated in the dead of the night early Wednesday with family members alleging they were forced by police to hurriedly conduct the last rites.

The cremation was done around 2.30-3 in the morning," her father told PTI, a day after his daughter, who suffered critical injuries when she was allegedly gangraped and tortured by four upper caste men, gave up the battle for life.

As political leaders and activists voiced their protest on social media and other platforms over the manner in which the funeral was conducted

Indian Youth Congress workers protest over the Hathras incident at the UP Bhawan in the Capital on Wednesday.

When my father reached Hathras (from New Delhi), we was immediately taken (to the crematorium) by the police."

In the moments preceding the cremation of his sister, the teen's brother told PTI from his home, "Police have forcibly taken the body and my father along with them for cremation.

ister's Office.

The chief minister also constituted a three-member SIT to probe the case and asked that the trial be conducted in a fast track court. The SIT has been asked to submit its report in seven days, an official said.

Recalling the horrors of the Nirbhaya case, the Dalit teen was allegedly sexually assaulted by four men on September 14 and referred on Monday to the Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi with spinal injuries, paralysis and cuts in her tongue. She died around 3 a.m. on Tuesday.

The men alleged to be involved in the crime are under arrest and will now face charges of murder, according to Hathras Superintendent of Police Vikrant Vir.

Purported visuals from the

site of the cremation showed flames from what appeared to be a pyre lighting up the sky and heavy police presence with some personnel in riot gear keeping the media at bay. Anguished cries from family members filled the night.

Scores of Left and Congress leaders were detained when they staged protests against the Yogi Adityanath government near the UP Bhawan in Delhi, questioning the circumstances and the timing of the funeral. Tagging Adityanath in a tweet, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, said, "REIGN. Instead of protecting the victim and her family, your government became complicit in depriving her of every single human right, even in death. You have no moral right to continue as chief minister."

Will you shut up: Biden tells Trump in chaotic debate

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CLEVELAND, 30 SEPTEMBER

The first debate between President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden deteriorated into bitter taunts and near chaos Tuesday night as Trump repeatedly interrupted his opponent with angry - and personal - jabs that sometimes overshadowed the sharply different visions each man has for a nation facing historic crises.

In the most tumultuous presidential debate in recent memory, Trump refused to condemn white supremacists who have supported him, telling one such group known as Proud Boys to "stand back, stand by." There were also heated clashes over the pres-

ident's handling of the pandemic, the integrity of the election results, deeply personal attacks about Biden's family and how the Supreme Court will shape the future of the nation's health care.

But it was the belligerent tone that was persistent, somehow fitting for what has been an extraordinarily ugly campaign. The two men frequently talked over each other with Trump interrupting, nearly shouting, so often that Biden eventually snapped at him, "Will you shut up, man?"

"The fact is that everything he's saying so far is simply a lie," Biden said. "I'm not here to call out his lies. Everybody knows he's a liar."

The presidential race has been remarkably stable for

weeks, despite the historic crises that have battered the country this year, including a pandemic that has killed more than 200,000 Americans and a reckoning over race and police brutality. With just five weeks until Election Day and voting already underway in some key states, Biden has maintained a lead in national polls and in many battlegrounds.

It's unclear whether the debate will do much to change

those dynamics.

Over and over, Trump tried to control the conversation, interrupting Biden and repeatedly talking over the moderator, Chris Wallace of Fox News. The president tried to deflect tough lines of questioning - whether on his taxes or the pandemic - to deliver broadsides against Biden.

The president drew a lecture from Wallace, who pleaded with both men to stop talk-

ing over each other. Biden tried to push back against Trump, sometimes looking right at the camera to directly address viewers rather than the president and snapping, "It's hard to get a word in with this clown."

Biden attacked Trump's handling of the pandemic, saying that the president "waited and waited" to act when the virus reached America's shores and "still doesn't have a plan." He told Trump to "get out of your bunker and get out of the sand trap" and go in his golf cart to the Oval Office to come up with a bipartisan plan to save people. Trump snarled a response, declaring: "I'll tell you Joe, you could never have done the job that we did. You don't have it in your blood."

MORE ON PAGE 10

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MORE ON PAGE 10

Capital logs 41 fresh Covid fatalities; toll rises to 5,361

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

Delhi today recorded 41 fresh fatalities due to coronavirus infection (Covid-19), which pushed the city's Covid toll to 5,361, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The national capital had yesterday recorded 48 deaths due to Covid — highest in 75 days — which was the highest number of Covid deaths reported in a day since 16 July, when the city had recorded 58 coronavirus fatalities.

The coronavirus death count in the city was 37 on 28 September. It was 42 on 27 September and 46 on 26 September. On 25 September, the number of those who lost their lives due to Covid-19 was 24. Delhi today reported 3,390 new cases of Covid-19, which took the city's cumulative total of such patients to 2,79,715. The number of tests conducted to identify these fresh Covid cases was stated to be 59,807, according to the health bulletin. The positivity rate was 5.67 per cent.

As many as 3,965 cured

Covid patients were discharged from different hospitals and other health care facilities and with this, the total number of such recovered patients so far rose to 2,47,446. The recovery rate rose to 88.46 per cent from yesterday's 88.11 per cent.

The Covid patients who remained hospitalised numbered 7,861 and the figure of active cases in the city was 27,524. The patients undergoing treatment on home isolation were 15,657, the bulletin said.

The number of containment zones or coronavirus hotspots in Delhi stood at 2,570, the bulletin stated.

Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain had reportedly said yesterday that the city had recorded more Covid cases in September as compared to June, but the number of deaths due to the disease was "less than one-third" of what it was three months ago.

"Delhi reported a large number of cases in September as compared to June. However, the number of deaths reported this month is even one-third of the fatalities recorded in June," Jain had told reporters.

MCDs to take action against Delhi govt over its property tax dues

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

tion. "The principal amount pending is Rs 261 crore rest Rs 2173 is penalty and interest," said Jai Prakash.

He further said that the Delhi Jal Board has not paid property tax of worth Rs 216 crore and Rs 293 crore of road cutting to North body. Besides this, Delhi government has not given the due fund of Rs 955.84 crore for the first and second quarter to it. He further said: "As per the recommendations of Delhi Finance Commission, Rs 968.91 crore is pending means total Rs 1924.81 crore has not been released to North body."

East Delhi Mayor Nirmal Jain, in a letter to the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, has requested to pay the amount of Rs 175.52 crores to East Corporation due on Delhi Jal Board and DJB can recover their due of Rs 49 crores out of the fund of Rs 175.52 crores.

Jain said: "The Delhi government has not yet released Rs 1050 crore of East Delhi Municipal Corporation, due to which all development works have been stalled and corporation is unable to pay salaries to its employees on time."

RAHUL GANDHI
CONGRESS LEADER

Capital

Delhi govt to use Pusa solution to curb stubble burning: CM

The process will be executed on 800 hectares of Delhi farmland under guidance of the Pusa Institute and the cost of implementation of the project would be less than Rs 20 lakh, says Kejriwal

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

The Delhi government is all set to work with the Pusa Research Institute from 5 October to prepare a fermented liquid solution to be sprayed on 800 hectares of farmland in the city to reduce the need for stubble burning there, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said today.

Addressing a virtual press conference, Kejriwal said that the work on creating an agri mix capsule is likely to be completed by 12-13 October. Four of these capsules could be mixed with a liquid solution and sprayed over one hectare of land, the CM said.

The process will be executed under the guidance of the Pusa Research Institute, and the cost of the implementation of the entire project would be less than Rs 20 lakh, Kejriwal said.

He said the Pusa Research Institute, the leading institution in the field of agricultural research in the country, has come out with a very cheap solution to the problem of stubble burning. It has formulated capsules.

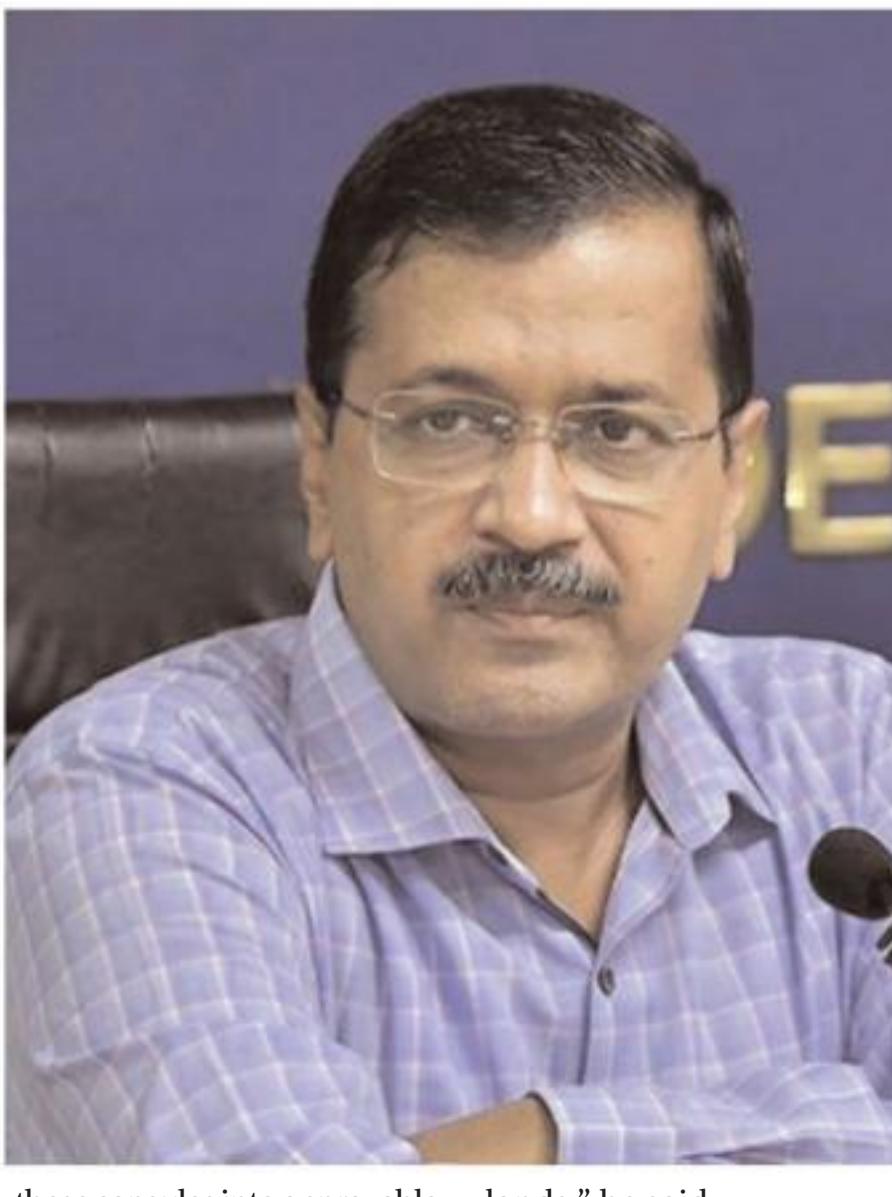
Four (such) capsules can be mixed with a liquid solution prepared with jaggery and gram flour and sprayed to cover one hectare of land. The mixture softens hard straw and turns it into manure, the CM said.

these capsules into a sprayable liquid form is a time-consuming process. We have decided that this mixture will be prepared by the Delhi government itself under the guidance of the Pusa Research Institute," Kejriwal said.

The government has made all arrangements in this regard and the process will begin on 5 October, he said.

Describing it as a "cheap alternative", the CM pointed out that farmers usually start preparing for the next sowing season around 15 October every year, and so there was no time left for the Delhi government to distribute these capsules among the farmers.

"Distributing these capsules, providing training to the farmers and conversion of



that other states will also try and implement this as much as possible.

"I have also written a letter to the central government in this regard, requesting them to implement this system in other states to whatever extent it is possible," he added.

Stubble burning has been a major cause of air pollution in Delhi-NCR, especially in winter months.

In the month of October, the entire northern region is troubled with the smoke that covers the belt due to crop stubble burning, Kejriwal pointed out.

Delhi and other belts suffer from it, but farmers are forced to burn the stubble and their villages become the worst-affected, he said.

"During the time of coronavirus, pollution can be dangerous and state governments should work towards finding solutions. Pusa Research Institute has found an economical solution," Kejriwal asserted.

In his letter to the Centre on 26 September, the Delhi CM had said that the "Indian Agricultural Research Institute (popularly known as Pusa Institute) scientists have

developed a chemical that decomposes stubble and turns it into manure. There is no need for farmers to burn stubble."

Experts at the Institute have developed what they call decomposer capsules. Just four capsules, some jaggery and chickpea flour are needed to prepare 25 litres of a solution — enough to cover one hectare of land.

The entire cost of the implementation of this project in Delhi is less than Rs 20 lakh. We have made all arrangements for the implementation of this system in Delhi," he added.

The CM expressed hope

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL ARC/AC/CCJ Room No. 03, Ground Floor Patiala House Courts, New Delhi Petition No. SC-17/2020 Neeta Khatter Versus The State (NCT of Delhi) & Ors. (Petitioner) FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925 To, All concerned.

Whereas in the abovenoted petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased Late Mr. D. N. Gupta died on Dt. 25-06-2018 at Army Hospital (R & R) Delhi Cantt India NCT of Delhi-11010. And required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undermentioned Court, to be standing in the name of deceased.

Whereas the 08-10-2020 at 10 O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing of the case. Notice is hereby given that any person having any interest in the Administration of the Estate of the said deceased may if he/she desires to appear in this court on the said 05-11-2020 and see the proceedings before the Grant of Probate (or for Letter of Administration).

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on this 29-9-2020.

Addl. District Judge-02 Dwarka Courts, New Delhi, Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL ARC/AC/CCJ Room No. 03, Ground Floor Patiala House Courts, New Delhi Petition No. SC-34/2020 Arun Sharma & Ors. Versus Govt. of NCT of Delhi (Petitioner) FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

To, All concerned.

Whereas in the abovenoted petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased Late Mrs. Priti Sharma, w/o H. C. Sharma died on Dt. 07-10-2019 at Max Devki Devi Heart & Vascular Institute 2 Press Enclave Road, Saket, New Delhi. Are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undermentioned Court, to be standing in the name of deceased.

Whereas the 17-11-2020 at 10 O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing of the case. Notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 29-9-2020.

ADDL. DISTRICT JUDGE-02 Dwarka Courts, New Delhi, Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL ARC/AC/CCJ Room No. 03, Ground Floor Patiala House Courts, New Delhi Petition No. SC-29/2020 Shri Ram Kishan Versus State (Petitioner) FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

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Met Union Minister of Mines to discuss the mining matter at length. We are hopeful of a positive outcome in the coming days

PRAMOD SAWANT
GOA CHIEF MINISTER

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 01 OCTOBER 2020

03

Agri laws: SAD guns for Rahul over his bid to join farmers' stir

Shiromani Akali Dal dismisses as 'cheap publicity stunt' Rahul Gandhi's move to join Punjab farmers' protest against Centre's controversial farm laws on 2 Oct, Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 30 SEPTEMBER

With former Congress president Rahul Gandhi set to join Punjab farmers in their 2 October protests against the Narendra Modi government's recently-enacted controversial farm sector laws, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Wednesday alleged that the top Congress leader was indulging in "cheap publicity stunts" on the issue.

In a statement, SAD spokesman Daljit Singh Cheema asked the Congress leader to tell farmers of Punjab why he had "supported" the abolition of the Agriculture Produce Markets Committee (APMC) Act and why he had not "protested" against the three "anti-farmers" agricultural Bills when they were tabled by the BJP government in Parliament for passage.

Cheema alleged that the Punjab Congress after "failing" on all fronts and even "betraying" farmers by amending the state APMC Act



in 2017 was now trying to win the sympathy of farmers by indulging in "cheap publicity stunts" by kicking off a Kisan Yatra from 2 October, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

"Getting Rahul Gandhi astride a tractor in Punjab is nothing but a photo opportunity designed to befool farmers. The Congress has always adopted an anti-farmer stance be it the party's



2019 election manifesto calling for abolition of the APMC Act or the amendment of the State APMC Act in Punjab in 2017 which includes all the provisions contained in the (Centre's) agriculture Acts passed recently," he said.

The SAD leader also said that before coming to Punjab, Rahul should come clean and tell the farmers of Punjab as to where he was when

the agricultural Bills were tabled in Parliament.

He said Rahul should also explain why no top leader of the Congress party spoke against these Bills in Parliament and why the party did not even issue a whip to ensure all its Members of Parliament voted against the Bills.

Stating that both Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party should not play a "double game" and try to deceive the farming community, Cheema said Rahul should tell farmers why the Congress party had not withdrawn support to the Udhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena government in Maharashtra after the latter had voted in favour of the agricultural Bills in Parliament.

He said Rahul should also tell farmers why his party was sticking to an alliance after

the Sena had adopted an "anti-farmer stance".

The ruling BJP's oldest ally, SAD recently quit the Modi ministry and subsequently even quit their NDA coalition.

Amid the raging war of words in Punjab between the ruling Congress and the Opposition SAD over the Modi government's three contentious agriculture legislations, CM Capt Amarinder Singh and SAD chief Sukhbir Badal and other Akali leaders have continued to trade fireworks, even though both camps have condemned these legislations as "anti-farmers" and "anti-Punjab".

Meanwhile, the SAD said two lakh people will join its "Kisan Marches" in 40,000 vehicles starting from all three Sikh religious Takhts (Amritsar, Talwandi Sabo and Anandpur Sahib) to Chandigarh tomorrow where the party will hand over a memorandum demanding revocation of the recently-passed agricultural Bills to the Central government through the Punjab Governor.

posed by COVID-19, as it renders credibility to an organization's efforts. He emphasized on the need to build effective relationships, have regular meetings and communication with district officers/officials which would build effective trust-worthy relationships.

The Director-cum-Special Secretary (Rev-DM) further encouraged the HPIAG/DIAG network to support the district administration in the current COVID 19 situation in various aspects of care giving and addressing needs of those in hospitals and isolation units.

The challenges faced by the DIAG members in coordinating with the district authorities were also presented.

DC Rana reiterated the importance of HPIAG/DIAG coordination, which is essentially geared towards synergizing and strengthening mechanisms for effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the state.

He also highlighted the need and importance of documentation of response measures/initiatives taken up by various organizations for managing the challenges

of various NGOs such as CASA, Red Cross Society, CORD, EduCare, EarthJust, DOERS, Prayas Society, Surbhi, JSW Hydro, Chetna Samiti, Nav Nirman Foundation were present in the meeting and felt motivated and energized to enhance their collaborations for effective implementation of various Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives of the state.

Members of various NGOs such as CASA, Red Cross Society, CORD, EduCare, EarthJust, DOERS, Prayas Society, Surbhi, JSW Hydro, Chetna Samiti, Nav Nirman Foundation were present in the meeting and felt motivated and energized to enhance their collaborations for effective implementation of various Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives of the state.

Delhi Cong Dalit leaders tear into Yogi govt over Hathras horror

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

The Delhi Congress's Dalit leaders today lashed out at the Yogi Adityanath-led UP government and its police for allegedly performing the last rites of the Dalit girl—who was gang-raped and tortured and killed allegedly by four upper caste men—and cremating her body while keeping her family members and relatives locked in their homes in their village in Hathras late last night.

They said, "According to the custom of the community, the dead is not cremated after sunset, but the UP police, which are law unto themselves, and shield the criminals and mafias of the state, violated all ethics and beliefs of the Dalit community, to cremate the body during the night."

Addressing a press conference at the Delhi Congress office today, the Dalit leaders ridiculed the Narendra Modi government's slogan "Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao", adding that if only the daughters of UP could survive the "lawless rule" of the Yogi government, they could be educated and empowered. Ex-MP Udit Raj said, "UP



Youth Congress workers protest outside UP Bhawan against the Yogi government over the Hathras gangrape-and-murder case. In the Capital on Wednesday.

police is so insensitive that in the case of the Dalit girl, who was brutally raped by four criminals, the Yogi government delayed the legal process even to file an FIR against the offenders."

He charged that people live in dread in UP now and that lives of women have become "unbearable" there due to attacks and harassment from

"anti-social and goonda elements" while the Yogi government gives "protection" to criminals and not law-abiding citizens.

They also slammed the Delhi government saying, "Women in Delhi are also not safe as many incidents of rapes and assaults against women have occurred in the Capital in the recent past, as the Arvind

Kejriwal government has not fulfilled its promise of protecting women." Jai Kishan said that crimes against Dalits have been increasing across the country under the Modi Government, and appealed to all the Dalit organisations to boycott the Dalit leaders of the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party as "they have done nothing to protect the Dalit community".

UP gangrape: NCW to seek explanation from Police on family's claims

PTI

Hathras victim earlier raped by some beasts, and then entire system raped her: Kejriwal

PTI

NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

The NCW on Wednesday condemned the manner in which the Hathras gang-rape victim was cremated, saying it will seek explanation from the UP Police on it.

The 19-year-old Dalit woman, who died in a Delhi hospital a fortnight after she was gang-raped in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras, was cremated in the early hours of Wednesday, with her family alleging the local police forced them to conduct the last rites in the dead of the night.

Local police officers, however, told PTI that the cremation was carried out "as per the wishes of the family".

NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma said the commission condemns that the gang-rape victim was cremated without family's involvement.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said the Hathras gang-rape victim was "earlier raped by some beasts" and then "the entire system raped her", after the woman's family alleged the police forced them to conduct her last rites in the dead of the night.

The body of the 19-year-old Dalit woman, who died in Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday, a fortnight after she was gang-raped, was cremated in Hathras in the early hours of Wednesday.

Local police officers, however, told PTI that the cremation was carried out "as per the wishes of the family".

"The Hathras victim was earlier raped by some beasts and yesterday the entire system raped her. The entire matter is highly painful," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

Earlier, Kejriwal had termed the death of the 19-year-old victim as a matter of

shame for the whole society, country and all governments, and demanded death penalty for the culprits. The woman was raped in a village in Hathras by four men on September 14. After her condition deteriorated, she was referred to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital where she breathed her last.

As news of her death spread, protests broke out in Delhi as well as in Hathras with

all sections of society, including politicians, sports and cine stars and activists, expressing their anguish and demanding justice for her.

Bhim Army and Congress workers staged protests at Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday, demanding justice for the victim. The Uttar Pradesh Police took the victim's body and her family members back to the state from the hospital on Tuesday night.

Thakur reviews arrangements for Atal Tunnel's inauguration by PM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 30 SEPTEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Wednesday reviewed the preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state on 3 October to inaugurate Atal Tunnel at Rohtang.

He visited the public meeting venue at Sissu, North and South Portal of Atal Tunnel, SASE helipad and rally venue at Solang Nallah today.

While presiding over the meeting with the senior officers of the state government and district officers of Kullu in Kullu, the Chief Minister said that construction of the Atal Tunnel Rohtang was finally completed and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Lahaul on October 3, 2020 to inaugurate this engineering wonder and a great gift to the nation, thus foolproof arrangement must be made for ensuring the success of the event.

The Chief Minister said that adequate arrangement must be made for ensuring social distancing in and after the function. He said that adequate arrangements should be made for comfortable stay of the visiting Ministers, media and other dignitaries. He directed the officers to



ensure effective coordination between various departments for success of the event.

Earlier, Chief Minister also had meetings with the officers of BRO at Sissu in Lahaul-Spiti and North Portal of Atal tunnel.

Deputy Commissioner Kullu Dr Richa Verma made a detailed presentation regarding the preparedness on the occasion.

Education Minister Govind Singh Thakur, Organisation Secretary State BIP Pawan Rana, MLA Banjar Surender Shourie, Political Advisor to the Chief Minister Trilok Jamwal, Chief Secretary Anil Khachi, Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister JC Sharma, Secretary GAD and Tourism Devesh Kumar were also present on the occasion.

HP records 26 pc deficient monsoon rainfall

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 30 SEPTEMBER

Himachal Pradesh has recorded 26 per cent deficient rainfall as per the long period average (LPA) value, which is the lowest in the last 7 years, Shimla Meteorological department director Manmohan Singh said on Wednesday.

Singh said during the 2020 Monsoon season, 567.2 mm was recorded in Himachal Pradesh, which is 26 per cent below the Long Period Average value.

"Out of the twelve districts of the state, 3 districts namely Bilaspur (+9 percent), Kullu (+0.5 percent), Una (+10 percent) received normal rainfall and the remaining nine districts received deficient rainfall.

Lahaul Spiti district recorded lowest rainfall in the state with the tribal area receiving only 105.5 mm rainfall which was 73 percent less than LPA value, followed by Chamba (-55 percent), Kinnaur (-54 percent), Sirmour (-37 percent) and Shimla (-29 percent)," he added. Earlier, lowest rainfall of 523 mm (-37 percent) was recorded in Himachal in 2014.

Singh said the South-West Monsoon arrived in Himachal Pradesh on 24 June and the Monsoon had withdrawn from the entire state on 30 September, five days late from the normal date of withdrawal of 25 September. Last year, the withdrawal of



People walking during the rain at Ridge in Shimla.

monsoon from Himachal was recorded on 11 October with the state receiving cumulative rainfall of 685.5 mm which was 10 percent less than the LPA value. He further stated that the state recorded 77 percent less cumulative rainfall in the month of September at 29.9 mm.

This was the lowest rainfall in the month of September in the last 16 years as the lowest rainfall of -71 percent was recorded in 2004 while the highest rainfall 269.8 mm (+93%) was recorded in September in 2018.

"There were only 2 spells (4 and 7 September) of monsoon currents in Himachal Pradesh and rest of the month was either dry or received very less rainfall at few places over the state.

The highest maximum temperature of 38.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Una on 21 September and minimum temperature of 3.3 degree Celsius was recorded in Keylong on 27 September," he added.



A girl walks past a mural representing frontline warriors of Covid-19, painted on the wall of a dumping ground in New Delhi. ■ AFP

Paddy procurement: Paddy procurement started in full swing from 26 September, in the wake of the early arrival of crop in the mandis, and is showing encouraging results in Punjab and Haryana procuring more than 44,809 MT of paddy, claimed Union Agriculture Ministry here on Wednesday.

MP IPS officer suspended: The Madhya Pradesh government suspended senior IPS officer, Special Director General (Spl DG) Purushottam Sharma with immediate effect on grounds of domestic violence and improper conduct after Sharma's reply to a notice on the said allegations was deemed unsatisfactory. A video of the officer, thrashing his wife and abusing her inside his official residence at Bhopal after she accused him of having an extra marital affair with a married woman, had gone viral two days ago.

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)		Dated: 29.09.2020
Name of work with its location	Provision of Telecom facilities in Type-V 100 Units for Northern Railway transit flats for Railway Board Officers at New Delhi.	
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 1,20,93,654.47/- only	
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 2,10,500/- only	
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3 rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.	
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time:- 21.10.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.	
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.irps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3 rd Floor, DRM office, State Energy Road, New Delhi-110055.	
	2104/20	SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

H.P.P.W.D. NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited/re-invited on form No 6 & 8 by the Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Barsar on behalf of Governor of H.P for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors/firms enlisted in H.P.P.W.D. in the appropriate class so as to reach in this office on 21-10-2020 up to 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representative. The tender form can be had from this office against cash payment [Non Refundable] on 20-10-2020 up to 4.00 PM. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

Name of work No. 01: C/O 2 No. Type-III Qtr. at PWD Colony Barsar (Sh:- Balance work for P/F Door, windows and sanitary work etc.) Estimated Cost:- 4,54,980/- Earnest Money :- 9100/- Time :- Two Month Cost of form:-350/-

Name of work No. 02: C/O Science lab building in Govt. Sen. Sec. School at Joure Amb (Sh:- Balance work for P/F commercial Board water proof shutters & P/F tiles works etc.) Estimated Cost:- 4,98,174/- Earnest Money :- 10,000/- Time :- Two Month Cost of form:-350/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

No.1:- The Earnest Money in the shape of National saving certificates /Time deposit Accounts/ Saving Account/ FDRs in any of the post office/ Nationalized Bank in duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Barsar must be accompanied with the application.

The tender document shall be accepted in Two Covers.(Cover-1 shall contain EMD and Cover-2 shall contain application and other documents).

No.2:- Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will be rejected.

No.3:- The contractor shall accompany his enlistment/ renewal order, G.S.T. No. with latest clearance return and EPF No. with latest clearance return with his application for obtaining the tender documents.

No.4:- Executive Engineer Reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason.

No.5:- The work will be completed by the contractor within the stipulated period

No.6:- Tender forms will not be issued to those contractors who are not registered under HPGST Act-1988 and GST & photo copy of individual PAN No. allotted to them attached with their application at the time of applying for tender documents. Application will not be entertained without aforesaid documents.

No.7:- The contractor /firms are required to insert the rate of each item in words as well as in figures failing which Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept / rejects any overall tender.

No.8:- The tender shall be issued to only those contractors/firms who are found eligible suitable and competent.

No.9:- The tender forms shall be issued to eligible contractor depending upon their past performance and work experience which shall be duly evaluated by the technical evaluation committee.

No.10:- The Tender forms of soling ,wearing and tarring shall be issued only to those contractors who will produce proper documents of ownership of required machinery and completion certificate of similar work issued by the concerned Executive Engineer also required.

No. 11:- contractor /firm having necessary documents past adequate experience shall be preferred.

No. 12:- Contractor who have failed to start /complete the work in hand with in reasonable time shall not be issued tender forms.

No.13:- One contractor should not have more than two major works in hand at a time.

No.14:- If 21-10-2020 happens to be holiday the tender shall be opened on next working day at 11.00 A.M.

Executive Engineer,
Barsar Divn.HPPWD,
Barsar

Overcoming both the national parties is a challenge for us in this bypoll. We will have to strategise to beat their wily politics

JD(S) LEADER H D KUMARASWAMY

EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE ABOUT WINNING BOTH SEATS IN KARNATAKA

i
ndia

Punjab farmers to intensify stir

Plan sit-in protests outside homes of BJP leaders from today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH, 30 SEPTEMBER

Punjab farmers have decided to stage sit-ins outside homes of BJP leaders from Thursday besides extending their rail roko agitation against the Centre's farm laws for an indefinite period. As many as 31 farmers' bodies have joined hands to intensify the agitation.

Farmers' bodies will also urge village panchayats to get resolutions against the contentious laws passed through gram sabhas.

Farmers will stage sit-ins outside residences of BJP leaders in the state, Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokirkalan said on Wednesday.

Singh said they decided to stage dharnas' outside shopping malls and fuel stations owned by corporates as a mark of protest against the farm laws.

Farmers have already given a call to boycott some corporate houses and their products in the state.

Similarly, other farm bodies will also participate in the rail roko agitation at several places in the state.



Farmers block a railway track during a protest against the recent passing of new farm Bills in Parliament, on the outskirts of Amritsar on Wednesday. ■ AFP

At present, the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee is holding a rail roko agitation at Amritsar and Ferozepur since 24 September.

In his resignation letter to Dhankar, Rana said: "I support them and resign from all the posts I hold and also resign from the party."

Later talking to reporters in Yamunanagar, he said the farmers' apprehensions pertaining to the new agriculture laws were not unfounded. The government should have created avenues for farmers by improving the existing system. Their concerns are genuine.

Gold smuggling key accused Nair willing to turn approver

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
30 SEPTEMBER

Sandeep Nair, one of the accused in the Kerala gold smuggling case has expressed his willingness to turn approver. In a petition at the NIA court in Kochi, Nair said he was ready to confess the fact before the court under 164 CrPC. Following the petition, NIA court examined him on Wednesday via video conferencing. During the proceedings he agreed to confess to his crimes.

The court told him by admitting to the crime, there was no guarantee that he would get pardon in the case or that he would be made an approver. On this, he informed the court he was aware of it and was ready to give a confession statement.

The NIA court will take a final decision on making Nair an approver, after his testimony is recorded.

STUDY TIME



A police personnel escorts Indian Kashmiri students as they prepare to return to their colleges in Pakistan, at India-Pakistan Attari-Wagah border post, about 35 km from Amritsar, on Wednesday. ■ AFP

Kerala govt moves HC against CBI probe in LIFE Mission case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
30 SEPTEMBER

The Kerala government has approached Kerala High Court against an FIR registered by the CBI alleging violations of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in the 'LIFE Mission' project.

The government, in its petition states that neither the

state nor LIFE Mission officials have accepted any foreign contributions. It is also stated the construction agreement is between Red Crescent and private contractors and the government was not a party to it. The plea seeks to quash the FIR registered at CBI special court in Kochi last week to the extent it relates to public servants under the government. The CBI registered the FIR

under Section 35 read with Section 3 of the FCRA and Section 120B of the IPC arraying managing directors of Unitac and Sane Ventures as accused Nos 1 and 2, respectively. As the third accused, the FIR mentioned "unknown public servants/private citizens".

The Life Mission project was floated to build houses for the poor using funds raised through sponsorships. It got

into a controversy after the NIA seized Rs 1 crore in cash and 2 kg gold from the bank locker of gold smuggling accused Swapna Suresh in July. She later told the NIA that Rs 1 crore was the commission she got for clinching a deal with an international aid agency 'Red Crescent' which funded the project in Vadakanchery in Thrissur district. She said gold was a marriage gift.

OFB sets up 'Ayudh Museum' in Kolkata to showcase artefacts of defence industry

SOUMYADIP MULLICK
KOLKATA, 30 SEPTEMBER

The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has set up an 'Ayudh Museum' in Kolkata to revisit its glorious past, showcasing artefacts that record its vast contribution to India's defence industry.

The section - 'Bengal Collection' - in the Ayudh Museum, flaunts the multifarious and antique arms and ammunitions manufactured by Ordnance Factories and used by the Indian Army to engage in battles fought against foreign invasions.

The museum, recently setup at OFB Jagadishwar complex, boasts of the 3.7 inch barrel Howitzer, manufactured by the Gun and Shell Factory, Cossopore in 1925.

Termed as the "perfect mountain gun", the Howitzer witnessed action during WW2 in Burma and in 1948 Kashmir operation where two guns from

the Patiala State Forces were used without dial sights to stop raiders. It was used in 1962 Sino-Indian and 1965 Indo-Pak wars. It remained active in service till 1976 and thereafter used in defending mountain passes. The 3.7 inch barrel iron howitzers could fire upto 10 pounder shells.

The small arms' section displays contributions by Ishaqpur Rifle Factory in West Bengal, set up in 1904 at the site of the old gunpowder factory. The first rifle-a .303 Bolt Action-was rolled out in 1908.

By 1918-19, the MLE Mark III rifle and ones converted for Mark VII ammunition were being made. In 1923, the repair of the Vickers .303 Mark I machine gun commenced and component-manufacturing began. About 200 VB guns were made by 1 March 1937. The Cossopore factory, during 1840-50, produced iron and brass guns.

Ishaqpur Rifle Factory is now manufacturing sniper and assault rifles for security forces.

The ammunition section notes, in 1742, a laboratory was set up at Fort William and after Bengal Artillery vacated Dum Dum, it shifted here.

Manufacturing of small arms cartridges began and in 1868, the then secretary of state sanctioned a new small arms and ammunitions factory at Dum Dum. OFB sources said not all the artefacts were shifted to the museum since the area is isolated and the facility is yet to be fully developed and secured. Some vintage arms and ammunitions are temporarily stored at Indian Army's depot at Fort William. "The Ayudh Museum has been set up to collect, preserve, interpret and display rich history of Indian Ordnance Factories organisation" said Gagan Chaturvedi, deputy director general, OFB communication division.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER CTU & DIRECTOR TRANSPORT U.T.
CHANDIGARH.
Plot No. 701 Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh.

No. 10190/CTU/CTU/2020
Dated, Chandigarh, the 29-09-2020

CORRIGENDUM

In reference to the e-tender Reference No. 9030/CT/CTU/2020, dated 03.09.2020 with Tender ID 2020_CHD_56664_1 uploaded on <https://etenders.chd.nic.in> and chdctu.gov.in for inviting e-tender for Marketing Rights for Display of Advertisement (Outside and Inside) on CTU Long Route & Sub Urban Buses. Due to some administrative reasons, the date of receiving of tenders is hereby extended from 30.09.2020 upto 14:00 hrs to 12.10.2020 upto 14:00 hrs and the date of opening of Technical Bid is extended from 30.09.2020 at 15:00 hrs to 12.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs.

The other terms and conditions will remain the same.

General Manager-Divisional Manager, CTU & Director Transport, UT Chandigarh

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

(Remunerative Project Cell)
419, Udyog Sadan, 1st Floor,
Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi-110092

No.: AO/RP/Ceil/EDMC/2019/D-185 Date: 30.09.2020

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Extension of last date for submission of bids in respect of surface Parking NIT No. 98 dated 14.08.2020-reg.
In reference to this office NIT No. D-98 dated 14.08.2020, vide which bidders/tenders were invited for surface parking NIT, the competent authority has decided to extend the last date for submission of bids upto 09.10.2020. The revised schedule is as under:

Date of placement of tender box : 09.10.2020 at 10:00 AM

Last date of submission of physical documents in tender box (Technical and Financial bids) : 09.10.2020 at 01:30PM

Opening of Technical bids : 09.10.2020 at 02:00PM

Opening of Financial bids : To be declared later

2. Further, for bringing fairness and transparency in the tender process, it is informed that:

a. The technical/financial bids received on 30.09.2020 shall not be opened till 09.10.2020 and will be opened along with bids received on 09.10.2020.

b. All the contractors shall be given equal opportunity for placing the bids on next date of tender. The contractors who have submitted bid on 30.09.2020 shall be given opportunity to revise their bids by giving fresh technical and financial bids. In case a contractor gives two bids i.e. both on 30.09.2020 and 09.10.2020 for the same parking site then the bid received on later date will be treated as final for all purposes.

c. The contractors who have submitted bids on 30.09.2020 and he/she desires to increase the quoted MLF, then he/she shall be given opportunity to submit only marginal/difference balance of EMD for each parking site separately.

d. The revised schedule is as under:

e. The contractors who have submitted bids on 30.09.2020 and he/she desires to increase the quoted MLF, then he/she shall be given opportunity to submit only marginal/difference balance of EMD for each parking site separately.

f. The revised schedule is as under:</



THUMBNAILS



A labourer works in the catenary at the MGR central railway station in Chennai on Wednesday.

Fadnavis Bihar's poll in-charge: The BJP on Wednesday appointed former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis as its in-charge for the Bihar Assembly elections, the party said in a statement. The announcement came on a day party president J P Nadda is holding talks with state BJP leaders to discuss the three-phase polls to the 243-member state Assembly, including seat-sharing arrangements with allies like the JD(U) and the LJP.

NCRB data: India recorded an average of 79 murder cases daily in 2019, while children constituted almost 66 per cent of total kidnapping and abduction victims during the year, according to a latest government data. A total of 28,918 cases of murder were registered in 2019, showing a decline of 0.3 per cent over 2018, the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) showed.

Arnab Goswami's plea: The Supreme Court sought Maharashtra Assembly secretary's response on journalist Arnab Goswami's plea challenging the show cause notice for initiation of breach of privilege motion against him for the reportage on actor Sushant Singh Rajput case.

PTI

India test-fires extended range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

India today successfully conducted its second test-fire of the extended range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

"BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile featuring indigenous Booster and Airframe Section along with many other 'Made in India' sub-systems was successfully flight tested for designated range at 1030 hours on 30 September from ITR (Integrated Test Range), Balasore in Odisha. It is one more major step in enhancing the indigenous content," the Defence Ministry said in a press release.

The BrahMos Land-Attack Cruise Missile (LACM) was cruising at a top speed of Mach 2.8.

The test-fire of the missile, which can hit targets at more than 400-km range, was carried out under PJ-10 project of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Defence minister Rajnath Singh congratulated all the personnel of DRDO and team BrahMos for the spectacular mission. Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Chairman, DRDO also congratulated the scientific community and industry for this feat.

Today's successful launch has paved the way for the serial production of the indigenous booster and other indigenous components of the powerful BrahMos Weapon System to realise the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' mission, the ministry said.

India had entered into an agreement with Russia in 1998 and created a joint entity called 'BrahMos Aerospace'. The name 'BrahMos' is a portmanteau of India's Brahmaputra and Russia's Moskva rivers. The first-ever successful launch of BrahMos was on 21 June, 2001. India and Russia are now planning to develop a new generation of Brahmos missiles with 600 km-plus range. SNS

Babri case lost relevance after 2019 SC verdict: Sena MP Raut

Welcoming special court's verdict, Sanjay says demolition episode needed to be forgotten now

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 30 SEPTEMBER

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday said the Babri masjid demolition case lost its relevance after the Supreme Court settled the Ram Janmabhoomi title suit in 2019 even as he welcomed the special court's verdict acquitting all the 32 accused in the case. Raut said the demolition episode needed to be forgotten now.

The court in Lucknow has acquitted the accused, including BJP veterans L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi, saying there was no conclusive proof against them.

"The case in the special court lost its relevance after the Supreme Court's verdict on Ram temple and bhoomi puja of the temple performed by Prime Minister (in August)," Raut said. "This verdict was expected. I, on behalf of Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, welcome this decision of the court," he added.

Raut said had Babri not been razed, the 'bhoomi puja' of Ram temple in Ayodhya wouldn't have been possible. "...We have to forget that episode now," he added.

In its final judgment in the Ayodhya dispute case, the SC on 9 November last year ordered the disputed land be handed over to a trust to build the Ram temple. The top court also ordered the government to give an alternative 5 acres of land in another place to the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board to build a mosque.



Spl CBI court verdict amounts to a travesty of justice: Left parties

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI
30 SEPTEMBER

The verdict of the Special CBI Court at Lucknow acquitting all 32 accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case amounts to a travesty of justice, Left parties said today.

The CPI (M) said it took 28 long years for this verdict, but not justice, to be delivered. All the top leaders of the BJP-VHP-RSS who were present at the scene guiding the criminal act have been found to be innocent of the charge of conspiracy to demolish the mosque, the party said.

The Supreme Court in

its Ayodhya judgment on 8 November, last year had called the demolition an egregious violation of the law. Now, the Lucknow court has found the main perpetrators of this crime not guilty.

"This verdict will blight the image of India as a secular-democratic country governed by the Constitution. The CBI must immediately appeal against this judgment," the CPI (M) said.

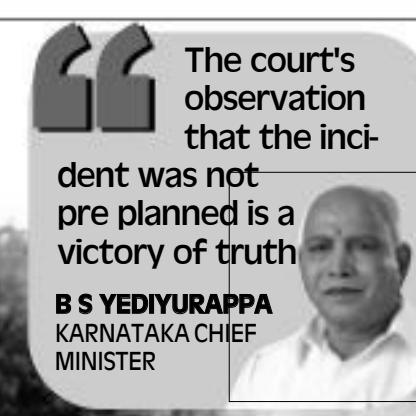
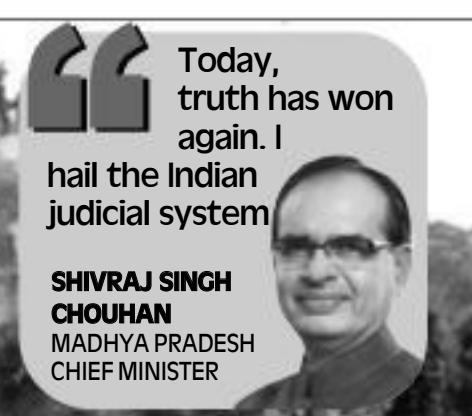
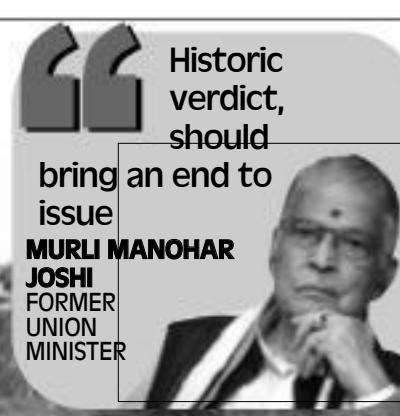
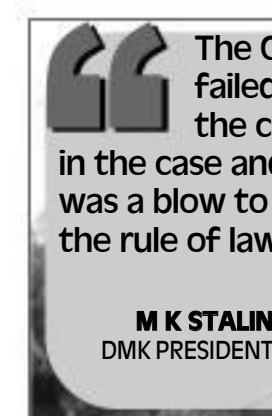
The National Secretariat of the CPI expressed its shock and dismay over the Babri Masjid demolition verdict. The Supreme Court had earlier in a verdict termed the demolition as an illegal and criminal act, the party said.

NCP says verdict was expected, not surprised:

The NCP on Wednesday said it was not surprised over the special court's verdict acquitting all accused in the Babri masjid demolition case.

"The court has given verdict in the case today. It was expected, and hence, we are not surprised," Maharashtra minister and NCP national spokesperson Nawab Malik said in a video message.

The minister said though the accused were acquitted for want of evidence, probe agencies had filed the case based on evidences only.



PTI

The CBI failed to prove the conspiracy in the case and it was a blow to the rule of law
M K STALIN
DMK PRESIDENT

Historic verdict, should bring an end to issue
MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI
FORMER UNION MINISTER

Today, truth has won again. I hail the Indian judicial system
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUDHARI
MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

The court's observation that the incident was not pre-planned is a victory of truth
B S YEDIYURAPPA
KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

India, China ask commanders to meet soon to discuss complete disengagement

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

The two countries emphasised the need to strengthen communication, especially between ground commanders of the two countries'

Ladakh. An official statement issued after the meeting said the two sides reviewed the current situation along the LAC in eastern Ladakh in accordance with the existing bilateral agreements and protocols and fully restore peace and tranquility in border areas.

At the 19th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border affairs held this afternoon, the two countries emphasised the need to strengthen communication, especially between ground commanders of the two countries.

They also noted that the agreement between the two foreign ministers should be sincerely implemented to ensure disengagement at all the friction points along the LAC. At their last meeting, the military commanders had agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any action that might complicate the situation at the LAC.

This was the 5th meeting of the WMCC since tensions erupted between the two countries in the wake of their military stand-off at eastern

Chinese envoy: Border stand-off serves no one's interests

NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

Observing that the current situation in Sino-Indian border areas served no one's interests, China today claimed that it was committed to seeking a solution to the ongoing military stand-off through dialogue and negotiation and restoring peace and tranquility in the border areas at an early date.

The statement said the two sides attached importance to the meetings between the two defence Ministers and the two foreign ministers held earlier this month in Moscow on the margins of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) engagements.

They also noted that the agreement between the two foreign ministers should be sincerely implemented to ensure disengagement at all the friction points along the LAC.

At their last meeting, the military commanders had agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any action that might complicate the situation at the LAC.

The Chinese envoy: Border stand-off serves no one's interests

NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

July recorded (90 per cent) below deficient rainfall.

The country received above normal monsoon during the four-month rainfall season, recording the second highest precipitation in the last 30 years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

The country received 109 per cent rainfall of the Long Period Average (LPA) with three of four months—June (107 per cent), August (127 per cent) and September (105 per cent)—witnessing above normal rainfall, while

the country's annual rainfall, critical for the agriculture sector that accounts for about 14 per cent of India's GDP and employs more than half of the country's 1.3 billion population.

Good rains have boosted sowing of the kharif crops which farmers have sown in record 1,116.88 lakh hectares till last week as compared to 1,066.06 lakh hectares a year ago, according to the Agriculture Ministry's data.

The IMD has four meteorological divisions. Of the four, the east and northeast India, central India and south India have received above

normal rainfall. The northwest India division has recorded deficient rainfall.

Nineteen states and union territories have received normal rainfall this year, while nine states and union territories saw excess rainfall. Bihar, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Lakshadweep islands have recorded above normal rainfall. Sikkim recorded large excess rainfall. However, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir have

recorded deficiency. Ladakh has recorded large deficiency.

Considering recent years since 1990, the seasonal rainfall was 110 per cent of LPA in 1994 and 2019. It is consistently for two monsoon years, when India received good rainfall of 9 per cent above LPA or more.

Monsoon made an onset over Kerala on June 1, its normal annual onset date. Its timely onset was also aided by cyclone Nisarga. The monsoon covered the entire country by June 26, 12 days ahead of its normal date of July 8.

Country received 'above normal' rainfall during 4-month monsoon: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

July recorded (90 per cent) below deficient rainfall.

"Quantitatively the 2020 monsoon seasonal rainfall during 1 June to 30 September has been 95.4 centimetres against long period average of 87.7 cm based on data of 1961-2010 (109 per cent of its Long Period Average)," R K Jenamani, scientist with the National Weather Forecasting Centre (NWFC) said on Wednesday.

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the country's annual rainfall, critical for the agriculture sector that accounts for about 14 per cent of India's GDP and employs more than half of the country's 1.3 billion population. Good rains have boosted sowing of the kharif crops which farmers have sown in record 1,116.88 lakh hectares till last week as compared to 1,066.06 lakh hectares a year ago, according to the Agriculture Ministry's data.

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Babri verdict: TMC comes out with guarded response

SNS&PTI
KOLKATA, 30 SEPTEMBER

come after 28 years, few people are unhappy with it. We have come to know from the media that some outfits have expressed their displeasure," senior TMC leader and party spokesman Sougata Roy said.

"We hope that those who are not happy with the judgement will get relief in higher courts," he said.

TMC had maintained silence after the historic verdict by the Supreme Court in November 2019 which had backed the construction of a Ram Temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya.

TMC's guarded response to the acquittal of all the accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case drew sharp reactions from the BJP and Congress.

BJP state president Dilip Ghosh, known to be a TMC baiter, dared Mamata Banerjee's party to take a stand on the issue.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age : 40-45 years, Height : 5'6", Build : Strong, Complexion : Sallow, Face : Round, wearing black colour printed striped shirt and black colour pant, was found dead in decomposed condition on 24.09.2020 in Yamuna River, Near Geeta Colony Flyover, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 18-A dated 24.09.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. The deadbody has been preserved for 72 hours for identification in the Mortuary of Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO : P.S. Kotwali, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23971100, 23953442, 8750870121

Special Train Between New Delhi and Thiruvananthapuram Central

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run a Special Train between New Delhi and Thiruvananthapuram Central as per schedule given below :-

02625/02626 Thiruvananthapuram Central-New Delhi-Thiruvananthapuram Central Super Fast Special (Daily)

TRAIN No. 02625	ARR. DEP.	STATIONS	TRAIN No. 02626	ARR. DEP.
---	11:15	Thiruvananthapuram Central	15:15	---
---	---	Thiruvananthapuram Peta	14:04	14:05
11:49	11:50	Varkalaivagiri	13:29	13:30
12:20	12:25	Kollam Jn.	13:02	13:05
12:5				

UP shamed

It was only when the tragic rape and murder of a woman in western Uttar Pradesh led to the eruption of protests outside New Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries, that the spotlight was turned on a state that doggedly continues to cling to its reputation for abject lawlessness. Just hours earlier, in a horrific reminder of a case that had shaken India's conscience and caused laws to be rewritten, another woman from the same part of the state was raped repeatedly by the driver and conductor of a bus and thrown on the Meerut-Delhi highway.

In August, another woman was raped on a bus from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi, and in June yet another. But this series of horrors appears not to have stirred the administration in Lucknow, nor the police force of the state, almost as if to suggest there is tacit acceptance of the worst that men can inflict on women. But while ordinary women who travel on inter-state buses believing they would be safe are routinely raped in Uttar Pradesh, the death in Delhi of a woman from Hathras has brought the anger of the Bhim Army to the boil. While this protest is caste-based, it will not take much for it to expand to gender and community because all women and sensible men realise that these outrages must stop.

It must amaze citizens of Uttar Pradesh that a police force that could react to the killing of its personnel by a gangster with such urgent despatch that he was captured within days and then conveniently slain in a suspicious encounter finds itself unable to check the repeated acts of violence on women. Rapid action in one case and relative inertia in others suggest exactly what the police's priorities are. And to think that the state government had claimed last year to have ended the reign of goons in the state.

The National Crime Records Bureau had reported early this year that crimes against women had gone up in Uttar Pradesh by a whopping 20 per cent between 2016 and 2019. In 2018, as many as 4,322 women - of them 1,411 minors - were raped in the state. But rape was not the only crime inflicted on women; dowry deaths, domestic violence and kidnappings have also been common, suggesting that while gangsters may be popular targets for the administration, there are few checks on those who commit crimes against women. This must change, and it must change fast. Not because the victim of the latest outrage belongs to a particular caste, one that can mobilise protests on that basis, but because a state that was once the cradle of the northern plains' civilisation cannot be allowed to wallow in this mire indefinitely. A god renowned for his chivalry must be cringing at the prospect of a temple being built in his name in a state whose men have clearly trashed his ideals.

Two worlds

A person looking at headlines from across Asia may well ask if the news reflects events of the same continent, indeed of the same planet. A report from Thailand quotes the country's tourism council as saying many of its pristine beaches are unlikely to be opened until a vaccine against coronavirus is found. While authorities may allow small numbers of tourists, full reopening of the borders will similarly have to await the vaccine. A report from Indonesia says that Jakarta has run out of space to bury victims of the virus and has decided to set up a new 5-acre plot to accommodate an additional 6,000 bodies.

Simultaneously, the country's Health Ministry has formed a special team to investigate the high numbers of Covid-19 deaths among doctors. As of this week, Indonesia had lost 127 doctors to the disease. A report from the Philippines says that quarantine restrictions will stay in Manila and five other urban centres at least until end-October, a decision taken out of fear that opening up may cause a resurgence of the virus and bring matters to a head at Christmas in the largely Christian country. The Philippines, with more than 300,000 infections - of which nearly a sixth are active - has reported the most cases in Southeast Asia. A report from Malaysia says that Sabah, the country's largest palm oil producing state, has ordered plantations, mills and refineries to shut down for two weeks amid curbs on movement to rein in the virus. Sabah produces a quarter of the country's palm oil. South Korea, which had effectively controlled the spread of the virus, has reported a fresh spurt, with daily cases having almost tripled. India's problems with fighting the virus are well known, but one aspect that causes concern is that oxygen supplies in several centres are dwindling and supply chains face disruptions.

On the same planet, indeed the same continent, reports from China provide a startling contrast and offer up a mystery for epidemiologists to solve. As the holiday period begins on Thursday with the country's National Day and stretches to October 8 for the Mid-Autumn Festival in what is called the Golden Week, millions of Chinese are taking to the skies to vacation and for family gatherings.

More than 15 million people, 10 per cent more than last year, are booked to fly over this period, a number that will certainly lead to jaw-dropping across the global aviation industry which has been hammered by the epidemic. While Chinese carriers had suffered initial losses, especially during the Chinese New Year which followed the outbreak in Wuhan, they had started to recover within two months. Now aircraft are running full loads and seats are at a premium. Unlike other Asians, the Chinese face few restrictions, are moving about in large numbers and appear to have returned to normality. The contrast couldn't be starker. It defies explanation.

The Contrarian Pandemic

We can thus conclude that the daily chance of a person surviving after being infected with Covid-19 is not only very high but is also increasing steadily, which shows that our health system is now coping better with the pandemic. As the number of daily fresh infections is now less than the number of persons who are recovering from Covid-19 infections, our resources would not fall short in tackling the pandemic

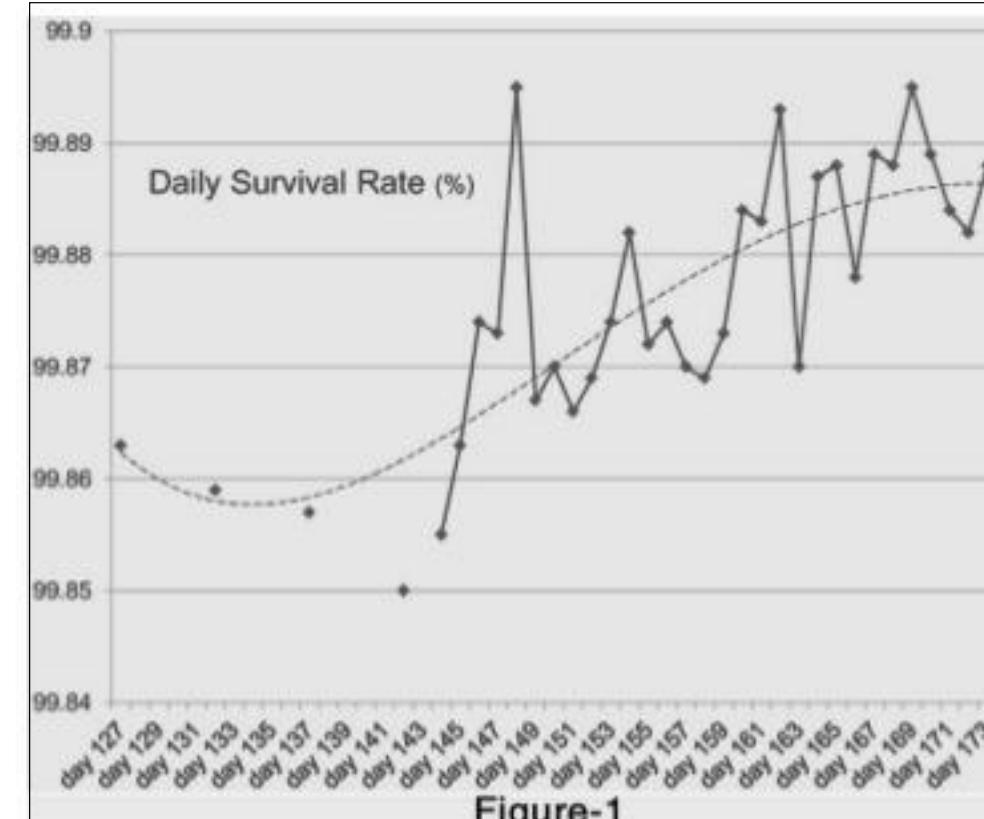


Figure-1

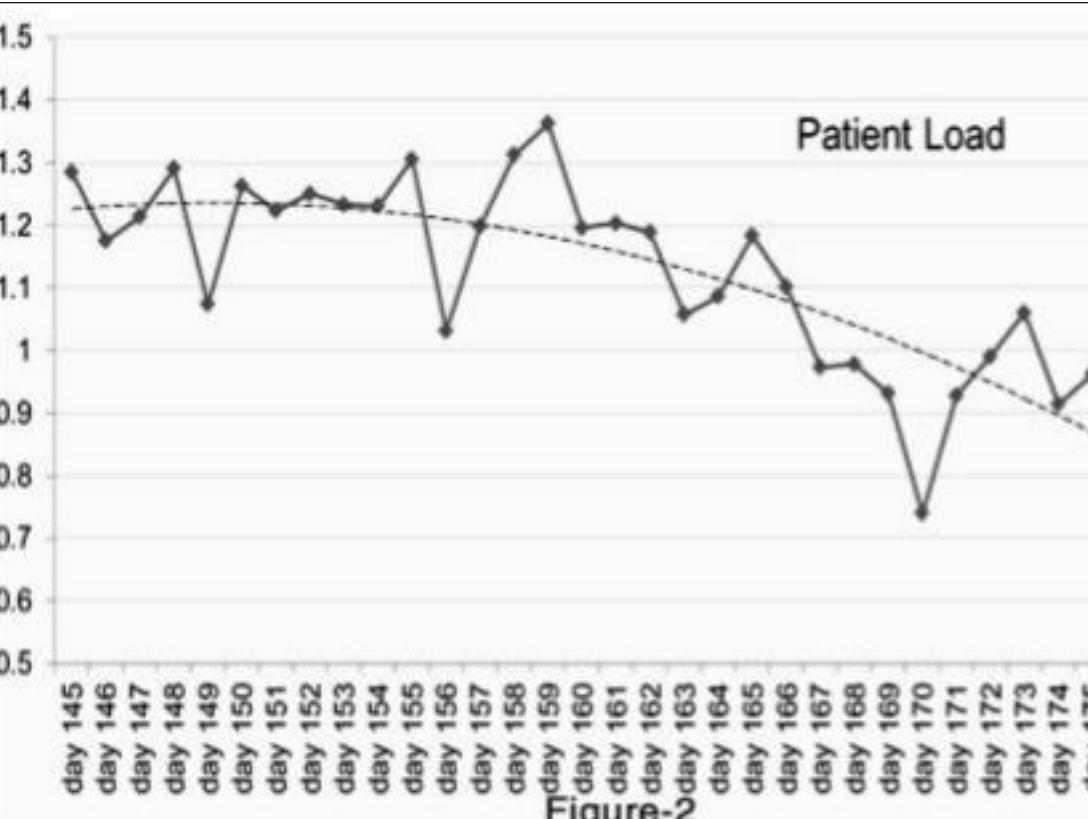


Figure-2

So far, the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic has proved fatal for more than a million people. Far from devising a method to limit the scourge of the pandemic, till date no one has even succeeded in predicting its course; doctors, virologists, scientists and world leaders - all have consistently been proved wrong in almost anything they ever said about Coronavirus.

After President Trump had christened Covid-19 as 'the Chinese Virus' but before the first Coronavirus case emerged in Italy, the Mayor of Florence, Dario Nardella, initiated a 'hug a Chinese' campaign on Twitter on 1 February 2020. Soon enough, by 1 April, Italy had become the worst Corona affected country in Europe and the Italian PM Giuseppe Conte broke down on national TV when asked about the pandemic.

Today, the US has more than 7 million Covid cases and more than 200,000 fatalities, but Trump had said on February 9 that the common flu, which killed 25,000-69,000 people annually, was more dangerous than the Coronavirus. Trump had also said that the virus would go away in April because it would be killed by heat. In fact, as reported by the Washington Post, Trump has said no less than 34 times that the pandemic would just disappear.

Proved wrong repeatedly, Trump argued, it was "a badge of honour" that the US had the world's highest number of confirmed Covid-19 infections. "I look at that as, in a certain respect, being a good thing because it means our testing is much better" he had said at a time the US ranked 16th globally in terms of tests per 1,000 people, behind countries like Russia and Canada. British PM Boris Johnson, who was mistakenly pursuing the unproved concept of 'herd immunity,' was laid low by Covid-19 and escaped death by the skin of his teeth.

Our record in this respect is hardly better. Explaining the impact of the lockdown on Coronavirus infections, a member of the Niti Aayog had claimed, on 24 April 2020, that there would be no fresh case of Coronavirus after 15 May 2020 and while announcing the first round of lockdown on 24 March 2020, Prime Minister Modi had promised the end of the pandemic in three weeks. Yet, after six months and four rounds of lockdowns and an equal number of un-lockdowns, we have over 60 lakh infections, the second largest number in the world; likely to surpass the world leader, the US, in the next fortnight.

The Coronavirus pandemic has defied prediction because each disease has a different virology which may be similar to but is not identical to any known disease. It would appear that the learned advisors to powerful world leaders like the Niti Aayog member mistakenly assumed that the number of infections would follow a normal curve. Optimistically, and with a view to please their masters, they took even a single day's drop in the number of infections as an inflection point.

The absence of hard facts has led to a proliferation of conspiracy theories, with people of the eminence of the US President alleging that this is a factory-made virus, developed in China's Wuhan lab. China's extremely aggressive behaviour with the world at large appears to be a reaction to its loss of face, which only reinforces the stance of conspiracy theorists who gleefully point out that the two countries most at odds with China, US and India, are the worst affected by the pandemic. According to the same theorists, as a counter example, India's neighbours, who are mostly Chinese clients, are almost unaffected by the pandemic despite having the same social conditions and a much weaker health infrastructure.

The WHO, which should lead the fight against the pandemic, has lost much of its credibility, after it downplayed the seriousness of the virus, at the instance of China. The pandemic has also revealed the ugly side

been of the aged living in old-age homes that lack proper healthcare. Here, again, our unique Indian tradition of parents staying with their children appears to have limited deaths of old people from Covid-19.

The rising numbers of new infections has created a fear psychosis in the country, but a simple analysis would show that the chances of a person staying alive even after testing positive for Covid-19, are approximately 99.9 per cent. After noticing that deaths due to Covid-19 were not even 1 per cent of the active cases on any given day and that the number of new cases was less than the number of persons discharged, we decided to study Covid-19 statistics closely with the help of two metrics: (i) The Daily Survival Rate, defined as the chance that someone who is among the Covid-19 active cases on a given day would survive on that day; and (ii) The Patient Load which is the number of new positive cases added in a day divided by the number of cases recovered on the same day.

The broken line in the Figure 1, an ad hoc fit, shows a clearly increasing trend from 25 August onwards. Significantly, the value of the Daily Survival Rate is strikingly high at around 99.885 per cent in the past two weeks and has touched 99.895 per cent on two occasions (on days 148 and 169, i.e. 31 August and 21 September). Figure 2 shows the Patient Load, from 27 August, which was nearly 1.25 new patients for every recovered patient up to 18-19 September (our day 167) when it became less than 1 and has shown a clear declining trend thereafter, coming down to 0.74 on 21-22 September.

We can thus conclude that the daily chance of a person surviving after being infected with Covid-19 is not only very high but is also increasing steadily, which shows that our health system is now coping better with the pandemic. As the number of daily fresh infections is now less than the number of persons who are recovering from Covid-19 infections, our resources would not fall short in tackling the pandemic.

It is important to appreciate the promising nature of these results in the light of: (a) the number of positive cases escalating in the month of September, (b) the general state of our health care system being far from perfect, and (c) safety norms being routinely flouted by almost everyone. We should now follow a simple strategy: Work on people's minds, reassuring them that the chances of dying of Covid-19 are infinitesimal, and their chances of getting infected would be drastically reduced if they observed elementary precautions like wearing masks and maintained physical distancing and personal hygiene. Another heartening feature is that the Government and public both are now fully aware of the dangers of a sub-optimal healthcare sector; in fact the quality of healthcare has improved during the course of the pandemic. Also, hopefully, this pandemic, like earlier pandemics, would run its course in the next few months, and leave our shores for a Corona-free 2021.

A MEMBER OF THE **NN**
ASIAN VOICES

Shameless shirkers

Cynics pooh-poohed the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority's boastful claim that Sri Lanka was the Wonder of Asia. But we are convinced of the veracity of that slogan. In fact, this country is not just the Wonder of Asia'; it is the Wonder of the World, for it survived the yahapalana government without becoming a hotbed of ISIS terrorism. On seeing the shameful conduct of the former rulers and their erstwhile trusted lieutenants, blaming one another for their collective failure to prevent the Easter Sunday carnage, people must be feeling ashamed that they were once ruled by those imbeciles. Under the yahapalana government, national security became nobody's business and the Defence Ministry a playpen of politicians and mandarins who knew next to nothing about defence; they even did not know what to do with vital intelligence.

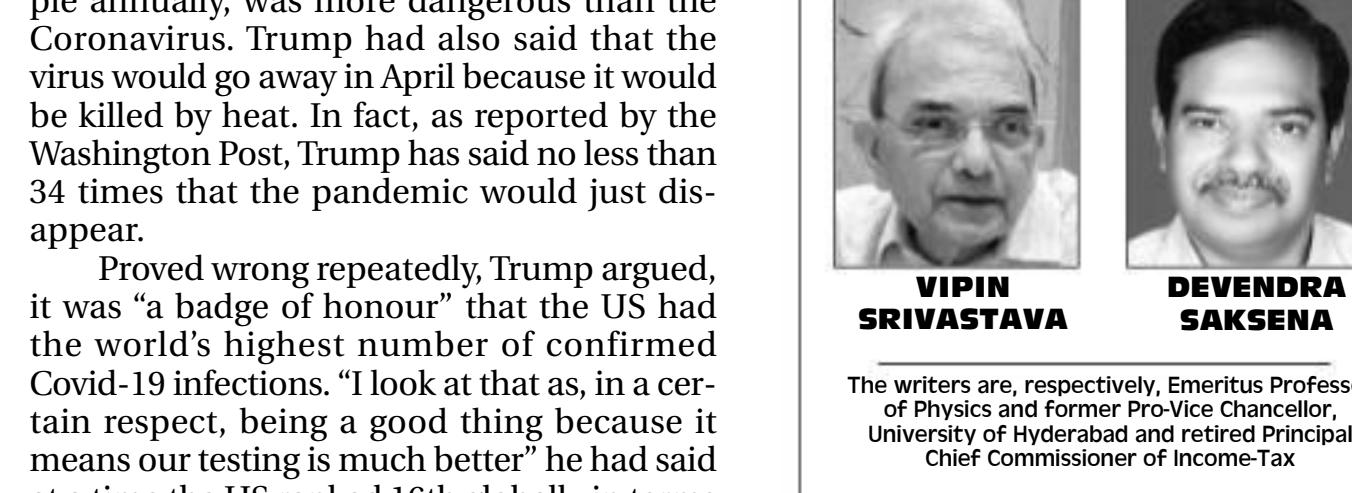
Hemasiri Fernando would have us believe that during his tenure as the Defence Secretary, the then President Maithripala Sirisena purposely kept him out of the loop, and, therefore, he should not be held responsible for the circumstances that led to the Easter Sunday carnage. He thinks the blame for the terror strikes should be laid solely on his former boss, Sirisena. Ex-IGP Pujith Jayasundera says former President Sirisena should take the full responsibility for the yahapalana lapses that enabled the National Thowheed Jamaath (NTJ) terrorists to carry out the Easter Sunday carnage. He insists that he had written to all those below him, informing them of the intelligence warning of the impending attacks, and they should have taken action. He pretends that he did not have full control over the police, and Sirisena interfered with

The Island

transfers. But as far as we can remember, he controlled the police with an iron fist, and there was no way anyone could bypass him or conceal anything from him.

It may be recalled that he ensured that his sil campaign was a success, and went so far as to rough up an elevator operator at the Police Headquarters for not observing sil. It is not possible that anyone would have dared ruffle his feathers. The blame for his subordinates' failure to take action on the warning should be apportioned to him. Jayasundera has said his phone was tapped by the SIS, and he was under surveillance while he was the IGP. We thought the yahapalana government did not resort to such measures. No wonder the state intelligence agencies, stuck deep in political work, had little time to spy on terrorists and ensure public safety. SDIG Nilantha Jayawardena claims that, as the State Intelligence Service Chief, he had conveyed the intelligence warning of the terror attacks to everyone in the Defence establishment except President Sirisena. Curiouser and curioser! It has now been revealed he used to call President Sirisena almost daily.

The entire yahapalana government and the police top brass who stooped so low as to do dirty political work should be held responsible for having created conditions for the rise of Islamic extremism and terror. Their witch hunt against the military and intelligence personnel who had been instrumental in defeating LTTE-terrorism brought about a situation where nobody in the intelligence community was willing to go beyond the call of duty to neutralise the NTJ.



VIPIN SRIVASTAVA and DEVENDRA SAKSENA

The writers are, respectively, Emeritus Professor of Physics and former Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad and retired Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-Tax

of human nature. The price of masks, sanitizers, common cough and cold medicines has been hiked by manufacturers and even reputed hospitals have been accused of profiteering at the expense of patients.

In the background of ugly allegations of spying on each other's vaccine development programmes, Russia and China have started inoculating their populations with vaccines that do not appear to have been tested properly. President Trump had also tried to browbeat FDA into granting approval to vaccines without adequate trials. Rich countries have already signed contracts with vaccine manufacturers to appropriate their entire vaccine production; depriving developing countries of the vaccine till the first world is fully vaccinated. Thankfully, India, being the worldwide hub for vaccine manufacture, is much better placed in this respect.

Jim O'Neill, chair of the UK think tank Chatham House, had remarked disparagingly, on a TV show in March 2020: "Thank God, this didn't start in somewhere like India." However, statistics bear out that we have defied all such apprehensions to a large extent; our handling of the pandemic has been much better than that of many countries including the US and UK, which is poised to go under another lockdown. Sadly, most of the deaths in the US and Europe have

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Dragon in dock

SIR, I refer to "Why Xi must be halted" (*The Statesman*, 29 September.) Contrary to the claims made by President Xi in his address to UN, increased Chinese incursions into maritime areas traditionally claimed by Southeast Asian countries like Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Japan through brand new 'ancient maps' have prompted warnings from regional statesmen

about the potential for a serious military clash. The sharpest change towards China has come from India after the deadly brawl in Ladakh. Attitudes toward China in India have turned sharply hostile.

China has disputes or strained ties with 12 of its top 20 export destinations. These nations are the United States, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Ger-

many, India, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Russia, Australia, Mexico, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Canada and Brazil. President Xi's grand BRI thoroughfares are global in scale extending from the Horn of Africa-Djibouti, a strategic maritime choke-point, to Myanmar's Economic Corridor project on the lines of CPEC in Pakistan.

The BRI networks clearly benefit China, either by stimulating an enormous increase in commerce, or,

when debts cannot be repaid, by appropriating whatever assets China selects as

in the case of Sri Lankan Hambanatota. Through the many bilateral BRI deals,

China hopes to secure strate-

tic and political benefits.

We must also remember

that pandemics such as the current SARS-CoV-2 are part

of this puzzle whether it is

natural or of lab origin.

One must not overlook

that President Xi, has in

COOLING OFF IS ESSENTIAL

SIR, This refers to the editorial, "Cooling off" (29 September). General Bipin Rawat, who frequently endorsed the NDA government's policies in public was elevated as Chief of Defence Staff. Even while he was still the army chief, Gen Rawat spoke out on the anti-CAA protests. The Election Commission's recommendation in 2012 that IAS, IPS and all-India services officers who have recently retired or resigned should be kept away from electoral politics for two years was rejected by the government arguing that disallowing former civil servants to immediately join politics could violate their Right to Equality, as enshrined in the Constitution.

Bihar DGP Gupteswar Pandey, an IPS officer who intervened in the death of film actor Sushant Singh Rajput who hailed from Bihar and told reporters that Rhea Chakraborty does not have the aukat (stature) to comment on the Bihar Chief Minister, apparently referring to her claim that the Bihar Police FIR in the case was driven by political motivations in light of the upcoming assembly elections, has taken VRS and joined the ruling JD (U) to contest the election.

Surprisingly, both the Central and Bihar governments waived the provision of 3 months' notice in writing before retirement. It is to be noted that late Arun Jaitley and his BJP chief Nitin Gadkari in 2012 suggested a two-year "cooling off period" for retiring judges on the allegation that "pre-retirement judgements" were being "influenced by the desire of a post-retirement job". You have justifiably concluded that there should be a cooling off period for those retiring from supervisory positions and who draw salary from the government.

Yours, etc., SS Paul, Nadia, 29 September.

some ways taken up the expansionist role of Mao Zedong. He is attempting to implement a modern version of the tributary system that Chinese emperors used to establish authority over

their vassal states: Submit to the emperor or as they often call themselves - the Middle Kingdom - to reap the benefits of peace and trade with the empire or face hostility. As the Dragon wakes up, it

is for the democracies to stand up strongly for the values of free societies by holding it accountable.

Yours, etc., HN Ramakrishna, Bengaluru, 29 September.



Tyranny of the majority

SUNIL SHARAN

She is coming for Americans. The Indian and American systems are very similar: either the parliament passes laws, or the Supreme Court interprets laws. Theirs is the final word.

She is Amy Barrett, Donald Trump's third pick for the US Supreme Court. She is a fierce conservative, a devout Catholic, who doesn't believe in abortion rights. With her on the bench, the Republicans will soon have a 6-3 supermajority on the court. Abortion rights are shortly slated to be wrong forever.

Barrett is an attractive white woman. The US holds an unbeatable lead in terms of Covid deaths, but all Trump has on his mind is tightening immigration and repealing Obamacare. Barrett will get to decide on Obamacare on November 10. Say goodbye to all that.

Barrett has a child with Down Syndrome, but she didn't drop the baby. She won't let other American women with babies with birth defects drop them either.

Trump's second pick for the supreme court, Brett Kavanaugh, was accused of sexual assault. Now he proudly sits on the bench. He was nominated by a president who has admitted to sexual assault himself and who uses abhorrent words for women. He separates infants from their parents at the border and cages the infants.

David Duke, a renowned former Ku Klux Klan leader, endorsed Trump in 2016 and has done so again in 2020. The president hasn't disavowed that support. Every day FOX, also known as Trump TV, beams racist drivel on TV.

On the Supreme Court sits another man accused of sexual assault, Clarence Thomas. Interestingly enough, Trump's challenger, Joe Biden was the head of the senate judiciary committee thirty years ago who saw Thomas' nomination through. Anita Hill accused Thomas, a black



man, of sexual assault. He got away by playing the race card, calling his nomination process a high-tech lynching.

There was only TV back then. If that was high-tech, what would it now be with all-pervasive social media? Anita Hill has prowled the four corners of the country trying to prick Thomas's conscience since his ascension to the bench, but to no avail.

Christine Blasey Ford, Kavanaugh's accuser, tried to prick his conscience. She failed miserably. The senate nomination process was an

utter sham. The man who was supposedly in the room where Kavanaugh allegedly raped Ford was not even called to testify during the senate proceedings.

Ford works at Stanford, and has gone back into her shell there. Unlike Hill, she's not seeking the spotlight anymore.

The US Supreme Court bench is relatively young. Many justices have at least thirty years left in them in what is a lifetime appointment. One of the greatest Americans of the last century, the supreme court justice,

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, just passed away. She advocated for women's rights, minority rights. She didn't let America become a neo-fascist country even as it lurched to the right during her lifetime.

Her dying wish was that a president other than Trump nominate her replacement. She hadn't been dead a day when Trump had already decided on Amy Barrett. Beneath the veneer of attractiveness of Barrett lives a hard woman, who will make life miserable for many women and minorities.

Democracy is often called the

tyranny of the majority. Barrett represents a tyrannical majoritarian culture, which will impose the will of the majority on the minority.

Trump, and not a new president, has replaced Ginsburg. The question now is who will replace Trump. In Ginsburg's last wish implicit is the hope that Trump loses the election. Will Americans heed her wish, or will they treat it as the rant of a dying Jewish woman?

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

Muzzling dissent the Chinese way

MAHIR ALI

Late last week, China's President Xi Jinping was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying at a two-day conference: "Viewed overall, Xinjiang is enjoying a favourable setting of social stability with the people living in peace and contentment. The facts have abundantly demonstrated that our national minority work has been a success." The Communist Party's policies were "totally correct" and efforts to plant the national identity "deep in the souls" of Uighurs and other minorities "must be held to for the long term".

The same week, fresh evidence emerged of what that "national minority work" entails, with analysis of satellite imagery by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) revealing that 380 detention facilities have either been built or expanded since 2017. "We don't believe we have found them all," says the ASPI's Nathan Ruser. "The largest is more than 300 acres in size. That is more than three and a half Disneylands."

It is estimated that about 10 per cent of Xinjiang's Uighur and Kazakh minorities have involuntarily been enrolled in what are officially described as vocational re-education institutes. By most accounts, trades are indeed taught in these facilities, but that is only part of the purpose. Much effort is focused on indoctrination, both cultural and ideological.

The campaign is not restricted to Xinjiang. There have lately been reports of a similar "mass labour programme" in Tibet, apparently aimed at turning rural agricultural labourers into factory workers. In Inner Mongolia, meanwhile, protests erupted last month against a policy to gradually replace Mongolian with Chinese as the medium of instruction



in schools.

Such measures are sometimes officially depicted as part of Xi Jinping's campaign to eradicate poverty by the end of this year. How could that possibly be construed as an undesirable goal?

On the face of it, the intent is welcome. On the other hand, the very fact that poverty still exists in China more than 70 years after the communist revolution seems like an indictment of much that has occurred in the interim. The failure is even more stark if one compares the ostentatious wealth of Shanghai with the deprivation in the vast countryside. China

boasts the second highest number of billionaires after the United States, yet half its population subsists on an annual income of about \$1,500, roughly equivalent to the price of a Chinese-manufactured iPhone.

President Xi has himself approvingly cited the scholarship of Thomas Piketty in the context of inequality in the US, but the publication of the French economist's latest book, Capital and Ideology, was nonetheless held up in China because the author refused to agree to the excision of segments referring to economic disparities in China, notably the fact that wealth distribution between the top

10 per cent and bottom 50 per cent is "only slightly less unequalitarian than the United States and significantly more so than Europe".

China can perhaps justifiably boast of many achievements in the past few decades, during which it has insinuated itself into the global economy by becoming the world's leading manufacturer, albeit largely on the strength of an underpaid and over-worked workforce without recourse to the organising options available to labour, to some extent, in most capitalist societies.

Its response to the Covid-19 pandemic has also been remarkable,

despite egregious initial slip-ups, at least if the official figures are to be taken at face value. Its economy has by some accounts roared back into life while much of the rest of the world is still struggling with a range of restrictions. China's apparent strategy, as in many other countries, is to henceforth rely more on the domestic market.

However, the impressive ability to construct a hospital in Wuhan within a week or so also extends to the rapid erection of detention centres elsewhere.

If Xi Jinping does not particularly stand out among the international rogues' gallery of dilettantes running the world, it's largely because his attentions are focused locally. There are indications, but no conclusive evidence, that there is substantial opposition to him within the Communist Party. Which is hardly surprising, given that critics and dissidents face extended incarceration or worse, and it is never easy to tell whether those incarcerated or executed for graft or corruption are actually guilty.

The cultural genocide unfolding in Xinjiang has lately begun to provoke some pushback, both economic and political, although there is cause to suspect it is more directly related to other aspects of Beijing's belligerence on the economic and geopolitical fronts. Were Xi to kowtow to the usual capitalist deities, the outrages in Urumqi and Kashgar would probably soon be forgotten.

But China's largely facetious claim to socialist ideals deserves a sceptical eye-roll, and the idea that "Xi Jinping Thought" is "21st-century Marxism" hardly bears scrutiny, yet it will be important to keep a close eye on China's future trajectory, in respect of both its formidable achievements and its egregious — and often repellent — excesses.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28090

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

There is a curious sense of incongruity in the reduction to cash terms of any results of the victory of Jutland. It is announced that the Prize Court has awarded prize money to the Grand Fleet as a whole, the court holding that the battle and destruction of enemy ships were the joint enterprise of the entire fleet. Most people probably had forgotten the fact that there was any question of allotting prize money in connection with the battle. The amount of the award is cabled as pound 22,685, which presumably represents prize bounty, calculated in the prescribed manner according to the results of the action. The German losses included three battleships and a battle-cruiser sunk, besides others disabled, five light cruisers and seven destroyers also sunk, not to mention a submarine and other casualties. The three battleships were seen to sink, and the losses of the battle-cruiser Lutzow, four of the light cruisers and five of the destroyers were admitted by the Germans. The Grand Fleet did not fight for prize money, but no award of the kind was ever better earned and it is only to be wished that the amount were enough to provide something still more substantial for each individual who served in the battle.

NEWS ITEMS

TRAIN OUTRAGE

When the night train No. 6 down, leaving Rawalpindi for Kohat at 21 hours reached Ghazan, the attention of the guard was drawn to some one crying out from a 2nd class compartment. On going up he found the occupant, an Anglo-Indian lady, was calling out for assistance and on opening the door he found her with her feet tied together, and that she had just struggled and released her hands, which had also been tied. On enquiry she informed him that a man had entered her compartment at the previous station. She suddenly awoke from her sleep and saw a man in the carriage. He hit her and drew a knife, threatened to kill her. The case was reported to the police and enquiries were made that resulted in the arrest of a man who is suspected of being the culprit.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY FUNDS

An extraordinary general meeting of the Nundydroog Mine Co-operative Society Limited, the funds of which, to the extent of Rs 23,601 are alleged to have been embezzled by the late head clerk, Ramassamy Aiyangar now awaiting trial, was held on Tuesday evening to consider the report of the special auditors regarding the defalcations and the question of the winding-up of the Society. Mr. Cood, the Society's Honorary Auditor, and about 100 Indian share-holders were present, also the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in Mysore. The present position of the Society in relation to defalcations showed a net deficit of about Rs 2,000 or 10 pies in the rupee on a share capital of Rs 38,000. The Chairman assured the shareholders that they had the entire sympathy of the officials in their disappointment. Employees of all grades were suffering.

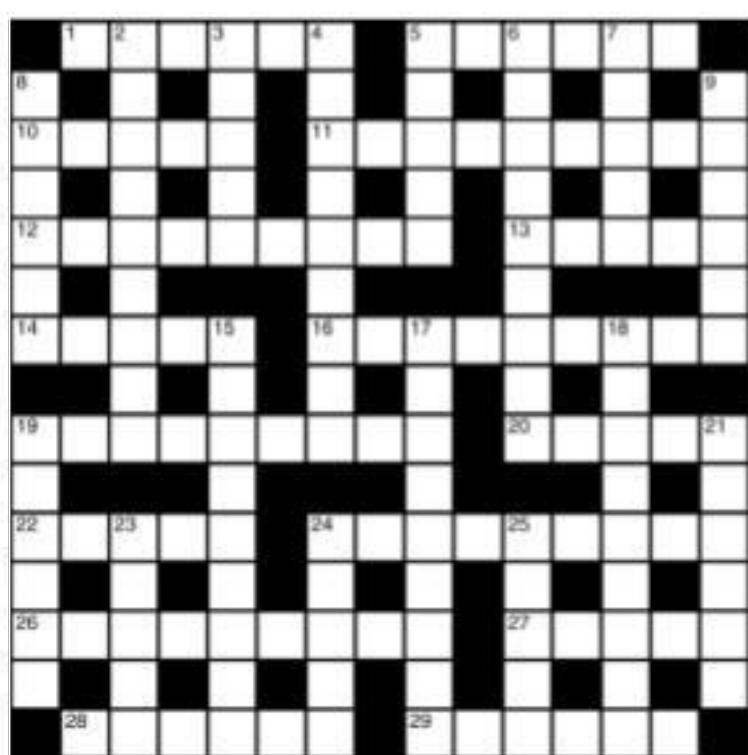
WESTERN INDIA NATIONAL LIBERALS

The Council of the Western India National Liberal Association have viewed with grave concerns the open attempt of the Khilafat Committee, under the leadership of Mr. Gandhi, to carry into execution their pernicious doctrine of non-cooperation, which is inimical to the vital interests of the people, and threatens to be a vehicle for the active dissemination of racial bitterness. It is indistinguishable in its nature from the propaganda of civil disobedience started last year, which events have proved a disastrous failure. The Council are of opinion that it would be a grievous dereliction of duty towards our country if our countrymen, especially those of a better mind, Moslems included, fail at this juncture to condemn the propaganda of the Khilafat Committee in the manner it deserves.

MINING FEDERATION

Presiding yesterday at the annual general meeting of the Indian Mining Federation, the chairman said the prospects of the coal trade appeared hopeful. Government had of late given reasonable rates and the market looked bright. There were pressing demands from foreign ports, but transport difficulties marred the prospect. The expansion of output from 11,387,716 tons in 1910 to 21,759,727 tons in 1919 was no doubt a great advance, but in comparison with other coal producing countries their volume of trade appeared poor referring to the short supply of wagons, the chairman said the complaint was chronic. The industries suffered from the dearth of technical experts and he was sorry the attention of the Government was drawn to this matter rather late and that the Government was somewhat slow in adopting measures for bringing about an improvement.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1 American expert is ready for action (6)
- 5 Transfer unit back (6)
- 10 Start to like novel proposition (5)
- 11 Vocalist's autobiographical sketch after concert's likely to be good (9)
- 12 Equipment in desert manoeuvres moved quickly (9)
- 13 Electric car avoids M20 (5)
- 14 Father's not taking part in mad prank (5)
- 16Appealed to court about leaflet putting Democrat
- 19 Someone who relates swimming race to run (9)
- 20 Avoid woman who was tempted to grab publicity (5)
- 22 Walk before 12 ran briefly (5)
- 24 Purification of medieval Christians' lives (9)
- 26 I left soldier in pub without any reason (9)
- 27 Meaning of two papers written by doctor (5)
- 28 Interfere with gong's sound (6)
- 29 Show Hawking and Barking tried closing hospital (6)

DOWN

- 2 Is icy tomb built for everyone's benefit? (9)
- 3 Gambled on stealing contents of cash cow? (5)
- 4 Censor piece probing former virgin? (9)
- 5 Lecture promoted outside college (5)
- 6 Unorthodox cleric had way of coping with issue (9)
- 7 Diana represented female spirit (5)
- 8 Line feeding father's mother vital fluid (6)
- 9 Corresponded about grey seals (6)
- 15 Met new limit introduced by company director (9)
- 17 Cut back duty originally capped by fuel regulator (9)
- 18 Announcement of resignation disrupted late shift (5,4)
- 19 After losing cases iron Maiden drops one crew member (6)
- 21 Keepers at zoo looking after cod (6)
- 23 Lovely rose without red exterior (5)
- 24 Secretly deposit funds in reporter's account (5)
- 25 Check credit rating that's out of place (5)

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



Birla Tyres is in talks with multiple partners both within the country and overseas for strategic collaboration

MANJUSHREE KHATAN
CHAIRPERSON, BIRLA TYRES

THUMBNAILS

SBI cash chase: State Bank of India on Wednesday said it will raise up to Rs 5,000 crore through debt instruments in the current financial year. The central board of the bank in a meeting held on Wednesday accorded the approval for raising of capital by way of issuance of Basel-III compliant debt instruments in Indian rupees during FY21, SBI said in a regulatory filing.

Shell job cut: Royal Dutch Shell said on Wednesday it's planning to cut between 7,000 and 9,000 jobs worldwide by the end of 2022 following a collapse in demand for oil and a subsequent slide in oil prices. The company said around 1,500 employees have already agreed to take voluntary redundancy this year and that it's looking at a raft of other areas where it can cut costs.

HDFC Bank offer: HDFC Bank on Wednesday launched "festive treats", its annual financial services chhamaka. Customers can avail of special deals on all banking products from loans to bank accounts, with over 1000+ offers from leading players and over 2,000 hyper local offers through tie-ups with local merchants across semi-urban and rural locations, the lender said in a Press release.

PhonePe achievement: PhonePe on Wednesday announced that it has sold over five lakh insurance policies on its platform during April-August period of this year. This makes PhonePe the fastest-growing insure-tech distributor in India within just nine months of the insurance category going live on the PhonePe app, according to a Press release.

TCS ION qualifier test: TCS ION, a strategic unit of TCS, announced that its national qualifier test (NOT) will now be a common gateway test for several participating corporates for their fresher recruitment programmes. This standardised test will provide candidates with access to open positions at multiple corporates, while helping corporates get an in-depth understanding of applicants' cognitive abilities, and reduce evaluation overheads, said a Press release.

FedEx Express: The International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP), a registered charity dedicated to preventing road deaths through safer road infrastructure, in association with FedEx Express, an express transportation company, has announced the launch of the 5-Star Global Connections Initiative, according to a Press release.

Retail inflation: Retail inflation for industrial workers eased to 5.63 per cent in August as compared to 6.31 per cent in the same month a year ago, mainly due to lower prices of certain food items.

General Atlantic to invest ₹3,675 cr in Reliance Retail

This is the second investment from General Atlantic in Reliance Industries' subsidiaries

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 30 SEPTEMBER

General Atlantic will invest ₹3,675 crore in Reliance Retail, parent company Reliance Industries has announced. The transaction values Reliance Retail at a pre-money (before receipt of investment) equity value of ₹4.285 lakh crore.

Translating into a 0.84 per cent equity stake in Reliance Retail, this will be the second investment from General Atlantic in Reliance Industries after the Rs 6,598 crore funding in Jio Platforms earlier this year.

DEAL DETAILS

► General Atlantic will invest ₹3,675 crore to buy a 0.84 per cent stake in Reliance Industries Ltd's retail arm Reliance Retail.

► This will be the second investment from General Atlantic in Reliance Industries after the Rs 6,598 crore funding in Jio Platforms earlier this year.

► The transaction values Reliance Retail at a pre-

of Rs 162,936 crore (\$ 21.7 billion) and net profit of ₹5,448 crore (\$726.4 million) for the year ending 31 March 2020.

The latest funding fuels the debate between a technology-driven disruptive new economic order, to concerns of monopoly ~ with India's key sectors carved up among corporate behemoths.

Reliance Industries chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani said Reliance Retail will leverage General Atlantic's extensive expertise to create a "disruptive new com-



money (before receipt of investment) equity value of ₹4.285 lakh crore.

merce platform to redefine retail in the country."

The "disruptive new commerce platform" is the new retail industry revolving around online shopping executed via telecommunication giants and retail giants such as Reliance, Amazon and Walmart.

Like Reliance Retail, General Atlantic believes in "the fundamental ability of digital enablement to drive progress, growth, and inclusion across India and the world," Ambani said.

Reliance Retail declared

its "new commerce" strategy has started "a transformational digitalisation" of small and unorganised merchants, and it is committed to expanding the network to over 20 million of these merchants.

"This will enable the merchants to use technology tools and an efficient supply chain infrastructure to deliver a superior value proposition to their own customers," the Reliance Retail statement said.

General Atlantic's India and Southeast Asia head Sandeep Naik confirmed the new retail order, claiming there is "a pressing need" for change in the Indian retail ecosystem.

Reliance Retail's strategy is "unique - highly disruptive, and yet fully inclusive," Naik said.

"It demonstrates a deep understanding of the diverse needs of India and the opportunity to provide more holistic omni-channel retail solutions to kiranas and consumers," he said.

Reliance Retail declared its "vision is to galvanise the

Indian retail sector through an inclusive strategy serving millions of customers by empowering millions of farmers and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)."

General Atlantic's CEO Bill Ford said his financial firm is happy to back Ambani's "new commerce mission" to "drive substantial positive change in the country's retail sector, which goes hand-in-hand with his vision to enable a digital India through the work of Jio Platforms."

The New York-based equity firm General Atlantic, with a four-decade history of investing in consumer, financial services, healthcare and technology sectors, had earlier funded Airbnb, Alibaba, Facebook, Snapchat and Uber among other leading global consumer technology brands.

General Atlantic shares Reliance Industries' belief in the power of technology to foster transformative growth, Ford said, and are "excited" partnering with Reliance to accelerate India's position in the global digital economy.

Gas price slashed to record low of \$1.79

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

Natural gas price in India touched the lowest rate on record after the government today slashed the price by 25 percent to \$1.79, denting revenues of producers like ONGC.

While the cut in prices would mean widening of losses for India's top oil and gas producer ONGC, it may also lead to lower cost of production of electricity and CNG as well as lower piped natural gas prices.

ONGC sources said, had posted Rs 4,272 crore loss on gas business in financial year 2017-18, which is likely to widen to over Rs 6,000 crore in the current fiscal (April 2020 to March 2021), they said.

ONGC has seen incurring losses on the 65 million standard cubic meters per day of gas it produces from domestic fields shortly after the government in November 2014 introduced a new gas pricing formula that had "inherent limitations" as it was based on pricing hubs of gas surplus countries such as the US, Canada, and Russia.

Sources said ONGC in a recent communique to the government has stated that the break-even price to produce gas from new discoveries was in the range of \$5.9 per mmBtu.

paid to Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) prior to May 2020 when a formula based pricing was first introduced.

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Core industries output contracts 8.5% in Aug

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

Contracting for the sixth consecutive month, the output of eight core infrastructure sectors dropped by 8.5 per cent in August, mainly due to decline in production of steel, refinery products and cement.

The production of eight core sectors had contracted by 0.2 per cent in August 2019, showed data released by the commerce and industry ministry today.

Barring coal and fertiliser, all sectors ~ crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity ~ recorded negative growth in August.

During April-August 2020-21, the sectors' output dipped by 17.8 per cent as compared to a growth of 2.5 per cent in

the same period of the previous year.

The rate of contraction in the eight key sectors has increased from July (- 8 per cent).

The output of steel, refinery products, cement, natural gas, crude oil and electricity declined by 6.3 per cent, 19.1 per cent, 14.6 per cent, 9.5 per cent, 6.3 per cent and 2.7 per cent, respectively.

On the other hand, coal and fertiliser sector production grew by 3.6 per cent and 7.3 per cent, respectively,

during the month under review as against (-) 8.6 per cent and 2.9 per cent rise in August 2019.

Commenting on the numbers, Icra Ltd principal economist Aditi Nayar said that based on these mixed trends, "we expect the contraction in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to ease modestly to 6-8 per cent in August 2020, from the initial 10.4 per cent in July 2020".

The eight core industries account for 40.27 per cent in the IIP.

BPCL bid deadline extended to 16 Nov

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

"In view of further requests received from the interested bidders (IBs) and the prevailing situation arising out of Covid-19 pandemic, the last date for submission of EoIs is further extended to 16 November 2020 (by 5.00 pm)," the department of investment and public asset management (Dipam) said in a notice.



The government has for the fourth time extended the deadline for bidding for privatisation of India's second-biggest oil refiner Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) by one and half months to 16 November.

While the Cabinet, in November last year, had approved the sale of the government's entire 52.98 per cent stake in BPCL, offers seeking expression of interest (EoI) or bids showing interest in buying its stake were invited only on 7 March.

Initially, the EoI submission deadline was 2 May, but it was first extended up to 13 June, then to 31 July and later to 30 September.

In view of further requests received from the interested bidders (IBs) and the prevailing situation arising out of

Covid-19 pandemic, the last date for submission of EoIs is further extended to 16 November 2020 (by 5.00 pm)," the department of investment and public asset management (Dipam) said in a notice.

The government is keen to close the sale before 31 March 2021, to help meet a record Rs 2.1 lakh crore target which finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has set from disinvestment proceeds in the Budget for 2020-21.

But with this extension,

the sale being completed by March 2021 looks doubtful as after EoIs come in, the government will open a data centre for interested bidders to conduct due diligence, only after which financial bids will be called, industry sources said.

The financial bids will have to be evaluated and approved by the Cabinet and the transaction will close once the payment is made.

At Wednesday's trading price of Rs 360.55 on the BSE, BPCL has a market capitali-

sation of about Rs 78,300 crore. At this price, the government's stake is worth over Rs 41,436 crore.

The acquirer will also have to make an open offer to minority shareholders for buying up to 26 per cent stake at the same price.

The Government of India is proposing strategic disinvestment of its entire shareholding in BPCL comprising of 114.91 crore equity shares, which constitutes 52.98 per cent of BPCL's equity share capital along with transfer of management control to a strategic buyer (except BPCL's equity shareholding of 61.65 per cent in Numaligarh Refinery), the notice inviting offer said.

Numaligarh Refinery stake will be sold to a state-owned oil and gas firm. State explorer Oil India Ltd and Engineers India Ltd are likely to buy Numaligarh Refinery.

Govt to borrow ₹4.34 lakh cr in H2 of FY21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

the government has borrowed Rs 7.66 lakh crore during April-September.

Hard-pressed for funds to combat rising coronavirus infections, the government in May increased its market borrowing programme for the current financial year by more than 50 per cent to Rs 12 lakh crore. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2020-21 Budget had pegged the gross market borrowing, which is also a reflection of fiscal deficit, for the current fiscal as at Rs 7.80 lakh crore. The amount was up from Rs 7.1 lakh crore in 2019-20.

The government raises money from the market to fund its fiscal deficit through dated securities and treasury bills.

The Budget has pegged fiscal deficit at 3.5 per cent for the current fiscal, down from 3.8 per cent of the GDP in the last financial year.

started taking bookings of the model on its website and Big Wing outlets, he added.

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) today globally unveiled a 350 cc bike ~ H'ness CB350 ~ marking its entry into the growing mid-sized motorcycle segment in the country. The bike comes with a BS-VI compliant petrol engine, and would be sold from the company's "Big Wing" sales network.

The model would be available in two variants ~ Deluxe and Deluxe Pro, with ex-showroom price expected to start around Rs 1.9 lakh.

"This is a completely new product from Honda's globally renowned CB range and would be priced around Rs 1.9 lakh," HMSI managing director, president & CEO Atsushi Ogata told reporters.

The company has already

The company said it would focus on catering to the Indian market first and would later focus on exporting it to other markets.

"It is BS-VI compliant and thus can be exported. We would be speaking to our network in other countries for exports, but as every country has different set of regulations, it is going to take some time," Ogata said.

HMSI director sales and marketing Yadvinder Singh Guleria said the company would further expand its big bike portfolio in the country.

"This is just the beginning. We will also come up with riders club and other activities for our customers," he noted.

Guleria said the company had been keenly following the mid-sized bike segment in the country for some time now.

original and revised tax returns for financial year 2018-19. In March, the due date was extended from 31 March to 30 June and then again in June, it was extended by a month till 31 July and further to 30 September.

"On further consideration of genuine difficulties being faced by taxpayers due to the Covid-19 situation, CBDT further extends the due date for furnishing of belated & revised ITRs for assessment year 2019-20 from 30 September 2020 to 30 November 2020. Order u/s 119(2a) issued," reads the tweet of income tax department.

Meanwhile, in another development, the government has extended the deadline for filing GST annual return and audit report for financial year 2018-19 by a month till 31 October.

Deadline for filing I-T returns extended

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

The Central government today again extended the due date for filing personal income tax returns for assessment year 2019-20 (financial year 2018-19) from 30 September to 30 November.

The deadline for income tax returns filing was extended from 31 July to 30 September, in the wake of nationwide lockdown to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The decision has been taken considering genuine difficulties being faced by taxpayers due to the Covid-19 situation," Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a media statement issued today.

This is the fourth extension given by the Centre to the taxpayers to file both

Panacea Biotec gets warning from USFDA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 30 SEPTEMBER

The company will actively engage with the agency and take all necessary steps required to address the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) concerns, Panacea Biotec said.



We hope the US government will reconsider this decision...Because the decision is a wrong one

FOREIGN MINISTER OF IRAQ FUAD HUSSEIN
ON US GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CLOSE ITS DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN BAGHDAD

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 01 OCTOBER 2020

09

Armenia, Azerbaijan fight for 4th day over separatist region

Armenian officials alleged that Turkish drones and F-16 fighter jets were being used

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YEREVAN (ARMENIA), 30 SEPTEMBER

Heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh continued for a fourth straight day on Wednesday, in the biggest escalation of a decades-old conflict in years that has killed dozens and left scores wounded.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said Armenian forces started shelling the town of Tarat on Wednesday morning, damaging civilian infrastructure and wounding people, while Armenian military officials reported that Azerbaijani forces were bombing positions of the Nagorno-Karabakh army in the north of the war-torn region.

Armenian officials alleged that Turkish drones and F-16



People gather around the coffin of an Azerbaijani serviceman who is said to have been killed in fighting with Armenian separatists, in Azerbaijan's Beylagan district on Wednesday. ■ AFP

fighter jets were being used. Turkey has denied supplying Azerbaijan with arms, and Azerbaijan said it didn't have any F-16 jets.

The fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh erupted on Sunday and has continued despite mounting calls for a cease-fire from around the globe.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has

been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by the Armenian government since 1994 at the end of a separatist war following the collapse of the Soviet Union three years earlier.

The region in the Caucasus Mountains of about 4,400 sq km, or about the size of the US state of Delaware, is 50 km from the Armenian border. Sol-

diers backed by Armenia also occupy some Azerbaijani territory outside the region.

The conflict escalated on Tuesday, with Armenia alleging Turkish involvement and claiming that a Turkish F-16 fighter jet shot down an SU-25 from its air force in Armenian airspace, killing the pilot.

Turkey, which has been vocal about siding with Azerbaijan in the dispute, denied those claims, and so did Azerbaijan. However, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Wednesday that if Azerbaijan requests assistance, Ankara will provide it.

We have said that if Azerbaijan wants to solve this in the field, we will stand by Azerbaijan. If Azerbaijan makes a request, we would do the necessary. But we see that Azerbaijan has sufficient capacity," Cavusoglu told the Anadolu news agency.

In the meantime, European officials are seeking to bring the opposing sides to the negotiating table.

French President Emmanuel Macron, speaking on Wednesday at a news conference in Riga, Latvia, called for talks between France, Russia and the United States. The three countries co-chair the Minsk group, set up in 1992 by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to resolve the conflict to mediate.

I will speak to President (Vladimir) Putin tonight and, I think, President (Donald) Trump tomorrow to discuss and propose an exit strategy for the crisis, Marcon said.

The French president also condemned recent comments from Turkey as reckless and dangerous" and said he was "extremely preoccupied by the belligerent messages from Turkey in the past hours.

Pompeo urges Vatican to condemn human rights abuses in China

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME, 30 SEPTEMBER

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged the Vatican on Wednesday to join the US in denouncing violations of religious freedom in China, saying the Catholic Church should be at the forefront in the fight to insist on basic human rights there.

Pompeo made the appeal at a conference on religious freedom organised by the US Embassy to the Holy See. It took place at the same time the Vatican is entering into delicate negotiations with Beijing on extending its controversial agreement over bishop nominations.

In the audience was Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Vatican foreign minister, who didn't mention China in his remarks. Instead, Gallagher denounced the imposition of gender ideology in the West as a violation of religious freedom.

Pompeo, echoing the Trump administration's harsh criticism of Beijing that has increased as the U.S. Nov. 3 presidential election nears, said there was nowhere on Earth where religious liberty is more under assault than in China.

We must support those demanding freedom in our time," Pompeo said. Citing St John Paul II, retired Pope Benedict XVI and even Pope

Francis, Pompeo urged a greater commitment from faith leaders to stand up for all religious believers.

To be a church 'permanently in a state of mission' has many meanings," Pompeo said, quoting Francis. Surely one of them is to be a church permanently in defence of basic human rights."

The Vatican has defended its agreement with China, saying it is purely an ecclesial matter about bishop nominations and is not a political or diplomatic accord. Gallagher said the Holy See, in all its diplomatic dealings, has stressed the importance of dialogue and mutual respect."

Pompeo's visit to the Vatican has been made fraught by an essay he penned earlier this month in the conservative magazine First Things suggesting that the Vatican had compromised its moral authority by signing the 2018 accord with Beijing.

Asked Wednesday how the Holy See received Pompeo's essay, Gallagher told reporters: It was received critically. He also said the proximity of Pompeo's visit to the US election, was one of the reasons why the Holy Father is not receiving the secretary of state.

Pompeo instead will meet Thursday with Gallagher and the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, at the Vatican.

Pak govt to push for Nawaz Sharif's deportation from UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 30 SEPTEMBER

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has asked relevant authorities to take steps to bring back PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif from London, where he has been staying since November 2019 on medical grounds,

and to ensure that the former premier faces the corruption cases pending against him in various Pakistani courts, according to a media report.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, the Dawn News reported, quoting a Cabinet member whose identity was not revealed.

Khan asked the authorities to pursue the matter vigorously, the report said.

According to the Cabinet

member, the government had earlier sent a request to the British government for the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader's repatriation. However, it would send a fresh application now.

Besides a normal application, a formal request for his extradition would also be made. Although we have no extradition treaty with the United Kingdom, wanted people can be repatriated under special arrangements as we had also handed over some people to the UK, the member said.

The Islamabad High Court on Wednesday said that it needs to be determined if Sharif was evading court proceedings on purpose.

The PML-N had said it honoured the court decision, but the party supremo would

bailable arrest warrants issued for Sharif earlier this month were not received at his residence in London.

Additional Attorney General (AAG) Tariq Khokhar said that the arrest warrants were sent to Sharif's residence through Royal Mail Special Delivery but a person named Waqar Ahmed refused to receive the delivery.

On September 15, the Islamabad High Court issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Sharif who failed to surrender before it despite clear warning by the bench. The court said the onus was on the federal government to bring back Sharif from London to stand a trial in Pakistan.

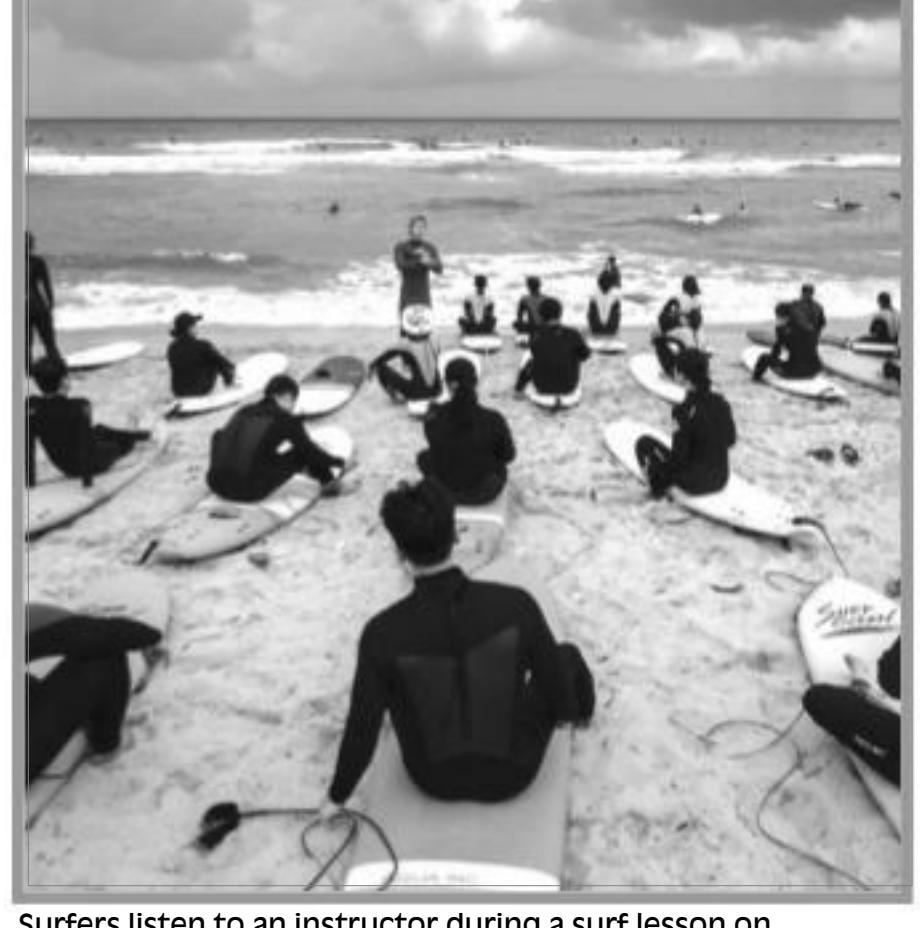
The PML-N had said it honoured the court decision, but the party supremo would

return once his health permitted him.

The three-time premier, his daughter Maryam and son-in-law Muhammad Safdar were convicted in the Avenfield properties case on July 6, 2018. Sharif was also sentenced to seven years in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills case in December 2018. But Sharif was bailed out in both cases and also allowed to go to London for medical treatment.

In November last year, Sharif was allowed to travel abroad for his treatment, while Maryam had to stay behind till further orders. In May, a picture of Sharif having tea at a London cafe along with his family went viral on social media, sparking a debate on the seriousness of his health condition.

SALIENT LESSONS



Surfers listen to an instructor during a surf lesson on Jukdo beach in the Yangyang area of South Korea on Wednesday. ■ AFP

As Brazil's wetlands burned, government did little to help

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PORTO JOFRE (BRAZIL), 30 SEPTEMBER

After hours navigating Brazil's Pantanal wetlands in search of jaguars earlier this month, Daniel Moura beached his boat to survey the fire damage. In every direction, he saw only devastation. No wildlife, and no support from federal authorities.

"We used to see jaguars here all the time; I once saw 16 jaguars in a single day," Moura, a guide who owns an eco-tourism outfit, said on the riverbank in the Encontro

das Aguas state park, which this year saw 84 per cent of its vegetation destroyed. "Where are all those animals now?"

The world's largest tropical wetlands, the Pantanal is popular for the furtive felines, along with caiman, capybara and more. This year it is exceptionally dry and burning at a record rate. The fires have been so intense that at one point smoke reached Sao Paulo, 900 miles away.

President Jair Bolsonaro's government says it has mobilized hundreds of federal agents and military service

members to douse the flames.

However, all along the only highway through the northern Pantanal, dozens of people—firefighters, ranchers, tour guides and veterinarians—said the government has exaggerated its response and there are few federal boots on the ground.

What little concrete assistance has come is mostly from planes dropping water from above, locals said, but that only happened after great delay and mainly targeted protected ranches rather than private ranches. Making matters worse, several aircraft

remained grounded at the start of the inferno.

"I can't see much federal help; it is basically us here," said Felipe Augusto Dias, executive director of SOS Pantanal, an environmental group.

Both sides of the Trans-Pantanal highway—an area that should feature pools of water, even in its dry season—was parched. As of Sunday, nearly a quarter of the Pantanal—an area more than the size of Maryland—had been consumed by fire, according to satellite imagery from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

than 17,000—exceeds the 12-month totals for every year on record, stretching back to 1998, and is triple the annual average, according to data from the government's space agency, which uses satellites to count the blazes.

Along that scorched landscape were injured and disoriented animals; charred corpses of others. On the river, Moura motored past a dead six-foot-long anaconda, tangled on a fallen tree branch. A fawn, lost and alone amid burned shrubs, eyed the boat. The sky was an apocalyptic orange.

Pantanal fires began burning wildly in July and continued into September. The number of fires so far this year—more than 17,000—exceeds the 12-month totals for every year on record, stretching back to 1998, and is triple the annual average, according to data from the government's space agency, which uses satellites to count the blazes. Fires, whether intentionally set or the result of lightning strikes, can easily spiral out of control in the dry season. A Federal Police investigation indicates fires to clear pastures at four ranches spread across 25,000 hectares, detective Alan Givigi said. The wildfire burned preservation areas and a national park.

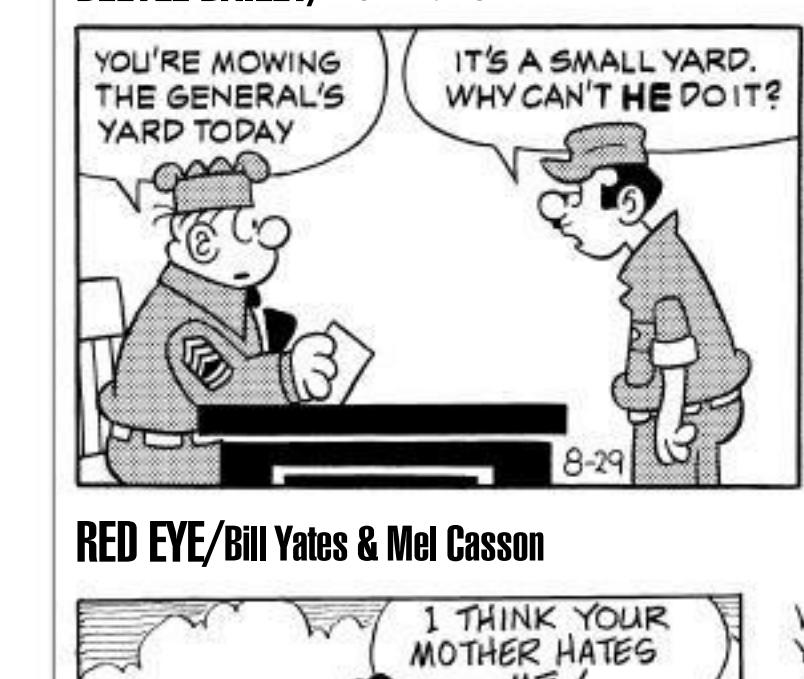
LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS DOWN

1 Decrease (4)
3 Rabbit's tail (4)
7 Cricket fielder (3,4)
8 Russian mountains (5)
10 Chemical process (5,8)
11 Interfere with (6)
13 Yearly records (6)
16 Train's dining area (10,3)
19 Something (5)
20 Surgical pincers (7)
21 Leg joint (4)
22 Following (4)



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS Nuncio, 13 Jet-ski, 16 Oblique, 1 Cock-a-snook, 18 Scent, 19 Intervention, 3 Myriad, 4 Reprove, 5 Enemy, 6 Mess, 8 Remittance, 12 Inquest, 14 Special, 15 Beaver, 17 Lance, 18 Sane.

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When you see the bravery of women in the streets for freedom then I can only say I admire that and I find it really impressive...

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL
PRAISING IMPRESSIVE WOMEN PROTESTERS IN BELARUS

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	31°C	26°C
HONG KONG	27°C	24°C
TOKYO	25°C	16°C
LONDON	14°C	11°C
DUBAI	37°C	27°C
SAN FRANCISCO	26°C	15°C
NEW YORK	24°C	15°C
MOSCOW	19°C	8°C

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

THUMBNAILS



A man holds a placard reading 'Independence for Karabakh mountain' during a protest organised by the Armenian community in Berlin on Wednesday. ■ AFP

Rwandan genocide suspect: France's highest court on Wednesday rejected Rwandan genocide suspect Flicien Kabuga's appeal of a decision to extradite him to an international court in The Hague. Kabuga, one of the most-wanted fugitives in Rwanda's 1994 genocide, was arrested outside Paris in May after 25 years on the run. AP

Kaczynski joins new Polish Cabinet: Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki presented a reshuffled Cabinet on Wednesday that brings Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the conservative ruling party's leader into a government position, together with a new education minister who has said LGBT people are not equal to others. AP

Breonna Taylor case: The workings of a Kentucky grand jury that brought no charges against police in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor are set to be opened, upending a long tradition of keeping those proceedings secret. A court in Louisville is expected to release a record of last week's grand jury proceedings on Wednesday. AP

Trump refuses to condemn far-right extremists: 'Stand back and stand by'

He said that almost everything he sees is from the left wing, not from the right wing; claimed Biden afraid to say the words 'law and order'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CLEVELAND, 30 SEPTEMBER

President Donald Trump on Tuesday didn't condemn white supremacist groups and their role in violence in some American cities this summer, branding it solely a 'left-wing' problem and telling one far-right extremist group to 'stand back and stand by.'

"Almost everything I see is from the left wing, not from the right wing," said Trump, whose exchange with Democrat Joe Biden left the extremist group Proud Boys celebrating what some of its members saw as tacit approval.

He was responding to a question from debate moderator Chris Wallace, who asked the president if he would condemn white supremacist and militia groups that have shown up at some protests. Wallace specifically mentioned Kenosha, Wisconsin, where a white teenager was charged with killing two protesters during demonstrations over the police shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man.

FBI Director Christopher Wray told a congressional panel last week, though, that white supremacists and anti-government extremists have been responsible for most of the recent deadly attacks by extremist groups within the U.S.



name."

"Proud Boys," Democrat Joe Biden chimed in, referencing a far-right extremist group that has shown up at protests in the Pacific Northwest. The male-only group of neo-fascists describes themselves as "western chauvinists," and they have been known to incite street violence.

"Proud Boys, stand back and stand by," Trump said. "But I'll tell you what, I'll tell you what, somebody's got to do something about antifa and the left because this is not a right-wing problem."

FBI Director Christopher Wray told a congressional panel last week, though, that white supremacists and anti-government extremists have been responsible for most of the recent deadly attacks by extremist groups within the U.S.

Trump, a Republican, has tried to tie incidents of violence that have accompanied largely peaceful protests to Biden and the Democrats, running on a "law and order" message that warns people won't be safe under a Democratic president. It's a message aimed squarely at white suburban voters, including women who voted for Trump in 2016 but may not do so again.

"What we saw was a dog whistle through a bullhorn," California Sen. Kamala Harris, Biden's running mate, said on MSNBC after the debate. "Donald Trump is not pretending to be anything other than what he is: Someone who will not condemn white supremacists."

Proud Boys leaders and supporters later celebrated the president's words on social

media. A channel on Telegram, an instant messaging service, with more than 5,000 of the group's members posted "Stand Back" and "Stand By" above and below the group's logo.

Biden has said he decided to run for president after Trump said there were "very fine people" on both sides of a 2017 protest led by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, where a counter-protester was killed.

Trump said Tuesday that Biden was afraid to say the words "law and order" and pressed him to give examples of law enforcement groups that back his campaign. Biden didn't name any, but said he's in favor of "law and order with justice, where people get treated fairly."

Biden called antifa "an idea, not an organization." That's similar to how Wray described it, though Trump has called on the federal government to characterize antifa as a terrorist organization.

At another point in the debate, when discussing a Trump administration move to end racial sensitivity training in the federal government, Biden directly called Trump a racist. He also accused him of trying to sow racial hatred and racist division in the country.

Analysis: Trump leans on tone that turns off voters he needs

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 30 SEPTEMBER

President Donald Trump needed to make the first general election debate about his rival, Democrat Joe Biden. Instead, as he so often does, Trump made it about himself.

The president set the tone from the start for one of the ugliest general election debates in recent memory, badgering Biden and repeatedly interrupting him.

Biden alternated between ignoring the president and growing visibly irritated. Moderator Chris Wallace admonished and pleaded with Trump to allow his rival to speak.

Trump's aggressive posture may have appealed to his most passionate supporters — a prime-time display of the brashness he has brought to the Oval Office. But by the end of the 90-minute contest, it was unclear whether Trump succeeded in making up any ground in trying to expand his coalition or win over persuadable voters, particularly white, educated women and independents who have been turned off in part by the same tone and tenor the president displayed on the debate stage.

Proud Boys, stand back and stand by, Trump said.

There were also glaring gaps in Trump's outlines for addressing the future of health care coverage in America and controlling the pandemic, which has killed more than 200,000 people in the U.S. this year. He also refused to embrace the science of climate change, even as record wildfires rage in the West.

Among Trump's political challenges throughout this tumultuous year has been leveling a sustained and consistent attack against Biden. Some Republicans believe he has squandered many of the advantages of incumbency: the money and the months a sitting president can spend defining their eventual rival in the eyes of voters.

The result: With five weeks until Election Day and voting already underway in some key states, Trump has consistently trailed Biden in national polls. Biden also holds a lead in some of the key battleground states, although others appear to be significantly closer.

With time running out, likely were not the moments



Trump did arrive at the debate armed with an array of attacks on his opponent. He challenged Biden's effectiveness during his nearly five decades in Washington and tried to link his more moderate rival to the far-left flank of the Democratic Party. He launched a barrage of unsubstantiated corruption charges against Biden's son for work he did in Ukraine, as well as his addiction struggles, and he challenged Biden's intelligence. "Don't ever the use smart with me," Trump said to the former vice president. "There's nothing smart about you." Biden slapped back at the president's attacks over and over using his own searing rhetoric, calling Trump a clown, a racist and a liar.

At one point when Trump kept interrupting, Biden charged, Will you shut up, man? To be sure, the low-brow debate could hold risks for Biden, too. His campaign needs strong turnout from young people, Black voters and Latinos — groups with lower turnout rates and in some cases, less enthusiasm for Biden — to turn his solid standing in polling into a victory in November.

There were few chances for Biden to make a cohesive case for why his agenda would have a transformative impact on their lives, in part because of Trump's repeated interruptions. Still, the former vice president appeared well aware of the need to look past Trump and speak to those Americans when the opportunity arose.

Trump denigrates office of president: Harris

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 30 SEPTEMBER



US Senator Kamala Harris has criticised President Donald Trump's conduct during the first night of the presidential debates as one that "denigrates the office", as she extended support to the Democratic Party's presidential nominee, saying Joe Biden understands who are important -- the American families.

"I think the American people deserve to have an ability to compare and contrast the candidates. I think tonight provided a very clear contrast. On the one hand, you have Joe Biden who looked into the camera, who spoke to the

American people continuously, who understood who was important on that stage, which is the American families," Harris told CBS News in an interview. "And then you have Donald Trump, who I think really denigrated the office of the president of the United States as much as he has done over the course of the last four years," Harris, the Democratic Party's vice presidential nominee, said.

US intel chief unveils unverified Russian info about Dems

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 30 SEPTEMBER

The Trump administration's top intelligence official said Tuesday that he has declassified Russian intelligence alleging damaging information about Democrats during the 2016 election even though he acknowledged it might not be true.

The announcement, just hours before the first presidential debate of this November's election, drew harsh criticism from lawmakers who accused National Intelligence Director John Ratcliffe of politicizing intelligence.

In a letter Tuesday to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Ratcliffe said that in late July 2016, U.S. intelligence agencies obtained insight into Russian spycraft alleging that Hillary Clinton, who was running for president, had approved a campaign plan to stir up a scandal against Trump.

But Ratcliffe added that American intelligence agencies do not know the accuracy of this allegation or the extent to which the Russian intelligence analysis may reflect exaggeration or fabrication.

Former Audi chief on trial in VW diesel emissions scandal

FRANKFURT, 30 SEPTEMBER

The former head of Volkswagen's Audi luxury car division and three others went on trial Wednesday on charges related to the company's cheating on diesel car emissions tests.

The proceedings represent the first criminal trial in Germany over the scandal that erupted five years ago and has cost the Volkswagen Group more than 32 billion euros (USD 35 billion) in fines and settlements.

Rupert Stadler and the three co-defendants are charged with fraud, false certification and criminal false advertising before a court in Munich in a trial that is scheduled to include 176 sessions lasting until Dec. 20, 2022.

The dpa news agency reported Stadler made no statement arriving at the courtroom, where the trial was to take place under anti-coronavirus measures including attendance limits and social distancing.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a notice of violation saying that Volkswagen had rigged thousands of cars to detect when the cars were on emissions test stands.

The software turned emissions controls up so that the cars could pass the test, then turned them off when the cars were driven on the street.

The result was pollution in excess of U.S. limits for nitrous oxide, which can harm people's health.

Former development executive Wolfgang Hatz and two other engineers are charged with developing 3.0-liter diesel engines for Audi, Volkswagen and Porsche that used the illegal software.

UK economy slump not as bad as feared but still a record

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 30 SEPTEMBER

The British economy did not contract as much as originally thought during the second quarter of the year when coronavirus lockdown measures were at their most intense though the slump remained the worst on record.

The Office for National Statistics said Wednesday that the British economy contracted by 19.8% in the April to June quarter from the previous three-month period, slightly less than its previous estimate of 20.4%.

However, it said the British economy contracted by more than previously thought during the first quarter, when the virus started to affect business activity before the full restrictions on businesses were introduced.

Since May, when lockdown measures started to be eased, the British economy has managed to eke out three months

of growth, which has helped it recoup around half of the output lost.

Andy Haldane, the Bank of England's chief economist, said the economy has recovered more strongly than expected and estimates that it will only be around 3-4% smaller than its pre-COVID level by the end of the third quarter, largely thanks to consumer spending.

In other words, the economy has already recovered just under 90% of its earlier losses, he said in a speech.

Against a backdrop of more than 40,000 Covid-related deaths, an extra 1 million people unemployed and perhaps a quarter of the workforce having faced a cut in their incomes, the speed and scale of this recovery in consumption is, I think, fairly remarkable, he added.

SIGHTS SET HIGH



People visit the iconic 'Angel of the North' sculpture, designed by Antony Gormley in Gateshead, northeast England on Wednesday. ■ AFP

Women's issues at UN: Still 'too low down on the agenda'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
UNHQ, 30 SEPTEMBER



Addressing the UN General Assembly last week, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina noted a milestone: the 25th anniversary of the Beijing women's conference that produced a global roadmap for gender equality and a ringing rallying cry that became part of the event's official declaration: "Women's rights are human rights."

The international community has come a long way to ensure gender equality since then, Hasina said, but we need to strengthen our resolve and mutual cooperation.

Hasina didn't really have to say more to show that there was still a long way to go. She was

one of nine women among the more than 180 presidents, premiers, monarchs and ministers who spoke at the planet's top diplomatic meeting this year. While the UN is preparing for a separate summit Thursday to mark the anniversary of the landmark female empowerment plan, women's

rights were a steady thread but hardly a top theme of leaders' remarks at the world body's signature assembly.

Some leaders took time to recall the 1995 conference, detail domestic initiatives or lament that progress toward female equality is lagging or even retreating. Rwandan

President Paul Kagame, whose country has a rare majority-female Parliament, spotlighted the Beijing conference by mentioning it just a minute into his speech.

The empowerment of women has made all of us safer and wealthier, he added, "but true gender equality has still not been attained in any country. Yet with the coronavirus pandemic showing numerous other issues out of the spotlight, many speakers gave the status of women and girls a passing mention, if any, even as the UN warns that the virus crisis is exacerbating gender inequities."

If the General Assembly

statements are a kind of snapshot into what the world is prioritising at the moment ...

this is too low down on the agenda, says Rachel Vogelstein, who runs the Council on Foreign Relations' Women and Foreign Policy Programme. I certainly understand that Covid-19 is at the top of any country's agenda at this moment," she said, "but I would argue that it's a mistake to see the participation, the economic well-being and the status of 50% of the population as a back-burner issue."

Mala Htun, a University of New Mexico political science professor who focuses on women's rights, said the UN has played an important role in spreading ideas about gender equality around the globe, but they haven't proven easy to realise even within the organisation itself, which has

yet to have a female secretary-general. The 1995 work of what was officially called the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women and Foreign Policy Programme.

I certainly understand that Covid-19 is at the top of any country's agenda at this moment," she said, "but I would argue that it's a mistake to see the participation, the economic well-being and the status of 50% of the population as a back-burner issue."

Delegates also produced a lengthy, detailed plan of action on economic issues, education, health care, political inclusion and more.

In the years since, there have been important gains in girls' enrollment in primary school,

maternal mortality and legal protections against violence and discrimination, according to the UN. There are 21 female presidents and prime ministers worldwide, about twice as many as in 1995. The proportion of women in national legislatures has more than doubled since 1995, to nearly 25%, according to statistics compiled by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an independent group.

Yet women's participation in the workforce has dropped since 1995, according to the World Bank. More than a third of female 15-to-24-year-olds aren't in school, jobs or training, more than twice the proportion of their male counterparts. U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed noted at an event



Just another form of moderation?

The creation of an Oversight Board by Facebook raises key questions about its democratic legitimacy, writes ASHIT KUMAR SRIVASTAVA

The recent creation of the Facebook Oversight Board (FOB) as a separate body by Facebook (FB) is a staggering growth for private administrative law. When I say this I mean inclusion of FOB into the working of FB is a drastic step from an administrative law perspective. The social media giant suddenly has its own 'Supreme Court like model' which was never perceived in the early 21st century.

The FOB would be working separately from FB. Under the charter made by Facebook, the board will consist of diverse members across the globe working independently and would be funded by a trust (Oversight Board Trust & creation of Oversight Board Limited Liability Corporation)

created by FB. The main area of jurisdiction for the FOB would be to adjudicate the moderation decision made by the artificial intelligence-driven moderation mechanism of Facebook, or its human-driven mechanism. Moderation here means the act of striking down a post on grounds of it violating any of the Community Standards of the company.

Any user not happy with the decision of the company for removing his/her post may make an appeal. However, it is not necessary that the appeal would be heard by the FOB. As the jurisdiction of the board is limited to cases accepted by the Case-Selection Committee (made by the board out of their own members vide clauses

1.2 and 1.2.1 of the bylaws of the Board), it will cover a very small number of the posts removed by Facebook.

However, the purpose of the board is not only to decide a few cases but to set down examples having precedential value for future decisions to be taken by FB and the Board (refer to Article 2 clause 2 of the Charter). Additionally, apart from the appellate jurisdiction, the board will also give recommendations to FB on policy matters (the board can give policy guidance to FB on request made by FB; refer to article 1 of the charter of Facebook Oversight Board). The decision of the board will be binding upon FB and the company will implement it promptly unless the application of the

decision will lead to violation of any law (refer to Article 4 of the Charter).

However, the matter of interest for our analysis would be the jurisprudential novelty which this concept brings in, the fact that an outside body will be deciding questions of moderation for the social media giant says a lot about the sort of Constitutionalism transpiring within it. The classical source of Constitutionalism (that is the will of the people) has been the judicial organ of the State.

India has been a great example, where Supreme Court of India has taken deliberate steps to consolidate the cause of Constitutionalism. Be it the Keshavanda Bharti case, Maneka Gandhi case, Indira Gandhi case or the I.R. Coelho case, the judicial branch of the State in modern parlance has played the exquisite role of limiting the power of the executive (the modern-day king). And it would not be wrong to expect something similar to this

approach by the Board as the FOB would seek to limit excessive interference with posts by Facebook.

However, what lies beneath this power of adjudication of FOB is the commitment of Facebook as an organization to the tenet of Free Speech. Being a US organization, the company represents commitment to the American ethos of Free Speech. Therefore, if any post has been axed by A.I. or the human moderator, it still can find place on the walls of FB through the help of FOB.

But the core question pertaining to FOB would be regarding its democratic legitimacy, and why any decision of FOB would be regarded legitimate and not simply an extension of the moderation mechanism of Facebook. In our legalized civil society, the role of judiciary is seen with utmost reverence because we not only see the judiciary as a dispute-resolving mechanism but as a negotiating venue for an

individual with the Government; where if an individual has a grievance against excesses of the Government he can approach the Court.

The kind of moral and legal legitimacy that the Indian Judiciary, especially the Supreme Court harnesses for itself is unparalleled in any other Common law country. The reasons are that, first, the Indian judiciary is part of the State; second, after the coming of collegium appointment process of judges of the Supreme Court, the kind of independence that the judiciary has procured is unmatched in any other country and, thirdly, after origin of the Doctrine of Basic Structure, the Supreme Court has been able to create a rights-friendly image for itself across South-Asia. Therefore, not only does the Supreme Court have a democratic legitimacy, but also moral legitimacy.

The FOB, once it becomes fully functional would have 40 members on its board. Twenty of the members have already been selected and they represent great diversity and are people of integrity (among the 20 selected members are Prof. Sudhir Krishnaswamy from India, Professor Katherine Chen from Taiwan and other reputable members). The FOB well and truly will be able to draw moral legitimacy; however, it falls short of getting democratic legitimacy (which is possible only through the medium of democratic representation).

FOB seems like a good concept knowing that the recent past of Facebook has been controversial mostly in democratic countries and with its unsavory relation with hate speech. While the FOB might be a step towards image rebuilding, yet it adopts a selective path for its work. While the primary work of FOB would be to safeguard free speech, yet the history of Facebook tells us it is not what the content moderation of FB deletes that creates controversy. Rather it is what it allows. Of late, Facebook has been blamed for the uneven application of its Community Standards, where it deletes certain posts (violating its hate speech community standard) while not applying the same standard on other groups. This uneven application of Community Standards by FB has drawn ire against the company across Asia, Brazil and Europe. Therefore, creation of FOB should not be regarded as a mere coincidence. The board is just another mechanism for Content Moderation, deciding what stays and what does not.

The more fruitful role for the Board would be to be an ethical voice for the company and bring regulations which will bring an essence of 'Rule of law' in the application of the Community Standards, which as the charter suggests might be one of the criteria on which the board will be working upon, especially when giving policy guidelines to FB.

The writer is Assistant Professor of Law, National Law University, Jabalpur.

ADVISORY ROLE OF THE SUPREME COURT

While the jurisdictional scope of the apex court has allowed it to play a key role, its advisory functions have sometimes stirred debate, writes NIRMALENDU BIKASH RAKSHIT

Our Constitution has provided for a unified and integrated judiciary and the Supreme Court lies at the apex of the pyramidal structure. As such, it has enormous power of paramount importance. As the highest court, it settles all the major disputes of the land, keeps the balance between the Union and the states of the federation, interprets the law, keeps all judicial records, protects the Fundamental Rights of citizens and acts as the guardian of the Constitution. In order that it can perform its tasks freely, it has been carefully separated from two other branches of the Government.

In fact, it has three types of jurisdiction – Original, appellate and advisory.

Original jurisdiction – In this area, it deals with two types of cases:

i) if two or more Governments are at loggerheads, the case is to be settled by its verdict (Art. 31); and,

ii) if an aggrieved person seeks a legal remedy for the violation of fundamental rights, he can straightway appear before it (Art. 32).

Appellate Jurisdiction – It covers three types of cases:

1) Constitutional cases – if a case involves a substantial question as to the interpretation of the Constitution, it may be laid before it against the verdict of the High Court.

2) Civil cases (Art. 132) – such a case may be brought before it if –

a) it involves an important question of public importance; or

b) the High Court desires that it

should be settled by the apex court.

3) Criminal cases (Art. 133) – An appeal may lie at this Court if –

a) the High Court has, on an appeal, reversed the order of acquittal of an accused and has sentenced him to death; or

b) it has withdrawn a case from a subordinate court and has pronounced death sentence; or

c) it certifies that the case is a fit one for appeal to the apex court.

Moreover, the apex court has, under Art. 136, the right to grant 'special leave' of appeal to any case from every court of India.

The apex court of any country badly needs such wide powers and our Constitution has wisely admitted it. But a heated controversy has centered round its Advisory Jurisdiction. As Art. 143 lays down, if at any time, the President thinks that a crucial question of 'law or fact' has arisen or is likely to arise, he/she may seek the opinion of the Supreme Court. Of course, it is merely an advisory affair. The Court is not at all bound to tender such advice, and similarly, the President has the right to reject it totally.

Our Presidents have so far sought its advice on the following issues –

- 1) Delhi laws Act;
- 2) Kerala Education Bill (1950);
- 3) Berubari issue (1960).
- 4) UP Legislature v. High Court (1964);
- 5) Special Court Bill (1978) and
- 6) Presidential Election.

But, as pointed out earlier, Art. 143, has evoked a bitter controversy.



First, Dr VD Mahajan opines that the main task of this Court is to settle disputes of concrete nature and not to act as the adviser of the President. Particularly, if it is asked to give advice on an abstract question of law, the interests of the future litigants may be unduly prejudiced.

Secondly, the President may seek advice even on a political affair. It means that there is a chance of involving the judiciary in a non-legal issue. It surely goes against the spirit of the democratic system.

Thirdly, Dr AC Kapur points out that no court of India is technically bound by the advisory opinion of the apex court. So, if, on such an issue, a court gives its verdict in a different way, it will turn the chaos into a crisis.

Fourthly, if the President ever asks for advice from the apex court and, then rejects it, it will create an embarrassing situation. Such a matter will be inconsistent with and derogatory to the exalted status of the Supreme Court. As Dr SC Kashyap writes, the President is free to accept or reject the advice. If it is so, then, why should he seek such advice from such a respectable and dignified authority?

But there is another school of thought. First, it is pointed out that our Constitution has not brought about a novel revolution by inserting Art. 143. The Constitution of Canada too contains such a provision in it. Even Sec 4 of the Government of India Act, 1935, granted such statutory authority to the Federal Court. The Vardachariar Com-

mittee, in its long report, mentioned this fact and opined that 'it will be, on the whole, better to continue this jurisdiction under the new Constitution.'

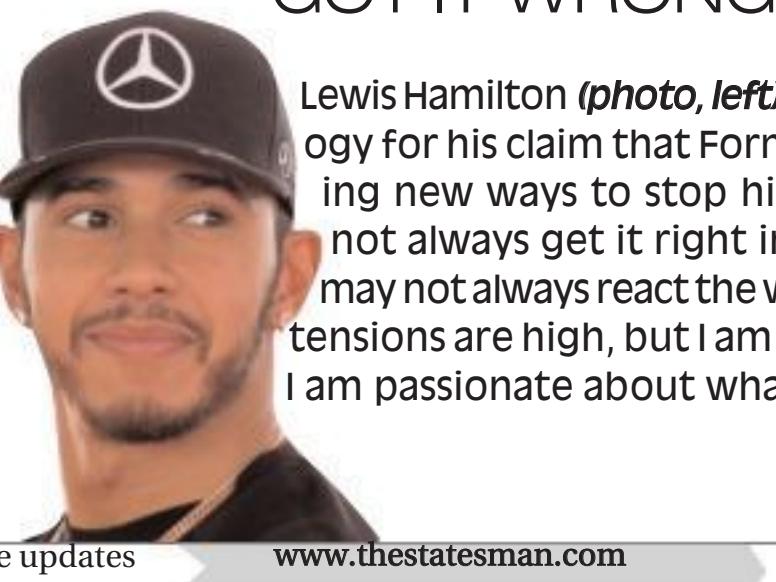
Secondly, DD Basil, the eminent writer, thinks that such a jurisdiction may have some beneficial effects. An issue may severely stir the entire country and may need to be settled without any delay. If the apex court gives its advice on it, the controversy is sure to come to an end without any legal conflict. As Dr BC Rout believes, it is expected that such advice will be accepted by all and sundry.

Thirdly, it is held that sometimes it so happens that a law which has been in force for many years is subsequently declared void by a court. It means that some people had been forced to

suffer by such law. But if the apex court had been consulted beforehand, the agony of many people could have been avoidable.

Thus, the provision, like a coin, has two sides. But it may be pointed out the experience of Canada and India has been hopeful. Due to the existence of such jurisdiction, the apex courts of these countries have rendered signal service by showing the beacon light to the executive. It may, sometimes, involve the apex court in political affairs. But this jurisdiction can promptly settle some disputes by avoiding the weary movement of many people from the labyrinth of one court to another.

The writer is a Griffith Prizeman, Author and Former Reader, New Alipore College, Kolkata.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Cirillo quits: The Indian men's hockey team's analytical coach Chris Cirillo has resigned, a Sports Authority of India source said. Success colours: KL Rahul still holds the Orange Cap while Kagiso Rabada has taken the Purple one from Mohammad Shami following the end of Monday's Indian Premier League 2020 clash between SunRisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals, the IPL said.

New skills: Asian Games gold medalist Vikas Krishan said that he is looking to incorporate some new skills into his repertoire from professional boxing before returning to the amateur arena in time for the Tokyo Olympics. His experience in pro boxing will help him, he says.

Coaches' course: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu will take part in the first online goalkeeping introductory course next month. The three-day course will kick off on 2 October. Thirty selected candidates from among 200 applicants will participate in the programme.

Asian record: Zhang Yufei broke the Asian record in the women's 100m butterfly in 55.62 sec at the Chinese national championships on Tuesday. Zhang was 0.45 second faster than the former record-holder, Olympic champion Liu Zige, who held it for 11 years.

Spurs win: Tottenham Hotspur overcame visitors Chelsea 5-4 in a penalty shootout to progress in the League Cup following a 1-1 home draw in their fourth-round clash on Tuesday. Chelsea's Mason Mount struck the post to miss the decisive fifth penalty.

Big deal: Manchester City announced the signing of Portuguese international back Ruben Dias on a six-year deal from Benfica on Tuesday. Benfica on Sunday confirmed that they had reached an agreement to sell Dias for £68 million plus £3.6 million in potential bonuses.

Dope doc: A German doctor accused of plotting an international blood-doping network dismantled last year admitted on Tuesday to helping athletes undergo transfusions to boost performance. Mark Schmidt said he had started to aid individuals in 2012.

Table tennis: The 2023 World Table Tennis Championships will be staged in Durban, South Africa, the first time since 1939 the tournament has been staged in Africa. Durban beat Dusseldorf 90-39 in a vote by members of the International Table Tennis Federation.

Changes likely: World Athletics paved the way for changes to competition formats at the world championships or the Olympic Games when it published its 2020 list of regulations and competitions. The two major meetings were previously bound by convention.

Positive test: Liverpool's new signing Thiago Alcantara has tested positive for Covid-19 and is self-isolating with minor symptoms, the Premier League champions said. The Spaniard from Bayern Munich and made his debut in their 2-0 win over Chelsea on Wednesday. The SAI, with which the Australian has signed his employment contract, has yet to accept the resignation, though.

Logo unveiled: Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday unveiled the new Sports Authority of India (SAI) logo, which has been changed for the first time since the apex sports body's inception in 1982. The new logo highlights 'SAI' in bold letters with depiction of an athlete's flight to success in the background.

'GOT IT WRONG'

Lewis Hamilton (*photo, left*) has offered a veiled apology for his claim that Formula One bosses are finding new ways to stop him from winning. "I may not always get it right in the face of adversity. I may not always react the way you want me to when tensions are high, but I am only human after all and I am passionate about what I do," he says.

THE INDEPENDENT & AGENCIES

PARIS, 30 SEPTEMBER

Spanish tennis player Fernando Verdasco (*in photo*) has announced his intention to sue the French Open organisers after he was forced to withdraw from the tournament after a positive coronavirus test which he insists was not accurate.

Verdasco, the world number 59, pulled out of the final Grand Slam of the year in Paris on Thursday, along with five other players including Canada's Milos Raonic and Switzerland's Belinda Bencic, after giving a positive test.

The 36-year-old Spaniard said he had tested positive in August without symptoms and had returned several negative tests

before heading to Paris for the tournament.

Verdasco asked for another test but his request was turned down. He has given a negative result since withdrawing.

"Yes, evidently I want to sue. No-one can believe that a tournaments such as Roland Garros can do this, it cannot be like this," he told Spanish radio station Cadena Ser on Tuesday.

"This isn't about money, it's about the damage that has been done to me personally and professionally." The French Open did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Bosnia's Damir Dzumhur had previously announced his plans to sue the organisers after he was expelled from the tournament after his coach



Petar Popovic tested positive. Since Dzumhur and Verdasco were barred from competing, the organisers have said that the local health authority ruled on Friday that if a player

could prove with a "documented file approved by experts" that they already have been infected by the coronavirus, they would not be considered "contagious" and therefore

would not be ejected from the tournament. Verdasco said the rule change had only made him more angry, adding he was not sure if he wanted to play again in 2020.

"I don't know if I'm going to play again this year or not because I don't have any enthusiasm to play any more. They (French Open organisers) do whatever they like, with no coherence and no respect," he added. "The rights of the players count for nothing. You can imagine my anger, it's incredible, they showed a huge lack of respect to a player who has spent the last 16 years competing at Roland Garros."

"And then the next day, after I have been left out of the draw, they change the rules and now you can do a second test. That

was the final straw."

Referrals demanded

Kristina Mladenovic called for a football-style VAR system to be introduced in tennis after her Roland Garros opponent profited from a double bounce to help knock the Frenchwoman out of her home Grand Slam on Tuesday. Mladenovic was 5-1 up and with a set point against Laura Siegemund when the German scooped up a winner despite the ball appearing to bounce twice. The incident was missed by chair umpire Eva Asderaki. World number 44 Mladenovic pleaded in vain before Siegemund took full advantage, racing into the next round with a 7-5, 6-3 win. "It would be great to have that," said

Mladenovic when asked if video replays should be introduced in tennis. "It'd be a pity to replace a human with a camera but to err is human. I don't see how the umpire could not see it. Unfortunately, she continues at Roland Garros but I do not." It was a second successive miserable Grand Slam for the 27-year-old Frenchwoman who was withdrawn from the doubles at the US Open earlier this month in a row over the coronavirus. Despite her disappointment, Mladenovic refused to blame Siegemund for not calling the incident on herself. "Well, she would have been the best and most fair player on the tour if she would have done that. Unfortunately, she didn't. I didn't expect her to do it," added Mladenovic.

Verdasco to sue French Open after positive test row

MI, KXIP look to move on after losses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI, 30 SEPTEMBER

Coming off heart-breaking losses, the Indian Premier League game between Mumbai Indians and Kings XI Punjab will be a test of character for both sides as they look to regain momentum here on Thursday.

KXIP were at the receiving end of the highest successful run-chase in the tournament history as Rajasthan Royals overhauled a target of 224 with three balls to spare on Sunday.

While Kieron Pollard and Ishan Kishan led a remarkable fight-back, chasing 202, before Mumbai went down to Royal Challengers Bangalore in a Super Over.

Defending champions Mumbai Indians lost their opening game but bounced back to beat Kolkata Knight Riders. However, Rohit Sharma's men failed to cross the line against RCB.

Similarly, after losing to Delhi Capitals in their opener, KXIP came back strongly to register their first points by defeating RCB. But, despite a fabulous batting display, they lost to Rajasthan.

KXIP have failed to tighten the screws when it mattered most. In their two losses, they were in a good position but could not grab the moments.

Their bowling looked out of sorts against Rajasthan as they failed to defend a big total with Rahul Tewatia hitting pacer Sheldon Cottrell for five sixes in an over to win the match for his team.

Even Mohammed Shami (3/53), who has been in brilliant form prior to that onslaught, was taken to the cleaners. Barring an economical spell by leggie Ravi Bishnoi (0/34), the other KXIP bowlers had an off day against Rajasthan.

Skipper KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal have made inspiring starts this season, hitting a century and a fifty

each, and getting the duo early will be the key for Mumbai.

Against Rajasthan, the pair shared a 183-run opening stand with Agarwal scoring his maiden ton while Rahul, fresh from recording the highest

score by an Indian in IPL history, hit a 54-ball 69.

Mumbai Indians are blessed with a splendid batting firepower with the likes of Rohit, Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan at the top-order, followed by the big-hitting Pollard and Hardik Pandya.

A major cause of concern for them will be pace ace Jasprit Bumrah's inconsistency. The speedster has picked up only three wickets in as many games and has failed to make the kind of impact that is expected from a bowler of his calibre.

Mumbai, though, will have the psychological advantage having played a game before.

The squads: Kings XI Punjab: KL Rahul (c), Mayank Agarwal, Sheldon Cottrell, Chris Gayle, Glenn Maxwell, Mohammed Shami, Majeed Ur Rahman, Karun Nair, James Neesham, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Ishan

Porel, Arshdeep Singh, Murugan Ashwin, Krishnappa

Gowtham, Harpreet Brar, Deepak Hooda, Chris Jordan, Sarfaraz Khan, Mandeep Singh, Darshan Nalkande, Ravi Bishnoi, Simran Singh (wk), Jagadeesha Suchith, Tajinder Singh, Hardus Viljoen.

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

Dedicate this man of the match to my parents: Rashid

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

ABU DHABI, 30 SEPTEMBER



An emotional Rashid Khan (*in photo*) on Tuesday dedicated his player of the match award to his parents. Rashid recorded figures of 3/14 as SunRisers Hyderabad beat Delhi Capitals by 15 runs.

The 22-year-old Rashid's mother died in June and his father died in December 2018. "Tough one and a half years for me, first lost my dad and then my mom three-four months ago. This performance and award goes to both of them," said Rashid in the post-match presentation ceremony.

"My mom was the biggest fan of cricket and IPL. She was always watching me and enjoying my cricket. Especially when I won a man of the match, whole night she would talk to me. That is something I am missing a lot. Their best memories are always with me but, yes, a tough few years for me." Rashid had lacklustre outings in the last two matches, both of which SRH lost. On Tuesday, however, Rashid was pivotal in

SRH's win, dismissing Shikhar Dhawan, DC captain Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant, all three of whom were important wickets as SRH defended a target of 163. "I think I don't take pressure on myself that I have to create impact. I keep calm and cool and focused on what I have to do. I look to do the basics right, and enjoy the game," he said.

"When I bowled the first ball, I knew if I bowl quicker and harder, you could get turn. Then you have to bowl the length, a bit back of a length. The captain (David Warner) always backs me, and he tells me you know better. So he tells me let me know what you want. Only if things are not going my way do you go to ask the captain what to do."

With Gill looking well set for

a second successive fifty, Archer was reintroduced in the 12th over and he dismissed the set opener straightaway with a leading edge. In his next over, Archer dismissed Karthik (1) -- after the Royals opted to field. With Archer triggering a mid-innings collapse, the big-hitting Andre Russell (24 from 14) too was dismissed cheaply and it was left to England World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan (23-ball 34 not out) to stay till the end.

Archer bowled the first over of the match and there was full pace in display in the range of 145-150 kph mark and it needed Gill's brilliance to see him off.

With Gill looking well set for

Serena pulls out of French Open with hurt Achilles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PARIS, 30 SEPTEMBER

Saying she is struggling to walk, Serena Williams (*in photo*) ended her latest bid for a 24th Grand Slam title and withdrew from the French Open before her second-round match Wednesday because of an injured Achilles heel.

Williams hurt herself during her semifinal loss at the US Open three weeks ago and said she hasn't had enough time to properly heal and needs four to six weeks of sitting.

The sudden announcement came roughly an hour before the 39-year-old American was supposed to head out onto Court Philippe Chatrier to face Tsvetana Pironkova.

Williams said it is more than likely she will not play another tournament in 2020. She said she tried warming up for the match but knew she wasn't able to compete. She spoke to coach Patrick Mouratoglou and, she said, We kind of both thought about it and we decided it wasn't the best for me to try and play today.

This is Williams' earliest

exit at any Grand Slam tournament since a second-round loss in Paris in 2014.

She also pulled out of the French Open in 2018 prior to what would have been a fourth-round match against Maria Sharapova, citing a pulled muscle in her chest.

Now the question becomes when the world will see Williams compete next.

Nadal on course for 13th title

It was business as usual as Rafa Nadal continued his quest for a record-extending 13th French Open title with a 6-16-

0 6-3 crushing of American Mackenzie McDonald on Wednesday to reach the third round.

The Spanish second seed, also looking to equal Roger Federer's record of 20 men's singles titles, was finally promoted up to No. 5 but the star Jamaican became victim of Ankit Rajpoot while trying to accelerate the scoring rate. Russell's wicket meant KKR lost four wickets for 33 runs in the back-10 and with KKR playing with an extra bowler, it was left to Morgan to prop up the total.

Archer-inspired Royals restrict KKR to 174/6

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 30 SEPTEMBER

Kolkata Knight Riders found a fast and furious Jofra Archer (*in photo*) too hot to handle as they were restricted to 174 for six by Rajasthan Royals in their IPL match here on Wednesday.

Archer (2/18) hit the deck hard and clocked the fastest delivery of the tournament (152.1 kph) in a fiery spell, taking two key wickets of KKR -- in-form opener Shubman Gill (47 from 34 balls) and skipper Dinesh Karthik (1) -- after the Royals opted to field. With Archer triggering a mid-innings collapse, the big-hitting Andre Russell (24 from 14) too was dismissed cheaply and it was left to England World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan (23-ball 34 not out) to stay till the end.

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