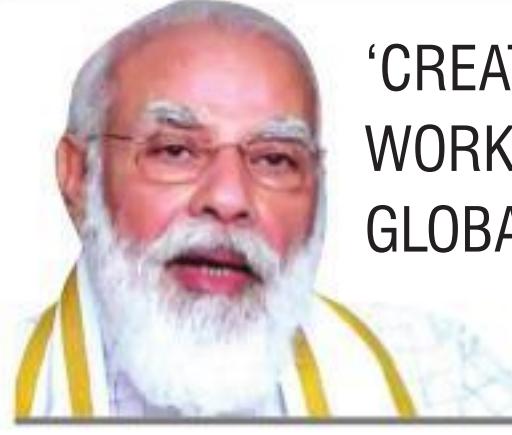




PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



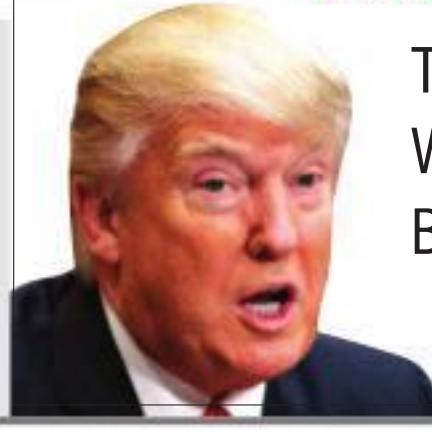
'CREATE SKILLED
WORKFORCE TO MEET
GLOBAL DEMAND'

P4



SETBACK FOR RJD AS
LALU CONFIDANT
QUIT AHEAD OF POLL

P5



TRUMP'S OWN
WORDS BRING FOCUS
BACK TO VIRUS

P10



'DON'T LET THE
PANDEMIC
STOP THE SHOW'

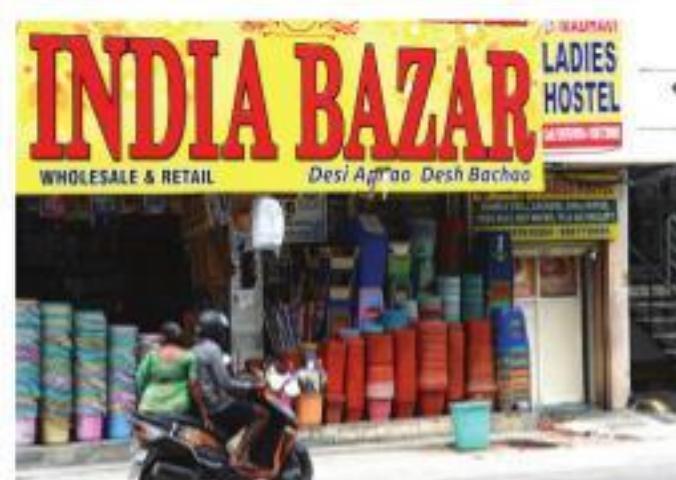
P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 36 and 25 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL	
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
Max: 90%	Min: 50%
TEMPERATURE	
Max: 36.4°C (+ 3)	Min: 26.0°C (+ 1)
SUN RISES	SUN SETS
06:05 hrs	18:31 hrs
MOON RISES	MOON SETS
02:44 hrs	13:53 hrs

THUMBNAILS



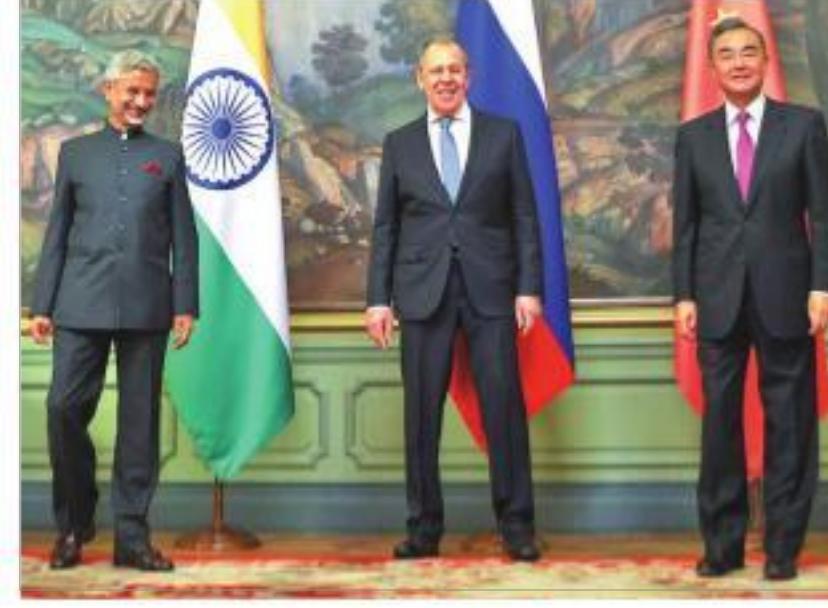
Commuters ride past a shop whose name was changed from 'China Bazar' to 'India Bazar'. In Hyderabad on Thursday. ■ AFP

Court order on Rhea, Showik ball pleas today : A special court in Mumbai is likely to pass an order on Friday on the bail pleas of Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik, arrested in connection with a drugs case linked to her boyfriend and actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death. Special judge G B Gurao on Thursday heard the submissions made by the lawyer of Chakraborty siblings well as the special public prosecutor in the case. The court then adjourned the matter till Friday, when it is likely to pass an order on all the bail pleas.

Paresh Rawal appointed chief of NSD: Veteran actor and former BJP MP Paresh Rawal was Thursday appointed chairperson of the National School of Drama (NSD), India's premier theatre institute that has trained actors such as Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri and Irrfan Khan. The post had been vacant since 2017. "Renowned artiste Paresh Rawal has been appointed as Chairman of NSD. I am glad that students, artistes will be able to take advantage of his talent," Union Culture minister Prahil Patel said on Twitter.

EAM talks LAC tensions with China's Wang Yi

Indian troops did not violate understanding, cross border: Jaishankar



Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov (C) with Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar (left) and Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during a meeting on the sidelines of the SCO foreign ministers' meeting in Moscow on Thursday. ■ AFP

SNS & AGENCIES
MOSCOW/NEW DELHI,
10 SEPTEMBER

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi met in Moscow on Thursday amidst hopes of a possible breakthrough in reducing tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

During the meeting that lasted around 140 minutes, Mr Jaishankar is said to have strongly raised concerns over aggression by the Chinese People's Liberation Army in eastern Ladakh, and stressed on the need to maintain peace and tranquility. The talks between the two foreign ministers are taking place against the backdrop of a massive spike in border tensions in eastern Ladakh triggered by fresh face-offs between Indian and Chinese troops along the LAC.

Indian forces never violated any understanding, nor crossed the LAC, Mr Jaishankar is understood to have told Mr Wang, in a meeting that took place on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting in Moscow.

Earlier in the day, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava reiterated India's position at a virtual press conference that it is committed to resolve the current situation through peaceful negotiations. "Both India and China are in regular touch through diplomatic and military channels to resolve the situation. This was the consensus when the two defence ministers met," he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held talks with his Chinese counterpart Gen. Wei Fenghe on the margins of another SCO meet in Moscow last Friday, but apparently the meeting did not yield any tangible outcome.

Indian forces never violated any understanding,

nor crossed the LAC, Mr Jaishankar is understood to have told Mr Wang, in a meeting that took place on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting in Moscow.

Earlier in the day, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava reiterated India's position at a virtual press conference that it is committed to resolve the current situation through peaceful negotiations. "Both India and China are in regular touch through diplomatic and military channels to resolve the situation. This was the consensus when the two defence ministers met," he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held talks with his Chinese counterpart Gen. Wei Fenghe on the margins of another SCO meet in Moscow last Friday, but apparently the meeting did not yield any tangible outcome.

Indian forces never violated any understanding,

Army further strengthens dominance in strategic heights in eastern Ladakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

The Indian Army has further bolstered its dominance over a number of strategic heights overlooking key Chinese-held positions around Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the de facto border between the two countries, even as brigade commanders and commanding officers of the two militaries held separate talks to cool tensions in the region, government sources said.

They said additional reinforcements have been dispatched to various hill tops and strategic locations around Pangong lake to keep an eye on Chinese-held position of Rezang-La ridge line on Monday evening.

The mountainous spurs in the area are referred to as Fingers. China has been holding onto Finger 4 to 8 on the north bank of Pangong lake, the sources said.

The Indian Army has occupied several key heights in the strategically located Rezang-La and Regin-La areas on the southern bank of the lake since the end of August.

The sources said the two armies held separate talks at brigade commander-level as well as between commanding officers in the general area of Chushul.

"The focus was to bring down the temperatures," said a source.

Tension escalated manifold in eastern Ladakh following fresh face-offs between Indian and Chinese troops in Mukhpari area of Rezang-La ridge line on Monday evening.

India, Japan sign defence deal

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

India and Japan signed a key defence agreement for reciprocal provision of supplies and services between their defence forces as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe held their annual summit over the phone today.

DETAILS ON PAGE 5



Rafale jets inducted into Air Force; a stern message, says Rajnath

ASHOK TUTEJA
NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

Five French-origin Rafale combat aircraft today formally joined the Indian Air Force (IAF) fleet with Defence minister Rajnath Singh, in an obvious reference to China, asserting that the induction of the fighter jets was a stern message to those eyeing India's territory.

"This induction is important considering the kind of atmosphere at our borders or the kind of atmosphere created at our borders," said the defence minister at a ceremony at the Ambala Air Base at which the aircraft, built by French company Dassault Aviation, were formally inducted into the IAF.

French Defence minister Florence Parly, who flew into India this morning, was also present at the ceremony.

The programme started with the ceremonial unveiling of the Rafale aircraft, followed by the traditional 'Sarva Dharma Puja'. There was also an air display by Rafale and Tejas aircraft as well as the 'Sarang Aerobatic Team'.

Afterwards, a traditional water cannon salute was given to the Rafale aircraft.

Singh said, "The speed with which the IAF deployed its assets on forward bases creates a trust that our Air Force is fully prepared to fulfill its operational obligations."

The minister said that during his recent trip to Moscow for the SCO defence ministers' meeting, he had clearly reaffirmed India's resolve not to compromise on the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity under any circumstances. "We're committed to doing everything possible towards this," said Singh who had on the margins of the SCO meeting held bilateral talks with his Chinese counterpart on the ongoing India-China military stand-off at eastern Ladakh.

He said, "The Rafale induction is a big and stern message for the entire world, especially to those eyeing our sovereignty."

The French minister said the induction of Rafale jets into IAF was a stellar achievement for both countries. "Rafale means gust of wind if you are poetic and can also mean burst of fire in a battlefield," she said.

The five fighter aircraft arrived in India from France on 29 July and have since done extensive training in the country. The jets will be part of the IAF's Golden Arrows squadron.

The five Rafales include three single-seaters and two twin-seaters.

The new fighters are the first imported jets to be inducted into the IAF in 23 years after the Russian Sukhoi-30 jets were inducted in June 1997.

India had ordered 36 Rafale jets from France as part of a government-to-government deal worth Rs 59,000 crore in September 2016. They have been specially tailored for IAF.

The Rafale weaponry includes Meteor beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles, Mica multi-mission air-to-air missiles and Scalp deep-strike cruise missiles. The weapons allow pilots to attack air and ground targets from stand-off ranges and fill a significant capability gap.

The fighter aircraft have already flown over the Ladakh region and the pilots have been familiarising themselves with the terrain over which they have to fly in different parts of the country.

The five Rafales include three single-seaters and two twin-seaters.

India inches closer to 1L Covid cases a day

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

Delhi scales a new Corona peak

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

With a surge of 95,735 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, the highest single-day increase till date, India on Thursday recorded a total tally of 44,65,863, according to the Union Health Ministry.

There were 1,172 deaths reported in the previous 24 hours, according to the Health Ministry data updated at 8 a.m. on Thursday, which is also the highest number of fatalities in a single day so far.

India on Tuesday recorded 1,133 deaths and on July 29 there were 1,129. India's daily death toll is now going past the USA's, which is the worst-hit by the pandemic.

India is currently the second-worst hit country after the USA in terms of number of confirmed Covid-19 cases.

Out of the total 44,65,863 cases, 9,19,018 are active, 34,71,783 have recovered, while 75,062 patients have died. APTI tally compiled at 9 p.m. on the basis of cases reported by states put the total

number of confirmed cases at 45,48,797, recoveries at 35,30,209 and of fatalities at 76,207, indicating the addition of 96,492 new cases, 72,274 recoveries and 1,272 deaths to the previous day's figures.



Serum Institute calls halt to India trials of AstraZeneca Covid vaccine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

Serum Institute of India on Thursday said it is putting on hold clinical trials of an experimental Covid-19 vaccine for which it has been enlisted to manufacture a billion doses.

"We are reviewing the situation and pausing India trials," SII, the world's biggest vaccine manufacturer by volume, said in a statement.

The move came a day after the company stated that it would push ahead with the trials in India despite British drugmaker AstraZeneca hitting a pause button following an unexplained illness in a study participant.

The move came a day after the company stated that it would push ahead with the trials in India despite British drugmaker AstraZeneca hitting a pause button following an unexplained illness in a study participant.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) issued it a show-cause notice asking why trials should not be suspended in India until patient safety is established.

"We (Serum Institute of India) were going by DCGI's direction and were not instructed to pause the trials. If DCGI has any safety con-

cerns, we will adhere to their instructions and abide by the standard protocols," it had tweeted after the notice.

On Thursday, it said it was following DCGI's instructions.

"We are reviewing the situation and pausing India trials till AstraZeneca restarts them," it said.

AstraZeneca paused its clinical trials worldwide to investigate if the illness seen in the participant happened by chance or as a result of the treatment. Serum Institute had in June signed a deal to produce AstraZeneca's experimental vaccine for low and middle-income countries.

The vaccine is being developed jointly by AstraZeneca and Oxford University.

SC extends relief on NPAs; expert panel looking into interest issue, says govt

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

The Supreme Court on Thursday extended its interim order that no account is to be declared NPA till further orders after the Centre said an expert panel has been set up to look into the issue of interest being charged by banks on instalments deferred during the moratorium period due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The top court granted two weeks to the Centre and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to file the affidavit and place before it the decisions taken in this regard.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah posted the matter for further hearing on 28 September and said that the court expects that the government and RBI actively consider all the issues. The bench clarified that it was giving one last opportunity and thereafter the matter will not be adjourned.

The top court was hearing a batch of pleas which have raised the issue of interest being charged on instalments which were deferred during the moratorium period due to the pandemic.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said that the government at the highest level is considering all the issues raised in the batch of petitions and within two weeks, decision will be taken.

The bench told Mehta that concrete decisions should be taken with clarity.

On 3 September, in a relief to stressed borrowers who are facing hardship due to pandemic, the top court had said accounts which were not declared as non-performing assets till 31 August this year, shall not be declared NPA till further orders.

Saturday's Bengal lockdown withdrawn in view of NEET

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 10 SEPTEMBER

The Bengal-wide complete lockdown on 12 September has been withdrawn in view of the NEET examination scheduled to be held on Sunday.

However, the complete lockdown on 11 September will remain in place and as such, all activities will remain closed tomorrow.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee today announced on Twitter that the decision to withdraw the complete lockdown on 12th was taken after getting numerous requests from the student community on lifting lockdown norms on 12th, helping ease their travel to examination centres, "Miss Banerjee tweeted.

Considering the NEET 2020 examination scheduled on 13th, we have received numerous requests from the student community on lifting lockdown norms on 12th, helping ease their travel to examination centres," Miss Banerjee tweeted.

Delhi adds 4,308 new Covid cases, highest surge so far

ICU beds in hospitals to be increased and plasma therapy to continue in city: Jain

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

Delhi today recorded 4,308 fresh coronavirus (Covid-19) cases ~ its highest single-day Covid spike so far ~ while a record 58,340 coronavirus tests ~ also its highest so far ~ were conducted over the last 24 hours.

The national capital's Covid caseload mounted to 2,05,482 while the death toll due to coronavirus rose to 4,666 with 28 fresh fatalities recorded today, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The city's positivity rate in the last 24 hours stood at 7.38 per cent while the number of containment zones or coronavirus hotspots increased to 1,272, the bulletin said. The number of recovered Covid patients in Delhi rose to 1,75,400, including 2637 recoveries during the past 24 hours. The recovery rate, however, further dipped to 85.36 per cent.

The number of active coronavirus cases in Delhi increased to 25,416, the bulletin stated.

The patients getting treatment under home isolation numbered 13,518. There were 5,775 hospitalised patients in the city.

Today was the second successive day that Delhi reported over 4,000 fresh Covid cases.

The national capital had yesterday reported 4,039 Covid cases and the tally breached the two-lakh-mark. This was the first time since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic that over 4,000 cases were recorded in Delhi in a single day. Yesterday, however, a record 54,517 Covid tests ~ the highest till then ~ were also conducted in the city.

Amid the coronavirus surge in Delhi, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has directed authorities to increase the number of ICU beds in hospitals and take steps to contain the spread of the infec-



People wearing protective masks waiting for bus during the peak hours in the Capital on Thursday. SNS

tion, health minister Satyendar Jain said today. Jain told reporters that the plasma therapy will continue to be used in Delhi as it was proving to be effective in people who are at stage one or two of the Covid treatment, but not at stage three or those on ventilators.

He said this in reply to a question about an ICMR-funded study which has reportedly found that the use of convalescent plasma therapy in Covid-infected patients does not help in reducing mortality or progression to severe Covid stage.

The CM had yesterday held a review meeting with Jain, chief secretary Vijay Dev, senior officials and medical superintendents of the Delhi government-run hospitals. He had asked them to take all possible steps to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

"The meeting was held to assess the current situation of Covid-19 and medical superintendents of all hospitals were present in it. The main outcome of the meeting was that CM has

directed authorities to increase the number of ICU beds (in hospitals)," Jain said. "Delhi recorded highest spike in cases so far. But, it is also because we have gone aggressive on testing, with over 54,000 tests, highest ever in Delhi. And, we had set a target of 40,000 tests per day. So, we do not want to leave any infected person in tracing," Jain told reporters.

Our target is to ensure "zero mortality" and treatment protocols have been standardised, he added. The positivity rate on Wednesday was 7.4 per cent which was close to the corresponding figure at the national level (7.5 per cent), Jain said.

He said the plasma therapy has been in use for many decades for various diseases. As of now, there is no standard treatment for Covid. And, it was proving effective for patients in ICU, who were at first two stages, he said.

"I myself am a Covid survivor and was administered plasma therapy, so I am telling (it)," he said, adding that about 1,000 patients

have been administered this therapy in Delhi so far.

On the provision to gettings tests done without any doctor's prescription, Jain said an Aadhaar card or any other identify proof will serve the purpose. For RT-PCR test, Aadhaar card will be required, he added.

Meanwhile, with the festival season getting underway next month, Kejriwal has urged people to follow preventive measures against the Covid pandemic. "Many festivals are approaching in the coming months. While the Covid-19 pandemic is under control in Delhi, it is important to have preventive measures in place to contain the spread of Covid-19 at religious places of worship," he said.

"I would like to appeal to the general public as well as the organisations managing religious places to adhere to all the preventive measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the religious places during the upcoming festival season," the CM said.

Kejri govt to roll out subsidy scheme under EV policy

PTI

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

The Delhi government is likely to roll out from next week the subsidy scheme under its newly launched electric vehicle (EV) policy, officials said.

The EV policy of the Delhi government was notified last month. Launching the policy, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said it aimed at registration of around five lakh electric vehicles in the city in the next five years.

A demonstration of software for disbursal of the subsidy under the policy was made by officials of a private bank in a meeting with Transport minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday, said a senior government officer.

The software developed by ICICI

bank will be used for payment of subsidy to the people buying electric vehicles in Delhi. The subsidy scheme is expected to be launched from next week," he said.

Under its EV policy, Delhi government will give incentive of up to Rs 30,000 for two-wheelers, autos, e-rickshaws and goods carriers while a subsidy of Rs 1.5 lakh will be provided for purchase of electric cars, officials said.

As per the scheme's payment mechanism, the subsidy will be paid to the eligible buyers of electric vehicles within two days, they said.

The vehicle dealers will access the software and fill the details of the electric vehicle and its buyer at the time of sale. Within 48 hours, subsidy amount will be credited in the bank account of the buyer after verification by concerned motor licensing officers," the government officer said.

The vehicle dealers will have to be self-registered with the Transport department of Delhi government to be able to process the subsidy at the time of sale of electric vehicles, he said.

The government will also waive off registration fee and road tax under the EV policy. It will also give low-interest loan on electric commercial vehicles under the policy.

Plea in HC for timely salary to NrDMC dispensaries, maternity homes nurses

PTI

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

The plea by the Hospital Employees Union, a registered trade union, has claimed that despite the nurses working on frontline ever since the COVID-19 outbreak, they have not been paid their salaries on time

Delhi government, have been given by the corporation(s) for non-payment of the salaries.

Delhi government additional standing counsel Satyakam, during the hearing, said the alleged lack of funds with the MCDs was an issue which was being raised for several years now and added that the AAP government was ready to take over all the educational and health institutions run by the corporations.

The trade union has contended in its petition that many of the nurses, who have been working tirelessly without any holidays, and their family members have been infected with COVID-19 and they have been facing difficulties in arranging funds for treatment.

The plea has sought directions to the respondents -- the corporation and the Delhi government -- to pay the salaries for the months of May to August of the auxiliary nurse midwives, lady health visitors and public health nurses.

It has also sought directions to them to ensure that the salaries are paid on time in the future.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF
SH. DHARMENDER SINGH
Administrative Civil Judge
South District,
Court No. 204, 1nd Floor,
Saket Courts Complex,
New Delhi.
Succ. Petition No. 20/20
NDOH : 24-09-2020

1. Smt. Deepa Dasmunshi,
w/o Late Shri Priya Ranjan
Dasmunshi
2. Sh. Priyadeep Dasmunshi,
s/o Late Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi

All r/o 95-A, Eastern Avenue,
Sainik Farms, New Delhi.
— Petitioners
Versus

1. The State (Govt. of NCT of
Delhi). Through its Secretary,
Delhi Secretariat, IP Estate,
Delhi-110002.
— Respondent

To,
The State/General Public.
Whereas, an application

U/S 372 of the Indian Succession
Act, 1925 has been made by
Smt. Deepa Dasmunshi,

claiming to be successor of
Late Sh. Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi,
for grant of Succession
Certificate in respect of
debts/securities of said

deceased.

And whereas the said applicant
shall come for hearing on
24th September, 2020 at 10-00
a.m.

Therefore, the public at
large is hereby given notice if
any person has objection to

the grant of Succession Certificate
in favour of the said applicant,
he may appear and file objections
in writing, in person or through duly
appointed pleader, on the
said date and time.

Given under my hand and
Seal of the Court on this 07th
day of September, 2020.

Administrative Civil Judge
South District,
Saket Courts Complex,
New Delhi, India.

Seal of the Court

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

I. MONJURI Das Sengupta,
W/o. Supriya Sengupta,
residing at Vira Hatighati,
Dakshin Dinajpur, do hereby
declare that my name has
wrongly been recorded as
"Manjuri Das" instead of
"Monjuri Das Sengupta" in
my husband's family certificate.
So, Monjuri Das Sengupta and
Monjuri Das is the same and
one identical person, vide affidavit
Exhibit, Gangarampur at
Buniadpur on 08.09.2020.

II. TENDERS

E-TENDER for the
purchase of instruments for
different departments has
been published in
<https://wtbenders.gov.in/>

CLOSING DATE: 09.10.2020 (6.00 p.m.)
Tender ID: 2020_DHE_295811_1.

SITUATION VACANT

INTERESTED candidates are requested
to appear in an interview on
September 30, 2020 for the

The Statesman

KOLKATA

Statesman House,
4, Chowringhee Square
Kolkata-700 001

Tel: (033) 22127070-76,

(033) 41071700

Fax: (033) 2212-6181 / 7107-1780

Email: thestatesman@vsnl.com

statesmandisplay@gmail.com

thestatesmansclassified@gmail.com

HYDERABAD

The Statesman Limited, 2nd Floor, UNI Building,

A.C. Guards, Hyderabad-500004,
Ph.: 040-2339 1739

DELHI

Statesman House,

148, Barakhamba Road,

New Delhi-110 001

Tel: (011) 2331 5911

Ishan House (2nd floor)

A-90, Sector II, NOIDA,
UP 201 301

Tel: (0120) 4171421

Email:

delhi.statesman@gmail.com

delhi.statesman@vsnl.com

BANGALORE

No. 68, First Floor, Gold Tower,
50 Residency Road, Bangalore-560025.

Tel: 080-22229129, 080-22334813

Email: delhi.statesman@gmail.com

bangalore@thestatesmangroup.com

MUMBAI

5, Kasturi Buildings, Jamshedji Tata Road, Mumbai-400 020

Tel: (022) 2202 1045,

Email: delhi.statesman@gmail.com

mumbai@thestatesmangroup.com

CHENNAI

Fagun Mansion (4th floor), 26, Ethiraj Road, Chennai-600 008, Tel: (044) 28278037, 28224800

Email: delhi.statesman@gmail.com

chennai@thestatesmangroup.com

LUCKNOW

2/2, Butler Palace (Near Jopling Road), Lucknow-226 001,

Ph.: (0522) 2206705

Email: delhi.statesman@gmail.com

lucknow@thestatesmangroup.com

RANCHI

11/C, Road #1, Ashoknagar, Ranchi - 834 002

Fax: (0651) 2247054

Email: delhi.statesman@gmail.com

ranchi@thestatesmangroup.com

AIR-SURCHARGE: Kathmandu - Rs. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1

All other stations in India - Re. 1

ITBP referral hospital treats 1,150 COVID-19 patients

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

The Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) referral hospital, located in Greater Noida, has so far treated more than 1,150 COVID-

Community spread of Covid has begun in HP: Jai Ram

CM says there is need to be more vigilant in coming days; rules out curtailing the Assembly's monsoon session saying the situation was under control

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SHIMLA, 10 SEPTEMBER

Amid a surge in the number of coronavirus (Covid-19) cases in Himachal Pradesh, chief minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday said the community spread of this infectious, deadly disease has started in the state and that there is need to be more cautious in coming days.

Replying to a reporter's query on whether the ongoing monsoon session of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly would be curtailed in view of the Corona crisis, Thakur said the session was going on smoothly at present and the situation was under control.

"The question of curtailing the Assembly session doesn't arise as adequate arrangements, proper sanitisation of the premises, and proper ventilation are in place in the HP Vidhan Sabha," he



HP CM Jai Ram Thakur in the state Assembly on Thursday.

LALIT KUMAR

CM said.

He, however, stressed on the need for remaining more vigilant within the Assembly premises and outside in public places.

The HP Assembly's monsoon session, which got underway on 7 September, will

continue till 18 September. Talking to media persons separately, health minister Rajeev Saizal also conceded the community spread of the infectious disease in Himachal.

But, he added that as compared to the Corona situation prevailing in other states,

Himachal was in a "much better position".

"It is being seen that the guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) being issued by the state government are being followed by the people.

But it is noticed that the

norm of social distancing is not being followed properly at busy market places and public places," he said.

Saizal said directives had been issued to the health and family welfare department to focus on spreading awareness on norms and rules to be followed in public places as it was the need of the hour.

He urged the people of the state to wear masks and follow social distancing as mandatory practice to curb the spread of coronavirus infection.

He advised them to sanitise themselves after returning from public places and only wear clothes again after washing them.

"If we follow these norms,

the trend of rise in cases of Corona will certainly come down in the state and for this, people's cooperation is needed. Further, the unlock process has started in the country and state as well and the Centre has issued direc-

tions to open all activities but we all need to follow SOPs," the minister pointed out.

Saizal said the Thakur government was taking "effective steps" to check the spread of coronavirus in the state and that 2.30 lakh people had been tested for Covid so far.

"If any person observes symptoms of cough or fever, he should get himself tested for the viral disease so that his/her treatment could be started before others get infected from the disease," he added.

Altogether 2079 Covid cases have been reported in the hill state since 1 September. The cumulative number of coronavirus cases has increased to 8,295.

The highest number of Covid cases has been reported in Solan district (1,839), followed by Kangra (1,245), Sirmaur (1,122), Hamirpur (708), Una (686), Mandi (621) and Chamba (600).

With this there are a total of 8,500 active cases in the hill state.

Out of 27,211 positive cases found so far, 18,262 patients have recovered. With 372 deaths, the pandemic continues to create panic among the public.

In a grim development underlining the gravity of the situation in the state due to the Covid pandemic, the wife of an Officer on Special Duty to Uttarakhand Chief Minister lost her life due to the coronavirus infection (Covid-19).

Dehradun with 6,116 cases remains the number one hotspot of Covid-19 in Uttarakhand, followed by Haridwar (5,832 cases), Udhampur (4,948) and Nainital (3,577). Among the hill districts, Tehri has recorded 1,611 cases.

Currently, there are 262 containment zones in Uttarakhand.

Even the controversial Khanpur MLA Kunwar Pranab Champion was tested positive and he is presently in isolation at his residence in Dehradun.

Though Uttarakhand has a high recovery rate (67.11%) but in September the situation has turned alarming.

SIESTA TIME



A man resting in the shade of a tree after work at Sector 43 in Chandigarh on Thursday.

SAD to take up with PM issue of restoration of Punjabi as one of J&K official languages

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, 10 SEPTEMBER

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), a key ally of the BJP, on Thursday said it will take up the issue of restoration of Punjabi as an official language in the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah besides raising the issue in Parliament.

A decision to this effect was taken at a high-level meeting of the party which was presided over by SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal.

It was decided that the party would seek a change in the draft legislation seeking to make Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi and English official languages of J&K by seeking inclusion of Punjabi language in this list.

Speaking on the occasion, the SAD president said there was widespread resentment amongst Sikhs and Punjabis living in J&K as well as Punjabis worldwide at the discriminatory manner in which Punjabi had been excluded as an official language of the J&K by the UT administration.

He said Punjabi had been given the status of an official language in the erstwhile constitution of the J&K state and said this status should be retained in the present dispensation also.

Speaking at the meeting, senior leaders including Balwinder Singh Bhundur, Prof Prem Singh Chandumajra, Sikander Singh Maluka and Dr Daljit Singh Cheema said more than twenty lakh people in J&K speak Punjabis and that Punjabis constituted more than three per cent of the population of the union territory.

They pointed out that besides Punjabi had always enjoyed a special status in J&K.

Badal assured the party leaders that he would take up this issue forcefully with the centre as well as raise the issue in Parliament to ensure the due status of Punjabi language was restored.

He said Punjabi was embedded in the culture of J&K from the time of the Khalsa Raj and was widely used as a medium of instruction. "Punjabi was a compulsory subject like Urdu in J&K till 1981."

Any attempt to dislodge it as an official language in J&K is an assault on the identity of the Sikh community in the State", the SAD president added.

He said the move to remove Punjabi as an official language was against the spirit of the constitution whose founding fathers were inspired by the vision of India as a multi-religious, multicultural and multilingual nation.

2G scam: HC seeks replies of Raja, others on CBI, ED pleas

PTI
NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

The Delhi High Court Thursday asked former telecom minister A Raja and others to respond to the CBI and ED pleas seeking early hearing of their appeals challenging the acquittal of individuals and firms in the 2G spectrum allocation scam cases. Justice Brijesh Sethi issued notices to all the respondents -- individuals and firms -- asking them to file replies and listed the matter for hearing on September 21.

The two investigative agencies have sought early hearing of the appeals which were listed for hearing on October 12.

CBI has also sought advancing the hearing of the appeal challenging the acquittal of Essar Group promoters Ravi Kant Ruia and Anshuman Ruia and six others in a separate case arising out of the 2G scam probe.

During the hearing, the court reserved its order on two separate pleas by two firms, which were acquitted in the 2G

scam related money laundering case, seeking release of their properties attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Advocate Vijay Aggarwal, repre-

senting the two firms, said they were ready to execute an indemnity bond of the value of the properties as a surety and if the appeal by ED is allowed against the acquittal, it will deposit the amount with the agency as equivalent to the properties' value.

Jain opposed the plea saying the high court is yet to decide the leave to appeal applications of the agencies till the time they are not decided, hearing an interim plea is abuse of process of law.

He said the court can keep the firms' applications in abeyance till the time it decides the plea for granting leave to appeal and added that the theory of indemnity bond was completely alien to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). A special court had on December 21, 2017 acquitted Raja, DMK MP Kanimozhi and others in CBI and ED cases related to the scam.

**सुभाष पालेकर प्राकृतिक खेती
प्राकृतिक खेती खुराहाल किसान योजना**

कृषि विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश

**किसान आय दोगुनी करने हेतु हिमाचल सरकार
का ईमानदार प्रयास**

प्राकृतिक राज्य की ओर हिमाचल		
किसान	पंचायतें	भूमि
74,202	2,957	44,450 एकड़ी

अनुदान

- देसी गाय की खरीद पर 50% या अधिकतम ₹ 25,000 / परिवार
- गोमूत्र एकत्रीकरण हेतु नालीकरण पर ₹ 8,000 / परिवार
- विभिन्न आदान बनाने हेतु 3 इम तक ₹ 2,250 / परिवार
- संसाधन भंडार खोलने हेतु ₹ 10,000 / परिवार

**सम्पर्क : जिला स्तर पर परियोजना निदेशक आत्मा
या अपने विकास खण्ड के बीटीएम/एटीएम से सम्पर्क करें।**

जारीकरता: राज्य परियोजना कार्यालय इकाई, कृषि भवन, शिमला-5
फोन : 0177 - 283 0767

youtube.com/SPNFHP facebook.com/SPNFHP spnf-hp@gov.in www.spnfhp.nic.in twitter.com/SPNFHP

Logo of the Government of Himachal Pradesh and the Himachal Pradesh Agricultural Research and Education Board.

States need 'hard cash', government's 'letter of comfort' has no value

SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER P CHIDAMBARAM
ON GST COMPENSATION

THUMBNAILS



A health worker collects a swab sample from a woman to test for Covid-19 at a collection centre in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Guj assembly to hail 'Corona warriors': A brief five-day session of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly from 21 September would hail the contribution of the "Corona warriors" fighting the Covid-19 pandemic since March this year. SNS

3,349 new cases in Kerala: Kerala on Thursday reported 3,349 new Covid-19 cases, taking the total number of persons affected with the virus in the state to 99,266. With 12 more deaths reported on Thursday the toll due to the virus in the state has risen to 396. SNS

Owaisi dares PM to name China for PLA aggression

Says crisis is no longer about military, but our top political leadership

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 10 SEPTEMBER

AIMIM leader and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi took another dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi daring him to name China for PLA's aggression at the border. Owaisi took to microblogging site Twitter to hit out at Modi.

"Our armed forces are doing their best to tackle the PLA at the border. But the crisis is no longer about the military."

It is about our top political leadership which is missing from action. Why has Prime Minister of India not spoken on the issue for weeks?"

The Hyderabad MP went on to issue the dare saying : "May be when he is free from feeding peacocks he will have the time to tell the people of this country and also generate courage to mention China by name."

Meanwhile, AIMIM ally TRS MPs today met chief minister to devise a strategy for the upcoming session of the Parliament. Telangana government does not want the

Jagan seeks CBI probe for temple fire

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 10 SEPTEMBER

Following scathing attack from BJP Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has decided in favour of a CBI probe into the incident of fire at the Laxmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Antarvedi in East Godavari district which left the 62-year old temple chariot charrered to ashes.

BJP and Janasena had demanded a judicial inquiry by a sitting High Court judge into the fire which occurred after midnight on 6 September. The state government has already suspended the

executive office in charge of the temple and sanctioned funds for rebuilding the chariot used for temple rituals and on special occasions. The state DGP has sent a letter to the union home ministry Naidu who has demanded CBI inquiry as well.

The incident has come as a major embarrassment for the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy led state government and snowballed into a controversy with BJP and TDP both pointing fingers at it alleging there has been a series of attacks on the places of worship of a particular community.

BJP leaders like GVLN Rao and Sunil Deodhar today held a virtual protest against

the "state of lawlessness" under the current regime and in order to protect the temples. The BJP leaders targeted former chief minister and TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu who has demanded CBI inquiry as well.

"Despite many attacks on Hindu temples in the last 15 months, no arrest yet. Why this apathy towards Hindus, YS Jagan? Don't try their patience. And Chandrababu Naidu should stop shedding crocodile tears. Your government demolished more than 30+ Hindu temples in Vijayawada alone," tweeted Sunil Deodhar, national secretary of BJP.

Centre to go back on its promise to pay GST compensation and hence K Chandrasekhar Rao wants his MPs to put pressure on the Centre along with other states.

Man sets himself on fire near assembly: A man set

himself on fire near the Telangana State Assembly while the House was in session but the police rescued him and shifted him to the hospital with burns. Apparently, the middle aged man had lost his job as a watchman at a shopping mall owing to the Covid-19

lockdown. He shouted "KCR Sir" and "Jai Telangana" before taking out a bottle containing petrol, doused himself and then lit the fire.

He suffered 25 per cent burns before the police rescued him and admitted him to Osmania Hospital.

'Govt's skill agenda is to create workforce to match global demands'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said his government's aim was to create skilled workforce keeping in mind the global demand.

"The government's skill agenda is to create a workforce that matches the global demands and with this vision, several efforts have been undertaken to enable a strong skill development ecosystem."

"There are many sectors witnessing the growing demand for skilled youth. This is an opportunity for our young workforce to convert the present challenges into opportunities and become the strong pillars of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat,'" Modi said in a speech at a digital conclave for the second edition of Skill givers 'Kaushalacharya Samadar 2020' conclave through video-conferencing.

The Prime Minister said his government had taken many steps to develop a



strong skill development ecosystem in the country. He said becoming self-reliant was the need of the hour.

Prime Minister Modi said even during the last election it had backed Singh.

Informed sources said BJD had been offered the post by the NDA earlier (prior to the 2019 elections) but for some inexplicable reasons Patnaik had refused to nominate anybody from his party.

A BJD MP said voting in Singh's favour is a foregone conclusion. BJD has always been a willing and uninvited guest as far as NDA is concerned, he said. The more crucial test for the BJD will be when it takes the call on the deputy speaker's post in the LS. Sources said the NDA was once again willing to offer it to the BJD, but the BJD may forgo the chance. SNS

BJD to support Harivansh for RS Deputy Chairman post

BHUBANESWAR, 10 SEPTEMBER

BJD is likely to support JD-U nominee Harivansh Narayan Singh for the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha post.

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar today telephoned his Odisha counterpart, Naveen Patnaik, seeking BJD's support. The JD-U has decided to field Harivansh for another stint as the deputy chairman. Singh is to be the NDA candidate as against a united Opposition nominee.

The BJD has all along supported the NDA till date and even during the last election it had backed Singh.

Informed sources said BJD had been offered the post by the NDA earlier (prior to the 2019 elections) but for some inexplicable reasons Patnaik had refused to nominate anybody from his party.

A BJD MP said voting in Singh's favour is a foregone conclusion. BJD has always been a willing and uninvited guest as far as NDA is concerned, he said. The more crucial test for the BJD will be when it takes the call on the deputy speaker's post in the LS. Sources said the NDA was once again willing to offer it to the BJD, but the BJD may forgo the chance. SNS

TENDER

HIMACHAL PARDHES PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Tel. No. 01704222373, e-mail. ee-pao-hp@nic.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HP PWD Paonta Sahib, Distt. Shimour HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP PWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earliest Money Submission for Bid	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of link road from Govt. Polytechnic Institute Rampur-Bharapur to Goughat road km. 0/0 to 0/660 SH-C/O wire crate at RD. 0/0 to 1/10 and Apron at RD. 0/020, 0/050 & 0/070. P/L Interlocking tiles and filling of road and both side berms from km. 0/0 to 0/405.	Rs. 24,71,827/-	17/09/2020 16:30 HRS	Rs. 44,600/-	29/09/2020 17:00 HRS
2.	Construction of link road from Khar Kujewala to Thakkar km. 0/0 to 4/750 SH- Construction of RCC Hume pipe culvert at RD's 2/090, 2/240, 2/600, 2/660, 2/855, 3/090 & 3/415) under S.C.S.P.	Rs. 8,44,384/-	17/09/2020 16:30 HRS	Rs. 16,900/-	29/09/2020 17:00 HRS
3.	Construction of link road from village Kujewala to Thakkar km. 0/0 to 4/750 SH- Providing and laying GSB in km. 2/075 to 4/500) under S.C.S.P.	Rs. 16,42,917/-	17/09/2020 16:30 HRS	Rs. 32,200/-	29/09/2020 17:00 HRS
4.	Repair & maintenance of link road from NH-07 to village Battwalu km. 0/0 to 1/0 (SH-P/L 80mm thick interlocking concrete paver tiles and C/O V-shape drain at various RD's and NIP-2 pipes 300mm dia and 600mm dia for drainage etc. From RD. 0/0 to 0/340).	Rs. 6,64,852/-	17/09/2020 16:30 HRS	Rs. 13,300/-	29/09/2020 17:00 HRS
5.	R/R M/C to Paonta Purwana Singhpur Bhagati Goljan-Dak Pathan road km. 0/0 to 2/6500 (SH-Providing and laying 80mm thick ISI Marked tiles in km. 16/990 (Gurdwara Shree Teeghari Sahib) to 17/370 (Gurdwara Shree Bhagat Sahib).	Rs. 12,26,633/-	17/09/2020 16:30 HRS	Rs. 24,500/-	29/09/2020 17:00 HRS

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer Paonta B&R Division, HP PWD, Paonta Sahib, Distt. Shimour HP.

On behalf Governor of Himachal Pradesh

29/08/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

VRAT FESTIVAL



Devotees offer prayers outside a temple in front of a Ber tree as they mark the Maha-Lakshmi Vrat festival, in Amritsar on Thursday. The festival is observed to appease and seek blessings of Maa Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth and prosperity. AFP

Monsoon session to be historic; seeking to digitalise Parl operations: LS Speaker

PTI
NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament will be historic and will try to digitalise Parliament operations as much as possible in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taking journalists through the Lok Sabha chamber, Birla showed the arrangements, including the plastic partitions between the seats, to ensure social distancing among the members during the sitting of the House. He also showed how the members sitting in the Rajya Sabha chamber can participate in the proceedings. Arrangements for the seating of 257 Lok Sabha members while following social distancing norms have

been made in the chamber of the Lower House itself, while 172 members will sit in the gallery.

Similarly, 60 members will sit in the Rajya Sabha chamber and 51 in the gallery. "We have discussed it with all the parties. Seats have been allocated on the basis of party strength in the House. Every party's leader in the House will decide where will sit where," Birla said. Sharing the details of the arrangements made for holding the session under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lok Sabha speaker, who is also the custodian of the Parliament complex, said all guidelines issued by the health ministry will be adhered to during the session.



Picture from the WWF Living Planet Report 2020

ors believed to increase the planet's vulnerability to pandemics, including land-use change and the use and trade of wildlife, were some of the drivers behind the decrease in global vertebrate species populations.

The report, compiled every two years as a comprehensive study of trends in the state of the natural world through the Living Planet Index (LPI), which tracks trends in global wildlife abundance with contributions from more than 125 experts from around the world.

It says the average two-thirds decline in global populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish in less than 50 years in large parts is due to the same environmental destruction, which is contributing to emergence of zoonotic diseases such as Covid-19.

The LPI shows that fact-

flashing red warning signs of systems failure. From the fish in our oceans and rivers to bees, which play a crucial role in our agricultural production, the decline of wildlife directly affects nutrition, food security and the livelihoods of billions of people," he added.

He said in the midst of a global pandemic, it is now more important than ever to take unprecedented and coordinated global action to halt and start to reverse the loss of biodiversity and wildlife populations across the globe by the decade-end, and protect future health and livelihoods.

"Our own survival increasingly depends on it," he said.

The LPI, which tracked almost 21,000 populations of more than 4,000 vertebrate species between 1970 and 2016, also shows that wildlife populations found in freshwater habitats have suf-

fered a decline of 84 per cent. Based on a research paper, 'Bending the curve of terrestrial biodiversity needs an integrated strategy,' which is co-authored by WWF and over 40 NGOs and academic institutions and is published in Nature, the LPR 2020 also includes a pioneering modelling.

It suggests that some transformational changes need to be made to reverse the phenomenon. These changes include making food production and trade more efficient and ecologically sustainable, reducing waste, and favouring healthier and more environmentally friendly diets.

Secretary general and CEO, WWF India, Ravi Singh says the report also reiterates a scientific case for the urgent action needed to protect and restore nature and biodiversity.

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system					
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items :-					
S.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date	
01	11205002	1. RECTANGULAR HOLLOW STRUCTURAL PIPE SIZE- 96X48X4MM 2. HOLLOW SECTION 96X48X4MM	110000 KGS	05-10-20	
02	19204433	ROLLER BEARING FOR TRACTION MOTOR TA 659	38000 KGS	02-11-20	

NOTE - 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.

2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No. 23/2020-2021 Dated : 10.09.2020

1981/2020

S

SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV
ACCUSING THE CENTRE OF SELLING THE COUNTRY'S ASSETS BY PRIVATISATION

THUMBNAILS



A health worker collects a nasal swab sample during a Covid-19 screening for frontline civic staff in Mumbai on Thursday. ■ AFP

Sepoy recruitment exam: The Joint Entrance Examination for the posts of Sepoy General Duty in the Army will now be held on 1 November, an official said on Thursday. The test was earlier scheduled to be held on 28 June, but was postponed due to the coronavirus crisis. ■ PTI

Assam records one lakh Covid-19 recoveries: More than one lakh people have recovered from Covid-19 infections in Assam till date. It has presently 29,163 active Covid-19 cases. In the past 24 hours, the state reported 2,243 new corona positive cases out of which Kamrup (metro) contributed 641 patients. It lost 396 persons due to Covid-19 complications and increases its tally of infected persons to 1,33,066 till Thursday afternoon. ■ SNS

Death of wild dogs: A special team was formed on Thursday to carry out an inquiry into the death of five wild dogs due to poisoning in Singara forest range in the Nilgiris district. ■ PTI

Compensation for kin of youth who killed self: Tamil Nadu chief minister Palaniswami on Thursday announced a solium of Rs 7 lakh to the family of a 19-year old teenager who killed himself due to stress, days before he was to sit for the NEET examination. ■ PTI

आख्याक समन्वय
ये मुख्यकार्यकालीन काम हआ देखिए कुछ लोग अपने लाइन चैट के जरूरी हालत प्राप्तकों के साथ चर्चा करते हैं कि आप नियमी भी गर्भ के अन्तर्वास पर्याप्त और प्राप्तान्तर से ज्ञान पर कैवल दृष्टिकोण वाला से संबंधित जानकारी प्राप्त करें। बाकी अलग चैटों में कहाँ भी अच्युत नाना आपके साथ छोड़ा दूरी कर सकता है।
जारीकर्ता हीरो ननदीय अधिकारी अवान अवान गुरुमार्या मार्किंग डिविल्यू अवान कुमार शशी एडवोकेट जिता अवान गुरुमार्या फो-099-9323280

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Preeti, D/o Sh. Vinod Kumar, R/o E-493, Gali No. 10, Hardevpuri, Shahdara, Delhi, Age: 22 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Hair: Black & Long, Face: Round, Wearing: Black Shirt & Blue Jeans and Brown Colour Shoes, has been missing since 31.08.2020 at 1:45pm from the area of P.S. Mansarovar Park, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 75A dated 01.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Mansarovar Park, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.cic.in>
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Mansarovar Park, Delhi
Ph. 011-22599374, 7065036029
DP/188/SHD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Namely : Sheetal Kumari D/o : Kanchan Shrivastav R/o : H. No. 3094 Arya Pura Subzi Mandi, Ghanta Ghar, Delhi has been missing since 14.02.2020 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 23A dated 16.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age : 21 Years, Height: about 5'4", Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Built : Normal, Wearing : Black colour sweater and black and brown colour pajama.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Subzi Mandi, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/81/N/2020 Ph. No. 9582608911, 8750870126

Setback for RJD as senior leader resigns

Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was upset over the proposed induction of tainted leader Rama Singh into the party

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 10



Incidentally too is currently admitted to a hospital in Ranchi.

An angry Singh, who held key portfolios in various governments at the Centre, sent his resignation to the party president from his hospital bed. He is currently being treated at AIIMS, Delhi for his post-Covid-19 complications.

"Since the death of Janayak Karpoori Thakur, I stood behind you for 32 years, but not anymore. I received much affection from the party, leaders, workers and common masses. Please forgive me," Singh wrote in his resignation letter to the RJD president who

Since then, political rival-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

BJP president J P Nadda will be on a two-day visit to Bihar from Friday and is likely to meet JD(U) president and state chief minister Nitish Kumar, as the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) gears up for the assembly polls, expected to be held in October-November.

Nadda will preside over a number of BJP meetings, including its core committee and election coordination committee, the party's media co-charge Sanjay Mayukh said in a statement. Asked if Nadda will meet Kumar, a party leader said it

ry continued between the two Rajput strongmen but the RJD wanted Rama Singh to join the party to further woo the Rajput voters.

Eventually, the date for

is likely. BJP general secretary Bhupender Yadav, who is in charge of party affairs in Bihar, will also accompany the party president in his visit to the state.

Their meeting will come at a time when their third ally, Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party, has taken a strident stand against the JD(U) and threatened to put up candidates against its nominees during the elections.

The LJP has, however, refrained from targeting the BJP. Nadda will also launch "Aatmanirbhar Bihar" campaign from the party headquarters in the state, the statement said.

Rama's joining was even finalized but the party had to postpone the plan as Raghuvansh revolted.

The JD-U leaders alleged

the senior party leaders were quitting the RJD since they were not being given due respect. The JD-U even extended an open invitation to Singh to join the party although the latter has not responded.

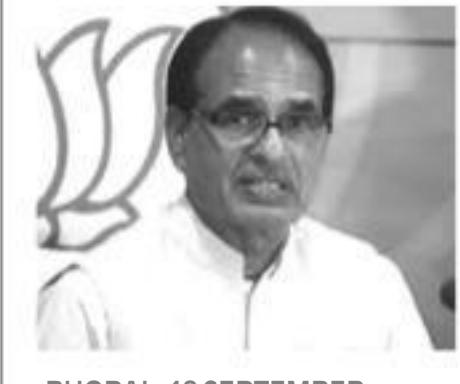
initiatives related to fisheries and animal husbandry in Bihar. The assembly polls in the state are likely to be held in October-November.

The Prime Minister highlighted several initiatives taken by the Centre to help farmers and migrants from Bihar during the Covid-19 crisis, including providing free ration to migrants returning home, and PMGKAY.

"Bihar is bravely facing the floods situation as well as Covid-19. We are aware of the flood situation in the state and adjoining areas. The efforts of both Centre and state government is to ensure completion of relief work in a speedy manner," Modi said.

Singh is not the lone leader to have quit the RJD. In the past few weeks, as many as 15 leaders, 12 of them being legislators, have quit the RJD to join the JD-U.

Chouhan talks to Uddhav about oxygen supply



BHOPAL, 10 SEPTEMBER:

Amidst reports of some critically ill Covid-19 patients in Madhya Pradesh losing their lives due to alleged lack of oxygen availability caused by interruption of oxygen supply from Maharashtra to MP over the past couple of days, MP Shivraj Singh Chouhan spoke to his Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray over the phone on Thursday and requested the latter to ensure oxygen supply continued unabated to MP.

"I was worried a lot about the shortage of oxygen supply (from Maharashtra). I spoke to Uddhav Thackeray on phone and requested him not to stop oxygen supply from Maharashtra to MP at this difficult time," Chouhan told media persons here. Chouhan said that Thackeray too was facing difficulties owing to the high number of Covid-19 patients in that state. "Still, he (Thackeray) has assured me of making efforts to maintain oxygen supply to MP," Chouhan said. The MP CM also admitted that till now the production of oxygen in MP was very low with a capacity of only 50 tons.

"We have now increased it to 120 tons," Chouhan claimed, adding that it would be further increased to 150 tons by the end of this month.

"We used to get 20 tons of oxygen from Nagpur in Maharashtra through a company named INOX Air Products. It would supply oxygen from Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh now," he added.

"We have made all short-term arrangements. I assure the public the shortage of oxygen won't bother the patients," the MP CM asserted. "For long term planning too, the company would install an oxygen plant at Mohasa near Babai in Hoshangabad. The plant would have a capacity of 200 tons of oxygen production in the next six months," Chouhan said. SNS

How many mouths will you shut, my voice will echo far: Kangana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 10 SEPTEMBER

LIFE IN... MUMBAI



Actress Kangana Ranaut arrives to visit her office 'Manikarnika Films' in Mumbai on Thursday. ■ AFP

Kangana carried out illegal alterations in building plan, now obscuring issue'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 10 SEPTEMBER

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation on Thursday denied in the Bombay High Court that it undertook demolition of 'illegal' alterations at actor Kangana Ranaut's bungalow here with ulterior motives.

The civic body filed an affidavit in the court a day after Ranaut challenged the demolition at her bungalow in Pali Hill in suburban Bandra.

"The petitioner (Ranaut) is seeking to obfuscate and cover up her flagrantly illegal acts of unlawfully making substantial additions and alterations contrary to the sanctioned building plan, without any permission by making baseless and wild allegations of malafide," the BMC said. A division bench of Justices S J Kathawala

and R Ichchagla had on Wednesday stayed the demolition, noting that the action smacked of "malafide" (dubious intentions). On Thursday, BMC counsel Aspi Chinoy contended that Ranaut had carried out modifications in her bungalow in blatant violation of the sanctioned building plan.

"All demolition work has been stopped as soon as the court directed so. But we request the court to direct the petitioner to also maintain status quo and not commence any other work in the said premises," Chinoy said.

Ranaut's lawyer Rizwan Siddiqui claimed the BMC had damaged the property, leading to water and electricity connections getting disrupted. "The same should be restored," he said. The bench, however, refused to pass any order and posted the petition

for further hearing on 22 September. In its affidavit, the BMC said, "Even in the present petition, the petitioner has not disputed the fact that she has carried out unlawful alterations and additions." The petitioner has only made false, baseless and unwarranted allegations of harassment and malafide by the corporation," it said.

Ranaut episode now over, says Raut:

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday said that Kangana Ranaut "episode" is now over for his party. He made the remark after meeting Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray here.

The Kangana Ranaut episode is over. We have even forgotten it. We are busy with our daily, government and social work now," Raut told reporters.

Two SOG commandos martyred in anti-Maoists operation in Odisha

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 10 SEPTEMBER:

rebels come forward to claim the bodies, it will be handed over to them. An intensive search operation is still continuing at the encounter sites. Huge cache of arms and ammunition has been seized. The Special Operation Group (SOG) and District Voluntary Force (DVF), elite paramilitary units operating under the Odisha police, had successfully conducted the operation yesterday on the basis of specific intelligence inputs. It is pertinent to note here that five Maoists, including two women, were gunned down by the security forces in the Sirka Reserve Forest area in Kandhamal district on July 5. Two more rebels were killed in the same area on July 23. Odisha DGP Abhaya along with other senior police officials today paid floral tribute to the two martyrs SOG Jawans in the reserve police ground at Bhawanipatna

APPOINTMENT
JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN
ADRI, PATNA
Skill India Scheme of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR

We are a leading voluntary agency located at Patna. We are looking for a dynamic person to head it as Director.
Qualification-Essential : (1) Graduation from a recognized University/ Institution or equivalent (2) Seven years' experience in supervisory capacity, preferably but not necessarily in the field of education or social sciences. (3) Working knowledge of the local language.
Desirable : (1) Vocational or BBA/MBA Degree/Diploma (2) Experience in administration or management (3) Experience in guiding/ conducting research or evaluation.
Age : Maximum 55 years as on the date or application.
Emoluments : Consolidated salary of Rs. 30,000/- per month (all inclusive). No other allowances will be paid.
The contract is initially for one year probation period and extendable for four more years on satisfactory performance and by mutual agreement.
Apply within 30 days from the date of publication of advertisement to The Chairman, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, ADRI, BSIDC Colony, Off Boring Patliputra Road, Patna-800013 or email to jss_adri@patna@gmail.com with complete biodata and enclosures.
Eligible candidate will be short listed and called for Interview. Outstation candidates called for Interview will be reimbursed to & fro 2nd AC rail fair. Employed persons would be required to send applications through proper channel. 'No objection certificate' from their employer at the time of interview is also required.

Chairman
JSSADRI Patna

China foes India, Japan sign key defence accord as Modi-Abe hold virtual annual summit

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER



India and Japan, the two key adversaries of China, signed a key defence agreement for reciprocal provision of supplies and services between their defence forces as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe held their annual summit over the phone today.

The Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) between Japan's Self-Defense Forces and India's armed forces was signed by Japanese ambassador Satoshi Suzuki and defence secretary Ajay Kumar in New Delhi on Wednesday. The agreement comes at a time when India is locked in a tense military

stand-off with China at eastern Ladakh and the ongoing row between Japan and China over the disputed Senkaku/Diaoyu islands.

The agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the armed forces of India and Japan in reciprocal provision of supplies and services while engaged in bilateral training activities, UN peace-keeping operations, human

itarian international relief and other mutually agreed activities, the Defence Ministry said today.

The agreement will also enhance the interoperability between the armed forces of India and Japan thereby further increasing the bilateral defence engagements under the special strategic and global partnership between the two countries.

The two Prime Ministers held their summit in a unique fashion on phone today lasting 30 minutes during which Abe informed Modi that he would resign from his position due to health reasons and expressed his gratitude and for the friendship and the relationship of trust built with the Indian leader. The two leaders welcomed the signing of

Dangerous milestone

Five years after the signal of intent was adopted with considerable grandstanding at the Paris conference on climate change, the latest report of the United Nations, as advanced on Wednesday, is direly unnerving for the comity of nations. The core issue that has been underlined by the document – as perhaps never before – is that global warming is “closing in on a dangerous milestone”. For all the jaw-jaw at the high tables at Cancun, Copenhagen and Paris, there has been little or no forward movement on the fundamental issue of environment. Indeed, warming of the Earth, to which the world belongs, has already ‘increased the odds of extreme events that are unprecedented in our historical experience’. That forthright disclosure ought to be the dominant theme at the next conference on climate – now a periodic charade – whatever the likes of Donald Trump might contend. Barely two months before the presidential election, the extent of warming is too hot a potato for the political class in America. Not to put too fine a point on it, it has now been established that Man’s conflict with Nature has contributed not a little to the raging coronavirus pandemic, verily the worldwide catastrophe that has defined the year 2020. The pandemic could well be a chance to tackle climate change. Humans are said to be responsible for the 70 per cent reduction in the world’s wildlife over the past 50 years. It is a measure of this impervious attitude that the world is getting closer to passing a temperature limit set by global leaders in 2015, and may exceed that limit in the “next decade or so”. The update, furnished by the UN, the World Meteorological Organization and other global science entities is emphatic that in the next five years, the “world has nearly a 1-in-4 chance of experiencing a year that’s hot enough to put the global temperature at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times”. The chances of “dangerous problems will increase tremendously” is the grim foreboding of the report, indeed the third in the series after similar UN documents in 2015 and 2018.

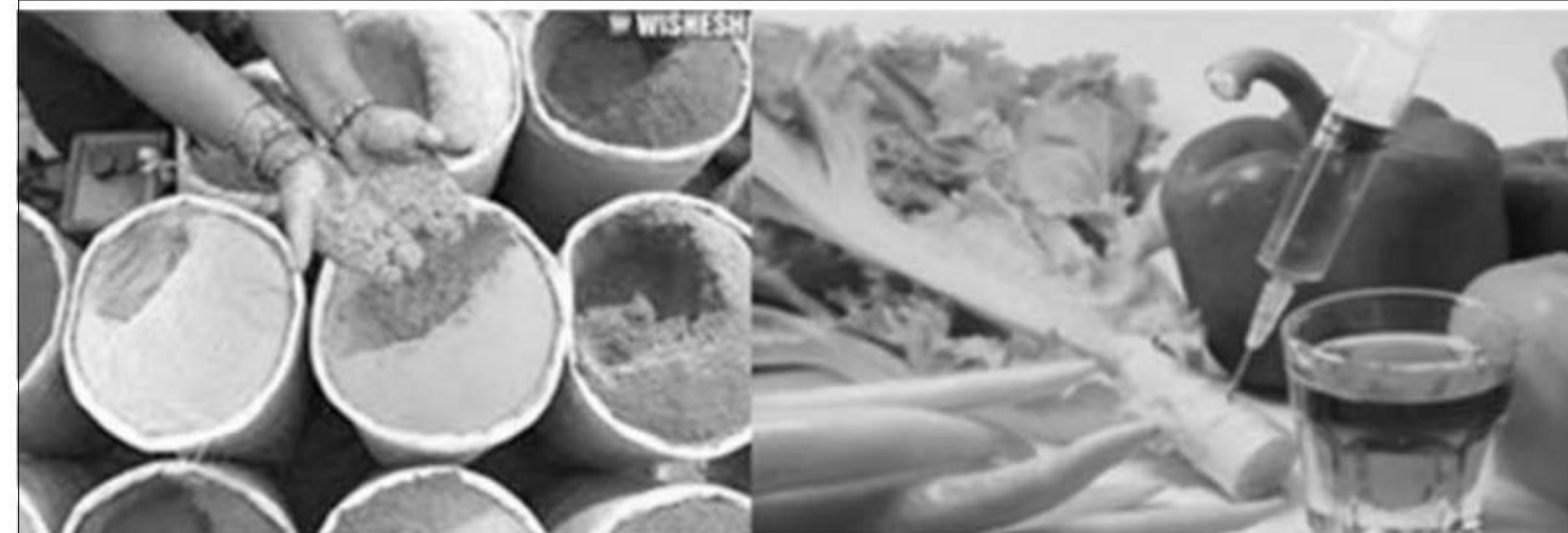
The latest document comes in the aftermath of what has been described as “weather gone wild in the US”, exemplified by the California fires, not to forget what the report calls “unprecedented wildfires” in the Amazon, the Arctic and Australia. It is cause for alarm that Death Valley recorded 54.4 degrees Celsius and Siberia hit 38 degrees Celsius. Nature appears to have struck against the conventional notions of climate and warming. Wednesday’s update on climate disruption transcends more than just increasing temperatures and rising sea levels. As the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, writes in the foreword, the phenomenon has affected communities, nations and economies around the world. In a sense, the United Nations, as the voice of the comity of nations, has warned the world. Sadly, it can do little else.

Trends in Belarus

The striking feature of the raging ferment in Belarus has been the sweeping crackdown on opposition leaders, utterly in character for a country deemed Europe’s last dictatorship. As President Alexander Lukashenko seeks to crush the biggest challenge yet to his 26-year rule, the crackdown has left nearly all main organizers of anti-government protests in detention or exile. With Lukashenko preparing to meet the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, in Moscow soon, his campaign has targeted the major figures in the opposition Coordination Council. It thus comes about that the Belarusian authorities on Wednesday detained one of the last leading members of the council to have remained free thus far. The regime hopes that with leaders driven away or locked up, the organisation of protests – now a regular feature – will suffer. Another among the latest detainees is lawyer Maxim Znak, a member of the Coordination Council formed to facilitate talks with Lukashenko on a transition of power. In a sense, the opposition movement has been considerably weakened, and for now the Head of State appears to have the upper hand. Znak was taken out of the council’s office by unidentified people in ski masks. It was by all accounts a well-planned and ruthless crackdown as Znak only had time to text a message before they took the phone away from him. Belarusian officials have started a criminal investigation into the activities of the Coordination Council, accusing the entity of undermining national security by demanding a transfer of power. Several council members have been arrested and others forcibly expelled from the country. The dramatic change in the structure of governance is easier contemplated than accomplished, however. The other prominent detainee and a leading light of the Coordination Council is Maria Kolesnikova, who was detained on Monday in the capital of Minsk. She and two others were driven to the border on Tuesday where the authorities told them to cross over to Ukraine. When they arrived in the no-man’s land between Belarus and Ukraine, Kolesnikova is said to have ripped her passport into small pieces to make it impossible for the authorities to expel her. While she has been in custody on the Belarusian side of the border after the incident, her whereabouts were uncertain till Thursday. The plot thickens with Lukashenko dismissing the opposition as Western stooges. He has rejected demands from the United States and the European Union to engage in talks with the protesters. The latter have binned the President’s re-election on 9 August, where he claimed 80 per cent of the vote, as rigged. This has served to fuel the demand for his resignation. Trends suggest that he has no intention to hang up his boots not the least because dictators are loathe to give up the levers of power. For now, he can count on the support of President Putin. But that will alienate the people further still.

Food at risk

Industrial activities have recently concentrated on food. There are thousands of food additives such as flavourings, colourings, preservatives, emulsifiers and sweeteners present in the marketed processed food today. Some of the chemicals used are natural and approved but a great many are man-made and harmful



A major problem of the world today is finding safe and acceptable food for an ever-increasing population. All foods are extremely chemical entities even in their natural state. Many commonly used foodstuffs naturally contain toxic principals in small amounts. Farmers are the major producers of food we eat. Most of those foods are contaminated with different poisonous chemicals used in farming practices. Foods today are increasingly getting polluted by industrial pollutants, accidentally during processing and through the act of adulteration. The present century has witnessed the world-wide rise of new chemical hazards from food. Food is at risk and we eat at our peril.

Poison is very difficult to define and many substances present in food would have adverse or toxic effects if taken in large doses. In the words of Paracelsus (1493-1541): “All substances are poisons; there is none which is not a poison. The right dose differentiates a poison and a remedy.” Toxic matters are foreign substances. They differ greatly in their chemical nature and their fate in our bodies also varies. In general, a substance may follow one of the five possible sequences, each of which has variants.

1. It may pass through the gastrointestinal tract unabsorbed. Pectin and other food thickeners are examples. It may be digested by enzymes in the upper gastrointestinal (GI) tract or broken down by enzymes in the colon. Even if a substance is not absorbed it can affect the motility of the GI tract and cause vomiting, diarrhea or constipation.

2. A substance may be absorbed and pass into the portal vein to the liver, where it may be metabolized and then excreted back into the GI tract in bile and the sequence may be repeated.

3. Water-soluble substances may be absorbed and pass through the liver into the general circulation. In the blood the substance may be partly bound to one of the plasma proteins, but it is excreted by kidneys and passes into urine. If such a substance should be oncogenic, the organ most likely to be affected is the urinary bladder.

4. Fat-soluble substances after absorption reach the liver and get metabolized in two stages. Usually the metabolites are more water soluble and more easily excreted and less toxic.

5. Some substances may be absorbed but neither metabolized nor excreted. They stay in the body and get accumulated. Even if harmless in small amounts in acute and subacute tests, they may lead to long-term harmful effects. Examples are fat-soluble compounds like DDT and PBB (polybrominated biphenyl). These are not only stored in

the adipose tissue but pass into the milk fat in lactating women. Substances like calcium can stay in bones for a long time.

Natural toxins are toxic compounds that are naturally produced by living organisms. Interestingly, these toxins are not harmful to the organisms themselves, but they may be toxic to other creatures, including humans, when consumed. Some toxins are produced by plants as a natural defense mechanism against predators, insects or microorganisms or as a consequence of infestation with microorganisms, such as mould. Other sources of natural toxins are microscopic algae and plankton in oceans or sometimes in lakes that produce chemical compounds called

aquatic biotoxins. They are toxic to humans but not to fish or shellfish (such as mussels, scallops and oyster) that eat these toxin producing organisms.

Concentrations of algae in our oceans and lakes have long bloomed naturally, but climate change and fertilizer runoff from farms have exacerbated the situation in recent years.

The most dangerous of the blooms, called harmful algal blooms (or HABs) are often reddish in colour, leading observers to call them red tides. Some of the algae or phytoplankton manufacture saxitoxin, a poison so devastating it is the underlying cause of paralytic shellfish poisoning, an often-lethal reaction to shellfish that are storing toxic algal cells. Other phytoplankton produce domoic acid, a neurotoxin that kill people birds and marine mammals snacking on contaminated fish and shellfish.

Other than paralysis, algal toxin can cause diarrhea and vomiting also.

Another example is ciguatera fish poisoning which is caused by consuming fish contaminated with dinoflagellates that produce ciguatoxins. Health and fitness experts often emphasize on seafood for muscles, high proteins and weight loss. But seafood is responsible for a large portion of food-borne diseases. Some of the pathogens responsible for sea food infections are vibrio and salmonella bacteria which cause gastroenteritis and norovirus infection that is characterized by diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, abdominal cramp etc.

Hepatitis A is the most serious viral infection associated with the consumption of oyster and clams and been known since the 1960s. The largest reported outbreak occurred in China in 1988; almost 3 lakh persons were infected after consuming clams harvested from

the sewage contaminated area. Scombrotoxic poisoning that results from bacterial spoilage of tunny, mackerel and related fish is another factor for making seafood unsafe. Disrupted muscle liberates histidine from which histamine is formed, and this together with other toxins produces headache, palpitation, flushing and diarrhoea a short time after ingestion. This is not prevented by cooking the fish. An outbreak, affecting over 200 people, from canned tuna once occurred in the US. Global seafood consumption has more than doubled in the past 50 years, to over 20 kg per capita per year in 2104. As the demand for seafood rises, steps should be taken to ensure seafood is risk free.

Many commonly used foodstuffs naturally contain toxic principals in small amounts. The taboos and tradition operating in all communities have protected people from extremely toxic plants and animal products.

Cyanogenic glycosides are phytotoxins which occur in as many as 2000 plant species,

of which a number of species are used as food in some areas of the world. Cassava sorghum, stone fruits, bamboo roots and almonds are especially important foods containing cyanogenic glycosides. Cyanide is formed following hydrolysis of cyanogenic glycosides that occur during crushing of the edible plant material either during consumption or during processing of the plant material.

In humans, the clinical signs of acute cyanide intoxication can include rapid respiration, dizziness, drop in blood pressure, mental confusion, vomiting, diarrhea. Death due to cyanide poisoning can occur when cyanide levels exceeds the limit an individual is able to detoxify.

Ingestion of large amount of fresh cabbage, raw soybean and the red scale of groundnut can prevent the normal functioning of thyroid gland due to the presence of goitrogens which do not allow the gland to take up adequate iodine for producing thyroid hormone. Soybean is the richest sources of vegetable protein but in the raw stage it contains a number of toxic principles which must be removed. Raw and partially cooked soybeans and flour contain trypsin inhibitor and hemagglutinins which are toxic protein.

Trypsin is the vital enzyme which help to digest proteins in the small intestine and trypsin inhibitor suppresses the activity of the enzyme. Hemagglutinins are known to cause clumping of

red blood cells. Both these toxic factors are destroyed by heat. Pathogenic microbes proliferating in foods such as milk, meat and cereals produce highly toxic compounds during their growth. These toxins remain in food even after the bacteria are destroyed and may not be removed by cooking or processing. Industrial activities have recently concentrated on food. There are thousands of food additives such as flavourings, colourings, preservatives, emulsifiers and sweeteners present in the marketed processed food today. Some of the chemicals used are natural and approved but a great many are man-made and harmful. Plastic is used everywhere indiscriminately. It’s in bowls, wraps, and a host of bottles and bags used to store food and beverages. Studies have found that certain chemicals in plastic – plasticizers, coloring agents, stabilizers to heat and light, fire retardants and antioxidants – can leach out of plastic and into the food and beverages we eat.

Antibiotics have been a powerful force since the discovery of penicillin in the late 1920s. Use of antibiotics has not been restricted to humans. Nor is it limited to diseases only. To cater to the growing demand, even poultry farmers add antibiotics in low doses to chicken and turkey feed, antibiotics promote growth in poultry by helping them to maintain healthier digestive systems. Indiscriminate and routine use of antibiotics in low doses during chicken’s short-cycle of 35–32 days for faster growth promotes the growth of anti-microbial resistance (AMR) bacteria. By some estimates, more than 75 per cent of poultry is contaminated with E.coli, much of it resistant to antibiotic drugs. Handling bacteria-ridden food could spread E.coli to the urinary tract.

The most noxious problem is food adulteration, when unscrupulous people add bad stuff to food for profit. In our country milk is mixed with urea. Harmful azo dyes are being used for making the egg and chicken a deep yellow/orange. A few years ago, melamine-contaminated milk killed babies in China. Horsemeat sold as beef sent Europe into a tizzy. A study by Delhi-based non-profit Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has found that packaged food items have genetically modified (GM) ingredients in them.

In his book, *Physiologie du Gout*, the 18th century French

lawyer and politician Anthelme Brillat-Savarin said, ‘Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are.’ This probably holds true for a developed country. But in a poor and developing country like ours, where even we don’t know what is in our food, how will we tell others what we are?

A MEMBER OF THE

ANN
ASIAN VOICES

Monitor glacial lakes

As climate change melts glaciers, a threat looms large in mountainous areas – glacial lake outburst floods, which pose great dangers to mountain communities and mega infrastructures downstream. There is little warning before these disasters occur, and as they have done in the past, the unstable lakes could burst, releasing huge amounts of water and sweeping everything in its path. The volume of these lakes, according to scientists who used satellite imaging, remote-sensing data and other tools to study all of the world’s glacial lakes, has increased by about 50 percent in 30 years.

The increase in glacial lake expansion increases flood risk, according to the latest global study published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, which shows dramatic growth in the size of glacial lakes over the decades. And scientists expect the number and size of lakes formed by glacial melt water to increase and even accelerate as temperatures rise.

Some glacial lakes, according to researchers, may grow rapidly while others grow slowly as they lose connection with glaciers in the process of melting. Others would drain out or gradually fill with sediments, or their depth will be stabilised by human intervention.

Glacial lakes are formed by melting glaciers and are dammed by ice or glacial sediment known as moraine, which is composed of loose rock and debris and hence unstable. The expansion of these lakes increases the risk

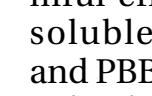
THE KATHMANDU POST

that their surrounding moraines will not be able to hold for a long time, resulting in glacial lake outburst floods, causing massive floods downstream. These floods can cause large-scale devastation, as they have done in the past, claiming thousands of lives and destruction of infrastructure and property in the last century. It is important to note that many of Nepal’s hydropower projects exist near glacial lakes.

A report published by the United Nations Development Programme in January estimates there are over 3,000 glacial lakes in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, of which 33 pose an imminent threat that could impact as many as 7 million people. An earlier assessment report of the region by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development noted that 21 glacial lakes in Nepal present a potentially dangerous risk. Now, a new study of glacial lakes in Nepal, Tibet Autonomous Region of China and India by the UN body and ICMOD has not only found 3,624 glacial lakes in these basins, but also identified 47 that could potentially unleash outburst floods. Of these, 42 are within the Koshi basin, making it the river basin with the highest risk.

Nepal must learn from the past catastrophes that have claimed lives and livestock, and damaged multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects and transportation routes in the country and beyond its borders. The government must take stock of these scientific reports which indicate how rising temperatures have led to excessive melting and retreating of glaciers, and prepare a national plan of action and allocate funds to mitigate the risks these glacial lakes pose. It must also create an alliance with neighbouring countries to share scientific information and best practices to mitigate risks so that the National Adaptation Programmes of Action is more pronounced.

With extreme rainfall events in the region, the effects of climate change have never been so close to home. And imminent seismic risks like the twin earthquakes in 2015 further add to the risk of glacial lake outbursts. Glacial lakes have long been considered a ticking time bomb, the threats of which will only get real as temperatures soar.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Underestimating power of religion

SIR, The article of Prafull Goradia on Communist Parties (*The Statesman*, 9 September) provokes me to present my thoughts.

I was closely involved with the Communist movement and later was a close observer. It is true the religious sentiments of Indian people – their fatalism – is a major factor against communist ideals in India.

The well-known British Marxist scholar, V.G. Kiernan, aptly observed, “In India religion and the social habits that went with it were, as Catholicism had

been in Europe, a dead weight on change.” Religious bigotry and terrorism have afflicted the modern world. Religious

intolerance, cultural exclusiveness, blind fanaticism and terrorism – the negative sides of religion – have often deluged the world with

rivers of human blood. It seems that the Left has failed to challenge the current world system in societies with strong ethnic and religious sentiments. So the fallback ideology of rebellion is mostly religion-based.

In this backdrop Fidel Castro came to this remarkable conclusion: “We Socialists have committed the following error: we have underestimated the power of nationalism and religion.”

Yours, etc., Panchanan Saha, Kolkata, 9 September.

CARDINAL SIN ?

SIR, This refers to Ms Santwona Mohanty’s letter titled “Equal Respect” (Sept 9). It is the prerogative of a woman to choose her dress; similarly, it is Manish Nandy’s choice whether he will apologise or not. One thing, however, is clear. His artistic remark on scantily dressed women has led to the invocation of “ethics”, “India’s rich culture” etc.

We may recall a recent incident in Kolkata. A young woman in a building complex went to the committee to say something. The president of the committee pointed out to her that as elderly people were present she should go to her apartment and come back properly dressed. All hell broke loose, so much so that the matter was dragged to police and court. This establishes a doctrine. Women have the right to dress as scantily as they please but any male expressing his appreciation or displeasure at it commits a cardinal sin.

Yours, etc., Sanjat Ghatak, Narendrapur, 9 September.



been in Europe, a dead weight on change.” Religious bigotry and terrorism have afflicted the modern world. Religious

intolerance, cultural exclusiveness, blind fanaticism and terrorism – the negative sides of religion – have often deluged the world with

rivers of human blood. It seems that the Left has failed to challenge the current world system in societies with strong ethnic and religious sentiments. So the fallback ideology of rebellion is mostly religion-based.

In this backdrop Fidel Castro came to this remarkable conclusion: “We Socialists have committed the following error: we have underestimated the power of nationalism and religion.”

Yours, etc., Panchanan Saha,

Kolkata, 9 September.

SUNIL SHARAN

People think it's Covid, law and disorder, etc. that will decide Donald Trump's fate. None of that. His base is still intact at just over 40 per cent of the electorate.

There is one issue that will decide the outcome of the US presidential election. It's an issue in the two swing states of Pennsylvania and Ohio. What's going on there? Fracking, also known as hydraulic fracturing, a relatively novel way to drill for oil and natural gas from sedimentary shale rock.

The US is awash in shale oil and gas. Known shale gas reserves are predicted to last 100 years of consumption. India too has shale reserves, but hasn't explored much, so knows so little. India though has started receiving liquified natural gas from the US.

The 2012 American election found Barack Obama on a slippery slope. The effects of the Great Recession were still withering, but one sector had boomed. Shale oil and gas had created half a million jobs for the economy. Obama didn't talk about that much, because it was liberally incorrect to support brown energy, but shale tipped Obama over the line.

Obama even went to Poland and China thereafter to promote America's fracking technology.

In the recent Democratic Party primary debates, the far-left challenger, Bernie Sanders, pressed Joe Biden on fracking. Biden mumbled no new fracking.

In Pennsylvania and Ohio Biden holds a minor lead over Trump. He must win Pennsylvania to win the White House, although there are other more difficult paths to get there because Pennsylvania is a blue state, that is, it traditionally votes Democratic. In 2016, Trump snatched Pennsylvania from Hillary Clinton.

Pennsylvania is also a big fracking state. Its residents would not want to hear no new fracking, especially in these dire economic times. Ohio is much more of a swing state than Pennsylvania, although it has similar issues around fracking.

And then there is Texas, the motherlode of oil and gas in the US. Biden and Trump are running neck and neck there, a state which has generally always been a red state. If Biden can pull off Texas, he can pull off any-

Fracking, not Covid, may decide American election



thing. But then there is his comment on no new fracking to deal with.

In the primaries, Biden had to beat Sanders and so he committed to no new fracking. Now he's saying that he's not against new fracking. But neither he nor his running mate Kamala Harris tout the benefits of fracking the way Trump does.

Fracking has created almost 10 million new jobs in the US. The green energy sector has barely created any. Yet, Democrats delude themselves with a myth that a Green New Deal will repair and restore the US to new heights. Obama poured tens of billion

dollars into the green sector, with little to no results. He then backed away from it. Obama was cunning as a fox.

Is Biden? Biden is under tremendous pressure from Bernie Sanders and his supporters to veer left. Biden has already more or less committed to the Green New Deal, which bans fracking. If Biden talks about the benefits of fracking too much, Sanders's supporters won't show up in the election and vote for him. Many of Sanders's supporters are young and idealistic, also naive. Without their votes, Biden may not win.

Trump just has to go to the states

where fracking is prevalent - Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, even California - and tout fracking hard. And it's game over.

Biden will have to renege on the commitment that he made during the primary debates on no new fracking. He will have to voice his support for fracking now, which he has started doing; that is alienating Sanders's supporters even though Biden is voicing his support for fracking in a mealy-mouthed manner. Sanders's supporters on the other hand wish to hear his full-throated opposition to fracking.

Biden is literally caught between

the devil and the deep sea. And then he looks like an opportunist as well. He said one thing to win the primaries, and now is saying the opposite thing to win the general election.

Biden and Harris want to avoid the topic of fracking like the plague. Donald Trump should not. He should avoid all this race and law and disorder and Covid vaccine stuff. If he wants to win, he just has to talk up fracking, fracking, fracking, and Joe Biden will be toast.

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

Primitive-brained, repulsive people

RAFIA ZAKARIA

History is revealed quite slowly in the US. This is particularly true of its presidential history. Long, painstakingly compiled records of telephone calls, conversations, memos and everything else imaginable from each and every president are kept. As the years pass, and if court requests are filed, these materials, which are usually kept in presidential libraries, are unclassified and released to whoever requests them. More often than not, the information is only the sort that would interest historians: details of a conversation, menus of state dinners for visiting leaders, and so on.

Last week, statements of a more controversial sort came to light. Historian Gary J. Bass, author of *The Blood Telegram*, which deals with the creation of Bangladesh and the mass atrocities that accompanied the event, revealed some surprising information. In 2012, Bass had requested details of conversations and other materials from Richard Nixon's presidency. It took until May 2018, and all the way until this past May, for the material (with many parts redacted) to fall into Bass's hands.

The surprise is not so much a matter of diplomatic controversy as it is an illustration of endemic racism. In one conversation that took place in the Oval Office in June 1971, President Nixon says, "Undoubtedly the most unattractive women in the world are Indian women." Continuing, he adds, "The most sexless nothing, these people. I mean, people say, what about the Black Africans? Well you can see something, the vitality there, I mean they have a little animal like charm, but God, those Indians, ack, pathetic. Uch."

Nor is that all of it. In a tape from 4 November 1971, during a break from a tense meeting with Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi, president



Nixon rants at his national security adviser Henry Kissinger once again about the unattractiveness of Indian women. In fact, Nixon confessed, "They turn me off, they are repulsive and it's easy to be tough on them."

On November 12, he again rants at Kissinger, "I don't know how they reproduce!" Nixon's statements held diplomatic weight. At the time, he was in discussions with Prime Minister Gandhi over the possibility of imminent war with Pakistan. Earlier in June, blaming the Indians for the flow of refugees caused by the conflict, he described them as "a scavenging people".

Pakistanis, programmed to celebrate any criticisms of Indians, particularly those that resonate with already familiar racist critiques, should hold themselves back. This is a

good time to remind themselves that, for racist white people like Nixon, no actual difference exists between the origins of Indians and Pakistanis. They may apply different sorts of racist stereotypes to each, but the fact of their racism remains. No fanciful theories identifying Pakistanis or Indians as 'Aryans' can change their minds.

The real problem is the mindset that certain races or skin colours have certain characteristics. We all know where that argument ends up: white people are forever judged superior and attractive and intelligent, while all others are inferior versions of white-skinned greatness. Nixon's words reveal this, but so do those of his interlocutor, the much-celebrated statesman Henry Kissinger.

"They [Indians] are superb flatterers, Mr President," Kissinger tells her boss. "They are masters at flattery. They are masters at subtle flattery. That's how they survived 600 years. They suck up — their great skill is to suck up to people in key positions." Kissinger was not about to spare Pakistanis. In the same conversation, he says, "I tell you, the Pakistanis are fine people, but they are primitive in their mental structure. They just don't have the subtlety of Indians."

The entire regurgitated mess of these racist comments should (but likely will not) teach Pakistanis and Indians a lesson. When a large number of white people continue to be raised up as mediators to settle the squabbles of the 'primitive brained' and 'repulsive', then all their racist

beliefs about white supremacy are affirmed. So many in the Western world do not walk away with the belief that one or another band of brown people are better, more deserving of their support and most crucially their equals. They walk away with an unearned sense of superiority in an affirmation of their own repulsive and racist beliefs.

It is not, of course, the fault of brown people that Nixon and Kissinger are racist. That two well-educated men could think in this way and share their views with each other without any hesitation at all reveals that white supremacist beliefs and racism have not only riven America internally but also seeped deep into its foreign policy. It is also a cautionary tale of how childish similar attacks are, even when lobbed by Indians against Pakistanis and vice versa. The means to defeat this sort of racism against brown people is not to abuse each other in the same way but, rather, to realise that the world has several white racist regimes and only unity against them can dismantle these vestiges of colonial pasts.

There has not been any kind of official response from India or Pakistan to the revelations in the newly released material. What wars and the anguish of their people have prevented instances of white racism even of this flagrant sort are unlikely to accomplish. However, since hope reigns supreme, this could be a moment in which both countries — one maligned for being obsequious, the other for having primitive brains — can come together and issue a single statement. How powerful it would be if the foreign offices of India and Pakistan were to issue a historic joint statement denouncing the venomous racism and misogyny of the remarks of an American president and his right-hand man.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28070

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The change of status and name undergone by the Protectorate of British East Africa will seem a little unfortunate to those unfamiliar with its geography. What henceforth is to be known as the Kenia Colony derives its new name from the great volcanic mass, with a maximum altitude of some 17,000 feet, which long ago gave its name to one of the districts of British East Africa but is still very little known to any but geographers and those who have either travelled up the Uganda railway or settled in the vicinity of the mountain. Sir H.J. Mackinder climbed to the crest of the extinct volcano in 1899 and it is possible to his influence at the Colonial Office that the choice of a name is due. Exactly what changes are implied in the new colonial status of the colony as opposed to its old status of a protectorate it would be difficult to say. It is, however, probably all to the good that the Kenia Colony is now definitely differentiated from the ten mile coast strip over which the Sultan of Zanzibar possesses a territorial sovereignty and which, alike from the point of view of race, trade, and interests, differs from the uplands which the enterprise of the white man has once again brought within the pale of civilisation.

NEWS ITEMS

BUNKER COAL REQUIREMENTS

At the general meeting of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber, in reply to a telegram from the Coal Transportation Officer of Calcutta telegraphed stating that the monthly requirements of bunker coal at Madras is seven thousand tons exclusive of the requirements of Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co., and of the Asiatic Steam Navigation Co., and suggesting that application may be made to Messrs. Turner Morrison and Co. for the requirements of the Asiatic Steam Navigation Co. Regarding the control of export of bunker coal to foreign ports by license, the Chamber appointed a sub-committee to advise the Chamber as to the line of action to be taken in the matter. With reference to the control of the homeward passages, the Chamber resolved to reply that some form of control seemed essential.

PLOT TO KILL EX-KAISER

A special correspondent of the Chicago Tribune has been making enquiries at Doorn regarding alleged attempts to assassinate the ex-Kaiser. He telegraphs that he learns from a schoolmaster at Amerongen that a German crossed the frontier without papers, climbed the wall round the ex-Kaiser's house, and fired several shots. The man was arrested and sent back to Germany. Another very detailed story states that the ex-Kaiser was attacked by an assailant disguised as Belgian labourer, who secured entrance to his residence on the pretext that he had come to repair the water-pipes. He concealed himself in the corridor, waited for the ex-Kaiser, and struck at him with a blunt instrument. The ex-Kaiser warded off the attack, grappled with his assailant, and held him until the guards came on the scene.

THE TEA PUZZLE

All attempts which have been made to strengthen the Tea Market have failed, and this week's sales have again shown a considerable drop in prices, but it is chiefly the common tea that is falling. "Last year common tea was fetching good prices," says a prominent tea broker, "and the London houses who manage the Indian companies sent out instructions for the plucking of good tea. But the local managers, seeing the big prices, went on plucking the coarse tea, with the result that a much bigger crop came over than was required. Then again the export trade has been much smaller than usual owing to the high rates of exchange. The result has been an accumulation of common tea in this country. Meanwhile there has been no cheaper tea for the public."

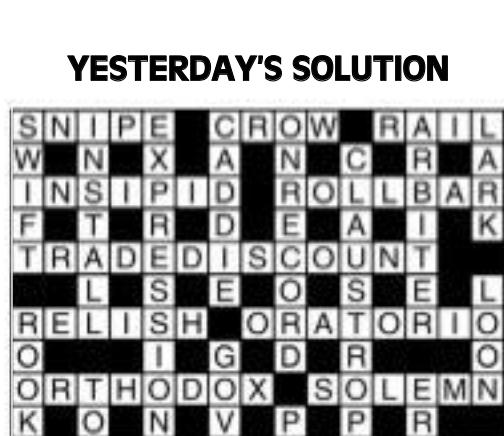
LOSS OF THE "PADOUK"

The Marine Court of Inquiry into the loss of the Padouk near Alguada Reef was resumed today before the District Magistrate and two assessors. Evidence was offered which showed that bad weather was experienced, the crew became so weak that they could not carry out the orders of the Captain, though they were obedient, and that the Captain did everything to save the ship. The crew had no food as all the ranges were smashed when the ship drifted near the rocks. Anchor was dropped, and the lascars getting frightened got near the boats, but the Captain drove them back with a revolver. Later the boats were lowered, and the ship abandoned.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

- 1 Henry dined, consuming chicken not thoroughly prepared (4,6)
- 6 Chances morning will bring unwanted correspondence (4,6)
- 10 Muslim leader elected for a further time (5)
- 11 Member of political party spilling the beans but not initially making false claims (9)
- 12 There was one for starters – and now another? (3)
- 13 Solitary individual city dweller dismissing academic (5)
- 14 Back favourite to accept current special treatment?
- 15 (3,6) Mile addicts end with damage – such runners? (6-8)
- 18 What could be seen as a native island marsupial, primarily? (9,5)
- 22 Rocks caught in chimney glow (9)
- 24 Protective item, article inclined to be cut (5)
- 25 Most of a truism about computing performance (3)
- 26 Broadcast medium covering awfully chic salad vegetable (9)
- 27 One Liberal assuming instinctive responsibility (5)
- 28 Tale ends in stormy sea meeting sailors (4)
- 29 Concern linked to side of Himalayan mountain (10)
- 8 Mass and energy extracted from a number having strength (6)
- 9 Intriguing gang deadlock resolved without a start to rioting (5-3-6)
- 16 Person punished positioned to welcome better self (9)
- 17 Marine creatures, a great many below section of deck (8)
- 19 A German article about star is in at least two parts (7)
- 20 Tiger released in very old film thriller (7)
- 21 A very strong beam reveals disturbance (6)
- 23 Indistinct sound was cut short after request for silence around clubs (5)

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



Need to strengthen corporate governance and industry should look at adopting global best practices

ANURAG THAKUR
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE

THUMBNAILS

UCO Bank rate cut: State-owned UCO Bank has reduced its marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR) by five basis points effective Thursday. UCO Bank slashed its one-year MCLR to 7.35 per cent from 7.40 per cent and it would be same for all tenors, the lender said in a statement.

Indiabulls sale: Indiabulls Housing Finance on Thursday said it has sold a part of its stake in the UK-based OakNorth Holding Ltd, the parent company of OakNorth Bank Ltd, to HighSage Ventures LLC for Rs 440 crore. The sale proceeds will be accretive to the regulatory net worth and the CRAR (capital to risk weighted assets ratio) of the company, Indiabulls Housing Finance said in a regulatory filing to stock exchanges.

Samsung smartphone: Samsung has announced the launch of Galaxy M51, its most powerful and premium M Series smartphone. Powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon 730G, Galaxy M51 is India's first smartphone with 7000mAh battery, the company said in a Press statement.

HGS to hire in US: Business process management and customer experience solutions provider Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS) on Thursday said it plans to add more than 2,000 employees in the US this year. In a regulatory filing, HGS said it has seen strong growth in 2020 as companies continue to look for business partners to help enhance customer experience (CX), satisfaction and loyalty amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Titagarh Wagons pact: Solar power player Fourth Partner Energy, in a media statement on Thursday, said it has tied up with Titagarh Wagons Ltd to supply 4.8 megawatt (MW) solar energy to electrify the latter's three manufacturing units in West Bengal.

Reliance to offer 40% in retail business to Amazon: Report

The proposed deal, estimated at \$20 billion, would be the biggest ever in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

Reliance Industries Ltd is reported to have offered a 40 per cent stake in its retail arm worth about \$20 billion to Amazon.com, Inc.

Bloomberg News citing a source reported that "Amazon has held discussions about investing in the conglomerate's Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd unit and has expressed interest in negotiating a potential transaction."

The report went on to say that Reliance was "willing to sell as much as a 40 per cent stake in the subsidiary to Amazon" and the deal size at \$20 billion would be the biggest ever in India.

Both Reliance and Amazon refused to comment on the report.

"In light of a high incidence of speculative media queries and incorrect and ex parte media articles relating to purported capital transactions into Reliance Industries or our group companies, we would like to reiterate that as

a policy, we do not comment on media speculation and rumours and we cannot confirm or deny any transaction which may or may not be in the works," Reliance said in its revised email response.

A similar response was also sent to stock exchanges.

The company evaluates various opportunities on an ongoing basis, it said, adding that the company has "made and will continue to make



Turkey is no longer a partner in this region, We Europeans need to be clear and firm with the government of President Erdogan about its inadmissible behaviour

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON

URGES TOUGH EU STANCE AGAINST TURKISH PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

The Statesman

09

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

Huge fire breaks out at Beirut port a month after explosion

Lebanese army said the fire started at a warehouse where oil & tires are stored in the duty free zone

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT, 10 SEPTEMBER

A huge fire broke out Thursday at the Port of Beirut, the site of last month's catastrophic explosion that killed nearly 200 people and devastated parts of the capital. The new fire nearly 40 days after the blast triggered widespread panic among traumatized residents of the area.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the fire at the facility, which was decimated by the August 4 explosion when nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate detonated.

The blast triggered a shock wave that blew out windows, doors and walls miles away and was felt as far away as the island of Cyprus.

A column of thick black smoke billowed from the port at midday Thursday, with orange flames leaping from the ground. Smoke covered the capital and firefighters and

ambulances rushed to the scene. Army helicopters were taking part in efforts to extinguish the fire. We opened all windows and are in the corridor right now, said Dana Awad, a mother of two girls in a Beirut neighborhood. I am still feeling the earth shake. Living a flashback. She was referring to the tremor that preceded the 4 August explosion.

The Lebanese army said the fire started at a warehouse where oil and tires are placed in the duty free zone, adding that efforts to battle the fire were ongoing.

Panicked residents still struggling to get over last month's catastrophic explosion cracked open windows and called and texted each other to warn them of the new danger. Local TV stations said companies that have offices near the port asked their employees to leave the area.

A video circulating on social media showed port



KBK

Massive fire breaks out at Beirut port

destructive blast in Lebanon's history, is blamed on government negligence and mismanagement.

Lebanese speculated in the wake of Thursday's fire that it could be an attempt to remove evidence of last month's explosion from the scene. Some hid in bathrooms, others dropped what they were doing and rushed home.

The panic was compounded by the trauma from the 4 August explosion and the fear that more chemicals could be in the wreckage of the port. Earlier this month, the Lebanese army said it discovered more than 4 tons of ammonium nitrate in four containers stored near the port that it said were dealt with.

Days after the August 4 blast, French and Italian chemical experts working amid the remains of the port identified more than 20 containers carrying dangerous chemicals. The army later said that these

containers were moved and stored safely in locations away from the port.

State-run National News Agency said the fire was at a warehouse where tires are placed. It added that firefighters are dealing with the blaze. Beirut Governor Marwan Abboud and authorities called on people to stay away from roads leading to the port to allow fire engines to move quickly.

Port director Bassem al-Qaisi told Voice of Lebanon radio the fire started in a warehouse where barrels of cooking oil were placed and later spread nearby to where tires were piled. It is too early to know if it is the result of heat or some other mistake, al-Qaisi said adding that the black smoke was from burning tires. It was the second fire at the port this week. On Tuesday, a small fire erupted, also creating some panic, that was quickly extinguished.

BEING POSITIVE



People wearing face masks walk past graffiti depicting a smiley face with a face mask in Ankara, on Thursday. ■ AFP

China approves first nasal spray vaccine for trials

BEIJING, 10 SEPTEMBER

China has approved for trials its first nasal spray vaccine to combat the novel coronavirus, official media here reported on Thursday.

China's only nasal spray vaccine against the Covid-19 is expected to start phase I clinical trials in November, and it is recruiting 100 volunteers.

It is the only vaccine of its type approved by China's National Medical Products Administration, the state-run Global Times reported.

The vaccine is a collaborative mission between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland. — PTI

Amnesty: Biz supporting Myanmar abuses

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAYPYITAW, 10 SEPTEMBER

The overwhelming control of Myanmar's economy by the military through some of its biggest companies means its foreign and domestic business partners are likely supporting military units and leaders suspected of human rights abuses, critics say.

A report by Amnesty International released Thursday details some of those links with Myanmar Economic Holdings PLC, a huge conglomerate that was set up by the military in 1990.

The human rights group is urging Myanmar's government to break the link between the armed forces and the economy and com-

panies that partner with the company, known as MEHL, to cut ties that may be helping to finance such activities, including atrocities against Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority. MEHL's foreign business partners include South Korean steel maker Posco International, trading

company Pan-Pacific and the Inno Group; RMH Singapore Pte, formerly owned by British American Tobacco; China's Wanbao Mining, which jointly operates copper mines in Myanmar; and beverage manufacturer Kirin of Japan.

Some of MEHL's domestic and foreign partners,

including Kirin, have said they are investigating the concerns raised by the report. Others have not.

The Amnesty International report, compiled in collaboration with the human rights group Justice for Myanmar, outlines links between key military units and leaders involved in what Myanmar's military has called a clearance campaign in Rakhine state.

UN investigations have found the army in the Buddhist-majority country has directed massacres and other crimes against the Rohingya. The government has denied accusations that security forces committed mass rapes and killings and burned thousands of homes.

Japan Opposition reunites as ruling party picks new leader

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO, 10 SEPTEMBER

The merged group chose Yukio Edano, a former chief Cabinet secretary, as its leader on Thursday and adopted the name Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan

Members of a Japanese opposition party that split after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took power eight years ago are reuniting as speculation grows of an early general election following Abe's decision to step down for health reasons. They are preparing a unified front as the governing Liberal Democratic Party plans a vote on September 14 to choose Abe's replacement as party chief. The LDP's leader is virtually assured of becoming the next prime minister because of its parliamentary majority.

The new party said it aims to improve an economy hit by the coronavirus, end the country's dependence on nuclear power, and promote a diverse and gender-equal society with government support for the weak and needy. It will be formally launched on 15 September, just ahead of a vote in parliament to pick the new prime minister. The winner will serve the remainder of Abe's term until September 2021.

Iran begins annual 3-day exercise

TEHERAN, 10 SEPTEMBER

Iran's military Thursday began an expansive annual three-day exercise near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, state TV reported, with the maneuvers taking place amid heightened tensions between the Islamic Republic and the US.

Units from the navy and air force and ground forces are participating in a nearly 2 million-square-kilometer (772,000-square-mile) area of the Gulf of Oman. State TV said Iranian submarines and drones were being deployed.

Adm. Habibollah Sayyari, commander of the annual exercise dubbed Zolfaghark-99, said the operation is aimed at improving readiness in confronting foreign threats and any possible invasion. Sayyari's comments hinted at the threat of military conflict amid tensions between Iran and the US, which has sought to extend a year-long U.N. weapons embargo on Tehran that is due to expire in October. — AP

Russia: West trying to victimise Moscow over Navalny poisoning

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW, 10 SEPTEMBER

Russia's top diplomat on Thursday accused the West of leveling accusations of poisoning top Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny without providing evidence, staunchly denying any official involvement. Navalny, the most visible opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was flown to Germany two days after falling ill on August 20. German chem-

ical weapons experts have determined that the 44-year-old was poisoned with a Soviet-era nerve agent, prompting Berlin to demand that Russia investigate the case.

Russian authorities have prodded Germany to share the evidence that led them to conclude without doubt that Navalny was poisoned with a military nerve agent from the Novichok group, the same class of Soviet-era agent that British authorities said was

used on former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England in 2018. Russian doctors said they had found no trace of poison in Navalny's system.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov charged that Germany, the United States and other Western allies who urge Russia to conduct a probe into Navalny's poisoning squarely expect Russia to accept blame for something it hasn't done.

US to ASEAN: Reconsider deals with blacklisted China firms

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANOI, 10 SEPTEMBER

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo asked Southeast Asian nations Thursday to reconsider deals with Chinese companies blacklisted by Washington for building island outposts he says Beijing is using to bully rival claimants in the disputed South China Sea.

Pompeo spoke with counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in an annual conference in Hanoi on Thursday.

It includes airfields and radar and missile stations on islands constructed atop coral reefs,

the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei have been locked in the long-running territorial conflict with China, along with Taiwan, over the busy waterway, which Beijing claims almost in its entirety.

Although the U.S. lays no claim to the South China Sea (SCS), the Trump administration has recently imposed sanctions on Chinese officials responsible for Beijing's military buildup in the area.

It includes airfields and radar and missile stations on islands constructed atop coral reefs,



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi addresses counterparts from the ASEAN countries in a live video conference, in Hanoi on Thursday. ■ AFP

raising fears China may interfere with freedom of navigation in international waters.

I think keep going, don't just speak up but act, Pompeo

told top diplomats from the 10-nation bloc, without elaborating. A State Department spokeswoman said he pressed for a peaceful resolution of the disputes.

China does not respect democratic values and principles of sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity enshrined in the ASEAN charter, Pompeo said. He cited the U.S. blacklisting of about two dozen Chinese companies for their roles in constructing artificial islands in the disputed waters that infringe on other states' claims.

Reconsider business dealing with the very state-owned companies that bully ASEAN coastal states in the SCS, Pompeo said.

Don't let the Chinese Communist Party walk over us and our people. You should have confidence and the American will be here in friendship to help you, he said.

It's not clear how many ASEAN members have dealings with the Chinese construction companies blacklisted by the U.S. Commerce Department.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



CROSS
1 Cry like a cat (3)
3 Thin and metallic (5)
5 Opposite (7)
9 Adage (5)
10 Working animals (9)
12 Possess (3)
13 Store employee (6-7)
16 Public transport vehicle (3)
17 Being (9)
19 Around (5)
20 Frequent visitor (7)
22 Ointment (5)
23 Slight amount (informal) (3)

DOWN
1 Film (5)
2 Armed conflict (3)
3 Record of hours worked (4,5)
4 Harmful (7)
5 Arab country (5)
6 Type of film (6)
7 Clairvoyance (6,5)
9 Seaside walkway (9)
11 Seaside walkway (9)
14 Nasal opening (7)
15 Joint (6)
16 Rugby players (5)
18 Illustrious (5)
21 Wager (3)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD
ACROSS
1 Debris, 14 Debris,
3 Swindle, 19 Bluff,
4 Opposite, 20 Placeate,
8 Amphitheatre, 21 Ages,
10 Evolve, 22 Rudd.
DOWN
1 Film, 2 Related,
3 Record, 4 Worked,
5 Feral, 16 Icing,
7 Shape, 9 Housework.

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

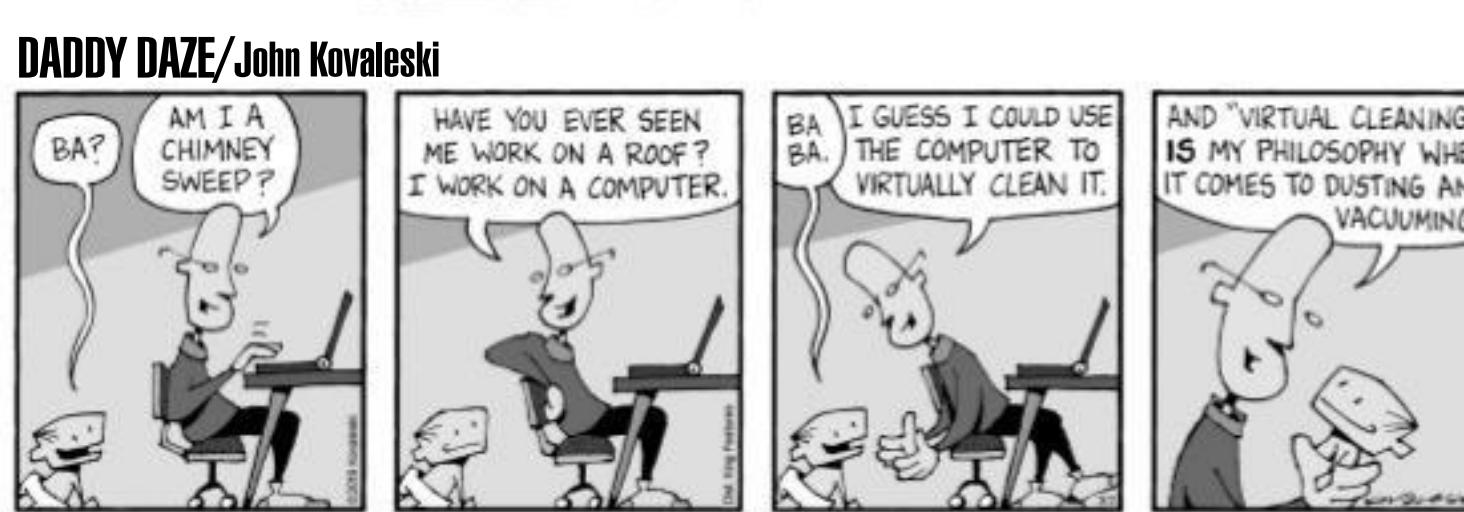
BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- ALMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23325320

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800125151
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 23717473, 23325320

SCRABBLE® BRAND

R	R	F	N	O	W
L	E	T	S		
E	E	A	R	V	B
G	T	A	M	R	I

PAR SCORE 180-190

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

JUDD'S SOLUTION TO JUDD'S TOTAL

RACK 1 = 66 RACK 2 = 80 RACK 3 = 62 RACK 4 = 24 PAR SCORE 165-175 JUDD'S TOTAL = 252

SCRABBLE® BRAND ©



My mother's words have guided me through my entire life, pushing me to take action, solve problems and fight for solutions

DEMOCRATIC VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE KAMALA HARRIS
DURING A VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER DAY

World

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	26°C	12°C
LONDON	17°C	9°C
DUBAI	34°C	28°C
SAN FRANCISCO	15°C	9°C
NEW YORK	10°C	07°C
MOSCOW	16°C	09°C

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

THUMBNAILS



An activist from the Extinction Rebellion climate change group shows a message written on her hand as she is taken away in a police van after being arrested for locking herself to railings outside UK parliament in London on Thursday. ■ AFP

Pak mine collapse toll: The death toll rose to 26 in the marble mine collapse in Pakistan's Ziarat Ghar mountain, even as the search for seven missing people continued on Thursday, according to media reports. Six mines in the famed marble reserves of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa near the Afghanistan border collapsed on Monday. ■ PTI

Mexican reporter slain: A newspaper reporter in Mexico's Gulf coast state of Veracruz was murdered and decapitated, his paper reported on Wednesday. The newspaper *El Mundo* in the city of Cordoba said the body of reporter Julio Valdivia was found near his motorcycle on railroad tracks. He was at least the sixth journalist to be killed in Mexico this year. ■ AP

Italy nuns released: Two Roman Catholic nuns held for more than three weeks by rebels affiliated with the IS group in Mozambique have been released, the nuns' religious order announced on Thursday. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery said Brazilian nuns Maria Inez Leite Ramos and Eliane Costa Santana were freed on 6 September. ■ AP

Assange extradition hearing paused over Covid risk

LONDON, 10 SEPTEMBER

The London hearing on WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's extradition from Britain to the United States was suspended Thursday because one of the lawyers may have been exposed to the coronavirus.

District Judge Vanessa Baraitser ordered the proceedings adjourned until Monday while a lawyer representing the US government is tested for the virus.

Assange's attorney, Edward Fitzgerald, said it had to be assumed that the lawyer had the virus and Covid will be in the courtroom. Court staff themselves would be at risk, and you yourself may well be at risk," he told the judge.

"Finally, our client Mr Assange, who is vulnerable you are aware, would be at risk in court. The judge asked for submissions from both legal teams about what to do if the lawyer is confirmed to have COVID-19.

Assange is fighting American prosecutors' attempt to get the British government to send him to the U.S. to stand trial on spying charges.

US prosecutors have indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 18 espionage and computer misuse charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret U.S. military documents a decade ago. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.

Putin expresses confidence in SCO's ability to respond to new challenges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MOSCOW, 10 SEPTEMBER

Terrorism poses a serious threat and drug trafficking and organised crimes are on the rise, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said as he expressed confidence in the SCO bloc's ability to respond promptly to the "new acute challenges."

Putin on Wednesday held a meeting via video conference with foreign ministers of the 8-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is representing India at the meeting here in

the Russian capital. The SCO plays a major role in ensuring peace and security, as well as sustainable development in Eurasia, he said.

"Terrorism poses a serious threat, and drug trafficking, organised crime and cyber-crime are on the rise," Putin said. "To reiterate, the security situation in Eurasia and neighbouring regions still requires special attention on the part of the SCO. The situation in Afghanistan remains tense, and conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa continue unabated," he said.

"Acting on the principles of equality and mutual consid-



eration for everyone's interests, we strive to conduct a joint search for ways of resolving today's global challenges and we maintain close foreign policy coordination, including in the UN and other international venues," Putin said.

According to Putin, the

SCO has shown an ability to respond promptly to new acute challenges.

"We are undertaking concerted efforts to overcome the political, trade, economic and social ramifications of the coronavirus pandemic," he said.

Much remains to be done to expand the interaction between the SCO countries in economic cooperation, to build technological partnerships and create a common transport and logistics infrastructure, to convert to national currencies in mutual transactions as previously agreed, Putin said.

He said it was gratifying to know that other countries and international organisations were increasingly interested in working with the SCO.

"We have received 16 requests to join our organisation as member states, observers or dialogue partners. This illustrates the authority our organisation enjoys internationally," Putin said.

The SCO currently comprises eight member states: China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and four observer states which include Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia.

not able to hold the meeting of the Heads of State Council that was initially planned for July," he said.

"We are working to hold it online in November. I am confident that, at the upcoming summit, we will be able to substantively and in a business-like manner discuss ways to expand comprehensive cooperation within the SCO," he added.

He expressed hope that SCO leaders will have engaging and useful discussions in Moscow that would help them strengthen partnership and cooperation throughout the vast space of the bloc.

Trump's own words bring focus back to coronavirus

Tapes reveal Trump acknowledging the severity of Covid-19, while publicly playing it down



ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 10 SEPTEMBER

Try as he might to change the subject, President Donald Trump can't escape the coronavirus.

In April, the president tried to shift the public's focus to the economy. In July, to defending the country's "heritage." In September, to enforcing "law and order." But all along the way, the death toll from the coronavirus continued to mount.

And now, Trump's own words are redirecting attention to his handling of the pandemic when he can least afford it - less than two months before Election Day.

"I wanted to always play it down," Trump said of the threat from the virus. That was in a private conversation with journalist Bob Woodward last March that became public on Wednesday with the publication of excerpts from Woodward's upcoming book *Rage*.

In taped conversations released along with the excerpts, Trump insisted he didn't want to create "panic." But his comments also raised fresh questions about how he has managed the defining crisis of his presidency, one that has killed about 190,000 Amer-

Trump's Nobel Peace Prize nomination hard-earned and well-deserved: WH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, 10 SEPTEMBER

The nomination of Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for brokering the landmark Israel-UAE deal is a "hard-earned and well-deserved honour," the White House has said, underlining that the US President has made peace a cornerstone of his foreign policy efforts.

Far-right Norwegian lawmaker Christian Tybring-Gjedde on Wednesday nominated Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in mediating the deal between

Israel and the UAE which is seen as a historic step towards peace in the Middle East.

Israel and the UAE announced on August 13 that they were establishing full diplomatic relations.

The first commercial direct flight between Israel and the UAE landed in Abu Dhabi on August 31 after both countries announced normalisation of relations. The deal would be signed on September 15 at the White House. The UAE is only the third Arab country to establish diplomatic ties with the Jewish state. Israel's neighbours, Egypt and Jordan,

being the other two Arab states to recognise Israel. Any lawmaker serving in a national legislature can nominate a person for the Nobel Peace Prize. Tybring-Gjedde was one of two Norwegian lawmakers who nominated Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018 for his efforts to bring reconciliation between North Korea and South Korea.

The 2018 prize was won by Denis Mukwege from Congo and Nadia Murad from Iraq for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

Israelis so far, with no end in sight.

Trump's team would much rather centre the November vote around the economy, cracking down on protests spawned by racial injustice, and the president's promise that he could appoint more conservative justices to the Supreme Court.

On Wednesday, Trump released a list of 20 potential nominees for the high court, part of an effort to animate conservative and evangelical voters. But his announcement was overshadowed by a cascade of unwelcome developments, including Woodward's revelations, a move by Nevada officials to cancel upcoming Trump rallies in the state, and a whistleblower's charge that Trump aides had pressured him to cover up intelligence reports about Russian election interference. The revelations emerged just as Trump's cam-

paign was beginning to feel that the virus was receding from public view. The president himself has been thumbing his nose at public health experts' warning against the sort of large gatherings - with few people wearing masks - that his campaign has been staging around the country.

For all of that, Trump has faced devastating revelations of his own creation before and survived them. They stretch back to his 2015 comments questioning the heroism of Sen. John McCain, a decorated Vietnam prisoner of war, or the notorious *Access Hollywood* tape that emerged just before the 2016 election in which Trump described sexually assaulting women.

On Wednesday, Trump didn't deny his remarks playing down the virus, he sought to justify them. "The fact is I'm a cheerleader for this country. I love our country and I

don't want people to be frightened. I don't want to create panic," Trump told reporters.

"Certainly, I'm not going to drive this country or the world into a frenzy. We want to show confidence, strength."

Yet Trump's own explanation suggested he was steering people away from the reality of the coming storm. Woodward's account details dire warnings from top Trump national security officials to the president in late January that the virus that causes Covid could be as bad as the devastating influenza pandemic of 1918.

On 25 February, just weeks before much of the country was forced to shut down because of the pandemic, Trump declared the virus "very well under control in our country." Democratic nominee Joe Biden pounced on the Woodward revelations, declaring that Trump "lied to the

American people. He knowingly and willingly lied about the threat it posed to the country for months."

"While a deadly disease ripped through our nation, he failed to do his job - on purpose. It was a life or death betrayal of the American people," Biden said.

By evening, Trump's own words, captured on the Woodward tapes, had popped up in a Biden campaign ad. The ad includes audio of Trump privately acknowledging to Woodward the severity of Covid, and ends with a narrator pronouncing it all along: "Trump knew it all along."

In a taped 7 February call with Woodward, Trump said of the virus, "You just breathe the air and that's how it's passed. And so that's a very tricky one. That's a very delicate one. It's also more deadly than even your strenuous flu," Trump said.

Greece Moria camp fire: Migrants' tragedy

►A second fire in Greece's notoriously overcrowded Moria refugee camp destroyed nearly everything that had been spared in the original blaze, Greece's migration ministry said Thursday, leaving thousands more people in need of emergency housing.

►Authorities say the original fire in the camp on the island of Lesbos was deliberately started Tuesday evening by residents angered by quarantine measures imposed to contain a Covid outbreak after 35 people tested positive.

►Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis called an emergency meeting to discuss the fire on Wednesday morning, and several ministers have been sent to Lesbos to assess the situation. The EU has offered to help with the response. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the main priority was "the safety of those left without shelter".

Europe's migrant crisis

The European migrant crisis, also known as the refugee crisis, was a period characterised by high numbers of people arriving in the EU overseas from across the Mediterranean Sea or overland through Southeast Europe. The migrant crisis was part of a pattern of increased immigration to Europe from other continents which began in the mid-20th century. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees observed that from January 2015 to March 2016, the top three nationalities among over one million refugees arriving from the Mediterranean Sea were Syrian (46.7%), Afghan (20.9%) and Iraqi (9.4%).

Many refugees that arrived in Italy and Greece came from countries where armed conflict was ongoing (Syrian civil war (2011-present), War in Afghanistan (2001-present), Iraqi conflict (2003-present)).

Hundreds of migrants still dying in Med five years since 2015:

Five years since the 2015 migrant crisis, hundreds of people are still dying in the Mediterranean. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that 554 migrants have died so far this year. The death toll for 2020 is far lower than the comparable figure for five years ago - 3,300 people are believed to have died between January and August 2015. But people are still drowning regularly in the Mediterranean as they try to reach Europe.

Facebook to stop moving EU user data to US

LONDON, 10 SEPTEMBER

Facebook may be forced to stop sending data about its European users to the US, in the first major fallout from a recent court ruling that found some trans-Atlantic data transfers don't protect users from American government snooping.

The social network said that Ireland's Data Protection Commission has started an inquiry into how Facebook shifts data from the European Union to the US. The news was first reported by the Wall Street Journal, which said Ireland's data commission gave Facebook until mid-September to respond to a preliminary order to suspend the transfers.

The result could be that the US tech giant, which has data centers around the world, is forced to undertake a costly and complex revamp of its operations to ensure that European user data is kept out of the US. A lack of safe, secure and legal international data transfers would damage the economy and hamper the growth of data-driven businesses in the EU, just as we seek a recovery from Covid," Facebook's vice-president of global affairs and communications, Nick Clegg, wrote in a blog post.

It's the first major move by a European regulator after the EU's top court issued a ruling in July on the two types of legal mechanisms used to govern data transfers. ■ AP



BOWELS OF THE EARTH

KYIV, 10 SEPTEMBER

Tourists look at the active sulphur vents at Owakudani volcanic valley in Hakone, Kanagawa pre-

Belarus authorities threatened to kill me: Activist Kolesnikova

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV, 10 SEPTEMBER

Kolesnikova is a leading member of the Coordination Council created by opposition activists to push for a new election.

kill me, Kolesnikova said. They stated that if I refuse to leave the territory of Belarus voluntarily, they will get me out of the country anyway - alive or in fragments." She demanded that the nation's Investigative Committee probe the KGB officers on charges of abduction, illegal detention and threats of killing. Opposition activists came under increasing pressure this week

Maria Kolesnikova said in a formal complaint released by her lawyer that agents of Belarus' state security committee had put a bag on her head and drove her to the border with Ukraine before she fought her removal from Belarus and was jailed. They threatened to

agreement passing the Congress. Johnson's Conservative British government announced this week that it plans to legislate to give itself the power to deviate from some of the provisions in the agreement about Northern Ireland trade.

It says it's doing so in order to protect the peace agreement in the event there is no deal with the EU. But the announcement brought stern warnings from the bloc.

The withdrawal agreement is not open for renegotiation and we expect that the letter and the spirit of the withdrawal agreement will be fully respect-



simultaneously in the British capital.

Any such move by the government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson would fundamentally undermine the Withdrawal Agreement and seriously damage trust we have in our British partners," said Danuta Hübner, the EU parliament's chief official in overseeing the implementation of the EU-UK deal.

This cannot and will not be accepted," Hübner said.

European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic was due to meet Michael Gove, Britain's Brexit preparation minister, in a hastily

arranged meeting. The two men head a joint committee charged with sorting out post-Brexit rules for Northern Ireland, the only part of the UK to share a border with an EU member, Ireland.

Keeping that border free of customs posts and other obstacles is a key aim of the Withdrawal Agreement signed by the two sides less than a year ago. An open border underpins the peace agreement that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland.

She said that if the UK violates the international treaty and Brexit



Offering lucrative roles

With people expecting quality services, there is a need for specialised management professionals in the healthcare industry

practical experience and scenario-based simulations to prepare to lead a team of healthcare workers. While completing a course, students may find it a bit daunting, rest assured that you are gaining knowledge and experience in your field of interest and securing your future.

What can one expect in a healthcare management profile?

An ideal career in healthcare management will put all the skills you learnt in the graduate programme to good use. Apart from technical skills, a professional healthcare administrator will need a lot of soft skills too. Not only will you be in charge of a team of healthcare professionals, but will also be working very closely with the physicians apart from acting from donning the role of the organisation's representatives at meetings. It is expected out of them to stay abreast of the latest changes, superior communication skills, managing facilities, and diligent planning and problem-solving skills.

Today's graduates will also be the frontrunner of technology access, and it is undoubtedly impacting various aspects of life, including data collection, research using new-age tools, and innovative practices. The field of healthcare is evolving, and you no longer have to be on the frontlines to carve out a successful career in the industry.

The best part about launching a healthcare management career is that one does not have to remain in the same position forever. Healthcare management professionals can expand towards lucrative roles with more responsibilities - from overseeing the health information system of the hospital to working as a top cadre professional in an organisation. Some senior-level positions may require a master's degree, but at the end of the day, it is what you make of the degree that determines your prospects.

The writer is associate professor and chair, marketing & communications, IIHMR, Jaipur

SHEENU JAIN

The healthcare sector has undergone a massive transformation over the last decade. There has been an increase in both public and private expenditure. Progressive healthcare and the patient-centric treatment approach has become a reality. Technology has played a massive role in this shift, bringing home advanced diagnostics, high-quality devices at low costs, and more efficient life-support systems. Modern healthcare focuses not just on cures but on the whole gamut of the healthcare experience.

From approachable healthcare workers and state-of-the-art infra-

structure to digital health tools and hospital ambiance, patients expect quality service, and the industry has had to step up to meet their demands. As a result, the sector is going through a boom, and the need for specialised management professionals has increased manifold.

What do healthcare managers do?

With the Covid-19 crisis sweeping the globe, there has been a greater need for healthcare managers. They handle the business side of healthcare delivery, as they are in charge of scheduling, budgeting, and looking for ways to improve patient care. It is the perfect option for people who

want to make use of their communication and organisational skills while making a difference in the lives of those in need.

Most people who go for a degree in healthcare management find a job in a hospital or an outpatient setting. Smaller clinics allow healthcare managers to oversee several disciplines, from marketing and budgeting to human resources and record management. Larger hospitals, on the other hand, offer more diverse opportunities. One can move into roles like CEO, CFO, or CMO.

One also has the option of working in residential care and nursing facilities, where apart from the business and administrative

responsibilities, they will get a chance to maintain relationships with their patients and their families. One can also work for the state or central government -- doing research, addressing pressing public health problems, or even overseeing health education and awareness programmes.

What is the degree programme?

Some subjects are common to healthcare management courses in universities across the world. These include healthcare quality improvement, healthcare marketing, basics of managed care, healthcare ethics and law, and project management.

Apart from thorough training in theoretical courses, one also gets

PLUS POINTS

Honouring Covid heroes



The fourth edition of CSR Health Impact Awards recognised the institutions and individuals who continued to provide support overcoming the fear of the pandemic recently. It is a flagship initiative of the Integrated Health and Wellbeing (IHW) Council, hosted in association with Jagran Peher.

The special Covid-19 category of awards recognised exemplary efforts of institutions and individuals under CSR Covid Relief Project, CSR Covid Protection Project, CSR Covid Indigenous Response Project, Covid Public Health Warriors, Covid Social Impact Businesses, et al. A total of 34 corporate organisations and charitable trusts were recognised under the Covid categories of award for their health-focussed social upliftment work during the pandemic while the mainstream CSR awards, spread across six categories, were lifted by 13 companies for their dedication to work even in time of pandemic.

Identifying talents



According to KPMG's recent 2020 CEO Outlook, as a result of Covid-19, CEOs of the world's most influential companies have cited talent risk as one of the most significant challenges to growth.

To help attract the next wave of top talent, KPMG International hosted its 17th annual global KPMG Ideation Challenge (KIC) 2020 recently. The hackathon-style competition, taking place virtually for the first time, gathered both STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and business students to help solve real-world business issues with AI and other emerging technology-based tools and solutions. The top three finalist teams were the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad, India, Zhejiang University in China, and University of Florida in the US.

Judging skills



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras conducted its day one of the Campus Internship Drive online for the first time recently. It proved to be a success, featuring the participation of several top Indian and global companies. They interviewed students over video conferencing and offered internships for the summer of 2021. It saw two international profiles for internships - Rubrik's Software Development, based in the US, and Jane Street's Quantitative Researcher, Hong Kong. Day one of this drive witnessed the participation of 20 companies who made as many as 152 offers to undergraduate students. Despite the pandemic, IIT Madras undertook a lot of groundwork and collaborated with the students and recruiters to hold the internship drive around the same time frame as last year.

Golden opportunity



NEET examinations, which are held annually around May provide 90,000 seats in MBBS and BDS colleges in India. Due to Covid-19 the exam dates have been postponed to September.

During this situation there is tremendous hardship in studies. Sudhir Sharma, an Indian who started his career in the 80s in the UK has come up to help the Indian students. He thought of providing up to 30 per cent scholarship to Indian students studying in the college with which he is associated - Medical University of Antigua (MUA). It will motivate students to explore new possibilities in a foreign land. The cost associated with the course will be at par with the fee structure of the Indian medical colleges. For details visit: www.muamed.org

INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES

With the growing trend of social commerce, women resellers are making its best use to scale new heights



VARUN KHURANA

Social commerce is not a new concept in the country. Major chunk of it existed only in the fashion, beauty, and retail industries. Today, social commerce is gaining popularity for one of the fundamental aspects of life - fresh food. Fresh produce such as fruits and vegetables have become the most in-demand products as people switch to healthier ways of living and are eager to know the source.

In fact, consumers are increasingly preferring their food sourced through social commerce for various reasons such as higher credibility, rational price and most importantly, fresher produce (delivered within a day straight from the farms sometime within 12 hours).

For women looking to be a part of the business environment without monetary investment, social commerce

within the food category is the ideal solution. Let us take a look at how social commerce is playing a key role in helping women make it big in business.

The rise of social commerce

Increasing internet penetration and social media usage have paved the way for the rise of social commerce. A majority of the population today uses and is in fact hooked onto social media and brands are leveraging this aspect. With the rise in demand for fresh produce, women are joining hands with brands to become resellers within their community to make a mark for themselves in their community by leveraging social commerce.

Currently, fresh produce is a supply-led model and social commerce is flipping it to demand-led model that further helps in solving the problem of middlemen and wastage. Apart from this, it helps resellers connect

with their customers-base efficiently and offer real-time feedback to the farmers regarding the quality of the produce.

The emergence of women as dominant sellers

For the first time, women are taking the centre stage in spurring the adoption of e-commerce and helping the industry as well as themselves progress. The advent of technology, rapid digitisation of businesses, and easy access have helped drive this change. For women sellers, a slew of features aided by cutting-edge technology such as voice chats/chatbots, real-time updates and feedback to the farmers, and most importantly, WhatsApp-based marketing is coming handy to open more doors to become micro-entrepreneurs.

Additionally, women sellers also have a higher average order value, better retention and repeat orders,

making them more suitable. In fact, not just urban cities, but women resellers hail from tier-II and tier-III catchment areas are hopping on the fresh produce social commerce bandwagon to fulfil their goals and achieve financial independence with almost no investment. A whopping 68 per cent of women in most platforms sell from tier-II and tier-III cities.

Women sellers also help customers gain the trust factor for unbranded products since they usually tend to lean towards known/ established brands. In return, social commerce platforms offer easy access for women to build an entrepreneurial empire of their own through community engagement without hindrances.

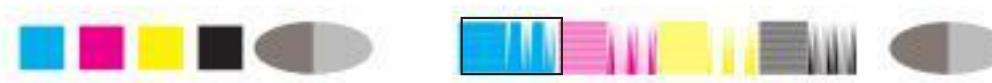
Particularly in vernacular language-led social commerce platforms, women are dominating the space, even though the concept is still at a very nascent stage. They are learning the tricks of the trade and

are keen on flourishing in the competitive business environment.

Social commerce is quickly becoming a multi-million-dollar market in India. However, the country has a largely unorganised market, particularly in tier-II, tier-III and tier-IV cities, especially for the fresh produce category with millions of farmers scattered across the country. Additionally, shopping for fresh produce is a social concept of sorts.

Since the pandemic has forced us to adhere to social distancing norms, social commerce is flourishing and women are leading the way. With technological advancements, greater digitisation and the availability of regional languages providing easy access and seamless experience, the rise of women entrepreneurs through social commerce is inevitable.

The writer is founder, Otipy





NO SLOUCH

Alexander Zverev (in photo, left) lashed out at Martina Navratilova after the 18-time Grand Slam champion said he had played "pat-a-cake" tennis at times during his victory over Borna Coric in the quarter-finals of the US Open on Tuesday. "Maybe she should look at my record against the big guys," he said.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Riju's promise: Sharpshooters of all categories - elite, developmental and Khelo India - will be given ammunition and targets to train on their own in the absence of camps and tournaments owing to the pandemic, sport minister Kiren Riju said on Wednesday.

Kohli's claim: Skipper Virat Kohli says the current Royal Challengers Bangalore team are the "most balanced" since IPL 2016 when they reached the final, though only to lose to SunRisers Hyderabad. "We've got great balance of experience," Kohli claimed.

Kumar confident: Bhuvneshwar Kumar says, as the senior bowler of SunRisers Hyderabad, he will have to take more responsibility in the Indian Premier League than others but he feels no pressure and is looking forward to putting up a good performance.

Cash row: The International Cricket Council's Big Three formula, devised by India's N Srinivasan along with England and Australia to give the three countries most of the global revenue, inflicted severe damage on world cricket, Pakistan's Ehsan Mani has said.

Oz clash: Cricket Australia on Wednesday spoke out against "blatantly racist and uneducated" comments directed at cricketer Dan Christian, who had recently disclosed the casual racism he experienced in Australian cricket. A probe has also been launched.

La Liga: La Liga Santander continues to lead the way across European football, with Uefa confirming that Spanish clubs go into the new season leading its ranking of the leagues from member-associations for an eighth successive season, it was said on Wednesday.

AFC Cup: Asia's football body has received a recommendation to cancel this year's AFC Cup over the coronavirus pandemic. The region's second-tier club competition has been frozen since March, and is due to resume next month in four host countries.

Vettel signs with Racing Point: Four-time Formula One champion Sebastian Vettel will drive for Racing Point starting next season. The team, which will be renamed Aston Martin, announced the move Thursday, a day after driver Sergio Perez said he was on his way out. The team said Vettel has signed for the 2021 season and beyond" but did not reveal the length of the contract.

Welcome move: Jhulan Women's Cricket Legend, former Indian Women's team Captain and world's highest wicket taker in ODI cricket Jhulan Goswami recently in a conversation with SportsTiger's show "Off-the-Field" discussed her life story, the 2017 ICC Women's World Cup, Women's IPL and the upcoming film on her. She spoke about women's IPL in an optimistic tone saying, "Women's IPL will be a big achievement for the country and for young cricketers as they are going to share the dressing room with top-notch Indian and international talent."

Helping hands: Launched on Independence Day 2020, Sunfeast India Run As One, India's largest citizen-led movement aimed at Indians and Indoophiles all over the world, enters its last mile achieving significant success. With Social Impact as its core pillar, since its launch, the initiative has raised a whopping INR 1.18 crores in support of families impacted by the ongoing pandemic and continues to gain momentum. The unique initiative aims to break new grounds and finish on a record high, as registrations and fundraising continue up till 30th September 2020.

Tokyo governor pledges to hold Olympics by all means

THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN & AGENCIES

TOKYO, 10 SEPTEMBER



The postponed Olympics must be held next year "by all means," Tokyo's governor said on Wednesday, becoming the latest official to insist the event is feasible despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Yuriko Koike's (*in photo*) remarks, at an event hosted by Kyodo news agency, come after International Olympic Committee vice-president John Coates said that the Games would go ahead in 2021 "with or without Covid."

"Athletes are going through much hardship due to the one-year delay given that their physical condition and motivation were targeted at this summer," Koike said, according to an English translation of her

remarks published by Kyodo.

"We have to go forward with the Games next summer by all means," she added, at the corporate event for the news agency's subscribers.

The city will "implement every possible measure" to ensure the safety of the event, Koike said.

On Tuesday, Japan's Olympic minister also said the event should be held next year, given

athletes' efforts to be ready. "If we have to hold it at any cost," Seiko Hashimoto said, when asked about Coates' remarks.

The 2020 Games were postponed in a historic decision earlier this year because of the pandemic, and they are now set to open on 23 July, 2021. But Japan's borders are still largely closed to foreign visitors and a vaccine is

months or even years away.

Officials have made clear that another delay would not be possible, and there are signs that public enthusiasm in Japan iswaning. Despite the obstacles, Coates said he was confident the Games would open as planned next year, vowing they will be the "Games that conquered Covid".

"It will take place with or without Covid. The Games will start on July 23 next year," he said. The Tokyo 2020 organisers have not commented directly on whether they agree with Coates's assessment, but said his remarks showed the IOC was committed to holding the Games next year.

Games volunteers

The organising committee of the postponed Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics has found

from a survey that about 80 per cent of people who had registered to give assistance as volunteers at the Olympics will do so next summer, officials said.

The results show the enthusiasm of the volunteers, and bolsters efforts of the organising committee as it prepares for the Games, which was postponed for one year due to the coronavirus pandemic. The organising committee had anticipated that volunteers could withdraw their support because of concerns about the virus outbreak, or that their living conditions might change, such as finding a new job or moving to a different location by The survey covering the Paralympics is open until Sept. 14, and it is querying the intentions of all 80,000 people who will be working at the Games.

Amul Milk. Hamesha Fresh.


180 days shelf life
₹64/1L
500 mL: ₹33 * 200 mL: ₹14 *

*Per litre of all variants. Contains lactose.

Serena reaches US Open semifinals

AGENCIES

NEW YORK, 10 SEPTEMBER

Serena Williams (*in photo*) was forced to dig deep to secure a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 U.S. Open quarter-final victory over unseeded Bulgarian Tsvetana Pironkova on Wednesday, keeping alive her latest bid for a recording 24th Grand Slam singles title.

Williams, a six-times champion in New York, struggled with Pironkova's slice forehand early and was at risk of her earliest U.S. Open exit in 14 years until she used her experience to find a way back against a resurgent Pironkova.

"I'm happy to be standing here ... because at one point I was pretty close to not being here," Williams said during the on-court winner's interview. "I keep fighting and that's one thing that I am super excited about is I never give up."

For Pironkova, who dropped to 0-5 in career head-to-head meetings with Williams, the loss marked the

end of a surprise New York run given this was her first professional tournament since Wimbledon in 2017.

After Williams saved two set points on serve to pull within 4-5, the Bulgarian held her nerve and secured the opener with a backhand cross-court winner. In the second, Williams won a 24-point rally to break and open up a 5-3 lead and then, after falling behind 15-30 on her serve, fired three consecutive aces to force a decider. Williams has been stuck on 23 Grand Slam singles titles, one shy of Margaret Court's record, since winning the 2017 Australian Open.

Williams, a six-times champion in New York, struggled with Pironkova's slice forehand early and was at risk of her earliest U.S. Open exit in 14 years until she used her experience to find a way back against a resurgent Pironkova.

"I'm happy to be standing here ... because at one point I was pretty close to not being here," Williams said during the on-court winner's interview. "I keep fighting and that's one thing that I am super excited about is I never give up."

For Pironkova, who dropped to 0-5 in career head-to-head meetings with Williams, the loss marked the

music being played during changeovers on Arthur Ashe Stadium court, fired 21 winners to dominate the 16th seeded Belgian in their first career meeting in a singles match.

Azarenka took the first set after the normally rock-solid Belgian sent a forehand wide for her 13th unforced error of

the set.

The 31-year-old Azarenka didn't let her foot off the gas in the second, running Mertens around the court and sealing the win when Mertens dumped a backhand into the net on match point.

With the win the two-time

Grand Slam champion Azarenka has advanced past the

quarterfinals at a Grand Slam for the first time since 2013.

The win sets up a semifinal showdown with Serena Williams, who defeated the Belarusian in two US Open finals appearances in 2012 and 2013. Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam winner, holds an 18-4 lead in their head-to-head matchups.

Thiem advances to semis

Second seed Dominic Thiem put in a sublime performance to dismantle Australian Alex de Minaur's challenge during a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 victory on Wednesday and canter into the semi-finals of the U.S. Open.

The 27-year-old Thiem, the highest seed surviving at Flushing Meadows, had not previously lost to the Australian and started their third career meeting on a brisk note, breaking De Minaur's serve three consecutive times to win the opening set.

De Minaur started on a more positive note in the second, winning 11 straight points on serve to go up 4-0 in the fifth before being broken with Thiem serving out the stanza with a double fault.

The Austrian's early lead in the third set evaporated as De Minaur kept fighting but a second break of serve sealed the match for Thiem, who will next meet Russian Daniil Medvedev for a place in his fourth Grand Slam final.

Medvedev enters into semifinals

Not only had 2019 runner-up Daniil Medvedev not dropped a set in this U.S. Open entering his all-Russian quarterfinal against long-time pal Andre Rublev, but Medvedev hadn't allowed more than four games in any set. So when Rublev grabbed a sizable lead in the opening-set tiebreaker Wednesday and three times was a single point from closing it, the moment felt momentous.

Turned out it was. The No. 3-seeded Medvedev fought off that trio of chances for No. 10 Rublev in the tiebreaker by reeling off five points in a row, and was on his way to a 7-6(6), 6-3, 7-6(5) victory to return to the semifinals at Flushing Meadows. The only concern for Medvedev in the latter stages was whether his body would hold up -- he was dealing with cramps and needed his right shoulder massaged by a trainer in the third set -- but he did, indeed, hold on. It was tough at the end, Medvedev said.

PCB set to rope in Akhtar for chief selector's post

AGENCIES

KARACHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

Former Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar on Thursday confirmed he is in discussions with PCB for a plum post in country's cricket set-up which is believed to be chairman of selector's post replacing Misbah ul Haq.

The PCB has plans to remove head coach Misbah ul Haq from the chief selector's position and Akhtar is being considered for the role.

"I will not deny it. Yes, I have had some discussions with the board and I am interested in playing a major role in Pakistan cricket. But nothing is decided as yet," Akhtar said on Thursday during a YouTube show "Cricket Baaz".

Akhtar's name has been doing rounds as the board is seriously considering relieving head coach, Misbah off his dual responsibility and also because of its new code of ethics (another name of Conflict of Inter-

est) policy. "I live a very comfortable life if I play cricket on my terms but now I have settled down. But I am ready to leave this comfort and try to put myself on the line for the PCB. I am not afraid others give advice. I will give time if the opportunity arises," Akhtar said. Akhtar however refused to divulge details of his discussions with PCB top bosses.

"Yes there has been some discussions. I can reveal only this much but nothing concrete as yet. But talks are still on. I have not said 'yes' neither have they (PCB) said 'yes'" one of the most controversial fast bowler of his time said. Akhtar also said that if he accepted the chief selector's job he would probably be the first player who would become "bigger than the job". And no one knows it better than him. "I don't like saying this but it is a fact. Look I don't want a job and I don't need a salary. People want jobs and they come for salaries but I don't need the money."

For the two doubles events, men's pairing of Manu Attri and B Sumeth Reddy and Dhruv Kapila and MR Arjun have been selected in the team along with Krishna Prasad Garaga.

The women's team for Uber Cup will be led by Sindhu, Srikanth, Lashkha and

hu, who made herself available for the tournament after initially deciding to give it a miss following a timely intervention by BAI president Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The squad will be further bolstered by the presence of former world no 1 Saina Nehwal and Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, who will be helming the doubles department. Youngsters Aakarshi Kashyap and Malvika Bansod were also included in the 10-member squad.

In Thomas Cup, India has been placed in Group C with the formidable 2016 champions Denmark apart from Germany and Algeria.

In Uber Cup, India finds itself in Group D with the other teams being China, Germany and France. However, the 14-time champions China are yet to confirm their participation. Sindhu, Saina, Srikanth, Lashkha and

women's doubles pair of Ashwini and Sikki will also participate in the two Super 75 events -- Denmark Open (Oct 13-18) and Denmark Masters (Oct 20-25) which will be held after the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals.

The Sports Authority of India had proposed a preparatory camp in Hyderabad which was originally scheduled to start on September 7 and conclude on September 27 for the event set for October 3 to 11 in Aarhus, Denmark.

However, the camp was cancelled on Thursday after it became clear that players would not get any relaxation on the seven-day mandatory quarantine period and BAI then decided to announce the team.

With the camp cancelled, the governing body asked the selected players to keep training on their own and submit fitness certificate by September 17.

able to get fans in as soon as they are given the go-ahead.

"All I can say is that we are ready, willing and able to do that," Masters stated in a media briefing to mark the start of the 2020-21 season. "We have got an ambitious test programme and we will roll that out as soon as they give us permission and as soon as government gives us permission to open turnstiles, we will do exactly that."

"We are to some extent in the hands of government at the moment. We are talking to them every day, we have a good relationship with them and we know that we always said at the beginning that September was going to be a difficult month because we are seeing a lot of things happening in this coun-

"Another figure would be, not just in terms of revenue but contributions to the economy on our calculation and average match contributes £20m to the national and local economy. We want to play our part in bringing local economies and the national economy back and keeping the Premier League model working. Clubs want to be competitive and bring the best players to put on the stage. That is the whole purpose of a professional football competition." The longer that fans are outside the stadium in numbers the more significant the financial impact on clubs. There is perhaps a perception that the Premier League can perpetually stage financial difficulties and that isn't the case.

"There are implications for clubs. Our clubs lost £700 million in 2019-20 and that creates significant difficulties." "We have three priorities for this season. Number one is to complete it with the challenges ahead and to get 380 matches away. Second is to get fans back into full stadiums. And third to get the football economy back to full health." "So those three priorities are interlinked of getting fans back to all stadiums to return the football economy so we can do all the things we want to do and continue the good work we do. That is the key priority."

Such difficulties have put further focus on the recent cancellation of the £564m contract with China's PPTV.

BCCI ACU arrives in UAE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPTEMBER

our of IPL. The established players are already aware of the ACU protocols.

"This time there will be video counselling and it won't be done on one to one basis. We can do it in a group as well as individual basis depending on what is possible and we will do it one by one (with all teams)." "We have also hired sports integrity agencies. We will use their help in monitoring activities, if any suspicious clients are there," Singh told PTI. The players will be told about ways corruptors may try to reach them via social media or phone (whatsapp) as they are the two main avenues they can reach the cricketers in a protected environment.

"Even in India, if we do not need information, we do not exchange information with ICC so that stays that it is. Nothing suspicious has been reported so far. We have two security liaison officers with each team. 'They are the ones who are keeping an eye on the bubble,' added the former DGP of Rajasthan Police.

strategic decision for the Premier League."

Masters also revealed that a meeting last week saw the 20 clubs update contingency plans for the curtailment of the season - which would now only be "an option of last resort".

"We had a very good discussion last week amongst clubs looking at this. When we faced the issues in March and April when the league was initially suspended, we all know that the rule book did not adequately deal with the situation so you want to