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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

# The Sunday Statesman



THE GINSBURG  
SPIRIT



NAWAZ LAUNCHES A  
CRAFTY ASSAULT



BORIS UPBEAT ON E.U.  
TRADE DEAL BEFORE  
KEY TALKS



BUTTLER WANTS  
TO MAKE THE  
DESERT BOOM

P6

P7

P10

P12

## WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 36 and 20 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 91% Min: 34%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 36.1°C (+2) Min: 20.3°C (-1)

SUN RISES

06:16 hrs

MOON RISES

19:40 hrs

SUN SETS

18:03 hrs

MOON SETS

09:01 hrs

## THUMBNAILS



US President Donald Trump (C) walks off Marine One while arriving at Walter Reed Medical Center in Maryland on Saturday. AFP

**Trump condition:** President Donald Trump went through a "very concerning" period Friday and the next 48 hours will be critical in terms of his care as he battles the coronavirus at a military hospital, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said Saturday. The comments came after it was revealed that Trump was administered supplemental oxygen Friday morning at the White House before he was transported to the hospital, although staff insisted he had only mild symptoms. P10

**Kashmir fake encounter victims:** The bodies of three cousins belonging to Rajouri in Jammu who were killed in a "fake encounter" in south Kashmir's Shopian were exhumed after more than two months from a graveyard on Saturday and handed over to their families. The three men killed in an encounter at Amshipura in July were described as unidentified terrorists and their bodies were buried in a graveyard in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. The police last week said the DNA samples of the three victims matched with their family members. P5

## Rahul, Priyanka meet Hathras victim's family

UP govt's SIT completes preliminary probe, media allowed into village

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW/HATHRAS,  
3 OCTOBER



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at DND in the Capital on the way to Hathras in UP on Saturday. DEEPAK

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday evening met the family of the Hathras victim, declaring they will fight for justice to the Dalit woman who died after being allegedly gang-raped.

We will fight against injustice, and fight till justice is done, Priyanka Gandhi told reporters after the meeting that lasted about 45 minutes.

Rahul Gandhi said no power can stifle the voice of the family.

Uttar Pradesh authorities had scuttled an earlier attempt by the two leaders to travel to Hathras, detaining them and several party workers in Greater Noida outside Delhi on Thursday.

On Saturday, the Congress staged another demonstration at the Delhi-Noida border, where Congress workers scuffled with police and were allegedly lathi-charged.

When a delegation of Congress MPs and other



Mamata Banerjee leading a TMC-organised rally protesting against UP rape case in Kolkata on Saturday. SNS

leaders reached the barricades, the Noida police said they will allow only five party representatives to meet the family at their village in Hathras, about 150 km away.

The 19-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped on September 14 in an assault by four men that left her critically injured. She died at a Delhi hospital last Tuesday.

Villagers gathered outside as the Congress leaders entered the family's home. Some were seen on the rooftops nearby, waiting to catch a glimpse of the 19-year-old woman.

While high drama unfolded in the national capital and the case continued to find wide resonance, a Hathras administration official said the Special Investigation Team had completed its preliminary probe into the death and alleged gangrape of the 19-year-old woman.

Ending a two-day stand-off, the administration removed barricades outside her village to allow the media to meet her family.

But scores of police personnel in riot gear lined up at the Delhi-Noida Direct flyway to prevent the Congress convoy from moving

Congress leaders.

UP Congress leaders Pradeep Mathur told PTI that K C Venugopal, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Mukul Wasnik accompanied the Gandhi on the visit.

There was heavy security presence outside the family home.

Earlier, Rahul and Priyanka were allowed to proceed towards Hathras following a massive show of party strength and some scuffles at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border.

Villagers gathered outside as the Congress leaders entered the family's home. Some were seen on the rooftops nearby, waiting to catch a glimpse of the 19-year-old woman.

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UP govt seeks CBI probe into Hathras case

LUCKNOW, 3 OCTOBER

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday recommended a CBI probe into the death of a 19-year-old Dalit woman who was allegedly gangraped in Hathras, officials said.

The development comes within hours of Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi and Director General of Police H C Awasthi meeting the victim's family at her home. The chief minister has ordered that a probe should be done by the CBI into the complete Hathras case, the chief minister's office tweeted.

Reacting to the announcement, the family members of the victim said they want a Supreme Court-monitored inquiry. PTI

to Hathras, about 180 km away.

Eventually, as swarms of Congress workers and others jostled with each other amid loud honking, slogans and Congress flags fluttering in the air, the Gautam Buddh Nagar Police finally allowed five people, including Rahul Gandhi, to go to Hathras.

Congress workers, some of whom described what happened as brutal repression, claimed police used batons to disperse the crowd. (SEE INSIDE PAGES)

## India's defence interests compromised by previous govt: Modi

ARCHANA PHULL  
MANALI, 3 OCTOBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the majestic Atal Tunnel, beneath Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district, would serve as a lifeline for Leh-Ladakh and would give new strength to India's border infrastructure.

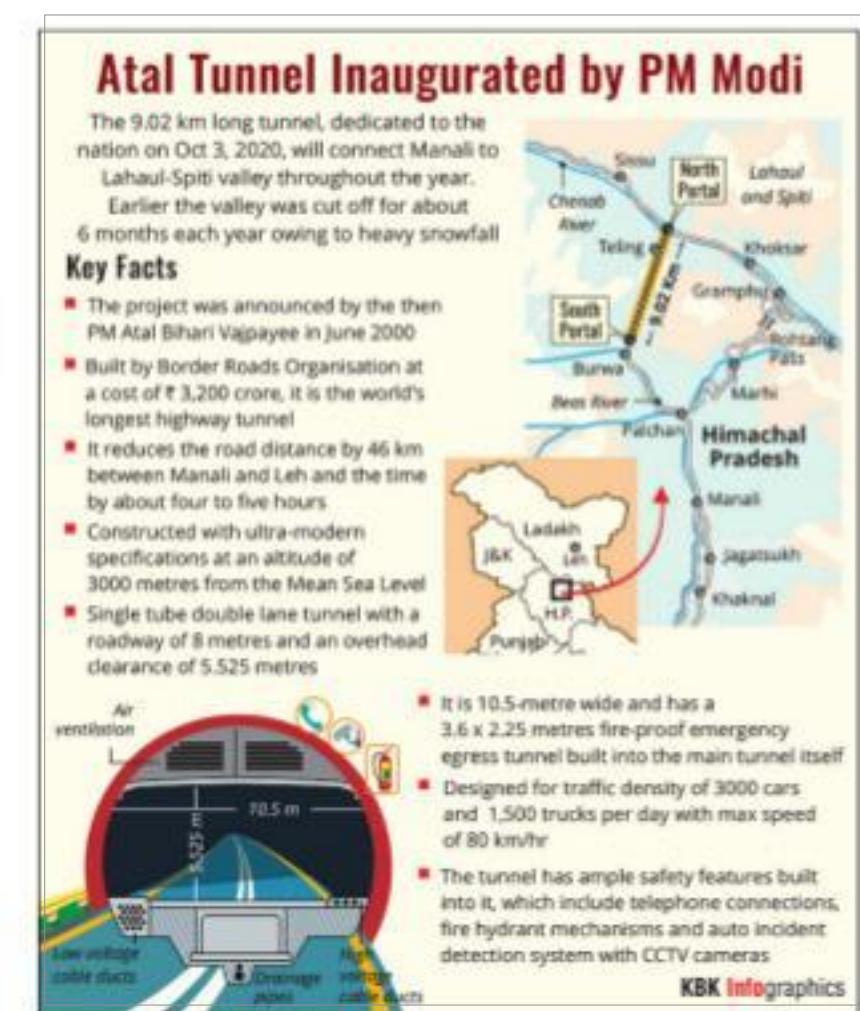
Addressing a function after inaugurating the all-weather Atal tunnel from its South portal towards Manali, the Prime Minister said the tunnel, which connects Manali with Lahaul valley of HP en route to Leh and is the longest in the world at this altitude (10,000 feet), is an example of world-class border connectivity.

Modi said there have been demands to improve border infrastructure in the entire country. However, for decades, the projects of strategic importance were delayed deliberately. "These projects could either not come to the planning stage or got stuck in files," he said.

"They compromised on security concerns of the country, whether it was about procurement of modern fighter planes, procurement of ammunition, modern rifles, bulletproof jackets, winter equipment or anything else," he added.

Modi said one of the top priorities of his government is to strengthen the country's international border on all sides, along with taking care of the needs of the security forces. In the last six years the border infrastructure - be it roads, bridges or tunnels - is being developed with full impetus and great speed, he said.

The Prime Minister said that such border connectivity projects will also aid the security forces in ensuring regular supplies to them and also in their patrolling. Modi noted that former



overnment had no will to do so," he said.

Praising the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for completing the challenging task of constructing the tunnel in tough terrain, Modi said the Atal tunnel is going to be a lifeline for a large part of Himachal Pradesh as well as the new Union Territory of Ladakh and would reduce the distance between Manali and Keylong by 3-4 hours. He added that tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh will be connected with the rest of the country and would witness speedier economic progress.

The Prime Minister said that such border connectivity projects will also aid the security forces in ensuring regular supplies to them and also in their patrolling. Modi noted that former

Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee laid the foundation of the approach road for this tunnel in 2002. He said after the Vajpayee government, the work was so neglected that till 2013-14, only 300 metres of tunnel was built each year. "If the construction of the tunnel had continued at the earlier pace, it would have completed in 2040," he said.

He said his government fast-tracked the project and the construction went on at a speed of 1400 metres each year. He said the project could be completed in 6 years. Modi said in 2005, the estimated cost for the construction of the tunnel was about Rs 900 crore. But due to continuous delays, today it has been completed after spending more than 3 times i.e. 3200 crore rupees.

SEE ALSO PAGE 4

## India's Covid-19 tally over 64 lakh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

With a spike of 79,476 fresh cases, India's Covid-19 tally surged past 64 lakh on Saturday, the health ministry data showed.

India's tally mounted to 64,73,544 cases, with 1,00,842 deaths, as of Saturday morning, the health ministry data indicated. Apart from 79,476 fresh coronavirus cases, 1,069 deaths were added to the tally in the last 24 hours.

Exactly a month ago, India had recorded 67,376 cases.

Out of the total cases, 9,44,996 are currently active, 54,27,706 have been discharged. While the recovery rate stands at 83.84 per cent, the fatality rate has come down further to 1.56 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

A PTI tally compiled on the basis of figures reported by states and Union territories, meanwhile, put the total number of cases at 65,38,865, and



The cumulative Covid case count rose to 2,87,930 while the coronavirus death toll mounted to 5,472. (SEE P2)

## Loan moratorium: Govt agrees to waive compound interest for 6 mths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

In a relief to individual borrowers and medium and small industries, the Centre has agreed in the Supreme Court to waive compound interest (interest on interest) charged on loans of up to ₹ 2 crores for a six-month moratorium period announced due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It said the government will seek due authorisation from Parliament for making appropriate grants in this regard and the endeavour shall be over and above the support of ₹ 3.7 lakh crore to MSMEs, ₹ 70,000 crore for home loans etc. already extended through the Garib Kalyan and Atma Nirbhar packages announced by government earlier.

In an affidavit filed by the Union finance ministry, it said that the relief to all bor-

rowers in respect of compounding of interest during the moratorium period would be admissible to the categories specified irrespective of whether the borrowers had availed the moratorium or not

rowers in respect of compounding of interest during the period of moratorium would be admissible to the categories specified irrespective of whether the borrowers had availed the moratorium or not.

The government, therefore, has decided that the relief on waiver of compound interest during the six-month moratorium period shall be limited to the most vulnerable category of borrowers. This cat-

egory of borrowers, in whose case, the compounding of interest will be waived, would be MSME loans and personal loans of up to ₹ 2 crore, it said.

The loans were categorised into eight categories by the government including MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), education, housing, consumer durable, credit card dues, auto, personal, and consumption. It said that any individual/entity whose loan amount is more than ₹ 2 crore will not be eligible for waiver of the compounding of interest. The affidavit was filed by the Centre in response to a batch of pleas in the court raising issues pertaining to validity of RBI's March 27 circular which allowed lending institutions to grant moratorium on payment of instalments of term loans falling due between March 1, 2020 and May 31 this year due to the pandemic.

The government, therefore, has decided that the relief on waiver of compound interest during the six-month moratorium period shall be limited to the most vulnerable category of borrowers. This cat-

egory of borrowers, in whose case, the compounding of interest will be waived, would be MSME loans and personal loans of up to ₹ 2 crore, it said.

Earlier, in the matter, the Centre had told the court that waiver of interest on deferred EMIs during moratorium period would be against the basic canons of finance and unfair to those who repaid loans on schedule.

The Centre in the fresh affidavit said that waiving compound interest would result in very substantial and significant financial burden and it is impossible for the banks to bear the burden without passing on the financial impact to the depositors or affecting their net worth adversely, which would not be in the larger national economic interest. It said that the only solution under the circumstances is that the government bears the burden resulting from waiver of compound interest.

MORE ON PAGE 8

Sushant's death case of suicide:  
AIIMS board



*A dictatorship is going on across the country. Instead of government for the people, it is running a government against the people, the Dalits and the farmers*

MAMATA BANERJEE  
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

# Delhi records 2,258 fresh Corona cases, 34 deaths

The city's Covid situation is 'better', daily cases now show a downward trend, says health minister Jain

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

Delhi today logged 2,258 new coronavirus infection (Covid-19) cases, recording 34 fresh coronavirus fatalities, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The number of tests conducted in the city to identify this relatively lower tally of Covid cases was however significantly lesser ~ at 39,306 ~ than the average nearly 60,000 tests per day being conducted now.

Of these 39,306 tests, 8,844 were RTPCR/CBNAAT/TruNet tests and 30,462 were rapid antigen tests.

This was the second consecutive day that the national capital reported less than 3,000 new cases.

Delhi reportedly logged 2,920 new Covid cases yesterday, 3,037 on Thursday, 3,390 on Wednesday, 3,227 on Tuesday, and 1,984 cases on Monday.

The cumulative Covid case count rose to 2,87,930 while the coronavirus death toll mounted to 5,472, the health bulletin reportedly said.

The national capital yesterday recorded 37 deaths due to coronavirus infection. It had reported 40 coronavirus fatalities on 1 October and had taken into account 41 fatalities on 30 September.

On 29 September, Delhi had recorded 48 Covid deaths — the highest number of fatalities recorded in a day



**The number of tests conducted in the city to identify this relatively lower tally of Covid cases was however significantly lesser ~ at 39,306 ~ than the average nearly 60,000 tests per day being conducted now.**

since 16 July when the city had logged 58 such deaths. Of the total Covid cases

recorded in Delhi so far, 2,57,224 patients have recovered so far, with the recovery rate now climbing to 89.33 per cent, the bulletin stated.

The health authorities have conducted about 4.74 lakh Covid tests over the last 10 days.

The case positivity rate during the last 24 hours was 6.48 per cent while the cumulative positivity rate was 9.45

per cent. The average death rate for the last 10 days stood at 0.94 per cent.

The number of active Covid cases in the city decreased to 25,234 today from yesterday's 26,450. The number of containment or red zones rose to 2,658 today.

Meanwhile, Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain reportedly said that the Covid situation in the city was currently "far better" as compared to the September scenario and that the daily cases have begun to show a downward trend.

Delhi was then at number two but has now come down to the sixth spot in the country in terms of the number of Covid cases, Jain told reporters.

The minister iterated that the Delhi government had significantly ramped up testing capacity due to which a rise in Covid cases was recorded for a long period in September.

"But now cases have begun to come down and it has sort of stabilised. Also, the positivity rate has fallen to less than 5.5 per cent from 8.5-9 per cent recorded earlier. So the situation is far better now," he said.

The number of tests conducted and corresponding fresh cases reported in Delhi reportedly ranged from 24,198 (2,312) on 1 September to 61,973 (4,071) on 19 September.

On India crossing the one lakh-mark in terms of Covid deaths, Jain pointed out that it is a "grim milestone".

"If those injuries were caused by the revisionist

## Court upholds order for FIR against cop in 'fake encounter'

PTI

NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

The magistrate court had in 2015 directed the police to lodge an FIR against then constable Baljit for allegedly killing one Amit Dahiya, while the latter was fleeing after robbing a car. Additional Sessions Judge Jitendra Kumar Mishra said there was no infirmity in the 2015 order. The court also referred to the post-mortem report of Dahiya and observed that there were 14 injuries on his body and some of them required further explanation.

During the hearing, advocate Sandeep Kaushik, appearing for Dahiya's mother, said the perusal of the post-mortem conducted by a medical board of three doctors had established that there were 14 injuries on Dahiya, four were firearm injuries and 10 injuries were found caused by blunt force.

Kaushik further argued that the report established that Dahiya was mercilessly beaten by Baljit with some blunt object.

He added that according to then constable Baljit, Dahiya fired one bullet at the constable which hit on his thigh and in his private defence, he fired four bullets at Dahiya.

Kaushik alleged that the acts of Baljit were not an act of self-defence, but it was clearly a case of murder because firing four bullets and all on the vital parts of the body cannot be an act of self-defence.

Baljit's counsel argued that the magistrate court's order was illegal, misconceived, improper and bad in the eyes of law.

He claimed that the investigation conducted in the case had clearly illustrated that no offence was made out against Baljit.

## JOBS & CLASSIFIEDS QUEST

### PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

"WE hereby inform everyone that Mr. Raj Kumar, (s/o Late Mr. Gopal Chandra) residence of Nehru Nagar, New Delhi-110065, passed away on 7th October 2017 at his son's residence (A 70, Om Vihar, Uttam Nagar West, New Delhi-110059). Following are legal nominees (by all means) of Late Mr. Raj Kumar.

Mrs. Anita Devi (Wife)

Kaushal Kumar (Son)

Indira (Daughter)

Sunil Kumar (Son)

If anyone has any objection in this regards, kindly connect at above-men- tioned address within 15 days of this information published. Thereafter no claim whatsoever will be considered."

### SITUATION WANTED

**SENIOR Accountant, manufacturing Export House, independently handling accounts, finalisation, banking, taxation, commercial, documentation, Company Secretarial, seeks change.** G.N. 9830794108.

**18 YEARS experienced Steno-Typist, computer savvy, seeks job in good firm. Ph.: 7980159573.**

**COMPUTER savvy experienced Steno with other cognized operations surely a boost to any management, seeks job in good firm. Contact: 9831522525.**

### GROOMS WANTED

**ALLIANCE for Bengali Brahmin girl, 28 / 5c-22, fair & beautiful, MS from New York University, applying for Ph.D. at US looking for Bengali Brahmin groom, working / doing Ph.D. / Post Doc. at US around New York / New Jersey. Mobile: 6203763707. Mail: db\_ganguly@yahoo.co.in**

### TENDERS

**BENFISH G.N. 31, Block, Sector-V, Salt Lake City Kolkata-700091 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Ref No. BENFISH/MD/NIT-03(e)/2020-21 Memo No.: 846/IV-291/1 Date: 01.10.2021 AIR-SURCHARGE: Kathmandu - Rs. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1 All other stations in India - Re. 1**

## The Sunday Statesman

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

## Cong holds protest against arbitrary challan of vehicles



Auto and taxi drivers hold protest against arbitrary challans in the Capital on Saturday. DEEPAK

PTI

NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

Delhi Congress workers, along with members of party-affiliated Auto Taxi Congress Union, on Saturday staged a protest here against the Delhi government over "arbitrary challan of vehicles".

Some of the protesters including Delhi Congress vice president Jaikishan and Veer Singh Dhingra were detained by police near Chandgi Ram Akhara, party leader Parvez Alam said.

"The government agencies including traffic police are arbitrarily issuing vehicle challans in the garb of

the Amended Motor Vehicle Act.

The protesters demanded Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to provide relief to auto and taxi drivers from these challans,"

Alam said.

The detained protesters

were taken by police to the Maurice Nagar police station.

They get into an argument. Meanwhile, his two accomplices join him. The person snatches the chain from Chhabra and pushes him, causing him to fall on the road. He tried to chase the accused but they fled the spot on their bike.

Police said the victim, Shyam Chhabra, was on his way to a temple when the incident happened.

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

In the video, Chhabra is seen feeding a stray animal when a person, apparently busy talking on the phone, collides

with him.

According to the officials,

there are currently 4,250 such inmates, comprising 3,100 undertrials on interim bail and 1,150 convicts on emergency parole, who are out of jails as part of the prisons department's recent decongestion drive.

Another official said that

due to overcrowding of the city jails, it is very difficult to maintain social distancing

inside the prisons to

"We have written to the government to extend emergency parole of convicts by one month," a senior jail official said.

The Delhi Prisons department has requested the city government to extend the emergency parole granted to convicts by one month in view of the existing COVID-19 situation, officials said on Saturday.

In a letter to the home department, it said the emergency parole can be given considering the current pandemic situation.

According to the data shared by the prison authorities on September 13, the number of active COVID-19 cases in Delhi Prisons stood at 25, including 20 jail staff.

Director General of Delhi Prisons Sandeep Goel had also tested positive for COVID-19. He is currently under isolation.

Among prisons in the national capital, the first case of the coronavirus was reported in Rohini Jail on May 13. Two coronavirus-positive inmates of Mandi Jai had died on June 15 and July 4. Both were senior citizens.

## Prisons dept urges Delhi govt to extend convicts' parole

PTI

NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

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For intensive investigation of the unfortunate incident at Hathras and all connected issues, this case is being recommended by @UPGovt to be probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

YOGI ADITYANATH  
UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

The Sunday Statesman  
NEW DELHI, 04 OCTOBER 2020

03

# High drama, traffic jam at Noida-Delhi border ahead of Gandhis' Hathras visit

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI / NOIDA, 3 OCTOBER

**T**here was heavy traffic jam on the Delhi-Noida Direct (DND) flyway today due to deployment of the Uttar Pradesh police personnel at the Noida-Delhi border.

ahead of a scheduled visit of a Congress delegation, led by top leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, in their bid to go to Hathras to meet the family members of a 19-year-old Dalit girl who was allegedly gangraped, assaulted and brutalised by four upper-caste men that led to her death in a Delhi hospital earlier this week.

Earlier in the day, Delhi Traffic Police took to Twitter to inform people about the situation, stating that "Traffic on DND is heavy. Those heading to Noida are advised to reach Noida from Akshardham."

Heavy police deployment was done at the Delhi-UP border. Barricades were installed at the (DND) flyway, where scores of policemen, including senior officers, were present in anti-riot gears since noon, even as prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC remained imposed in UP's Gautam Buddha Nagar or Noida bordering the national capital.

"The border is not sealed



Rahul Gandhi along with a Congress delegation en route to Hathras, at DND flyway on Saturday.

DEEPAK

but checks have been intensified at the Delhi-Noida border," police said.

Hundreds of Congress's and its Indian Youth Congress (IYC) workers reached the DND flyway at around 2 pm, even as some party workers were allegedly detained by the Gautam Buddha Nagar Police.

"Some of Congress and Youth Congress workers have been detained in Gautam Buddha Nagar and put under house arrest, including our dis-

trict president Manoj Chaudhary. But we have gathered here at DND and would go to Hathras with our leaders today," Youth Congress national secretary Deepak Bhati said. Many vehicles were caught up in the traffic snag on the DND route, causing inconvenience to commuters.

The DND toll plaza at the Delhi-Noida border had virtually turned into a fortress with heavy police deployment in anti-riot gear ahead of the movement of the Con-

gress delegation.

The Congress and IYC workers raised slogans against the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government in UP over the Hathras outrage and for allegedly preventing their party leaders from meeting the victim girl's family.

Some Congress workers also alleged that policemen had hit them with batons while party leaders were trying to cross over to the UP side from Delhi to proceed to Hathras in western UP.

Later, Rahul and Priyanka left for Hathras after the UP Police allowed only five party representatives to proceed, citing Section 144 CrPC restrictions in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"CrPC Section 144 has been imposed in Noida, Greater Noida as well as in Hathras and some other districts in Uttar Pradesh due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Considering the social distancing and other related norms, permission has been granted for five people, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra," police commissioner Alok Singh said.

On Thursday, Rahul, Priyanka along with several party leaders and workers were detained by the UP Police in Greater Noida and sent back to Delhi, after they tried to reach Hathras to meet the family of the Dalit victim.

Congress leaders and workers were also booked in multiple cases for allegedly violating Section 144 CrPC restrictions and under the Epidemic Diseases Act among others, according to officials.

The Congress has charged that the Hathras victim girl and her family have been "denied justice" and "severely traumatised" by the Yogi government in its bid to "hide the truth" of the heinous crime perpetrated against her.

## Satyarthi urges PM to end 'crisis of justice' for women, children



PTI  
NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to end the "crisis of justice" for women and children, saying what is happening to "our daughters" across India is a matter of national shame.

We are lacking in a basic sense of humanity and compassion. We have failed to protect our daughters and hold our sons accountable for their actions. Our daughters can no longer continue to pay the price of our failure to bring up our sons right. It will take a people's movement to end to the culture of rape.

"What is happening to our daughters across India is a matter of national shame. It is my humble appeal to our Hon'ble Prime Minister - the nation looks to you - to end this crisis of justice for our women and children. I implore you to lead the war on rape. Our daughters need you, and we are all with you," he told PTI.

setting up of exclusive fast-track courts. But to bring an end to this culture of rape, we need both compassionate political will and people's action, the Nobel laureate said.

The recent case of violence and alleged sexual assault of a Dalit woman in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh has led to nationwide protests and agitations. The 19-year-old woman was allegedly raped at a village in Hathras by four men on September 14 and referred on Monday to a Delhi hospital in an extremely critical condition with spinal injuries, paralysis and cuts in her tongue. She breathed her last on Tuesday at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital.

Her body was cremated in the early hours of Wednesday, with her family alleging that the local police forced them to conduct the last rites in the dead of the night.

## RHYTHM OF HILLS



Tribal women dancing on the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi near the venue of his rally at Sissu in Lahaul Spiti district on Saturday.

## BJP, Cong spar to stake claim over Atal Tunnel construction

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 3 OCTOBER

As the Atal Tunnel at Rohtang, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, is set to benefit Lahaul Spiti residents and boost tourism in Himachal Pradesh, the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress have started to spar to stake their respective claims over this project's construction.

The debate on who conceptualised the dream to make Atal Tunnel over Rohtang Pass a reality, which remains under thick blanket of snow for six months, was started on Saturday by former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh.

Singh said it was former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who during her stay in Lahaul Spiti in 1972, had directed the Union Defence Ministry to explore possibil-

ities for construction of a road or tunnel.

"Former MLA Lata Thakur and tribals of Lahaul Spiti had apprised Indira Gandhi of hardships faced by them due to lack of road connectivity as Rohtang Pass remains under heavy snow which cuts them off from rest of world for 6 months," he added.

State Congress party even waged a battle on social media and state head of party's Social Media department Abhishek Rana said PM Modi and BJP was trying to take credit for its construction while the fact is that UPA government had started the project.

BJP, on the other hand, gave credit to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee after whom the state government had named the tunnel with party's national head J P Nadda saying that it was he who had given in-principle approval for its construction.

"Vajpayee during his visit to the state in 2002 had laid the foundation stone of a road that connects the south portal of Atal Tunnel," he added. Nadda said during a meeting with Vajpayee in Manali in 2002, the former PM had said that the foundation stone would prove a milestone in the development of the state.

Vajpayee used to ask me about the progress on construction of the tunnel during UPA government's rule," he said.

He further stated that after the inauguration of Atal Tunnel, the long wait of lakhs of residents of the state had ended and this had fulfilled the long cherished dream of Vajpayee.

"The Atal Tunnel will not only provide round the year connectivity for the residents of Lahaul Spiti district but it would also benefit the country strategically," he added.

## RFL case: HC seeks police reply on Shivinder's bail plea

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

The Delhi High Court has sought a response from the police on the bail plea of former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh in a case related to alleged misappropriation of funds at Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL).

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait issued the notice on Shivinder Mohan Singh's plea and sought a response from the Delhi Police and RFL, the complainant in the case.

"The Additional Public Prosecutor accepts notice

and seeks time to file a status report. Let needful be done within one week with an advance copy to the other side," the court said and listed the matter for further hearing on October 12.

Singh has challenged a trial court's September 25 order dismissing his bail plea.

Senior advocate Mohit Mathur, appearing for complainant RFL, said he will file a reply to the contention raised in the petition by Singh.

He had opposed the bail plea in the trial court saying

RFL did not get back its money and suffered losses because of the acts and omissions of Singh and others.

The trial court had observed economic offences having deep-rooted conspiracies needed to be considered as grave offences affecting the economy of the country.

It had said the possibility of the witnesses being influenced by Shivinder cannot be ruled out as during investigation statements of directors of the companies to which loans were extended by RFL were recorded and

they were found to be associated with him.

The trial court had also said it was prima facie established from the investigation that Singh in conspiracy with others caused wrongfully gain to RFL to the tune of Rs 2,397 crores.

Shivinder Mohan Singh's brother Malvinder Singh (46), also a former Fortis Healthcare promoter, former CMD of Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL) Sunil Godhwani (58), Kavi Arora (48) and Anil Saxena were arrested by the Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police last year, for

allegedly diverting RFL's money and investing in other companies.

His counsel had submitted that the entire evidence was documentary in nature and has been seized and thus there was no possibility of evidence being tampered with by him.

The police had opposed the bail plea saying huge financial fraud has been committed in the case and hence, Shivinder Mohan Singh was not entitled to bail.

RFL's counsel had alleged it was the public money

which was swindled by Shivinder Mohan Singh.

The EOW registered an FIR in March last year after it received a complaint from RFL's Manpreet Singh against Shivinder, Godhwani and others, alleging that loans were taken by them while managing the firm but the money was invested in other companies.

The police had opposed the bail plea saying huge financial fraud has been committed in the case and hence, Shivinder Mohan Singh was not entitled to bail.

RFL is a group firm of REL, which was earlier promoted by Malvinder and his brother Shivinder.

## Punjab farmers' stir against Centre's agri laws rages

PTI  
CHANDIGARH, 3 OCTOBER

Punjab farmers' protest against the Centre's new farm laws continued on Saturday as they squatted on rail tracks for an indefinite period.

The agitating farmers raised slogans against the government and said that the stir will go on till their demand for revoking the new laws was not accepted.

A total of 31 farmers' bodies have joined hands to step up their agitation. They had announced to block rail tracks from October 1 for an indefinite period.

Farmers have blocked

rail tracks at many places including Dhablan (Patiala), Sunam (Sangrur), Budhlada (Mansa), Gidderbaha (Muktsar), Barnala, Bathinda, Faridkot, Gurdaspur, Rupnagar, Phialaur, Samral and Moga.

Farmers under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee have been squatting at rail tracks in Amritsar and Ferozepur since September 24.

According to Krantikari Kisan Union president Darshan Pal, besides blocking rail tracks at 33 places, farmers have also staged sit-ins outside 24 petrol pumps, nine toll plazas, four shopping malls, a power thermal

plant and a foodgrain godown belonging to some corporate houses.

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

According to them, the Centre wants to "benefit" a few corporate houses with the "black laws".

'Dharnas' were also being staged outside the houses of five BJP leaders including former Punjab BJP chief Shiwant Malik.

In Ferozepur, women have also joined farms who have been agitating at a rail track near Basti Tannan Wali.

At Amritsar, protesting

farmers burnt the effigies of the government.

In Phagwara, police prevented the farmers from moving towards the residence of Union Minister Som Parkash. Protesters wanted to 'gherao' the residence of the minister.

Police personnel led by Superintendent of Police Manwinder Singh stopped the farmers about 200 meters away from the minister's residence.

Barricades were put up at all the entry points to stop the farmers from going towards the minister's residence, said farmers.

After not being allowed to go towards Parkash's

house, farmers staged a sit-in on the road.

Addressing the protesters, Balbir Singh Rajewal, president of Bhartiya Kisan Union (Rajewal) claimed that the agitation against anti-farm laws has now snowballed into a mass movement.

He said that farmers were not averse to holding talks with the Centre if invitation for the same comes from the Prime Minister's Office.

We will not accept any leader from the Punjab BJP for talks as we are boycotting the state BJP leaders he said.

The Punjab unit of the BJP had constituted an eight-member committee to reach

out to farmers to apprise them of the benefits of the new farm laws.

Farmers have expressed apprehension that the Centre's farm reforms would pave a way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the 'mercy' of big corporates. President Ram Nath Kovind had given assent to the three contentious bills -- Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill; Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill; and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill.





BJP PRESIDENT JP NADDA

THANKING THE PM FOR SPEEDILY EXECUTING THE ATAL TUNNEL PROJECT SINCE 2014

## THUMBNAILS



A farmer burns straw stubble after harvesting paddy crops in a field in Amritsar on Saturday. PTI

**Raj panchayat polls:** Polling for the second phase of panchayat elections in Rajasthan began on Saturday with 18.79per cent of 34.06 lakh voters casting their ballot till 10 am in 1,028 gram panchayats in 21 districts. The polling to elect panch and sarpanch began at 7.30 am and will continue till 5.30 pm. PTI

**RJD MP moves SC:** RJD MP Manoj Jha has moved the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of the newly enacted three agriculture laws, saying they are "discriminatory and manifestly arbitrary" and will expose marginal farmers to exploitation by big corporates. PTI

**Gu mishap:** Two women were killed and three others injured on Saturday when the bus they were travelling in overturned after hitting a road divider in Morva Hadaf taluk in Gujarat's Panchmahal district, police said. Prima facie, the driver lost his control over the vehicle while negotiating a sharp turn around 11 am, a local police official said. PTI

**YSR's father-in-law dies:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's father-in-law EC Ganti Reddy (74) died on Friday night while undergoing treatment for illness in a corporate hospital here, official sources said. His last rites were performed at Pulivendula in Andhra Pradesh. PTI

**Officials involved in Raj sex racket:** Five people including former BJP Mahila Morcha district president and three government employees have been arrested in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur for allegedly running a sex racket. Three others including a former office-bearer of the Congress-affiliated Seva Dal are absconding and search is being carried out. PTI

# Atal tunnel will empower HP, J&K and Ladakh: Modi

PM strikes a chord with people of Lahaul, recalling his own personal connection with HP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SISSU (LAHAUL), 3 OCTOBER

**W**hile the 9.02 kilometre long Atal Rohtang tunnel is bound to change the lives of tribals in Lahaul valley of Himachal Pradesh forever by giving them all weather connectivity to rest of world, it is a matter of rejoicing for the tiny state with Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalling his personal connect with HP while dedicating the tunnel to nation.

Atal Tunnel would empower Himachal Pradesh, J&K Leh and Ladakh. Speedier Economic Progress is directly dependent on fast track execution of various infrastructure works, said the PM. "I remember when I was associated with Himachal for organisational work, I along with then chief minister, Prem Kumar Dhumal used to take up the issue of tunnel for the Lahaul folks with then PM, Atal Bihari Vajpayee strongly when he came for stay in Manali."

"We knew the hardships of travel through Rohtang Pass. Vajpayee resolved to do this and had announced so in 2000 during his visit to Keylong. It is a lifetime satisfaction. It is a historic moment that the tunnel is being dedicated to the nation," Modisaid in a public meeting in Sissu in tribal Lahaul valley.

"It is not only Vajpayee's dream that has come true, but it will end the long wait of people of Himachal Pradesh for this round-the-year connectivity, which will help them prosper economically," he



In this handout photograph taken on Saturday and released by the Indian Press Information Bureau (PIB), Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses at the entrance of the Highway Atal tunnel, near Manali in Himachal Pradesh state. AFP

said. "I have seen every nook and corner of the state and I know the problems of people here. I can say Himachal has a right on me. Due to that, I am attending three functions in the state in one day even in Covid times," he said.

The Prime Minister said the tunnel will help in better development of the area, will help the tribals in Lahaul and Pangi get good prices of cash crops by timely transportation and marketing. "Whether peas or potatoes, the locals can now reap better profits," he said.

Modi said the tunnel will bring enormous potential for tourism promotion in the tribal area, with great employment opportunities and income generation sources for the youth through home stays, handicrafts and other local things.

"Lahaul Spiti can also develop as a centre of attraction in winters and could not go out in medical emergencies. I can say for sure that the tunnel has given them a way out, but at the same time, it has also made their way easier to come back," Modi said.

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The Prime Minister said Education ministry could facilitate case study of the tunnel by sending groups of students from Universities.

tion for the Buddhist tourists from East Asia, especially as it houses centuries old Tabo monastery," he said.

He said the tribal district has a lot of potential for the herbs as well, which can be exploited.

The Prime Minister said the present government has a different style of functioning and it does not go for any project or development keeping with the size of the votes.

Later, Modi travelled back through the Atal tunnel to address a public meeting in Solang nullah near Manali and tried to address the local concerns of tourism there as well.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi specially referred to Union Minister of State for Finance, Anurag Thakur as 'Himachal ka Chokra' in his address at all the three places.

**Document phases of tunnel from human angle, says PM:** Modi called for documentation of the hardships and challenges faced during the construction of Atal tunnel in ten years from human angle. He said the people who worked in different capacities for the tunnel could be asked to give an account of what all happened day to day as the tunnel work progressed. "Not for academic purpose, but from human angle. It could be compiled and showcased as the tunnel is an engineering marvel," he said.

The Prime Minister said Education ministry could facilitate case study of the tunnel by sending groups of students from Universities.

**Life Mission case: LDF govt fighting CBI in HC against own order, says Opp**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 3 OCTOBER

Senior Congress leader and Opposition leader in the Kerala Assembly Ramesh Chennithala has on Saturday alleged that the LDF government in the state has reached a situation, wherein it has to fight the CBI in the Kerala High Court against its own order.

Speaking to media persons here, Chennithala said the government had earlier given sanction to the central agency to probe Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) violations in the state. In this situation, by moving the High Court against the CBI probe into the Life Mission project, the government has made a mockery of itself.

He alleged that the government's petition in the HC challenging its own order was ridiculous. Chennithala has also shown copies of the government order dated 13 June 2017 giving sanction to the CBI for FCRA violations in the state. He further said that the government moved against the CBI in the case, since it fears that the probe would lead to the chief minister.

The CEO of LIFE Mission, under Kerala government, approached the Kerala High Court challenging the CBI's investigation into the Life Mission housing project. After preliminary hearing, the court said the CBI can continue the probe into the case and posted it for detailed hearing on 8 October.

**India committed to complete elimination of N-arms: Shringla**

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

**We believe that nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework. India remains convinced of the need for meaningful dialogue among all States possessing nuclear weapons, for building trust and confidence'**

resolution in the UNGA on 'Reducing Nuclear Danger' that calls for immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting, he said.

Shringla pointed out that India accorded high priority to the Conference on Disarmament as the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and supported the commencement of negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention.

"Without prejudice to the priority attached to nuclear disarmament, India remains committed to the immediate commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty in the CD," he added. India espoused the policy of "No First Use" against nuclear weapon states and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states. India was a key partner in global efforts towards disarmament and strengthening the non-proliferation order.

**Treat for cine-goers: Five Bengali films to release during Durga Puja festivities**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, 3 OCTOBER



ed by Debaloy Bhattacharya, a spokesperson said.

The big production house, which has plans to release big ticket Sirajit Mukherjee directorial Kakababar Pratyabartan and shot abroad, will wait for some time before timing the release on the fictional world adventurer of writer Sunil Gangopadhyay.

Surinder Films, another production house, will be releasing Rakto Rohosyo starring popular Bengali heroine Koel Mallick and Love Story.

Head of the production Nishpal Singh Rane said: "We hope the two films in different genres will be liked by audiences who have been deprived of watching films on big screen for long and would like to have fresh new contents in the festive season."

While Rakto Rohosyo by young director Soukarjo Ghosal is a crime thriller, Love Story is a mainstream commercial flick.

Anjan Dutta's Saheb Cutlet about the journey of a chef starring Arjun Chakraborty and thriller SOS Kolkata starring actor-turned MPs Nusrat Jahan and Mimi Chakraborty and direct-

hyay and Nandita Roy's Windows Production is re-releasing, Brahma Janen Gopon Kammoti this puja which had a very good box office during its short stint in theatres before lockdown.

The film has an unconventional storyline about a priest's daughter and her fight to perform rituals busting stereotypes in patriarchy.

Asked if the halls are ready for opening on October 15, Navin Chokhani, the owner of popular Navina cinema, said "we are making arrangements but yet to get SOP about the gap between two seats and rows from the Centre. That is important to make seating arrangements and start online ticket sales." He hoped the SOP will be available before the deadline and films can be screened in the festive season.

Cinema halls and pllexes in Bengal are closed since March 17 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Union Home Ministry on Wednesday issued new guidelines for permitting more activities in areas outside the containment zones that include opening up cinemas, theatres and multiplexes with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity from October 15.

**K'tapur corridor reopening depends on Covid protocol: India tells Pak**

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

Covid-19 outbreak. We remain in touch with all concerned authorities, including Ministries of Home Affairs and Health and Family Welfare," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

He noted that at the time of opening of the corridor last year and in the bilateral agreement signed in October 2019, it was decided that both sides shall establish requisite infra-

## TENDER

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag H.Q. Awantipora  
Ph No 01933247951, E-mail: xmldinanantnag@gmail.com

### CORRIGENDUM

Sub:- Design Manufacture Supply Installation Testing and commissioning of 10 cusec horizontal centrifugal pumping unit for LIS Pattalgash

Ref: This office E Nit No 27 / MIDA of 2020-21 Dated: 28.09.2020 issued vide MIDA/1309-1400 Dated: 28.09.2020

Please read at ANNEXURE B SPECIFICATION OF REQUIRED EQUIPMENT SL 1(A) (XXI) as;

Material of pump casing : Close fine grained Cast Iron conforming to IS:210 grade 20

Instead of:

Material of pump casing : ASTM 351/CF-8M

Pump casing Should be read as Split casing

The cost of advertised work shall include the items mentioned below:

1. Fabrication, Providing, Installation and testing 300 mm dia of MS Flanged suction pipe (Flange thickness 18 mm). The job includes nuts/bolts & RI cloth washers and other fittings. The bend shall be painted with one coat of steel primer and two coats of blue paint **Quantity 12 Mtrs**

2. Fabrication, Providing, Installation and testing of 300 mm dia MS Flanged bend for suction side duly fitted with MS flanges (thickness 18 mm) on both ends. The bend shall be fabricated out of MS pipe having wall thickness of 6 mm. Quantity of MS to be used for manufacturing of pipes as per BIS 226 or BIS2062 with latest amendments. Pipe to be manufactured as per BIS 3589-1981. The pipes shall be painted with one coat of steel primer and two coats of blue paint **Quantity 12 Mtrs**

3. Fabrication, Providing, Installation and testing of 300mm dia Mild steel plate. The foot valve shall have to be fabricated out of 8mm thick Mild steel plate. The flanges fitted with the foot valve shall be of 20 mm thickness.

The thickness of weight plate shall be 20 mm and shall be fitted with heavy duty hinge having sufficient foot valve seat duly turned on lathe and fitted with leather washer.

The job also includes fabrication, providing and fitting of M.S strainer made out of 12 mm sq. bars. The height of the strainer shall be 250mm. The foot valve shall be painted with one coat of steel primer and two coats of blue paint. The job includes providing and fitting of nuts and bolts and RI cloth washers.

Make: Kirloskar, IVC, VAG, Kejriwal, Sigma Flow **Quantity 01 job**

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the original E.NIT.

No. MIDA/1502-08  
Dated:- 30.09.2020

No. DIPK-6722/20 Dated:- 03.10.2020

SD/- Executive Engineer,  
Mech. Irr. Div., Anantnag  
H.Q. Awantipora

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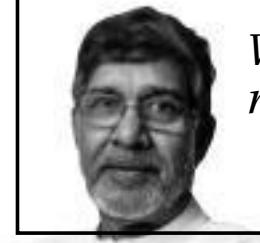
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What is happening to our daughters across India is a matter of national shame. Our daughters need you, and we are all with you

REACTING TO THE HATHRAS INCIDENT, APPEALS TO PM TO END CRISIS OF JUSTICE FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN

NOBEL LAUREATE KAILASH SATYARTHI

THUMBNAILS



A farmer sorts apples to be packed, during the harvesting season in Shopian, Kashmir on Saturday. ■ AFP

**Sushil Moomch gang members expelled:** Six members of the Sushil Moomch gang have been expelled from UP's Muzaffarnagar district for six months under the Goondas Act allegedly because they were terrorising people before the upcoming panchayat elections, officials said on Saturday. PTI

**Protest in Assam:** The Congress in Assam on Saturday staged a protest over the alleged false promises made by the BJP-led government for construction of two bridges over Brahmaputra in the state, for which the foundation stone was laid by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari over four years ago. PTI

**Judges gone beyond law to favour executive:** Dave AHMEDABAD, 3 OCTOBER

Supreme Court's senior advocate Dushyant Dave has said what many people probably wished to say for long but were too scared to.

Speaking through a webinar on the second death anniversary of eminent human rights lawyer Girish Patel, Dave said "judges have stretched beyond the law to lean in favour of the executive".

Girish Patel, former principal of the law college here, was a very respected lawyer who had espoused the cause of the oppressed workers, Dalits, tribals and other deprived sections of the society.

Without mincing words, senior advocate Dushyant Dave said "if judges of the highest court shower praise on a political leader, what is the message they send to subordinate judiciaries and the high courts?"

"The only message is 'do not decide cases against Prime Minister Modi's government...', the senior advocate answered himself adding that judges have gone beyond the law to favour the executive. Coming as it did just 48 hours of the verdict on the 28-year-old Babri mosque demolition case, Dave's frank remarks assume significance."

Dave, who is president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), asked "where are the judges who are able to withstand political pressure of the day?"

A petition was filed on 30 March to help the migrant workers and, the next day the Supreme Court gives a complete certificate to the government that the migrant crisis is over, the senior advocate added to corroborate his point. "Our judges, I am sorry to say, have forgotten their conscience in the administration of justice, which they should remember every second in the dispensation of their duties..." Dave said with regret.

Criminal justice system has been hijacked by the rich and powerful, said senior advocate Dushyant Dave.

He recalled Mahatma Gandhi's words that there is a court higher than the court of law — the court of conscience.

# 'SIT will look into issues raised by Hathras victim's family'

Addl chief secy says decision has also been taken for providing security permanently in the village



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AGRA, 3 OCTOBER

## Agra: Valmiki community clashes with cops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AGRA, 3 OCTOBER

Scores of Valmiki community members who were protesting against the Hathras incident clashed with the police here on Saturday.

The protesters pelted stones at the policemen and official vehicles.

Police personnel were deployed at the clash site outside a municipal corporation office in Kothi Meena Bazaar area of the Taj city, officials said. Some visuals pur-

portedly showed that the Valmiki community members from Rajnagar in Lohamandi reached the municipal corporation office and pelted stones at the civic body's garbage collection vehicles at around 12 noon.

Later, dozens of policemen, some of them in anti-riot gears, reached the site and the agitated crowd started pelting stones at them, too, even as traffic on the road remained obstructed during the clash, they showed. Adequate police force has

reached the incident site with senior officials. Efforts are underway to restore normalcy and law and order, a statement by Agra police said.

The incident wherein a 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped in Hathras by four men on September 14 has been widely condemned across the country. The agitation by Balmikis came even as police conducted flag marches in parts of the district for creating awareness on coronavirus.

"It is an extremely sad incident. We met everyone in the family. We spoke to them and assured them that the strictest action would be taken against all those found guilty," Awasthi told reporters.

"The SIT inquiry is on and it will continue to do its work. The family members have raised certain issues. Whatever points and the complaints they have raised, the SIT will note them, and we will make all efforts to ensure that each of them is addressed," Awasthi said, without elaborating.

The officer said that they would submit a report to the chief minister.

The visit by the two top officials came as a massive controversy raged over the incident with the opposition tar-

geting the Adityanath government.

"The first report of the SIT was received yesterday evening and within two hours orders were issued for the suspension of the then SP CO, inspector, senior sub-inspector and constable," Awasthi said.

The victim, who was assaulted and allegedly gang-raped on September 14, died of her grievous injuries in the early hours of Tuesday in a Delhi hospital and was cremated in the dead of night near her home on Wednesday with her family alleging that they were hurried into carrying out her last rites by local police.

The incident triggered widespread outrage and protests.

On Thursday, the Hathras administration clamped prohibitory orders barring the assembly of more than four people in the district, where scuffles broke out as politicians, including from the Congress and the TMC, as well as the media persons tried to access the village. About 300 police personnel stood on guard to prevent anybody from entering.

Today, however, the administration lifted restrictions on the entry of media persons. To a query, Awasthi said, "If people's representatives want to come, five people will be allowed".

"We also met some people's representatives and requested them to help maintain social harmony," he said.

## SP workers booked for protesting in Muzaffarnagar

MUZAFFARNAGAR, 3 OCTOBER

Samajwadi Party workers, including its youth wing vice president Gaurav Jain and district media in-charge Sajid Hasan, were booked for violation of prohibitory orders in Civil Lines area here, police said on Saturday.

They demonstrated and burned an effigy representing the Uttar Pradesh government in protest against the death of a Dalit woman from Hathras on Friday evening. SHODK Tyagi said.

The 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped at a village in Hathras by four men on September 14. After her condition deteriorated, she was referred to the Delhi's Safdarjung hospital where she breathed her last on Tuesday.

She 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, had said the cremation was carried out "as per the wishes of the family".

## Police refuse to lodge FIR on gang-rape, Dalit woman kills herself

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPAL, 3 OCTOBER

A 32-year-old Dalit woman reportedly took her life by suicide on Friday morning in Narsinghpur district, 241 kilometres south-east of Bhopal, on being refused by police to lodge her first information report (FIR) about the crime, as per the complaints from her family members.

Police have booked three people, of which two have been arrested. Two others have been booked for abetment to suicide of which one has been arrested.

ordeal in the evening. Along with some members of my family, I went to Gototaria police outpost to lodge the FIR in the night itself. The police personnel on duty took the complaint from me but didn't lodge the FIR. They told me that my wife's medical examination will be conducted the next day.

He said, "When we went to the police outpost the next day the report was not lodged again. Fed up, we went to Cheechili police station to lodge the FIR but instead of listening to us, receiving our complaint and lodging the FIR, the police personnel locked me and my elder brother in the lockup at the police station and abused my wife. Mortified at the ill-treatment meted out to her, us and other members of the family, she committed suicide today by hanging herself".

The DGP said, "An FIR has also been lodged against the ASI of police for his alleged refusal to lodge the FIR." The rape survivor and the accused are from the same village, Johri added.

According to Narsinghpur police, those arrested for gang-rape include Arvind and Anil while one Motilal was arrested for abetment to suicide. ASI Mishrilal was also arrested and was granted bail from the police station.

The woman's husband said, "My wife was in an agriculture field to cut grass for cattle when the accused Arvind, Anil and one more gang-raped her on September 28. She told us about her

complaint was vague".

## SSR's death 'a case of hanging & death by suicide': AIIMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

The AIIMS' medical board has ruled out murder in the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, terming it "a case of hanging and death by suicide", the premier institute's forensic chief Dr Sudhir Gupta said on Saturday.

In its conclusive medico-legal opinion to the CBI, the six-member team of forensic doctors has dismissed the claims of "poisoning and strangling" made in the case of Singh's death.

"It is a case of hanging and death by suicide. We have submitted our conclusive report to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)," Dr Gupta, who is also the chairman of the forensic medical board, said. There was no injury on the body other than

that of hanging. Also, there was no mark of struggle and scuffle, he said but refused to divulge any further details stating the case is subjudice.

The CBI had taken over the

baseless". Interestingly, Prasad's lawyer Satish Maneshinde had earlier told the court that the accused was being harassed and blackmailed to make a statement against filmmaker Karan Johar by NCB officials. The special Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act court on Saturday remanded Prasad to judicial custody till October 6.

In his latest statement before the court, the accused said, "Subsequent to my ear-

lier statement, I have been repeatedly harassed and coerced into falsely implicating Ranbir Kapoor, Dino Morea and Arjun Rampal in the present proceedings. He stated since he refused to write such false statement mentioning Kapoor, Morea and Rampal in his own handwriting, "the complainant (NCB) has been preparing various false statements as per their wishes and trying to coerce me into signing them".

family. Earlier this week, the central probe agency had said that it has not reached any conclusion in Rajput's death case and that all aspects were under investigation.

## Shopian 'fake encounter': Police exhume bodies after 2 months

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 3 OCTOBER

Rajouri.

The exhumation was done hours after the J&K DGP Dilbag Singh told media persons that the legal process to exhume and handover the bodies was in progress and will be completed soon.

Cousins Imtiyaz Ahmad (21), Abrar Ahmad (26) and Mohammad Ibrar (18) were killed within a few days of their arrival in the valley's Shopian as labourers in orchards. Families of the three men were called from Rajouri and handed over to their families.

The three men killed in an

encounter at Amshipura in July

were described as unidentified terrorists and their bodies

were buried in a graveyard in north Kashmir's Baramula district. The bodies will now be buried according to

rituals in their native Rajouri.

The J&K Police exhumed their bodies in the wee hours

and handed over to their families that had come from

since the DNA samples matched with the family, the three bodies will be exhumed and handed over to families after due process of law.

The Army initiated an inquiry after social media reports indicated the three men were from Rajouri district in Jammu and had gone missing at Amshipura. The families of the trio from Rajouri who worked as labourers in Shopian had also filed a police complaint.

The Army completed the probe in record four weeks and on 18 September said it has found "prima facie" evidence that its troops exceeded powers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) during the encounter and initiated disciplinary proceedings against those found guilty.

HARD LIFE



A young girl selling flowers during rain in Mumbai on Saturday. ■ AFP

## Quad seeks to establish, promote, secure Indo-Pacific: Trump admin

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 3 OCTOBER

Ahead of the second ministerial meeting of the four countries under the Quad - India, Japan, Australia and US - in Tokyo next week, the Trump administration has said the purpose of the group is to establish, promote and secure Indo-Pacific region,

especially at a time of increased Chinese aggression and coercion" in the region.

The Quad seeks to establish, promote, and secure Indo-Pacific principles, especially as PRC tactics, aggression, and coercion increase in the region, Assistant Sec-

retary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs David R. Stilwell told reporters during a conference call on Friday.

US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, is travelling to Tokyo next week to participate in the second Quad ministerial meet that includes External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar from India.

The first ministerial was held in New York last year. State Department Spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said the visit reflects the strong partnership between the United States and its partners and allies in the region and demonstrates its commitment to continuing

## BJP is the biggest pandemic of the country, says Mamata

SNS & PTI  
KOLKATA, 3 OCTOBER

try is going through super autocracy as democracy has been murdered by BJP. "Dictatorship is going on across the country. Instead of government for the people, it is running a government against the people, the Dalits and the farmers. This is super autocracy," she said.

Referring to the TMC delegation being stopped by the Uttar Pradesh police from meeting the victim's family at Hathras on Friday, Banerjee said she felt like "running to UP and standing by the family of the victims".

She said, "My heart is in Hathras. I feel like running to that village and standing by the Dalit family in their fight against injustice. Our representatives went to Hathras but were stopped a km from the village. The women members were beaten, even journalists. It has come to my notice that journalists are receiving threats since yesterday," she said. Banerjee said she wanted to speak to the victim's family but was told that their phones were taken away.

"How long will you (UP govt) stop us from reaching out to them? The Dalit girl is like my own. Either today or tomorrow we will reach there," she said.

BJP state president Dilip Ghosh had on Friday asked TMC to stop politicising the death of the Hathras woman and instead take a look at its track record in tackling crimes against women. A 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped at a village in Hathras by four men on September 14. After her condition deteriorated, she was

whether the victims of such incidents and journalists killed in the state had received justice.

"We have not forgotten the Delhi riots. If you ask them (the Centre) how many people were killed, they will say no data. If you ask them how many migrant workers had died, they will say no data. All they have is data against Bengal," she hit out.

An oblique reference to Union Home Minister Amit Shah having lunch at the house of Dalit families in Bengal in 2018 before the Lok Sabha polls, Banerjee said BJP leaders do so during elections.

BJP leaders go to houses of Dalits and have food brought from outside. "After the polls are over, they perpetrate acts of cruelty on the Dalits and backward community," she alleged.

Banerjee referred to the encounters in Uttar Pradesh in the past few years and wondered

whether the victims of such

incidents and journalists killed in the state had received justice.

"We have not forgotten the

Delhi riots. If you ask them (the

Centre) how many people were

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If you ask them how many

migrant workers had died, they will say no data.

All they have is data against Bengal," she hit out.

"How long will you (UP govt)

stop us

## Important feat

The inauguration by the Prime Minister of the Atal Tunnel, the all-weather 9.02 km road that links the Lahaul and Spiti valleys of Himachal Pradesh, is an engineering feat that deserves the highest praise, not least for the many challenges that construction posed. While it clears a major bottleneck on the Leh-Manali highway, it will not by itself offer all-weather access to Ladakh for which more tunnels will need to be built. Nevertheless, it is an important achievement as it will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km during a major part of the year and will cut down driving time between Lahaul and Spiti valleys from five or six hours to about 30 minutes. In view of the tensions between India and China, and the need to move troops and equipment rapidly to the western sector, the tunnel is of crucial strategic importance. When the planned, 14-km tunnel under Zoji La becomes a reality, and when additional infrastructure is built at Shikunla on this route, India will have two viable, all-weather routes to Ladakh, one through Manali and the other on the Srinagar-Drass-Kargil-Leh highway. A tunnel under the Rohtang Pass was first discussed 60 years ago, but it was not until then Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee - after whom the tunnel is fittingly named - visited Lahaul in June 2000 that a feasibility study was ordered. Thereafter, the construction faced many challenges including tortuous excavation during winter snowfalls, disposal of more than 800,000 cubic metres of rock, and heavy ingress of water. The construction site saw the tragic death of 42 labourers following a cloud burst and flash floods in 2003.

Notwithstanding these setbacks and the many delays caused in completion of the project by the challenges that nature posed, the completion of the tunnel, described as the longest constructed at a height above 10,000 feet, is also important for the development of the region, for it will ensure that citizens of Lahaul-Spiti, snowbound during the winter months, will have access to the rest of India. Certainly, the region which has recorded negative decadal growth of population can look forward to reverse migration and better access to education and health facilities. It will also result in enhanced economic activity as easier access will bring adventure tourists and others to the pristine and picturesque valleys. The horseshoe shaped tunnel is expected to see movement of 3,000 cars and 1,500 trucks every day and will permit speeds of up to 80 km per hour on its two carriageways. The project has advanced safety features, including an emergency route for evacuations, fire safety provisions that will contain any blaze to within 200 metres, CCTV cameras, air quality monitoring sensors and control rooms at either end. A semi-transverse ventilation system will ensure that large fans circulate air throughout the tunnel. Overall, this is a feat of which India can be proud.

## Money games

Jaws would have hit the floor, or even the basement, when Nielsen's latest list of the world's top 10 marketable athletes duly made its way into the public domain with Virat Kohli, at number four, and Rohit Sharma, placed eighth, holding their own in a field dominated by football, with a quintet of celebrity exponents of the beautiful game compelling attention simply by being there in the first place. The Indian cricket captain and his peer from Mumbai do a lot more than that, though, if you take into account the fact that Kohli comes ahead of such globally circulating figures as Neymar, the Brazilian superstar currently owned by Paris Saint-German, Mohammad Salah of Liverpool and Juventus' Paulo Dybala. Sharma, not to be entirely outdone, eclipses both the Egyptian and the Argentine, showing that what used to be called a southern Asian monomania is now as big a commercial phenomenon as any other comparable discipline. The context is important because, as any similar effort attempted anywhere else would indicate, it is Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo who comprise the top duo with American basketball great LeBron James completing the triad at the apex. That would seem to underscore the credibility of the enterprise and its findings, which should then stir a certain curiosity about how cricket got this big. India, of course, and its ubiquitous cricket buffs account for most of the surge but if it is gauged primarily from social media's influence, we have to deal with a few prickly queries focused on any imbalance resulting from the attention lavished on the virtual world. A dissociation from reality has been said to mark such ventures as the Nielsen one ever since Pele and Maradona topped two contradictory football polls with the Argentine turning out to be the younger - and thus deemed less knowledgeable - fans' favourite. But the latest essay is hardly a generational study fraught with the risks inherent in comparisons, regardless of whether it is backed up with figures. It focuses on the present and arrives at conclusions that do not really pretend either to present or confirm an eternal truth. There is hardly anything as serious as that lurking somewhere inside it. Well might someone else from India - could it be Sharma? - supplant Kohli up there some day, just as the New Delhi boy knocked Mahendra Singh Dhoni off the glamour perch at the commercial peak in the none too distant past as he moved eventually - and inexorably - to reach the height of his ambitions. To go back to the main point, here is evidence that Indian cricket is now resourceful enough to generate the kind of neighbour's-envy-owner's-pride bounty that its claimants can distinguish themselves by. We never thought it possible even when two American cola companies fought a pitch battle in India and Pakistan to boost their own takings. Now that it has happened, we shall not regret it.

# The Ginsburg spirit

Jurists like Ginsburg stop majority rule from degenerating into majority tyranny as they forever question the status quo or regression in society. National governance is always served better with an element of judicial oversight, intervention and activism, as opposed to less of it



The cornered world of 'constitutionalists' and progressive-liberalists lost its pop-culture icon, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The diminutive 87-year old had defied age, health issues and political-regression of the times to retain her trail-blazing and reformist agenda that had earned her the edgy sobriquet, 'Notorious RBG', a lighthearted take on the late rapper 'Notorious B.I.G.'. Part of the nine-member bench of the US Supreme Court, Ginsburg was amongst the minority four liberal judges against five conservative judges - which could now potentially tilt to 6-3 in favour of conservatives, if Donald Trump carries through the threat of hastily appointing someone before his own Presidential election.

Ginsburg was an appointee of Democratic President Bill Clinton in 1993, as part of a deliberate attempt to diversify the bench, making her only the second female Supreme Court Judge then. But her outstanding credentials as a moderate and consensus-building jurist in the junior court had earned her the highest possible rating of 'well qualified' for a prospective judge in the Supreme Court. She was clearly a product of the prevailing political consciousness, modulation and temper of her times, and beyond.

The trademark feminist in her was unmistakable in her acceptance speech where after thanking President Bill Clinton and her immediate family, she specifically acknowledged the role of her mother as the bravest person by saying, 'I pray that I may be all that she would have been had she lived in an age when women could aspire and achieve and daughters are cherished as much as sons'. Thereafter, there was no looking back

for Ginsburg as the fearless 'constitutionalist' and reformer who believed that she was not necessarily fighting for women's rights, as much as upholding the constitutional principle of equal rights and citizenship, without discrimination.

Fellow-Democrat and equally liberal-minded President, Barack Obama, went on to nominate two Judges to the Supreme Court in his two tenures, both women and both progressive-moderates, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. Since Judges to the Supreme Court in the United States are nominated by the President themselves, the candidature is also reflective of Presidential sensibilities, moorings and preferences. The only appointment of a Supreme Court Judge in the Trump tenure has been of the conservative and very controversial, Brett Kavanaugh, who faced serious allegations of sexual misconduct by multiple people.

A Washington Post editorial had gone beyond concerns about Kavanaugh's personal misconduct and warned about his hyper-partisan rhetoric that 'poisoned any sense that he could serve as an impartial judge'. However, Kavanaugh had Trump's full support and the President had unbelievably stated that the controversial jurist, 'never had even a little blemish on his record'! As there was a new political sensibility, instinct and outlook in the White House, the successful elevation of Kavanaugh to the Court tilted the scales in favour of the dispensation-friendly Conservatives 5-4.

But even in ostensible min-

ority, Ruth Ginsburg kept the shrinking flame of positive 'dissent' alive by retaining the spirit of libertarian judicial activism - she would independently and fearlessly indulge her own sense of empathy in deciding matters, and this was extremely crucial, as empathy was in short supply from the ruling political quarters.

Often illiberal political leaders are wary of the judiciary, especially of the likes of Ginsburg. Jurists like her disallow the majority rule from degenerating into majority tyranny as they forever question the status quo or regression in society.

National governance is always served better with an element of judicial oversight, intervention and activism, as opposed to less of it. Like any institution or individual, the judiciary or even in this case, Ginsburg, didn't always get it right all the time, but the overall custodianship of upholding the constitutional spirit was impacted better by a positive dissenter like her than by a beholden individual.

The Supreme Court in India too, has often come to the rescue of vulnerable individuals, communities or causes whenever majoritarianism or conservatism has sought to perpetuate an inequity, but perhaps more intervention is needed.

Such positive activism does not tantamount to diminishing democracy, but only to protecting liberties and rights, as the final arbiter of the Constitution. That is what jurists like Ginsburg could bring to the table, and it is hardly surprising that in many cases in Indian Courts, our jurists

have relied on the opinions of Justice Ginsburg!

Former Chief Justice KG Balakrishnan when dealing with a case on discrimination had quoted from a lecture given by Ginsburg, 'We are losers if we neglect what others can tell us about endeavours to eradicate bias against women, minorities, and other disadvantaged groups. For irrational prejudice and rank discrimination are infectious in our world. In this reality, as well as the determination to counter it, we all share'. Now, the judicial realm in the United States will be poorer for want of a powerful voice of 'dissent', as the bench runs the risk of becoming a very deferential court with a possible 6-3 preponderance.

The sweet spot of a balanced bench that is neither deferential nor overtly activist is an unknown formula, though history suggests that between the two extremes, the former situation is far worse than the latter. What a Justice Ginsburg could effectively do in a political environment, as vitiated and polarised by the divisive and intimidating tenor of Trump, was her ability to speak truth to power - as a jurist, her position afforded that possibility, and she was able to deliver on it without political consideration.

Ironically the spirit of the 87-year old 'Notorious RBG' connected with that of the restive millennials, just as another geriatric Jew, Bernie Sanders, vibes equally empathetically with the millennials. Globally, politicians are pandering to the worst instincts and dividing people with hate and revisionism - this is where the 'independence' of other institutions like the judiciary, armed forces, police, media, bureaucracy etc., needs to be protected and empowered. Herein, lies the necessity of the Ginsburg spirit across oceans!

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**  
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

**ASIAN VOICES**

## Sharing cost

Bhutanese quarantined and tested for Covid-19 have the option to pay the quarantine charges and bear the cost of the RT-PCR test starting next month. The decision follows what the task force calls 'overwhelming offers from the general public' to bear the cost. This is a good gesture from the public knowing that the cost of containing the virus is digging a big hole in the government coffers. The government, as of September 17 has spent about Nu 248.27 million on hotels that served as quarantine facilities for 14,667 people. The number would have increased by a few hundred as more are quarantined since the government last released the figures. Following the notification from the task force, there is a lot of confusion although the notification is clear and simple. Many assumed that the cost of quarantine would be passed over to individuals. The option is open unlike what many misunderstood - the government will still continue to support the cost of rooms, meals and the test for people who cannot afford. There is no compulsion. The notification is talking about people who are travelling from high-risk areas like Phuentsholing to low risk areas. As travellers would have to undergo a mandatory week-long quarantine, there is a huge cost involved. It seems some had offered to bear the cost of the quarantine and the test. There are many options. Not travelling from high risk to low risk or to the high risk is the best. Health authorities are pleading with people to not travel, unless it is unavoidable. Every single individual returning from a high-risk zone is an

**KUENSEL**  
additional cost to the government. With schools reopening and students from high-risk areas relocated, quarantining thousands of students is costly. The Covid-19 pandemic has derailed all our plans. If the economy has been battered by the impact of the pandemic, cost of the available resources is diverted to containing Covid-19. We have, even if it costs us dearly, managed well. The number of people testing positive may have increased and the restrictions caused inconvenience, but we have managed to keep the people safe. There is not a single death reported because of Covid-19 when the global death has touched the million mark yesterday.

If there are people who want to share the cost, it should be welcomed. Individually, it is about Nu 10,000 for a week-long quarantine and the cost of the test. We have people who could not only afford but also waste, higher amount, for instance, in a session of card games or in a drayang or a karaoke. More than anything, it is contributing to the country when the country is going through a pandemic times. We have seen, since March, how Bhutanese came forward with contributions, in cash and kind.

## IN MEMORIAM

**BANERJEE DR. M. L.** — Ex-Medical Officer, Eveready Industries, passed on this day. Fondly remembered by brother, nephews and relatives.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## An 'egregious violation' unpunished

SIR, Please refer to your report yesterday, 'All Babri case accused acquitted'. Twenty-eight years is a very long time but in India that is how long it can take for the wheels of justice to turn. There are many cases pending at various levels of the judiciary for over half a century. Such a lengthy course doesn't bode well for the rule of law. It's said that justice delayed is justice denied. Hence, the Supreme Court may review the position and initiate corrective measures.

In keeping with its record of many failures in high profile cases, India's premier investigating agency, CBI, once again failed to prove a criminal conspiracy in the Babri Masjid demolition case.

The trial court in absence of any evidence acquitted all people accused in the case. Significantly the demolition was recorded in newspapers and on videos in presence of thousands of onlookers. Many documentaries were made on the events of that day.

An inquiry commission submitted an authoritative report about the conspiracy to destroy the mosque. But after more than a quarter century, these evidences were found worthless due to technical errors. Instead, the court put the blame conveniently on thousands of lawless elements, whose faces it didn't know.

Last year, while adjudicating the Ram Mandir-Masjid title dispute, the Apex Court dubbed the

destruction of the Babri Masjid an "egregious violation of the rule of law". The demolition led to riots in many parts of the country, claiming the lives of hundreds of innocent people. But, sadly in India riot leaders are rarely brought to justice. This is why riots occur with disturbing regularity.

The judicial process of the Babri demolition case is still not over. To save its image, CBI must prefer appeals before the High Court and, if necessary, the Supreme Court.

It should also examine its failure to prove documentary evidence like audio and video clipings it brought to the trial court. The demolition of Babri Masjid will remain as a black

spot in Indian history.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das,  
Kolkata, 2 October.

### MASSIVE THREAT

SIR, I see the irony in US President Donald Trump being infected with Covid-19, when he played down the seriousness of the virus for months, though he knew how dangerous it was particularly for someone of his age. Despite that Trump refused to wear a mask in public on all but a few occasions and has repeatedly questioned their effectiveness.

For example, last Tuesday, at their opening debate, Trump mocked his opponent Joe Biden for wearing a mask - "I don't wear masks like him... Every time you see him, he's got a mask." Even a day

ago, he told an audience that "the end of the pandemic is in sight." One wonders how he could be so stupid when the disease can be avoided by taking some basic precautions. I hope his affliction will remind his supporters that the disease is still a massive threat, and that physical distancing and wearing a mask should continue until there's a vaccine.

Yours, etc., Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee,  
Faridabad, 3 October.

### MANY CHALLENGES

SIR, This is with reference to the letter written by Abhijit Chakraborty in your paper today. I completely agree with him on the context of the new methodology of imparting education and its impediments.

My two sons study at Calcutta Boys' School. Every day comes

with a new set of challenges and difficulties in adapting to this new system of online learning. Network problems, constant interruptions by some parents during classes, frequent issues of inaudibility, problems during submission of assignments and many more challenges form part of the new normal.

The biggest challenge is faced by teachers, who must handle a classroom consisting of more than fifty students, reply to queries from parents and solve technical issues in one session. Overall, it is a hotchpotch scenario almost every day. However, I also agree that subtle collaborations, coupled with sincere coordination and reciprocation will lead to this new method of learning becoming a rewarding experience for all.

Yours, etc., Anupam Neogi,  
Kolkata, 2 October.

### SUPERSpreadERS

SIR, This refers to your report stating that the largest contact tracing study in the country has shown Covid-19 is spread mainly by superspreaders. It has been revealed by a study that in Andhra and Telengana 60 per cent of positive patients do not infect their contacts but 8 per cent of superspreaders infect 70 per cent of their contacts. Superspreaders cannot be identified. Hence large gatherings, visits to markets and eating out should be avoided as much as possible, or N 95 masks should be used instead of cloth masks. Time of exposure should be brief to minimise infection. It is callousness on the part of health authorities to provide cloth masks to their frontline health workers. About half of the population including health care personnel are still found to be unmasked or using masks incorrectly. A massive campaign and enforcement of fines may be a deterrent to some extent for pandal-hopping violators during the Durga Puja.

Yours, etc., Basudeb Dutta, Durgapur, 2 October.



# Community-based solutions needed for stubble burning

TARINI MEHTA AND LAKSHYA GUPTA

**O**n 15 September there were no cases of crop stubble burning. Just six days later, forty-two cases were recorded. Crop stubble burning has also started in Haryana. Each year at this time, newspapers are filled with reports and a sense of alarm from the public. With this, the demand for urgent solutions gathers momentum, once again – yet every year the problem remains unresolved.

Just last week, the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), mandated by the Supreme Court, asked the Punjab and Haryana governments to take urgent measures to reduce crop stubble burning. A plea has also been filed in the Delhi High Court asking the Punjab and Haryana governments to take immediate measures to curb stubble burning, as the resultant pollution will further endanger the health of people who are already suffering greatly from the Covid pandemic.

The corona virus leaves patients with a reduced lung capacity, making a rise in pollution from stubble burning a matter of serious concern for the already vulnerable populations of Punjab, Haryana and the NCR region. The increased pollution levels not only contribute to high concentrations of lung-damaging particulate matter, but also lead to an increase in toxic pollutants such as carbon monoxide, methane and carcinogenic hydrocarbons.

The National Green Tribunal and Supreme Court have both stepped in to prohibit crop stubble burning, stating that the practice violates the right to a pollution-free environment under Article 21 of the Constitution. In 2015, the NGT also ordered that farmers who engage in burning crop stubble must pay environmental compensation. Nonetheless, crop stubble burning continues unabated.

The subsidies and incentives provided by the Government have



not brought about a shift towards alternative uses of crop stubble. The subsidies being offered do not adequately cover the additional costs for fuel and electricity that have to be borne by farmers, as well as the cost of additional machinery. These schemes evidence a disconnect from the socio-economic realities of farmers' lives. The issue of financial strain is particularly pertinent in the current Covid scenario. India is struggling with the economic costs of the lockdown. People have had to make lifestyle changes to reduce the spread of this highly contagious disease. In view of this, the action plan submitted by the Punjab and Haryana Governments to the Supreme Court-mandated EPCA, proposes the setting up of an increased number of custom-hiring centres (CHCs) to enable farmers to 'purchase' farm equipment on a rental basis. This will not be enough, as hiring the machines also needs

to be made more affordable for farmers. To put in place effective solutions, crop stubble burning needs to be dealt with through comprehensive, community-driven policies that address the root of the problem, as stubble burning is a symptom of a much larger issue – that of unsustainable agricultural practices. Diversification from wheat and rice is imperative and needs to be better supported and incentivised. Moreover, the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic necessitate that food security be built upon reforms that lead to greater ecological resilience, while also increasing the efficiency of India's agri-marketing and public distribution system.

Solutions premised upon community participation and making crop residue management profitable for farmers are the need of the hour. For instance, Chhattisgarh

has used a participative model through the promotion of gauthans, land held in common by each village where unused crop stubble is collected by farmers for conversion to organic fertiliser. The state bears the cost of transportation of the crop stubble from the farms to the nearest gauthan. This has also become a source of livelihood for rural youth who are engaged in converting the crop residue into organic fertiliser. Similarly, fifty villages in Western Uttar Pradesh started a project of sustainable use of crop stubble by making it into manure. Another group of farmers in Haryana has gone back to traditional methods of manual harvesting and have made this remunerative by selling the stubble to other farmers as fodder.

In Kirangatevalu village in Karnataka, electrification of the village has been achieved through a power plant that uses agricultural waste from sugarcane, as well as coconut

fronds. Agricultural waste is sold by the villagers to the plant and they get access to electricity. A supply chain has been put in place to procure agricultural waste throughout the year from villages within a radius of 10 kms. It is reported that 48 villages inhabited by 120,000 people have been able to gain access to electricity through this project. The cooperative model is another viable model, already implemented in the dairy industry.

There is a need to move forward and find solutions that take into account the financial exigencies faced by farmers. These should be comprehensive and participative, responding to the needs of farmers and aiding them to make a shift towards sustainable agricultural practices.

The writers are, respectively, Assistant Professor of Environmental Law, and a fifth-year law student of the O P Jindal Global University

## NOW AND AGAIN Words that inspired

TIRTHANKAR MITRA

**T**he park off Chitta Ranjan Avenue in central Kolkata was nearly empty even as the saffron clad man spoke passionately from a makeshift podium.

I had walked in with a friend who was listening with rapt attention.

Between the infrequent pauses of the address he told me all about the speaker - Swami Agnivesh. I tried to pay more attention to his words but could not. An animated adda with friends at College Street Coffee House, a stone's throw away from the park beckoned strongly.

I stood up, ignoring my friend's entreaties to stay back. But as I was trying to pick my way I found that the crowd had swollen. It mostly comprised burly men carrying big baskets; they appeared to be porters. They seemed to form an impenetrable phalanx which did not give way before me. I had little option but to stay and listen. Soon the heat and dust of the gathering seemed to disappear. I do not remember what he said on that summer day. But their essence was struggle, resisting oppression and love for fellow beings. I was in a trance.

Suddenly I became aware of my friend calling me. He led me to the dias. Just as I was having a good look at the wonderful man, he climbed down and came near us. We introduced ourselves as students of a college where he had once taught. "You must work for others as you work in your own interest" he said. But he was getting late for the next engagement and its organisers were requesting him to come with them. Waving to us, he accompanied them.

Suddenly he turned around and said with a smile "Awaz Uthao" in a voice which carried his words to the entire gathering.

## 100 YEARS AGO

INDIANS AND MR. GANDHI

To The Editor Of The Statesman  
SIR, - While I must confess that I have a profound regard for the personality of Mr. Gandhi as embodying many rare and enviable qualities, I fail to see the wisdom of his non-cooperation movement, ranking, as it does, on a par with his "Satyagraha" which evens have proved such a disastrous fiasco. On grounds of expediency alone, if not on principles, the non-cooperation movement stands condemned and should be deprecated, for at no time in the political history of India under British rule was co-operation more necessary than now; and it would therefore seem impolitic to endeavour to range the country on the side of forces which can but militate against its peaceful and ordered progress. The non-cooperation movement does not appear to be within the range of practical politics and must die out like its sister "Satyagraha" but its inevitable result will be to detract considerably from Mr. Gandhi's reputation as a practical man.

HARI DASS SINHA.  
Simla.

## THE NEW BENGAL COUNCIL CHAMBER

To The Editor Of The Statesman  
SIR, - As it is to be expected that the walls of the building will be decorated with cartoons depicting events memorable in the history of the Province, I trust the following suggestions will be helpful to the artists engaged upon the work. Being interested in tea, I have given the treatment of the tea-room my main consideration, and on the right of the kettle-counter, would depict Sir W. Meyer calculating the value of a raw green tea-leaf from a sample of Darjeeling Flowery Orange Pekoe, Kinch-injung in the background, and flanked on the right by an allegorical figure representing the fluctuations in exchange, and on the left by an allegorical figure representing the American cross-rate. As a frieze I suggest a procession of Calcutta tea-buyers carrying home their purchases from the first 1920 tea sale. Obviously some of the decorations should be done in distemper, and some in mosaics.

BERTIE RAPHAELSON.  
Calcutta.

## HINDUS AND THE COMING ELECTIONS

To The Editor Of The Statesman  
SIR, - The orthodox Hindu community in Bengal of the decision adopted at a meeting of the executive committee of the Bangia Brahman Sava in the matter of the approaching new election according to the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme. Brahman Sava has recently viewed with alarm the introduction of such Bills in the Council, as would, if passed, shake the foundation of orthodox Hindu society. Under the circumstances that Bangia Brahman Sava is of opinion that every Hindu voter should, in the interest of the society and religion, make it a point to vote only for those who belong to the orthodox Hindu community. The Brahman Sava has been of late receiving communications from persons belonging to the different sections of Hindu society in Bengal, asking to be guided in their procedure in the forthcoming election. It is impossible to reply to each of them individually.

SARAT CHANDRA VEDANTATRITHA,  
Assist. Secretary to the Bangia Brahman Sava, Calcutta.

## THE DEMAND FOR BICYCLES

To The Editor Of The Statesman  
SIR, - Statements have appeared in the public press to the effect that there is a "slump" in the sale of bicycles; these are so totally at variance with the facts, and calculated to give such an erroneous impression, that we feel compelled to ask for sufficient space to place the actual position before your readers. If the sale of shoddy bicycles are referred to this is perhaps correct, and that is all to the good. 1920 has been a remarkable year - it has proved to be the year of discrimination in cycle buying. Reports are that it is being found increasingly difficult to dispose of what were once known as "gaspipe bicycles," i.e., machines merely built to sell and not to be ridden. For this we have to thank the press in general, which has constantly impressed on the public the necessity for discrimination in bicycle buying.

THE RALEIGH CYCLE CO., LTD.  
Nottingham.

# Nawaz launches a crafty assault

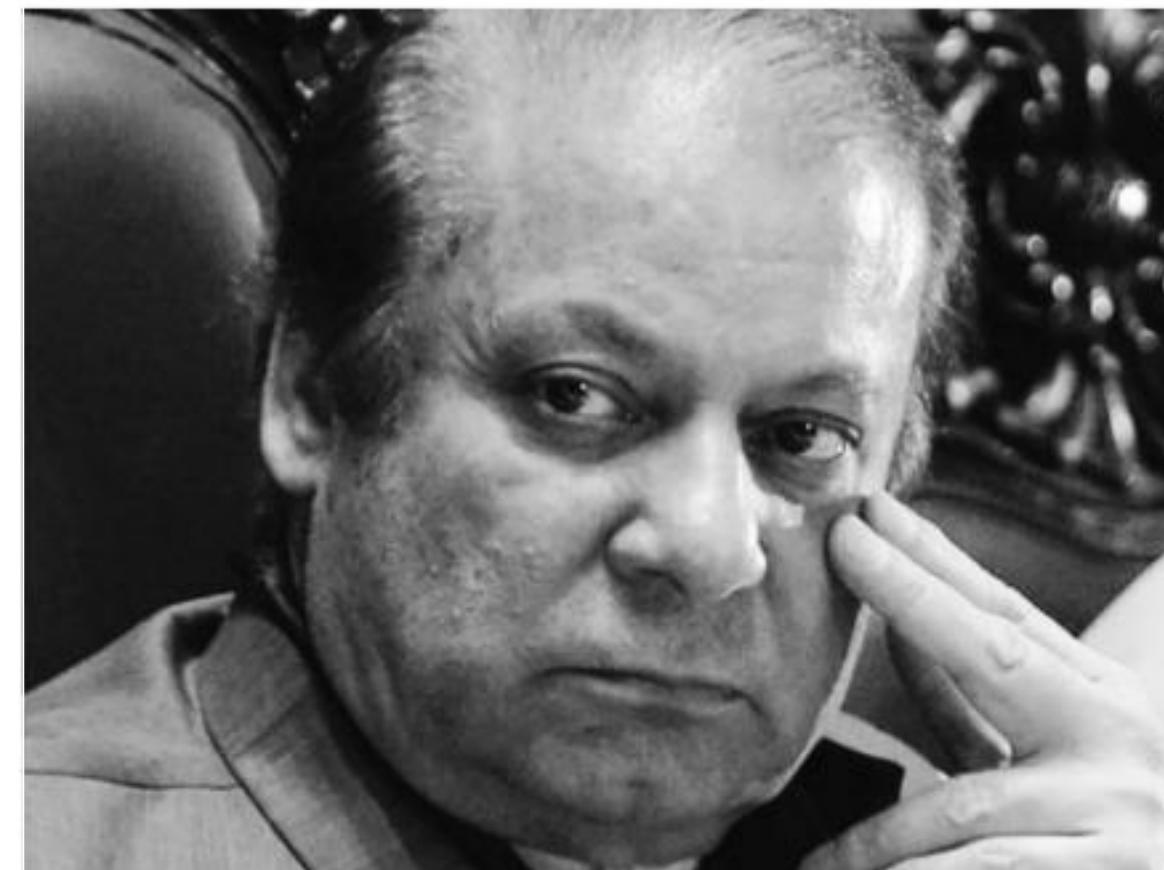
FAHD HUSAIN

**H**e took his time. He held his silence. He let suspense build. Now he has spoken. But words are the outward manifestations of his thoughts. His thoughts have sculpted his plans. His plans have begun to unfold on the ground. The ground is bracing for battle. The battle has many fronts.

Is the other side ready?

To win, it is critically important to know your opponent's strength and weaknesses. The other side should acknowledge, for instance, that no one in today's politics knows the Pakistani system better than Nawaz Sharif. He is a product of this system and he has worked it and governed it for more than three decades. He knows what makes this system tick. He is aware of how the establishment works, how the politician thinks and how the bureaucracy moves. He has a feel for the constituency and sense of the electorate; he understands the limits of political power and the limitations of being out of it; and he knows the gains of cooperation versus the pains of confrontation.

Nawaz Sharif has taken a decision: he will take the fight to the other side. We are now in win-lose territory. By venturing back into this territory, Nawaz has acknowledged that he is willing to take on the odds stacked against him. These are heavy odds. He is physically away from the battleground; his team is under constant threat of arrests and the entire system — gov-



ernment, judiciary and establishment — is arrayed against him for political, legal and other reasons. He is a wanted man and a fugitive from law. It is, by all standards, an unequal fight. Nawaz is a rational player. He has chosen the path of confrontation as a rational act that adds up despite the risks entailed.

To reach this conclusion, he has weighed in multiple factors. In fact, he has calculated all options and projected counter-options that are based on his deep knowledge of the system. In other words, he has war-gamed the situation.

Accordingly, he has fired the first shot. Three hard-hitting, direct and accusatory speeches within 10

days have sent political

temperatures soaring. This is unchartered territory. The political class is aghast. How could he be so suicidal? How could he name those who cannot be named? How could he burn all boats and bridges and yet expect to sail on them or cross them?

But he is a rational actor and there must be some method in this 'madness'. So, he has fired the first shot after having war-gamed the counter shot from the other side. He will then fire his second shot and he has also war-gamed the counter shot to the second shot. He wants to climb up the escalatory ladder because he has war-gamed that for

days have sent political temperatures soaring. This is unchartered territory. The political class is aghast. How could he be so suicidal? How could he name those who cannot be named? How could he burn all boats and bridges and yet expect to sail on them or cross them?

Why? Because random official spokespeople suffer from two grievous and debilitating weaknesses:

first, they do not have the stature or the political weight or the gravitas to slug it out with Nawaz; second,

they are armed with a pre-multipar-

ty conference narrative. Nawaz has now shifted the goalposts but someone forgot to tell the random official spokespeople. They are throwing punches in the air.

So, what can the other side do?

The other side has to first determine

Nawaz's vulnerability and then go after that. No, it's not Maryam. Yes

sure, every father's vulnerability is his daughter, and in that sense she is, but in the political sense it is clear that Nawaz has war-gamed the possibility of Maryam being arrested again. Her arrest would in fact feed into his new narrative and charge up the base. What other option does the other side have? Nawaz's strength is his cause and his team.

The cause is metaphysical but the team is merely physical. Can the other side break his team? Can it shrink his parliamentary numbers through defections? Can it wound Nawaz by depriving him of those who are fighting the fight on the ground from his call from thousands of miles away?

Is Nawaz's team — not the core

members but the hundreds of parlia-

mentarians in provincial and fed-

eral assemblies — ready to rough it

out with their leader? We will know

soon enough. War is coming. Nawaz

is using his speeches as artillery

bombardment to soften the battle-

field for the ground assault through

jalsas and rallies. Hostilities are

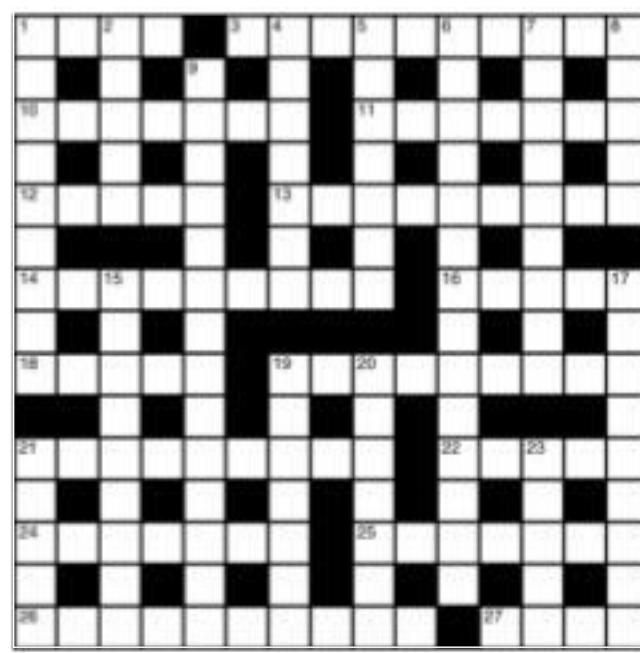
about to break out.

Nawaz knows what he wants.

Does the other side?

Dawn/ANN

## CROSSWORD



### SOLUTION FOR 27 SEPTEMBER

#### ACROSS

- 1 Second verse able at last to stir emotions (4)
- 3 Speed trap? (10)
- 10 Told to demolish Conservative minister's home (7)
- 11 Attractive to ignore fine print (7)
- 12 Improvised excellent book about Donegal's borders (2-3)
- 13 Deep breath? (3,6)
- 14 One having loads, rolling in it, after laundering? (4-5)
- 16 Makes home given time in monster's loch (5)
- 18 New land area provides iridescent material (5)
- 19 Stop intelligence officer infiltrating Kent cricket side? (9)

#### DOWN

- 1 Human beings in graceless state (6,3)
- 2 Girl round about inside far from reticent (5)
- 4 Headless corpse is sent back for certain journey (7)
- 21 Lad from Winchester? (3,2,1,3)
- 22 Holding the French in English court is brilliant success (5)
- 24 Bitter brewed round university gets commendation (7)
- 25 Mum garages a small vehicle — will it run? (7)
- 26 In AA to meet drunk individually (3,2,1,4)
- 27 Carriage bringing husband in for example (4)
- 28 After Ring compose tune in unenclosed space (4,3)
- 29 Scot happened to eat speciality European dish (8,6)
- 30 Global peacekeepers against entering unstable Israel (9)
- 31 Richmond MP once hot with fever (5)
- 32 What might be an illicit date? (9,5)
- 33 One new coin setter has taken for carrot (9)
- 34 Where to take refuge as truancy treated harshly (9)
- 35 FBI agents placed outside division (7)
- 36 Smallest musical note presented with hesitation (7)
- 37 Where one finds badger and duck in fight (3,2)
- 38 Drain to make white, not black (5)

NO 28093

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



*We are learning from our experiences every day and I can say that pent-up demand is now more sustained and predictable than when we started.*

MANOHAR BHAT

## THUMBNAILS

GIC to invest Rs 5,512 crore in Reliance Retail: Reliance Industries Limited and Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) announced on Friday that Singapore's GIC will invest Rs 5,512.5 crore into RRVL, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries. This investment values RRVL at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4,285 lakh crore. GIC's investment will translate into a 1.22 per cent equity stake in RRVL on a fully diluted basis.

**US economic recovery slowdown:** The weak job growth report in September revealed that the economic recovery in the US in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic was slowing and may be hitting a wall, a media report said. In a report released on Friday, the Labour Department said that non-farm payrolls increased by 661,000 in September, held back by declines in government employment and an exodus of workers, reports CNBC News.

**Fuel prices remain unchanged across metros:** Diesel price remained unchanged across the four metro cities on Saturday after falling for two consecutive days. In the national capital, the fuel was priced at Rs 70.46 per litre. Similarly, in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, diesel was sold for Rs 76.86, Rs 75.95 and Rs 73.99 per litre respectively, same as the levels on Friday. Petrol price was unchanged for the 11th consecutive day. In Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, it was priced at Rs 81.06, Rs 87.74, Rs 84.14 and Rs 82.59 per litre, respectively.

**Tesla reports record vehicle deliveries in Q3:** Electric-car maker Tesla has delivered a record 1,39,300 vehicles in the third quarter, beating the earlier estimates of 1,34,720 vehicles. The company produced 1,28,044 Model 3 and Model Y vehicles and delivered 1,24,100 of those. As for the Model S and Model X, it produced 16,992 of the vehicles and delivered 15,200.

## Reduction in domestic gas price to hike losses for upstream companies

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

Rating agency India Ratings and Research has said that recent domestic gas price reduction on account of a substantial fall in the benchmark indices would significantly increase losses for upstream companies while improving the profitability of end-user industries. In industry parlance, upstream companies deal primarily in the exploration of resources. According to the rating agency, end-user industries, specifically city gas distribution (CGD), fertilisers and power are expected to benefit out of this move. However, a new gas pricing framework could benefit the upstream companies while the other sectors may face a low-to-medium negative impact,

cited the agency.

Recently, domestic gas prices

were reduced to \$1.79 per mmbtu for 2HFY21 from \$2.39 per mmbtu for 1HFY21 on

account of a substantial fall in

the benchmark indices during 1QFY21.

"The proposal outlines the

Japan Korea mark-up (JKM)

index to act as a floor while calculating domestic gas pricing,"

the agency said. "Currently, the domestic gas prices are linked to low-priced international benchmarks such as the US, Canada, Russia and the UK, are reset bi-annually and follow these indices with a one-quarter lag."

Given that India is a net importer of gas, the domestic prices would more closely follow the spot LNG prices under the proposed regime, indicating parity in pricing for the major importing nations -- Japan, Korea, China and India.

"On the other hand, it said the indices used in the current framework reflect prices of major exporting nations which have abundant gas reserves and thereby a lower cost of production than India's, keeping the profitability of gas producers in the country low."



run in late October and early November.

E-commerce companies see a large chunk of their business coming in during the festive sales and they make significant investments ahead of time to ramp up their capacity to handle the spike in orders. The festive season sees players holding multiple sale events, timed around Dussehra and Diwali. Electronics, fashion and home furnishing are some of the categories that see a huge demand during the festive season.

A report by RedSeer estimates that festive sales this year are expected to almost double and touch USD 7 billion in gross merchandise value (GMV) as compared to USD

hand-holding them through their e-commerce journey," it said.

These include efforts such as free business incubation

in advertisements difficult to read, view and hear. The draft guidelines clearly state that a disclaimer should not attempt to correct a misleading claim made in an advertisement and should be clearly visible to the consumer. Non-legible disclaimers will also be considered as misleading ads.

Around 86 per cent consumers have come across child inappropriate ads in the last one year. In August, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs issued a draft for 'Central Consumer Protection Authority (Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Necessary Due Diligence for Endorsement of Advertisements) Guidelines, 2020' aimed at preventing unfair trade practices and protecting consumers' interest. According to the survey on these guidelines, 87 per cent consumers find disclaimers

should not take advantage of children's inexperience, credibility or sense of loyalty, or exaggerate the features of a good or service in a way that could lead to children having unrealistic expectations of such good or service, and include a direct promotion to children to purchase a good or service or to persuade their parents to purchase a good or service for them.

Many consumers highlighted that most of the regulations require a transaction to be done for a brand to hold accountable and action taken by the authorities and that prevents actions from being taken in many cases of misleading advertisements. Instead, anyone who has seen a misleading ad and is reporting the same must be considered a prospective buyer and the draft advertising code should consider all such complaints and action them.

"Why can't we aim for USD 1 trillion exports from India. We certainly can. I see no reason, (why) we cannot. For that we need to be clear on actionable items (and) subsidies are never going to get us there, I am very clear about that," he said.

"At least in my six years of engagement, I have not found subsidies to be the solution for India's problems. I think it's quality, technology, growth, scale; and sometimes for a short period you may need to give a little thrust or support. But if they are looking at literally running a long term engagement with the world on subsidy, it is not going to work," he said.

The minister was speaking at a webinar on strategies for alleviating policy constraints for exports in select sectors.

He said there is a need to identify areas where sensible policies can help take exports to USD 1 trillion.

value for consumers, opportunities for growth for MSMEs and sellers, and employment generation through e-commerce," Flipkart Group CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy said.

Through strong partnerships with brands and sellers, Flipkart has tapped into the power of interconnected businesses and technology to bring consumers a wide range of products at great prices at their doorsteps this festive season, he added.

Flipkart is also working with celebrities including Amitabh Bachchan, Virat Kohli, Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, Sudeep Kiccha, and Mahesh Babu, who will be seen in creative avatars as they engage with 'The Big Billion Days' event.

## 'A/Cs not performing due to delay won't be labelled NPAs'

Concerns have also been expressed regarding possible downgradation of loan accounts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that accounts becoming non-performing due to bank's or any other delay need not suffer the label of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).

The Centre said concerns have also been expressed regarding possible downgrading of loan accounts from standard to NPAs and the consequent impact on ratings.

"The resolution framework announced by the RBI provides that loans accounts which slip into NPA between invocation and implementation may be upgraded as standard on the date of implementation itself," an affidavit submitted by the government said. For example, if a borrower was defaulted on February 10, such borrower would be eligible for invoking restructuring as the account was less than 30 days overdue on March 1. "Invocation of restructuring is now done on, say, October 9 and completed by



say, November 9. Even if the account slips into NPA on October 10, it could be standard on November 9," the affidavit explained. The Centre told the Supreme Court that more than 50 per cent borrowers have not availed of the moratorium and have deposited their instalments, approximately such class would be more than 50 per cent. Reiterating that waiver of interest on all loans is not practical, the Centre said: "If the government were to consider waiving

sought waiver of interest on interest during the moratorium. The affidavit said that though it may not be possible to give the exact percentage of borrowers who have not availed of the moratorium and have deposited their instalments, approximately such class would be more than 50 per cent. Reiterating that waiver of interest on all loans is not practical, the Centre emphasised that if banks were to bear this burden, then it would necessarily wipe out a substantial and a major part of their net worth, rendering most

of the banks unviable and raising a very serious question mark over their survival.

But, keeping in interest of people facing hardships amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre said it will go with the tradition of "hand-holding small borrowers", and decided to grant waiver of compounded interest for borrowers of loans of up to Rs 2 crore. The Centre also provided clarification on the concern in connection with downgrading of credit ratings.

The affidavit cited circulars issued by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on March 30 and August 31. The Centre said it would engage with SEBI for a humane and holistic view in resolving the issues.

The Supreme Court will hear the case next on October 5. So in value terms, the assets rescued were about two and a half times of the assets which went to liquidation, Sitharaman said.

The IBC, which came into force in December 2016, has been amended five times.

to Rs 9,000 per month during the 12-month training period, they stand a good chance to get absorbed in the same factory," Sakthivel who is also the Chairman of AEPC said.

'STRIVE' is a World Bank-funded project under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship with a total cost of Rs 2,200 crore aimed at improving the productivity at MSMEs in various industrial clusters.

It also aims to enhance the delivery quality of ITIs through an apprenticeship scheme in all sectors.

ATDC further plans to establish the Industry Apprenticeship Initiative Cell and expand the work of Training of Trainers (ToT) through Apparel Made-Up and Home Furnishing Sector Skill Council (AMH-SSC) under the skilling project.

ATDC Vice-Chairman Rakesh Vaid, while addressing the 17th Annual General Meeting of ATDC recently, said that 'Pro-up' or 'Professional Up-gradation' programs for apparel exporters on an on-site basis will commence from January 2021.

## ATDC ties up with factories for World Bank-funded project

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

Apparel Training and Design Centre (ATDC), the training wing of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), has partnered with 77 apparel manufacturing units in Tamil Nadu for a World Bank-funded skilled training project.

"We have received support letters from 77 factories based in Tirupur and Chennai apparel cluster for the World Bank-funded Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) project," ATDC Chairman A. Sakthivel said. AEPC, which has more than 8,000 apparel exporters as members, has applied for the project, and ATDC will impart the three-month classroom training to 240 apprentices in five different courses followed by a 12-month on-the-job training under the mandatory apprenticeship scheme in partner factories.

"This is a win-win for both industry and workers. Courses were designed after consulting the industry so that they can have an upgraded workforce. While the apprentices will earn a stipend of Rs 4,500

per month during the 12-month training period, they stand a good chance to get absorbed in the same factory," Sakthivel who is also the Chairman of AEPC said.

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'Subsidies won't help boost exports; need to focus on quality, scale to meet \$1 tn goal'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said quality, technology and scale of production will help India take its annual exports to USD 1 trillion and not government subsidies.

He exhorted exporters and the industry as a whole to target USD 1 trillion worth of shipments.

"Why can't we aim for USD 1 trillion exports from India. We certainly can. I see no reason, (why) we cannot. For that we need to be clear on actionable items (and) subsidies are never going to get us there, I am very clear about that," he said.

"At least in my six years of engagement, I have not found subsidies to be the solution for India's problems. I think it's quality, technology, growth, scale; and sometimes for a short period you may need to give a little thrust or support. But if they are looking at literally running a long term engagement with the world on subsidy, it is not going to work," he said.

The minister was speaking at a webinar on strategies for alleviating policy constraints for exports in select sectors.

He said there is a need to identify areas where sensible policies can help take exports to USD 1 trillion.

## Farm budget increased 11-fold to ₹1.34 lakh cr from FY10: Gangwar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar on Saturday said budget of the agriculture ministry has been increased 11-fold to Rs 1.34 lakh crore from Rs 12,000 crore in 2009-10 during the UPA regime, which reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment for welfare of farmers. The government has been under attack for bringing in new farm laws which are aimed at providing marketing freedom to farmers for selling their produce.

"There has been continuous progress of villages, farmers, poor and agriculture since Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken over charge in 2014." The budget of the agriculture ministry was just Rs 12,000 crore in 2009-10, which has been increased 11-fold to Rs 1.34 lakh crore because



rise in government spending on procurement of foodgrain and other farm produce at crop support price. The MSP insulates farmers from market fluctuations.

"There has been continuous progress of villages, farmers, poor and agriculture since Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken over charge in 2014." The budget of the agriculture ministry was just Rs 12,000 crore in 2009-10, which has been increased 11-fold to Rs 1.34 lakh crore because

of the commitment of the Prime Minister towards farmers and agriculture," the minister said.

He was speaking at 4th Annual Convention - Virtual on Capital Market & Commodity Market: Role of Financial Markets in Building Aatmanirbhar Bharat by PHDCC.

He was of the view that farmers would benefit immensely from the new farm laws as they would be able to sell their produce at better prices in other states as well.

The minister also brushed aside the apprehensions about the scrapping of MSP saying there has been a considerable increase in the crops' support price compared to the UPA regime's.

He also spoke about three

major labour codes on social security, industrial relations and occupational safety, health and working conditions passed by Parliament, saying these reforms would help workers become self-reliant in the coming days.

Gangwar also said the President has given his assent to the three labour codes.

He opined that these labour codes would also help increase ease of doing business adding that industry and workers complement each other and therefore they have to work together in tandem with changing times.

He appealed to the industry leaders to provide support to the government for economic progress for achieving the ultimate goal of making India a USD 5 trillion economy.

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The Mamata government engages CID and police to remove the evidence of rape and rape culprits remain at large

SLAMMING THE TMC SUPREMO FOR HER AGITATION AGAINST THE HATHRAS RAPE  
BJP MP SOUMITRA KHAN

The Sunday Statesman  
NEW DELHI, 04 OCTOBER 2020

09

# Farmers of Odisha benefit under Modi regime: Pradhan

BJD continues to flummox everyone over its stand on the farm legislations

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 3 OCTOBER

**T**he BJD's stand on the contentious farm related legislations continued to flummox many here and today Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan reeled out figures of how farmers of Odisha had benefited till date from the pro-peasant policies of the Modi government.

Odisha government had promulgated Ordinances virtually on the same lines before it decided to oppose the bills in parliament. The Ordinances are to be brought in the form of bills in the ongoing session of the Assembly.

Today, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan debunked the charge that MSP will be dispensed with. As long as Modiji is the PM, MSP will remain, he asserted.

Pradhan pointed out that never before had MSP been part of a legislation. The reformist legislations are historic and it liberates farmers. The APMC will remain, he added.

Addressing the media here, Pradhan provided figures relating to Odisha and said procurement under the Modi regime had risen from levels of 14.26 mt of paddy to 22.86 mt while MSP had increased from Rs 1160 to Rs 1815.

The net value of paddy procured by the central government from farmers of Odisha has risen from Rs 13,763 crore to Rs 36,184 crore, he said.

Pradhan pointed out that in the past pulses were never procured by the central government in Odisha. Now over 20,272 tonnes are procured from farmers of the state at MSP and the net value is over Rs 24 crore. Similarly oilseeds procurement from Odisha has increased providing a net of over Rs 55 crore.

The new farm related laws will further strengthen the hands of the farmers and they can get a better price. The unwritten contracts with moneylenders will give way to proper enforceable contracts, he said. Multi-layer middlemen who used to exploit farmers will reduce, claimed Pradhan.

He wondered why the BJD had taken such a stand in parliament.

Promptly reacting to Pradhan, the BJD today said MSP ought to have been part of the legislation. The Union Minister Pradhan is speaking half-truth, stated BJD MLA Pratap Deb. The contract farming law will eliminate the small middlemen, but it will bring in bigger ones in the form of corporates, he charged.

OPCC president Nirajan Patnaik was sarcastic in his reaction saying Pradhan describes it as 'historic', yes it is as historic as demonetisation, GST, it will destroy the farmers, he chided.

Patnaik pointed out that Pradhan had sidestepped the demand that there should have been a provision in the law awarding punishment to anyone buying farm produce below the MSP. This has not been done and the NDA does not respond to this crucial aspect, noted the OPCC chief.

Despite the recent spurt in the death toll, the state continues to stay amongst the bottom-ranked States in the country's fatality graph. Odisha's case fatality rate (CFR) – the proportion of death to the number of confirmed cases – stands at 0.38% as against the national average of 1.56%.

On the other hand, allegations fly thick and fast from various quarters that the state

is growing by almost 41% in the past 30 days with 270 Covid patients dying of the virus during the period.

government has resorted to under-reporting of COVID deaths in a bid to flaunt better clinical management of the contagion.

The creation taking place on a daily basis at just one of the crematoriums in Bhubaneswar (30 to 40 bodies per day) and one in Cuttack have been cited by Opposition Congress to hammer home the charge that deaths are grossly under-reported.

It has been established world over that the best way

to cross check is to find the 'excess mortality' – average deaths of the last three years during a particular period compared with that of the February to September 2020 figure. The excess numbers will indicate the COVID fatality.

In a state like Odisha where records are not maintained properly at crematoriums and rural level ghatas, the excess mortality formula may not work.

But the Opposition insists that even the few places where there are some available eyewitness accounts show much higher numbers than what is dished out by the government. Private Hospital sources have also been hinting at higher casualty numbers, they added.

## Odisha records 3053 fresh COVID 19 cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 3 OCTOBER

Odisha's COVID-19 tally climbed to 2,29,387 on Saturday as the State registered 3,053 new cases , while 17 fresh fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 892.

Today as many as 1,804 new cases were detected in quarantine centres, while 1,249 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing. The local contact cases amounted to 41 per cent of total cases in the past 24 hours.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of new cases at 561, followed by Cuttack (256) and Mayurbhanj (153).

Odisha now has 34,314 active coronavirus cases, while 1,94,128 people have been cured of the disease so far, the official said.

The state has so far tested over 33.95 lakh samples for COVID-19, including 46,404 on Friday. Odisha's pandemic positivity rate currently stands at 6.75%.

Four districts in Odisha i.e. Khurda, Cuttack, Ganjam and Puri are fast emerging as epicentres of coronavirus accounting for 40 per cent of total confirmed cases.

The four districts put together have a combined tally of 91,792 positive cases .

Khordha and Cuttack districts have been recording an increase in coronavirus infections and their combined tally is 61,063.

Odisha on Friday had registered the highest single-day recovery of 4,380 COVID-19 patients, taking the number of cured people to 1,94,128.

The recovery rate in the state now is 85.75 per cent while the death toll rate in the State stands at 0.38%. The national recovery rate is currently pegged at 83.84% while the death toll is lower than the overall percentage of COVID fatalities in the country, which stands at 1.56%.

Odisha is currently placed at the 7th spot in the total COVID count of the country. The States of Maharashtra (14,16,513), Andhra Pradesh (7,06,790), Tamil Nadu (6,08,885), Uttar Pradesh (4,06,995), Delhi (2,85,672) and West Bengal (2,63,634) have reported more virus infections than Odisha.

## Cong stalls Odisha Assembly over Hathras

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 3 OCTOBER

The Congress MLA's stalled the proceedings of Odisha Assembly today over the Hathras gang-rape in Uttar Pradesh and manhandling of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi.

They trooped in to the Well of the House and raised slogans against PM Narendra Modi and UP CM Yogi Adityanath.

CLP leader Narasingha Mishra condemned the incident.

Following the ruckus, Speaker Surya Narayan Patra adjourned the House thrice till 3 PM and also called for an all-party meeting.

Significantly, BJD MLA Snehangini Chhuria told media persons that her party strongly condemns the Hathras incident.

The BJD wants justice for the dalit girl.

The administration should always act impartially, she added.

at the state capital itself.

I had to use my personal contact and influence to somehow ensure that a COVID patient of my constituency is administered a specific drug which he used to take daily after his relatives complained that he has not had the particular medicine for two days because the COVID Hospital doctors and nurses provide only coronavirus related vitamins and drugs.

Another reliable source alleged that a well known politician of stature who succumbed to the virus had to wait for two days to get a bed in the ICU. He was turned away at a premier private hospital in Bhubaneswar due to shortage of beds and went to another private hospital where he was kept in the general COVID ward for two days before getting admitted to the ICU.

The situation in districts is still worse with ICUs and ventilators being scarce.

There is not a single government run COVID Hospital in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack or Berhampur. All of them are run by private players, pointed out a doctor on conditions of anonymity. Even disposal of dead bodies is delayed, he added.

Why hasn't any government hospital been declared a COVID Hospital? certainly, there could be greater accountability, he said.

Implicitly, he was referring to the allegations of inflated bills being raised to avail funds from the government.

Odisha is one of the few states in the country which provides free treatment to COVID patients and reimburses the bill raised by the COVID hospitals.

The government has fixed COVID test rates. It should not exceed Rs 1200 in any private diagnostic centre or hospital.

But the person ends up giving at least Rs 3000 per test.

Consultation fee and certain other charges are added to the pre-fixed Rs 1200.

## COVID fatality grows by 41% in Odisha

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 3 OCTOBER

**Odisha's fatality rate has grown by almost 41% in the past 30 days with 270 Covid patients dying of the virus during the period.**

Seventeen fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's COVID 19 death toll to 892.

Odisha's fatality rate has grown by almost 41% in the past 30 days with 270 Covid patients dying of the virus during the period.

government has resorted to under-reporting of COVID deaths in a bid to flaunt better clinical management of the contagion.

Despite the recent spurt in the death toll, the state continues to stay amongst the bottom-ranked States in the country's fatality graph. Odisha's case fatality rate (CFR) – the proportion of death to the number of confirmed cases – stands at 0.38% as against the national average of 1.56%.

On the other hand, allegations fly thick and fast from various quarters that the state

him there on Wednesday.

The doctor examined and found burn injuries. He asked the parents about it and they admitted to having branded the child.

The mother of the child, Kuni Majhi said in Santhal families there is a practice to do so as a cure to ailments.

The child died of septicemia, said hospital sources.

It may be recalled that six days ago, another incident of a one-month old infant being branded in a similar manner had occurred in Tikarpada village and was rushed to the Udaipur Sub-divisional hospital for treatment.

## Infant branded with hot iron dies in Mayurbhanj dist

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BARIPADA, 3 OCTOBER:

A 27 day old infant succumbed after he was branded with hot iron rods by superstitious parents who believed that the child will be cured of stomachache.

The infant succumbed in Rairangpur Sub-Divisional Hospital yesterday.

Such instances of branding are a feature among tribals in the area.

Muni Majhi, father of the infant of Badajaidanposi village within Badampahar police limits had admitted his wife to the Badampahar Sub-divisional Hospital. The parents later brought him to the hospital and admitted



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan donates plasma at Cuttack SCB medical College. Pradhan said his wish to offer prayers to Lord Jagannath, Puri and donate plasma was fulfilled. He had visited Puri yesterday.

## Power problem at Nalco rectified

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
ANGUL, 3 OCTOBER

The 1200 MW Nalco Captive Power Plant (CPP) at Smelter & Power Complex in Angul has restored its normal production from today, after witnessing a disruption in power generation for a brief period, due to technical glitches over the last two days.

Production and operation activities at Smelter Plant, which were also halted, have

resumed except some outlived pots, which were to be taken under maintenance shortly, said a release issued by the company.

The outlived pots have been isolated during the shutdown and steps initiated to put them back in operation in two months time.

Besides, a high level technical committee has been set up to analyze the cause of the power failure in the CPP, said the company.

## Vijay Kumar discusses anti LWE operations in Odisha



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 3 OCTOBER

K. Vijay Kumar, Senior Security Advisor, MHA, A.P Maheshwari DG, CRPF met the top brass of Odisha police to discuss further intensification of anti-Maoist operations in the core operational areas of the CPI (Maoists) in Odisha.

Over the last one month, security forces have had successes in raiding and eliminating ultras in Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts.

The meeting held today was attended by Odisha DGP Abhay, Kuldip Singh, spe-

cifically DG CRPF, SLT, ADG BSF, RK Sharma, Director Intelligence, Amitabha Thakur, IGP Operations.

Issues relating to the present LWE scenario in the State, progress made towards combating the menace, operational strategy, re-deployment of CAPFs, coordination, requirements etc. were discussed.

Greater synergy with the Central Armed Police Forces was emphasised.

Re-deployment of CAPFs in Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Nawarangpur districts were discussed.

The COVID Hospital ward or ICU is out of bounds for fam-

ily members, patients are in distress, alleged former minister Suresh Routray (Congress).

(It may, however, be noted that to overcome such problems the government has issued instructions that patients should be put on video call with their family or relatives to know about the health condition and treatment

A former minister of the BJD said he has had to call up a few doctors to help patients get their regular dose of medicine after receiving such complaints from relatives of several patients.

Even ruling BJD MLA Uma Samanta had aired his anguish over the situation recently. Several ruling party members share the concerns but fear talking about it lest they incur the wrath of the high command.

A former minister narrated specific instances of trying his best to get COVID patients ICU beds and proper treatment

at the state capital itself.

I had to use my personal contact and influence to somehow ensure that a COVID patient of my constituency is administered a specific drug which he used to take daily after his relatives complained that he has not had the particular medicine for two days because the COVID Hospital doctors and nurses provide only coronavirus related vitamins and drugs.

Another reliable source alleged that a well known politician of stature who succumbed to the virus had to wait for two days to get a bed in the ICU. He was turned away at a premier private hospital in Bhubaneswar due to shortage of beds and went to another private hospital where he was kept in the general COVID ward for two days before getting admitted to the ICU.

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Consultation fee and certain other charges are added to the pre-fixed Rs 1200.

### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



### NEED TO KNOW



*This is not a matter of politics. It's a bracing reminder to all of us that we have to take this virus seriously. It's not going away automatically.*

US DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOE BIDEN  
ON PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TESTING POSITIVE FOR THE CORONAVIRUS

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	31°C	26°C H
HONG KONG	31°C	26°C H
TOKYO	26°C	19°C H
LONDON	15°C	9°C H
DUBAI	37°C	26°C CL
SAN FRANCISCO	25°C	14°C S
NEW YORK	19°C	11°C S
MOSCOW	19°C	8°C H

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

## THUMBNAILS



Pope Francis signing a new encyclical on human fraternity after celebrating mass at the tomb of St. Francis in Assisi. AFP

Afghan attack: A suicide truck bomb attack on Saturday killed at least 13 people in eastern Afghanistan, government officials said. At least 38 people were wounded in the blast in Nangarhar province's Ghani Khail district, when it hit near a mosque as locals were gathering for the afternoon prayers.

Cryptocurrency jihad: French authorities said Saturday that eight people have been charged for their alleged involvement in a complex scheme financing Islamic extremists in Syria through the use of cryptocurrencies. Two suspects were handed preliminary charges of financing terrorism and terrorist conspiracy in a judicial investigation opened Saturday.

Thai zoo head shot dead: Suriya Saengpong, the director-general of the Zoological Park Organisation of Thailand was shot dead Saturday as he was pursuing an investigation into the suspicious disappearance of rare animals from a zoo in a southern province, police said. AP

Backlash as Twitter says posts wishing harm on Trump violate rules

LONDON, 3 OCTOBER

Those who publicly express on Twitter the hope that anyone may die or come to serious harm could be suspended from the site, the social network announced, shortly after news broke that US President Donald Trump has Covid-19. The announcement on Friday came as Mr Trump was taken to hospital "as a precaution", where he is expected to have "a few days of treatment".

The disease has killed over 213,000 people in the USA, and after news broke of the president's infection, some people explicitly said on Twitter that they hope the disease causes his death.

The announcement of the new policy from the Twitter Communications team has prompted fierce accusations of double standards in its application of rules, as the site is well known for being riddled with aggressive abuse.

Many people have questioned why the president's health has been the issue which has prompted the company to make its new rules clear, which have reportedly been in place since April.

It also comes after Mr Trump himself retweeted a video in late May of a right-wing activist claiming that "the only good Democrat is a dead Democrat", and which is still up.

Responding to a Vice article headlined "Twitter says you cannot tweet that you hope Trump dies from Covid", the social network's communications team said: "Tweets that wish or hope for death, serious bodily harm or fatal disease against anyone are not allowed and will need to be removed. This does not automatically mean suspension." THE INDEPENDENT

# Covid-hit Trump flown to top hospital

Trump's shifting to Walter Reed military hospital for 'a few days' was precautionary, says WH; being given remdesivir, experimental drug

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 3 OCTOBER

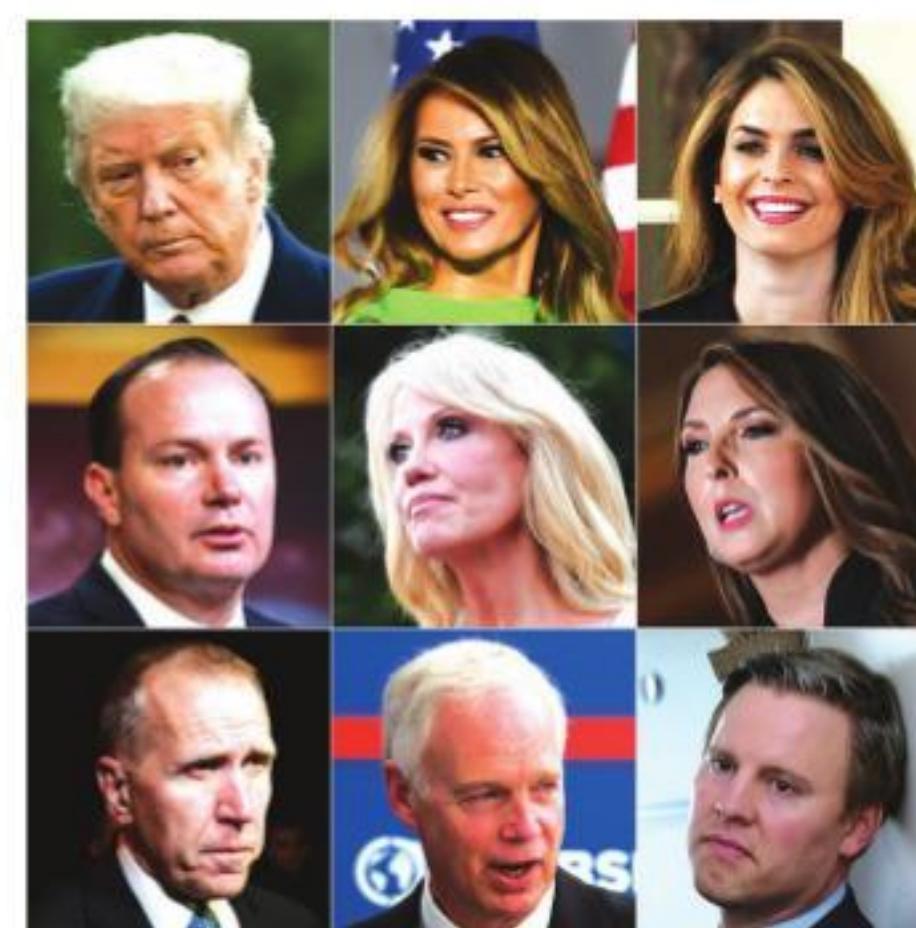
Stricken by Covid-19, a feverish and fatigued President Donald Trump was flown to a military hospital Friday night where he was given remdesivir following treatment with an experimental drug at the White House.

In a day of whipsaw events Friday, the president, who has spent months downplaying the threat of the virus, was forced to cancel all campaign events a month before the election as he fought a virus that has killed more than 205,000 Americans and is hitting others in his orbit as well.

The White House said Trump's expected stay of "a few days" at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center was precautionary and that he would continue to work from the hospital's presidential suite, which is equipped to allow him to keep up his official duties.

Trump walked out of the White House Friday evening wearing a mask and gave a thumbs-up to reporters but did not speak before boarding Marine One. Members of the aircrew, Secret Service agents and White House staff wore face coverings to protect themselves from the president onboard the helicopter.

In a video taped before leaving for Walter Reed, Trump said, "I think I'm doing very well, but we're going to make sure that things work out." He remained fully president, all authority intact. "Going well, I think! Thank you to all."



(L-R, top to bottom) US President Donald Trump, US First Lady Melania Trump, Trump advisor Hope Hicks, US Senator Mike Lee, former Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway, Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel; US Senator Thom Tillis, US Senator Ron Johnson and Trump Campaign manager Bill Stepien. As of Friday, all nine have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last two days. AFP

LOVE!!! he wrote in his first tweet from the hospital Friday night.

Just a month before the presidential election, Trump's revelation that he was positive for the virus came by tweet about 1 a.m. Friday after he had returned from a Thursday afternoon political fundraiser.

First lady Melania Trump also tested positive, the president said, and several others in the White House have, too, prompting concern that the White House or even Trump himself might have spread the virus further. He said in his

video that his wife was doing very well.

Several administration officials pointed to the Saturday Rose Garden announcement of Trump's nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court as the possible connection between cases that spanned Washington Friday.

Former White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, the president of the University of Notre Dame, and at least two Republican lawmakers who were also present at the event - Utah Sen. Mike Lee and North Carolina Sen. Thom

## Virus hits committee handling Supreme Court nomination

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 3 OCTOBER

Two Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have tested positive for the coronavirus, raising questions about the timing of Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Judge Amy Coney Barrett and whether additional senators may have been exposed.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell vowed the confirmation process is going full steam ahead.

North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis and Utah Senator Mike Lee both said on Friday that they had tested positive for the virus. Both attended a ceremony for Barrett at the White House on September 25 with President Donald Trump, who announced on Friday that he had tested positive and was later hospitalized at Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre.

Lee, who did not wear a mask at the White House

Tillis announced Friday they had tested positive and were isolating.

Also testing positive: Trump's campaign manager, Bill Stepien. Campaign spokesman Tim Murnaghan confirmed news, first reported by Politico, that Stepien received a diagnosis Friday and is experiencing

The positive tests come as Senate Republicans are pushing to confirm Barrett in the few weeks they have before the November 3 election.

event, said he had symptoms consistent with long-time allergies. Tillis, who did wear a mask during the public portion of the event, said he has no symptoms. Both said they will quarantine for 10 days - ending just before Barrett's confirmation hearings begin on October 12.

The positive tests come as Senate Republicans are pushing to quickly confirm Barrett in the few weeks they have before the November 3 election. There is little cushion in the schedule set out by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham and McConnell, who want to put Trump's third hand-picked justice on the court

"mild flu-like symptoms."

Stepien, who joined Trump at Tuesday's first presidential debate, plans to quarantine until he recovers.

Trump's diagnosis came during an already turbulent period in Washington and around the world, with the US gripped in a heated presi-

immediately in case they lose any of their power in the election. Democrats immediately seized on the announcements to call for a delay in the hearings.

"We now have two members of the Senate Judiciary Committee who have tested positive for Covid, and there may be more," tweeted Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer. "I wish my colleagues well. It is irresponsible and dangerous to move forward with a hearing, and there is absolutely no good reason to do so."

Several other members of the Senate Judiciary panel attended the White House ceremony, including Missouri Senator Josh Hawley, Nebraska Senator Ben Sasse, Tennessee Senator Marsha Blackburn and Idaho Senator Mike Crapo.

Blackburn said she tested negative after the event and Crapo said he recently had a negative test but an aide did not specify when he took it.

dential election amid the human and economic toll of the virus. Trump's immediate campaign events were all canceled, and his next debate with Democrat Joe Biden, scheduled for October 15, is now in question.

Trump has been trying all year - and as recently as Wed-

nesday - to convince the American public that the worst of the pandemic is past, and he has consistently played down concerns about being personally vulnerable. He has mostly refused to abide by basic public health guidelines - including those issued by his own administration - such as wearing face coverings in public and practicing social distancing. Until he tested positive, he continued to hold campaign rallies that drew thousands of often maskless supporters. "I felt no vulnerability whatsoever," he told reporters back in May. With the election coming up in about a month, he was urging states and cities to "reopen" and reduce or eliminate shutdown rules despite continuing virus outbreaks.

The White House tried to maintain an atmosphere of business-as-usual on Friday.

"President Trump remains in good spirits, has mild symptoms, and has been working throughout the day," said press secretary Kayleigh McEnany. "Out of an abundance of caution, and at the recommendation of his physician and medical experts, the president will be working from the presidential offices at Walter Reed for the next few days."

The president's physician said in a memo that Trump received a dose of an experimental antibody combination by Regeneron that is in clinical trials. Navy Commander Dr. Sean Conley said Trump "remains fatigued but in good spirits" and that a team of experts was evaluating both the president and first lady in regard to next steps.

## Madrid starts partial virus lockdown

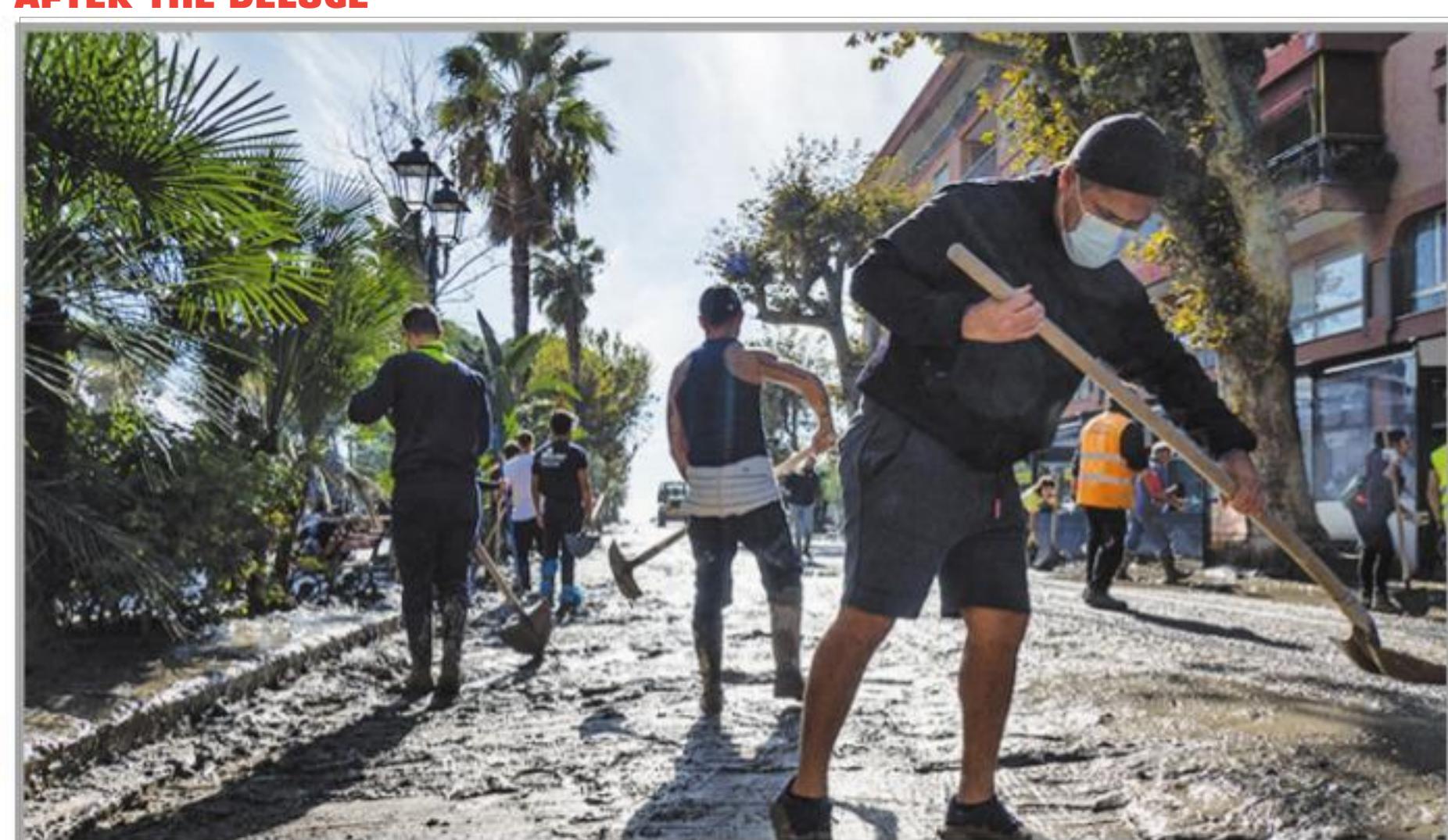
MADRID, 3 OCTOBER

Madrid awoke Saturday to its first day under a partial lockdown, with police controlling travel in and out of the Spanish capital that has become Europe's biggest hot spot for the second wave of the coronavirus.

The two-week ban imposed by Spain's national government on reluctant regional officials started Friday night at 10 p.m. The measures prohibit all nonessential trips in and out of the capital and nine of its suburbs, affecting around 4.8 million people. Restaurants must close at 11 p.m. and shops at 10 p.m.

Spain's prime minister Pedro Sanchez said the steps were critical to stop a surging caseload and prevent a repeat of the horrific situation of March and April. AP

## AFTER THE DELUGE



People clean the mud in Ventimiglia, Italy, on Saturday after the Roya river flooded the whole city with water and mud. One person died and authorities listed some 20 as missing after heavy storms lashed southern France and northern Italy. AFP

## Tapes reveal confusion behind Breonna Taylor's death

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LOUISVILLE, 3 OCTOBER

The police officer who fatally shot Breonna Taylor described seeing only shadowy mass and said he didn't recall firing the 16 bullets later matched to his gun. As she lay bleeding, Taylor's boyfriend called his mother before dialling 911.

And neighbours roused by the gunfire at Taylor's apartment after midnight on March 13 only added to conflicting testimony about whether police serving a narcotics warrant announced themselves before using a battering ram to break down her door.

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

The EU has launched legal action against the UK over the Internal Market Bill, which if passed into law will undermine the EU's previously agreed oversight of trade to and from Northern Ireland, which shares a border with EU member Ireland.

Details of the chaos and con-

fusion during the raid that resulted in the 26-year-old Black woman's death were revealed in 15 hours of audio recordings released Friday. They contained testimony and recorded interviews presented last month to the Kentucky grand jury that decided not to charge any police officers for killing Taylor.

If you told me I didn't fire a gun, I would be like, OK, detective Myles Cosgrove told investigators soon after the shooting. In fact, investigators determined Cosgrove shot 16 of the 32 bullets police fired into Taylor's apartment, responding to a single gunshot from her boyfriend when they rammed down her door. Evidence showed one of Cosgrove's bullets killed Taylor.

Her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, said he thought intruders had burst into Taylor's home, not police. As she lay bleeding, Walker said he called his mother, then dialed 911, telling an operator: Somebody kicked in the door and shot my girlfriend.

The dramatic accounts of the moments before Taylor's death are key to a case that has fueled nationwide protests against police brutality and systemic racism.

Police said they knocked and announced themselves for a minute or more before using a battering ram to get inside. Walker said he did not hear officers identify themselves, perhaps because he was too far from the door.

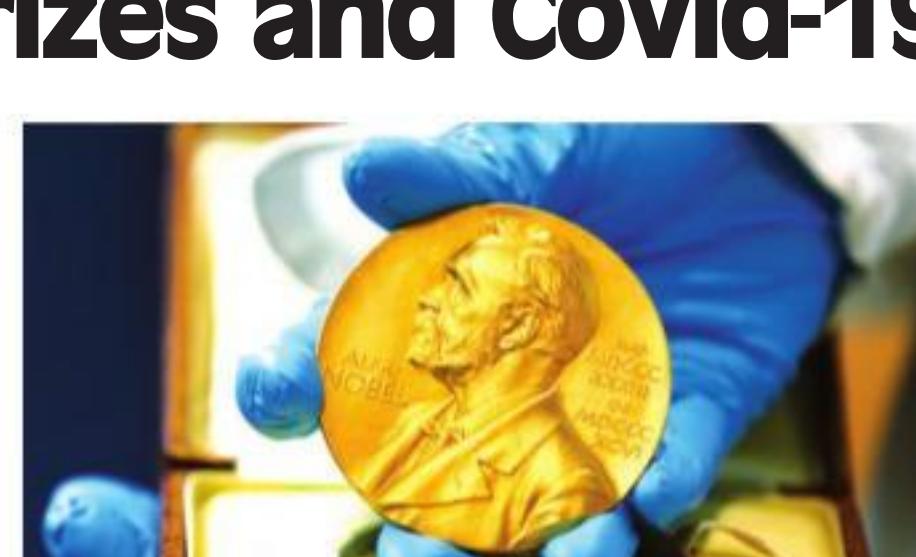
The recordings mark a rare public look into grand jury proceedings that are typically kept secret. Though they shed light on what happened as police fired 32 shots in the last moments of Taylor's life, nothing

in them appeared to change the fundamental narrative that was previously made public.

The recordings also do not include any discussion of potential criminal action on the part of the officers who shot Taylor because Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron determined beforehand that they had acted in self-defence. As a result, he did not seek charges against police in her killing. A court ruled the recordings should be released after the jury's decision last week angered many in Louisville and around the country and set off renewed protests. One of the jurors also sued to make the proceedings public.

## Nobel Prizes and Covid-19: Slow, basic science may pay off

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 3 OCTOBER



long to realise the implications.

Slow and steady success in science has made researchers hopeful in the fight against the pandemic. It even offers a glimmer of climate optimism.

Many years of advances in basic molecular science, some

of them already Nobel Prize-winning, have given the world tools for fast virus identification and sped up the development of testing.

And now they tantalise us with the prospect of Covid-19 treatments and ultimately a vac-

cine, perhaps within a few months.

"This could be science's finest hour. This could be the time when we deliver, not just for the nation but the world, the miracle that will save us," said geophysicist Marcia McNutt, president of the National Academy of Sciences.

The coronavirus was sequenced in a matter of weeks, testing became available quickly, and vaccines that would normally take years may be developed in a year or less, and it's all been built on the back of basic science advances that have been developed in the past three decades, McNutt said.

She pointed to gene sequencing and polymerase chain reaction, which allows for multiple copying of precise DNA segments. That latter discovery won the 1993 Nobel in chemistry.

Association for the Advancement of Science. "That was made possible by basic research."

Basic research comes first. The benefits are typically reaped only later, in what is called applied science.

Without basic science, you won't have cutting-edge applied science, said Frances Arnold, a Caltech chemical engineer who won the 2018 Nobel in chemistry.

Nobel-winning basic research has allowed us to see the world in a whole new light.

You like white, efficient LED light to replace the nasty fluorescent hum of industrial lighting or energy-gobbling incandescent bulbs? A key

part of those lights are blue light-emitting diodes, and their discovery won the 2014 Nobel in physics, said astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, head of the Hayden Planetarium.

How about seeing better, without glasses, thanks to LASIK surgery? That stemmed from research into precise lasers that led to the 2018 Nobel in medicine, but was also the product of an accident in which a researcher got laseried in the eye, said microbiologist Rita Colwell, former head of the US National Science Foundation. And those lasers used concepts that date back to Albert Einstein, said British Royal Astronomer Martin Rees.

The world is living in the shadow of nuclear catastrophe, fuelled by growing distrust and tensions between the nuclear powers.

ON SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES

COMMEMORATING THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Sunday Statesman  
NEW DELHI, 04 OCTOBER 2020

11

## THUMBNAILS



Syrian artist Aziz Asmar paints a mural depicting US President Donald Trump fighting with Covid-19, in Syria on Saturday. AFP

**NY attorney killed in crash:** Personal injury attorney Steve Barnes, whose law firm Cellino & Barnes was known on two coasts for its catchy TV jingle, was killed on Friday in a small plane crash in western New York. Barnes, a registered pilot, died along with his niece, Elizabeth, his longtime law partner. AP

**PIA sacks 54 employees:** Pakistan International Airline has sacked 54 more employees for having fake degrees, abusing drugs and for poor performance, according to a media report. Seven officials got bonuses for excellent performance and 13 employees were given letters of appreciation. PTI

## Phoenix Settlement declared National Heritage Site

JOHANNESBURG, 3 OCTOBER

The South African government declared the Phoenix Settlement in Durban as a National Heritage Site on the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi even as several events were organised across the country to celebrate the occasion.

Indian High Commissioner Jaideep Sarkar on Friday welcomed the announcement regarding the Phoenix Settlement where Gandhi established a commune, started his experiments with Satyagraha, and printed his newspaper *Indian Opinion*.

This confirms the strong links that bind India and South Africa, and it also gives us a roadmap here in Johannesburg to do the same for Tolstoy Farm, Sarkar said as the keynote speaker at the commune south of the city where Gandhi established a similar facility while practising as a lawyer. Let us all work together to petition the South African government to get equal recognition for Tolstoy Farm as a National Heritage Site as well," he said.

Sarkar said this would not only preserve the physical site, but also the legacies, ideas and values that Gandhi held dear for future generations.

Phoenix Settlement and Tolstoy Farm are the places where he transformed as a political, physical and spiritual being. The political ideas of non-violence and passive resistance mass mobilisation were ideas that were relevant in the 20th century. But unfortunately human history has shown us that oppression, and injustice are never far away from societies, he said. Sarkar joined the Mahatma Gandhi Remembrance Organisation in officially launching public ablution facilities at Tolstoy Farm. PTI

# France struggles for Karabakh peace progress

"Fierce battles continue along the entire front," the Azeri defence ministry said on the seventh day of fighting with ethnic Armenian forces

**AGENCIES**  
YEREVAN, 3 OCTOBER

**A** French attempt to relaunch peace talks over Nagorno-Karabakh showed no sign of a breakthrough on Saturday as Azerbaijan blamed Armenia for re-igniting their decades-old conflict.

Nagorno-Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan, said Azeri forces had again launched rockets towards its main city, Stepanakert, a week after the opposing sides began pounding each other with tanks and missiles.

The clashes are the worst since the 1990s, raising the risk of a wider regional war that could draw in Russia and Turkey amid deepening concern about stability in the

South Caucasus, where pipelines carry Azeri oil and gas to world markets.

"Fierce battles continue along the entire front," the Azeri defence ministry said on the seventh day of fighting with ethnic Armenian forces.

Nagorno-Karabakh said on Saturday that 51 more servicemen had been killed in the war with Azerbaijan, a sharp rise in the death toll from a week of fierce fighting. Arayik Harutyunyan, president of the ethnic Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan, said earlier he had travelled to join his forces on the front line.

French President Emmanuel Macron spoke on Friday with President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan of Armenia - which backs Nagorno-Karabakh - and said

later in a statement he had proposed a new way to restart talks.

"The president of Azerbaijan placed the entire responsibility on the leadership of Armenia for the break-off of negotiations and the armed confrontation," Aliyev's press service said. Armenia says it was Azerbaijan that reopened the conflict by launching a major offensive on Sept. 27.

People hold signs and flags as they protest against the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh and Turkey's support for Azerbaijan in front of the Turkish ambassador's residence in Washington, DC, on Saturday. AFP

on renewing a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh.

But Aliyev told Al Jazeera in an interview on Friday that the Minsk group had failed for the past three decades to make progress over the dispute.

He said Azerbaijan was not ignoring ceasefire calls, but this could only be achieved if ethnic Armenian forces withdrew from Azeri territories - a reference to Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions they have controlled since the 1990s.

"(The) conditions must be that they withdraw from the territories. We need our territories back by peaceful means and we demonstrated for 28 years our willingness to have a peaceful settlement," Aliyev said.

Some 200 people have been reported killed in the past

## PROTEST EVENT



An activist waves the US flag during an anti-China protest to mark the 71st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in Shinjuku district of Tokyo on Saturday. AFP

# Sudan, rebel leaders seal peace agreement in effort to end wars

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
JUBA, 3 OCTOBER

**The deal would grant self-rule for the southern provinces of Blue Nile, South Kordofan and West Kordofan, according to a draft obtained by The Associated Press. Rebel forces would be integrated into Sudan's armed forces.**

reached in late August between the Sudanese government and the Sudan Revolutionary Front, a coalition of several armed groups.

The summit was attended by South Sudan President Salva Kiir, whose own country gained independence from Sudan in 2011 following decades of civil war. The head of Sudan's sovereign council, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and his deputy Gen. Mohammed Hamadan Dagalo, also attended the ceremony.

Dagalo, the commander of paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, signed the agreement along with rebel leaders.

Also attending the ceremony were several foreign officials including the U.S. Spe-

cial Envoy for Sudan Donald Booth, African Union chairman Moussa Faki, and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly, along with other African and Arab officials.

The deal would grant self-rule for the southern provinces of Blue Nile, South Kordofan and West Kordofan, according to a draft obtained by The Associated Press. Rebel forces would be integrated into Sudan's armed forces.

The Sudan Revolutionary Front, centered in the western Darfur region, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, is part of the pro-democracy movement that led to the uprising against al-Bashir, but the rebels didn't fully support the military-civilian power-sharing deal. That deal includes a six-month deadline for achieving peace, which ran out in February.

Sudan's largest single rebel group, the Sudan Liberation Movement-North led by Abdel-Aziz al-Hilu, was involved in the talks but has yet to reach a deal with the government.

Al-Hilu has called for a secular state with no role for religion in lawmaking, the disbanding of al-Bashir's mil-

tias and the revamping of the country's military. The group has said if its demands are not met, it would call for self-determination in areas it controls in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces.

Al-Hilu attended Saturday's ceremony and met with Hamdok and Kiir to discuss the ongoing talks between his movement and the government, according to Hamdok's office.

Another major rebel group, the Sudan Liberation Movement-Army, which is led by Abdel-Wahid Nour, rejects the transitional government and has not taken part in the talks.

Nour's movement criticized the deal, saying in a statement it was not different from other previous deals that did not end the wars.

The Sudanese communist party, which is part of the protest movement that helped topple al-Bashir, also denounced the deal as a true threat to Sudan's integrity and future. The party said in a statement Thursday that the deal would create tensions and new disputes because other rebel groups and victims of the civil war did not join these talks.

# Report: Oxford Univ vaccine could be rolled out within six months

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
LONDON, 3 OCTOBER

There is growing hope that a vaccine against coronavirus may be given the green light by health regulators by the end of this year to be rolled out for a vaccination programme in six months' time or even less, according to a UK media report.

The vaccine candidate under trial by University of Oxford scientists in collaboration with pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca is the furthest in the process of trials and, according to a report in *The Times*, it could be given the required clearances by Christmas in December.

The newspaper quoted UK government sources involved in the making and distribution of vaccines as saying that a full vaccine roll-out programme for adults could take six months or less after approval.

We are looking at closer to six months and it is likely to be far shorter than that, a government source said.

Under a protocol developed by the UK's Joint Committee on Vaccination and

Immunisation, any approved vaccine will then be given to all over 65s, followed by younger adults at higher risk, which could include those from ethnic minorities as well as those with serious health issues based on their higher risk from the deadly virus. People over 50 will be next in line, with younger adults at the back of the queue.

The UK government has ordered 100 million doses of the Oxford vaccine once it is ready for roll-out and the doses are being manufactured before it has been shown to be successful in order to save time once it clears all the regulatory stages.

According to the newspaper report, scientists on the trial are hopeful that they will get results before the end of this year, and that they will at the very least show that it prevents 50 per cent of infections, the threshold for success.

If it is approved by the regulators, the UK's National Health Service (NHS) is said to be in a position to begin mass vaccination almost immediately.

# Tight security, many arrests for Ethiopian Irreecha festival

JOHANNESBURG, 3 OCTOBER

Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, the Oromo, on Saturday celebrated the annual Thanksgiving festival of Irreecha amid tight security and a significantly smaller crowd due to political tensions and the pandemic.

Hundreds of people were arrested ahead of the festival, some accused by authorities of plotting terror attacks and a new wave of unrest.

Wearing face masks and white clothes stitched with the colors of the Oromia region's flag, people in downtown Addis Ababa were subjected to at least six security checks complete with body searches and, in some areas, sniffer dogs.

I don't know the kind of information they have but these security checks are too much, said Hassen, a participant who gave only his first name, fearing for his safety.

Added with the Covid, it really has ruined the festive mood. The festival usually attracts hundreds of thousands of people, but only a few thousand were allowed to attend this year.

More than 500 people were arrested on suspicion of plotting to disrupt the festival, the Oromia police commission said. The National Intelligence and Security Service said it had arrested people suspected of planning to carry out terror attacks in Addis Ababa and nearby Bishoftu, adding that 10 Kalashnikovs were seized.

People travelling to the capital from other regions were banned from entering the city, multiple sources told The Associated Press. Officials said they were carrying out strict security checks but did not confirm the ban.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is the country's first Oromo leader, but he faces growing criticism by some Oromo that he hasn't done enough for them. AP

# Vatican: Pope Benedict XVI approved bishop accord with China

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
ROME, 3 OCTOBER

The Vatican doubled down Saturday on its intent to pursue continued dialogue with China over bishop nominations, defending a deal it did with the Chinese government in 2018 as necessary to the life of the Catholic Church there, over strong US objections.

The Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, gave the Holy See's most authoritative and comprehensive response to critics of the extended accord during a speech marking the 150th anniversary of the arrival

in China of Catholic missionaries from an Italian religious order.

Parolin insisted that popes as far back as Pius XII had tried to reopen a path of dialogue with Beijing after the communists came to power and expelled foreign missionaries.

The Vatican is seeking to extend the deal with China, which envisages a process of dialogue in selecting bishops. It signed it in 2018 in hopes it would help unite China's Catholics, who for seven decades have been split between those belonging to an official, state-sanctioned church and an underground church loyal to Rome.

The question of bishop nominations has long vexed Vatican-China relations, with

the Holy See insisting on the pope's divine right to name the successors of the apostles and Beijing considering such nominations foreign infringement on its sovereignty.

The Vatican has defended the 2018 accord against criticism that Francis sold out the underground faithful, saying the deal was necessary to prevent an even worse schism in the Chinese church after China named bishops without the pope's consent.

Benedict XVI approved the draft agreement on the nomination of bishops in China that only in 2018 it was possible to sign, Parolin said. He added

that the accord only covers the nomination of bishops and does not in any way touch on other aspects of the life of the church in China, much less political issues.

He called it a point of departure and said it was worth extending because two years was too short a period of time to evaluate its worth.

There have been some results, but in order for the dialogue to have more consistent fruits, it's necessary to continue, he said. From the Holy See's side, there is the will to prolong the accord on an experimental basis, as it has been done, in order to verify

its use. It was the third time this week that Parolin has had to defend the accord, after a tense visit from US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to the Vatican.

During a speech on religious liberty in Rome and in an essay penned before his arrival, Pompeo made clear US objections to the accord and urged the Vatican to join the US in denouncing China's crackdown on religious and ethnic minorities, Catholics among them.

This isn't about the United States versus China. This is about tyranny, Pompeo told reporters en route home

from Croatia on Friday, at the end of a European trip to try to rally European support for the tough US line on Beijing that has accelerated amid the coronavirus pandemic and ahead of the November 3 election.

In his speech Saturday, Parolin used the occasion to acknowledge errors in the imperialist way some Catholic missionaries operated in the past and even the Holy See's own decision to name only non-Chinese bishops at the start, a clear nod to decades of Chinese complaints about foreign interference by the church.

**BIG BEN**

Ben Stokes (in photo, left) is set to join Rajasthan Royals after missing the initial couple of weeks of the current Indian Premier League to be with his ailing father in Christchurch. Rajasthan Royals tweeted a picture of Stokes in a flight. He will have to undergo six days of quarantine on arrival in West Asia.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

**THUMBNAILS**

**Garg's admission:** Sunrisers Hyderabad batsman Priyam Garg has admitted that "it felt really bad" after Kane Williamson got run-out during their Indian Premier League match against Chennai Super Kings. Garg, 19, was involved in a mix-up with Williamson.

**Honour caps:** Mayank Agarwal and Mohammad Shami of Kings XI Punjab continue to hold the Orange and Purple Caps, respectively, after the end of the 14th match of the Indian Premier League between Chennai Super Kings and SunRisers Hyderabad.

**Bangla refusal:** The Bangladesh Cricket Board refused an invitation from Cricket Ireland to play a Four Nation Twenty20 tournament in December, BCB officials confirmed on Friday. The offer was made as Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka had come to be postponed.

**Positive test:** Liverpool forward Sadio Mane has tested positive for novel coronavirus, the Premier League club has confirmed. The forward, who started and scored in Monday's 3-1 victory over Arsenal, has "displayed minor symptoms" of the virus but feels in good health.

**Virus scare:** Marco Verratti returns to the Italy squad but coach Roberto Mancini left out all Napoli players over fears of the coronavirus when he named his group on Friday for the latest round of international matches. Napoli announced two cases of Covid-19 on Friday.

**Neymar strikes:** Brazilian forward Neymar scored his first seasonal goals as Paris St Germain demolished Angers 6-1 in a one-sided Ligue 1 match on Friday. Alessandro Florenzi, Julian Draxler, Idrissa Gana Gueye and Kylian Mbappe shared the other goals.

**Vinicius deal:** Tottenham Hotspur have signed Brazilian striker Carlos Vinicius on a season-long loan deal from Benfica, the Premier League club said on Friday. Vinicius was joint-top scorer in Portugal's Primeira Liga last season with 18 goals in 32 matches.

**Modest man:** Pep Guardiola said on Friday he believed he was still not a match for Marcelo Bielsa as a coach despite the vast difference between the number of trophies the pair had won in their careers. Guardiola was to face Bielsa in the Premier League on Saturday.

**Guidelines issued:** The Sports Authority of India has issued guidelines for athletes training in SAI centres and have tested positive for the coronavirus. All SAI officials and centres have been asked to monitor the progress of athletes who have tested positive.

**IPL player reports corrupt approach**

NEW DELHI, 3 OCTOBER

A cricketer, competing in the Indian Premier League in the UAE, has "reported a corrupt approach", putting BCCI's anti-corruption unit (ACU) on a high alert.

The 13th edition of the IPL, being held in the UAE in a bio-secure environment, which has significantly reduced the chance for persons with dubious credentials approaching the player directly. The threat though still remains by and large due to the online network of corruptors. BCCI ACU chief Ajit Singh confirmed the development to PTI.

"Yes (a player has reported approach)," Singh, the former DGP of Rajasthan Police confirmed the news. "We are tracking him. It will take some time," he said when asked if the alleged corruptor or "person of interest" has been nabbed. As per anti-corruption protocols, the name of the player (Indian or overseas) or franchise is not revealed for confidentiality purposes.

# Kohli, Padikkal setup easy win for RCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ABU DHABI, 3 OCTOBER

25 runs with Aaron Finch who was out in the third over with a score of 8.

Earlier, Chahal returned with figures of 3/24 from his four overs to restrict RR to 154 for 6.

The young RCB opener allowed his captain to get in and settle down before Kohli produced some of his trademark shots later on to accelerate.

The RCB needed 31 runs after Padikkal's dismissal and another in-form batman AB de Villiers (12 not out) ensured that his side reached the target with five balls to spare. Having failed to score big in his earlier three innings (14, 1, 3), Kohli took time to settle down and scored mostly in ones and twos initially.

Padikkal continued his good form having scored 56, 1, 54 in his three earlier innings. He reached to his fifty in 34 balls. He was the dominant batsman in RCB's opening stand of

two sensational innings of 74 and 85 in the first two matches, was dismissed in the fifth over with Chahal taking a low catch in his follow-through.

The Royals were 31/3 and they reached 70/3 at halfway mark with Robin Uthappa (17) and Lomror stitching a 39-run stand for the fourth wicket. But Uthappa failed again with Chahal getting him caught at

long off. Chahal ended Lomror's innings in the 17th over as the batsman sliced up a widish delivery to Devdutt Padikkal at long off. Rahul Tewatia (24 not out), looking for yet another explosive innings after the one against Kings XI Punjab, hit two sixes in the last over after enduring a beamer from Navdeep Saini on his chest.

**SCOREBOARD**

Rajasthan Royals innings:			
Buttler c Padikkal b Saini	22	0, Saini 4-1-37-1, Chahal 4-0-24-3,	Zampa3-0-27-0, Dube 1-0-4-0.
Smith (c) b Udana	5	Padikkal b Archer	63
Samson c and b Chahal	4	Finch lbw b Golap	8
Uthappa c Udana b Chahal	17	Virat Kohli (c) not out	72
Lomror c Padikkal b Chahal	47	AB de Villiers (wk)not out	12
Parag c Finch b Udana	16	Extras: 3 (b 1, lb 0, w 2, nb 0, p 0)	
Tewatia not out	24	Total: 158 (2 wkt, 19.1 Ov)	
Archer not out	16	Bowling: Archer 4-0-18-1, Unadkat 3-0-31-0, Gopal 4-0-27-1, Curran 3.1-0-40-0, Tewatia 4-0-28-0, Parag 1-0-13-0	
Extras: 3 (b 0, lb 1, w 1, nb 1, p 0)			
Total: 154 (6 wkt, 20 Ov)			
Bowling: Udana 4-0-41-2, Sundar 4-0-20-			

Sanju Samson (4), who had

Jabeur becomes first Arab woman to reach French Open last 16

AGENCIES  
PARIS, 3 OCTOBER

20th Grand Slam title to equal Roger Federer's record, on Friday defeated Travaglia 6-1, 6-4, 6-0 in one hour and 35 minutes on the covered Court Philippe-Chatrier court to register his 6th victory at Roland Garros. The defending champion has dropped just 19 games through his opening three matches at this year's clay court grand slam. The Spaniard produced 28 winners, 15 more than his opponent, while he made just 13 unforced errors.

But the Tunisian, who became the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final in Australia this year, regrouped and forged 3-0 ahead in the deciding set. She also had points for a 4-0 lead, but Belarusian Sabalenka upped the intensity and the decibel level to stay in contention. Sabalenka saved three match points at 2-5, then had a break point in the next game.

**Nadal in fourth round, Wawrinka crashes out**

Twelve-time champion Rafael Nadal has stormed into the fourth round of the French Open tournament after registering an emphatic straight-set win over Italy's Stefano Travaglia.

Nadal, who is seeking a

five-set battle lasting over three hours. Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens showed no ill-effects from her brutal French Open campaign as she eased into the last 16 with a routine 6-2, 6-2 win over Katerina Siniakova.

Fifth seed Bertens saved a match point and was overcome by cramps after her win against Sara Errani on Wednesday, leaving the court in agony seated in a wheelchair.

She had also struggled past Katarina Zavatska in round one and had spent more than five hours on court, so was grateful as she rolled past an error-prone Siniakova in 58 minutes. Bertens was especially impressive on serve, landing 81 percent of her first serves in the first set, allowing Siniakova few opportunities to get into the match. The 28-year-old said the match being switched to the Court Philippe Chatrier roof because of the rain delays during the day had been a big help.

In the other men's singles match, former champion Stan Wawrinka saw his run at this year's Roland Garros end after he was ousted by French wildcard and world No 239 Hugo Gaston 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 in

the next round.

In the other men's singles match, former champion Stan Wawrinka saw his run at this year's Roland Garros end after he was ousted by French wildcard and world No 239 Hugo Gaston 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 in

the next round.

**Thin end of the wedge in the scuppered series**

PULAKESH MUKHOPADHYAY

have got past it with its agenda and honour intact.

The task force, quite incon-

trovertibly, had a bigger job to do.

Luxury was the last thing it could afford. That Bangladesh preferred a no-fuss shelving to

the International Cricket Council can do in such situations, with it looking on as the clash begins, drags on and then resolves itself in one of the two sides' favour, it will be much better than it has seemed able

to manage if it at least appears

to try to persuade the teams

at either end of the divide

that they'd better not be seen

attempting to push things too

hard since those combatting the

virus are probably obliged to

do the best they can in terms

of how they assess the going

and compose their response

to it. Cricket comes up against

something here that is really

yielding and uncompromis-

ing.

Since there is nothing that

the obstacle to this, of

course, is that the commercialised game, beholden to television, just can't allow

itself a break voluntarily and

is now limping back from

months of inaction amid

countless deaths, unspeakable

horror and sheer panic

from the pandemic that pre-

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which international sport as

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