



KASHYAP TO PURSUE
LEGAL ROUTE IN
SEXUAL ALLEGATIONS

P5



JAPAN'S
NEW BOSS

P6



PAK OPP PARTIES
LAUNCH ALLIANCE
TO OUST PM KHAN

P9



WHEN THE MAN OF
MAGIC TURNS
THINGS AROUND

P12

WEATHER

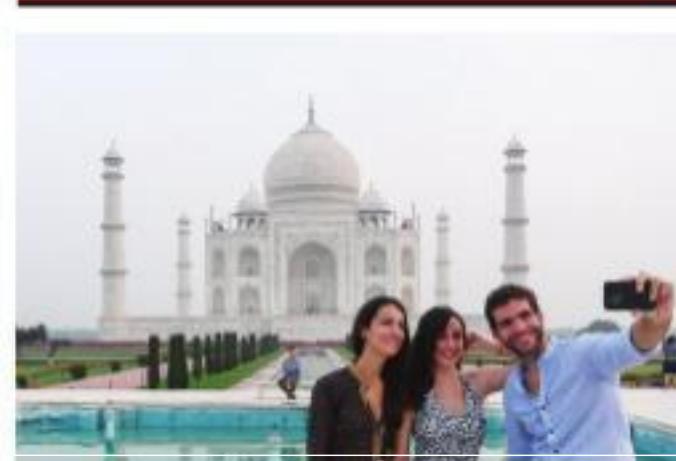
Partly cloudy sky with light rain/ thunder-showers. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 35 and 27 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 85% Min: 51%
TEMPERATURE
Max: 36.8°C (+2) Min: 26.6°C (+2)
SUN RISES SUN SETS
06:10 hrs 18:17 hrs
MOON RISES MOON SETS
12:24 hrs 22:08 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Tourists take pictures as they visit the Taj Mahal which reopened to the visitors after a six-month hiatus. In Agra on Monday. AFP

Congress to hold nationwide protests: Upping the ante on the Farm Bills issue, the Congress on Monday announced a massive people's movement which would include protest marches, agitations and collecting two crore farmers' signatures for a memorandum against the legislations to be submitted to President Kovind.

Ps

CBI books dairy-maker: The CBI has booked dairy major Kwality Ltd and its directors for allegedly cheating a consortium of 10 banks, led by the Bank of India, of over Rs 1,400 crore through bloating of financial statements and diversion of loan funds, officials said.

Phase 3 of Oxford vaccine trials begins: The phase-II human clinical trial of the Covid-19 vaccine being developed by Oxford University, and manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII), began at the state-run Sassoon General Hospital in Pune on Monday. "We have started the phase-III trials of candidate Covishield. We will administer dose to 150 to 200 volunteers," said Dr Muralidhar Tambe, Dean, Sassoon General Hospital.

Covid-19 recovery rate in India crosses 80 per cent mark

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 21 SEPTEMBER

India's recovery rate of Covid-19 cases has crossed the 80 per cent mark with over 90,000 recoveries recorded for the third consecutive day, the Union Health Ministry said on Monday.

In a statement, the Ministry said 93,356 patients were discharged in the last 24 hours.

"India has crossed the significant landmark of more than 80 per cent national recovery rate. On a continuous stretch of high recoveries, India has also reported more than 90,000 recoveries for the third day in succession," the Ministry said in the statement.

Twelve states and Union Territories have registered recovery rates of more than the national average and 79 per cent of the new recovered cases are

from 10 states and UTs.

"The total recovered cases are close to 44 lakh (43,96,399) today. India tops the global figure of total recoveries. It accounts for more than 19 per cent of the world total," it said.

India's Covid-19 tally reached 54.88 lakh with 86,961 people being infected in the past 24 hours, while 43,96,399 people have recuperated so far, pushing the national recovery rate to 80.12 percent on Sunday, the Union Health Ministry data showed.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 54,87,580, while the death toll climbed to 87,882 with the infection claiming 1,130 lives in 24 hours in the country, the data updated at 8 a.m. showed.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 6,43,92,594 samples have been tested up to 20 September,



with 7,31,534 samples being tested on Sunday.

Delhi's Covid toll tops 5K, caseload nears 2.5 lakh

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 21 SEPTEMBER

Delhi's coronavirus (Covid-19) death toll crossed the 5,000-mark, a grim milestone, with 32 fresh fatalities recorded today, while 2,548 new Covid cases took the city's caseload to 2,49,259, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The relatively low count of fresh coronavirus infections came out of the 33,733 tests conducted in the city.

There were 30,941 active cases of the coronavirus disease, the health bulletin said.

Thirty-two new fatalities took Delhi's Covid toll to 5,014, it added. It was on 7 September when the national capital had reported 2,077 single-day coronavirus cases.

The national capital had yesterday recorded 3,812 fresh coronavirus cases.

(SEE PAGE 2)

for Defence Shripad Naik told the Parliament that women fighter pilots are inducted and deployed in IAF as per strategic needs and operational requirements. Five French-made multirole Rafale fighter jets were inducted into the Golden Arrows squadron of the IAF on 10 September at the Ambala air force base.

The Golden Arrows squadron of the IAF was resurrected on 10 September last year. The squadron was originally raised at the Air Force Station, Ambala on 1 October, 1951.

The squadron has many firsts to its credit; in 1955 it was equipped with the first jet fighter, the legendary De Havilland Vampire.

solo. She flew a MiG-21 bison in her first solo flight.

Chaturvedi was part of a three-member women team commissioned as flying officers in July 2016, less than a year after the government decided to open the fighter stream for women on an experimental basis. The other two women pilots were Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh.

At present, the IAF has 10 women fighter pilots and 18 women navigators. The total strength of women officers serving in the IAF is 1,875.

Last week, Minister of State

Ten Rafale jets have been delivered to India so far and five of them stayed back in France for imparting training to IAF pilots. The delivery of all 36 aircraft is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021.

The second batch of four to five Rafale jets is likely to arrive in India by November.

The Rafale jets, known for air-superiority and precision strikes, are India's first major acquisition of fighter planes in 23 years after the Sukhoi jets were imported from Russia.

The first batch of five Rafale jets arrived in India on 29 July, four years after India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France to procure 36 aircraft at cost of Rs 59,000 crore.

and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.

However, the passing of the Bills saw the protests from Opposition leaders and farmers, mainly from Haryana and Punjab.

The opposition calls the Bill "anti-farmer" while the government is saying it will give the farmers marketing freedom and better price for their produce.

The Lok Sabha today also passed a Bill to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act that seeks to make it mandatory for office bearers of any NGO to provide their Aadhaar numbers at the time of registration and also bring various other changes. The Bill was passed after a discussion in the lower house. However, this Bill too was

nested concern from Opposition leaders.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, said that on one hand the government invites foreign funds, but when such funds come for educational and charitable purposes, it is being prevented. "There is a political agenda behind

this. How much foreign fund has come into the PM-CARES Fund," he said.

Another Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi appealed that the Bill be sent to the Standing Committee. He said that this Bill will result in the closure of several organisations which are doing good work.

Addressing their concern, the minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said that the legislation was not against any religion or NGO. "The Bill was necessary for an Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) and that it will also help in curbing misuse of foreign funds," said the minister.

The Bill proposes to enable the Centre to allow an NGO or association to surrender its FCRA certificate. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, cleared by the Rajya Sabha, is passed by the Lok Sabha by voice vote.

cannot be shown in bad light by misusing the state machinery.

Justice Bose replied that the right to protest needs to be balanced out with the mobility on public road. Justice Kaul said there cannot be a universal policy as situations vary.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, objected to Pracha's argument. "Right to assemble is subjected to reasonable restrictions... We have places like Jantar Mantar, where protest can be held, but blocking of roads cannot be allowed," said Mehta.

MSP of wheat hiked ₹50 per quintal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 SEPTEMBER

The government today hiked the minimum support price of wheat by Rs 50 per quintal to Rs 1,975 per quintal to encourage farmers to increase cultivation of the crop, announced Agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar in the Lok Sabha.

The minister said the government has always maintained that MSP and APMC mechanisms will continue as against a false propaganda spread by the Opposition parties.

The CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) has approved increasing MSP of six rabi crops. Wheat MSP has been increased by Rs 50 per quintal to Rs 1,975 per quintal

FARMER-FRIENDLY



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right to Protest must not hamper Right to Mobility: Supreme Court

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 SEPTEMBER

The Supreme Court on Monday said Right to Protest of one section has to be in balance with others' Right to Mobility on a public road, as everyone has the right to move from one place to another and this right cannot be prejudiced by blocking a public road to hold protests.

A bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Krishna Murari and Anirudha Bose, after nearly a gap of seven months, took up the plea against the anti-

CAA protesters blocking the public road at Shaheen Bagh in Delhi.

Advocate Mehmoond Pracha appearing for intervenors, argued before the bench that right to peaceful protest is absolute, and it is the right of the people to protest against Citizenship (Amendment) Act and National Register of Citizens. Justice Kaul said we are not disputing your right to peaceful protest.

Pracha submitted that "some people went to the protest place and their riots happened". He added that the number of protesters

IAF's Rafale fleet to have first woman pilot soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 21 SEPTEMBER

A woman fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force will soon join the newly-inducted Rafale fighter fleet as one of its crew flying the multi-role aircraft, official sources said on Monday.

The woman pilot has been flying MiG-21 fighters and was selected to join the Ambala-based Golden Arrows squadron operating the Rafale jets.

"She was chosen to fly Rafale jets following a stringent selection process. She is undergoing training now," said a source.

In 2018, flying officer Avani Chaturvedi scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft

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The squadron has many firsts to its credit; in 1955 it was equipped with the first jet fighter, the legendary De Havilland Vampire.



Delhi Cong activists protest Centre's agriculture legislations, detained



Congress activists being detained by police during their protest march to Parliament against the Centre's 'anti-farmers' legislations. In the Capital on Monday.

Suspension of the eight MPs who fought to protect farmers' interests is unfortunate and reflective of this autocratic government's mindset that doesn't respect democratic norms and principles

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Capital

Delhi's Corona toll passes 5K, caseload nears 2.5L

The Capital records 2,548 fresh coronavirus cases, 32 fatalities; a relatively lesser number of tests, 33,733, was conducted; over 400 children have recovered from Covid at LNJP Hospital so far

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 21 SEPTEMBER

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The relatively low count of fresh coronavirus infections came out of the 33,733 tests conducted in the city.

There were 30,941 active cases of the coronavirus disease, the health bulletin said.

Thirty-two new fatalities took Delhi's Covid toll to 5,014, it added.

It was on 7 September when the national capital had reported 2,077 single-day coronavirus cases. On 8 September, the count of such cases had risen to 3,609 and on 9 September, it had shot up to 4,039 with the number of tests also going up to 54,517.

Since then it had never been less than 4,000 positive cases recorded in Delhi on a single day, with the number



A Covid victim's relative offering prayers at the deceased's grave in the Capital.

DEEPAK

Classified

SITUATION VACANT

University of Delhi South Campus

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited for the post of one Junior Research Fellow (JRF) in a DBT project ending on June 26, 2021. The position is temporary and co-terminus with the project.

Candidate must be post-graduate in sciences or graduate degree in professional course and has qualified NET or equivalent national level examination OR post-graduate degree in professional course. Degree should be in biological sciences or related discipline.

Salary is Rs. 25,000+HRA per month as per DBT guidelines.

Application on plain paper with detailed CV and copies of relevant certificates should reach within 21 days of display of this advertisement. No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.

Dr. Surekha K. Agarwal Room No. 314, Department of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Delhi South Campus, Benito Juarez Road, New Delhi-110021.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to give notice that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of RASHTRIYA LOK SEVAK PARTY. The office of the party is located at SAMPATTI NO-39/34A, NEAR SAHVA BUS ADDA, DISTRICT-HANUMANGARH, RAJESTHAN-335001. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration under section 29A of the Representation of People Act 1951. Name/address of the office bearers of the party are as follows:- President-SUKHEDEV SINGH, Vice President-CHAN SINGH General Secretary-RAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT Treasurer-SHILA SHEKHAWAT If any one has any objection to the registration of RASHTRIYA LOK SEVAK PARTY, they may send their objection with reasons thereto to the Secretary(Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvanan Saben, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

Public Notice

Narayan Jatinder Bhatia s/o Shri Jatinder Gianchand Bhatia born on 22/10/1990 Resident of B116 Kalakaj, New Delhi and Anamika Das d/o Shri Chittaranjan Das born on 20/11/1992 resident of K-2139 Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi, both currently residing in Piacenza, Italy, got married on 11/03/2020 in India with consent of parents. Any valid objection may be raised within one Month.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sudipta Adhikary is going to purchase the property being all that piece and parcel of an area of land 15 decimals lying and situated in Mouza-Bon Patna, J.L. No. 340, comprised in R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 346 under R.S. Khatian No. 253/1 corresponding to L.R. Khatian No. 216, 318 and 473,

P.S.: Kharagpur (Local), Dist.: Paschim Midnapur from Shibnath Guru, Lokanath Guru, son of Sri Jyotitilal Guru, Shankari Saha, daughter of Jyotitilal Guru and wife of Pradip Saha. Any person having any objection or any right, title and interest in the said properties should contact me with documentary evidence within 15 days from this notice, otherwise no further objection will be entertained thereafter.

Kaunish Chakraborti Advocate High Court, Calcutta 6, Old Post Office Street Room No. 29B(2) Ground Floor Kolkata-700001 "Temple Chamber"

SALE BY AUCTION

ON 26-09-2020 at 11 at Central Administrative Tribunal, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi. Office Equipments, Bajaj Auto Rickshaw. Entry 5,000/- Full Payment with Tax. Mob. 9818003790.

EDUCATIONAL

UTTAR BANGA KRISHI VISWAVIDYALAYA

P.O.: Pundibari Dist.: Coochbehar West Bengal, Pin-736165 ADMISSION NOTIFICATION NO. UBVK/PG/01/2020

Applications in pre-scribed form are invited through online only for admission to Ph.D. Programme in different disciplines of Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Horticulture for the session 2020-21. Details are available in the website: www.ulbkv.ac.in & https://admissionulbkv.in /PG-admission

Sd/- Deputy Registrar Date: 18.09.2020

UTTAR BANGA KRISHI VISWAVIDYALAYA

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Date: 18.09.2020

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHANDAN Kumar, s/o Sh. Navneet Sharma, v/o Flat No. 420-A, Pocket-II, Mayur Vihar Noida-110091, have changed my daughter name from Snigdha Chandan to Srujan Chandan for all future purposes.

I, PARITOSH Payra of (A-47, C. Park, New Delhi) am the father of my daughter whose previous name was Ishita Paroja. According to Delhi Court Affidavit my daughter Ishita Paroja and Ishita Payra are same persons.

I, SHRI Suman Mandal, s/o. Bibhas Mandal & Mausumi Bandopadhyay, residing at Flat No. 941, Kankula Road, P.S.: Lake, Kolkata-700029 shall henceforth be known as Suman Banerjee, vide affidavit sworn before the Lt. 1st Class Judicial Officer at Alipore Dtd. 09.09.2020. That Suman Banerjee & Suman Mandal are same & identical person.

I, SMT. Rumma Saha, wife of Sri Subodh Chandra Saha, daughter of Krishnadas Saha, residing at 35/7A, Thakur-Bari Sarani, P.O.:

Given under my hand and Seal on 17-09-2020.

ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East) Saka Courts, New Delhi Seal of the Court

Nandannagar, P.S.: Beliaghata, Kolkata-700083 declare that vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Barasat Court on 15.09.2020 that Rumma Saha and Rumma Rani Saha is the one and same identical person. I am known as Rumma Saha everywhere.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF SH. ARVIND BANSAL ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East) Saka Courts, New Delhi SS-02/2020

In the matter of:

Sh. Rajan Shridhar, s/o Late Shri S. Rambhadran, r/o Flat No. 102, Ivory Tower, South City-I, Sector-30, Gurugram-122001.

Given under my hand and Seal on 27-10-2020 at 10-00 a.m.

— Respondents

Whereas, an application U/s 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by Sh. Rajan Shridhar, successor of Late Sh. M. Prema for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts/securities of deceased.

And whereas the said applicant shall come for hearing on 27-10-2020 at 10-00 a.m.

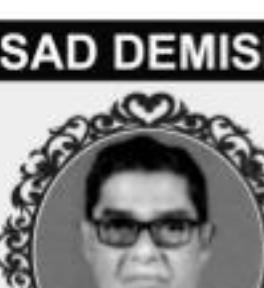
Therefore, the public at large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the said applicant, he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and time.

Given under my hand and Seal on 17-09-2020.

ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East) Saka Courts, New Delhi Seal of the Court

OBITUARY

SAD DEMISE



SYAMAL KUMAR RAY

29.03.1944 - 24.07.2020

With profound grief and sorrow, we mourn the passing away of an eminent scholar, educationist and Retd. Professor of Political Science, University of Burdwan. May his soul rest in peace. We cherish his affable relations with all.

Grief Stricken :

Wife Putul Ray, Tapan Dutta & Zona Dutta, Flat - 1A, 9/3A South Sintee Road, Kolkata-500056

— Petitioner Versus

1. The State Govt. of (NCT of Delhi) through Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Hauz Khas, Old Tehsil Building, Mehrauli, New Delhi-110016.

2. The Manager Bank of Maharashtra, Kalkaji Branch, New Delhi-110019.

3. Sh. Ramesh Chander, s/o Late Shri S. Rambhadran, r/o Flat No. 102, Wing, Tribeca Society, Hiranyananda Estate, Ghodbunder Road, Thane (W) - 400667.

— Respondents

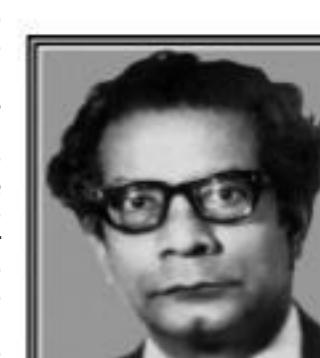
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SAD DEMISE

Dr. S. N. Banerjee

the noted Linguist and a

Former Professor of

Indian Institute of Technology,

Kharagpur, on

18 September 2020 at Kolkata

Deeply mourned by

former students, family,

friends and relatives

of tests also increasing to more than 60,000 per day.

The national capital had yesterday recorded 3,812 fresh coronavirus cases. It had

come on a day when Delhi had also logged a decline in the number of coronavirus tests — 52,405 in all. The city had yesterday recorded 37 fresh Covid deaths.

Delhi recorded 4,071 cases last Saturday, 4,127 on Friday, 4,432 on Thursday, 4,473 on Wednesday and 4,263 last Tuesday.

Meanwhile, officials said today that more than 400 children have recovered from coronavirus at the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital, the Delhi government's largest Covid facility, since

March. About 50 Covid-infected children are currently admitted to a special ward at the hospital.

"Around 415 children have successfully recovered from coronavirus. Around 10 per cent of them were severe cases," Dr Urmila Jhamb said.

Children suffering from other diseases such as tuberculosis, cancer and kidney problems become severely ill if they contract coronavirus, she said, adding most children show mild symptoms such as diarrhea and vomiting.

Mothers are allowed to stay with their Covid-positive children even if they themselves are coronavirus-free, but they can engage with their child only, Dr Jhamb said.

There were a total of 1,889 containment zones (red zones) in Delhi now, the bulletin added.

According to today's health bulletin, the cumulative total of recovered Covid patients in the national capital was now 2,13,304, with 3,672 recovered patients discharged from dif-

ferent health care facilities during the past 24 hours. There were 9,180 hospitalised Covid patients in the city.

The positivity rate was 7.55 per cent. The health bulletin stated that the number of active cases in the city was now 30,941 and as many as 19,213 patients were being treated under the home isolation system.

There were a total of 1,889 containment zones (red zones) in Delhi now, the bulletin added.

Meanwhile, officials said today that more than 400 children have recovered from coronavirus at the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital, the Delhi government's largest Covid facility, since

March. About 50 Covid-infected children are currently admitted to a special ward at the hospital.

The minister also said there is no shortage of plasma. Those in need can get it from the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences.

Asked about allegations of irregularities in testing laboratories in other states, he said there were no such complaints in Delhi. "I cannot comment on what is happening in other states."

The minister, however, said there are around 1,000 ICU beds available in Delhi at present. Around 1,500 non-ICU beds and more than 500 ICU beds have been added over the last few days, he said.

Based on data of the last 10 days, the death rate in Delhi stands at 0.77 per cent.

"Around 30 per cent COVID-19 patients admitted to Delhi hospitals are from outside the city," he told reporters.

"The number of vacant beds is available on Delhi Corona app... nothing is being concealed," he said.



West UP farmers up in arms against Centre's legislations

Many farmers under the aegis of BKU hit the streets across Western UP to demand rollback of the Modi govt's controversial agriculture legislations; Oppn SP activists also hold similar protests

SWATI SHARMA
MEERUT, 21 SEPTEMBER

Many farmers in as many as twelve districts of Western Uttar Pradesh today came out on the streets to oppose the controversial agriculture Bills of the Narendra Modi government, which were passed by the two Houses of Parliament last week.

These farmers' protests were held under the aegis of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU). A similar protest against the Centre's controversial farm sector legislations was also held by the activists of the Opposition Samajwadi Party.

Coming out in support of the agitating farmers of Punjab and Haryana — who have been protesting against the Modi government's agriculture Ordinances / Bills — the BKU leaders and supporters staged demonstrations and sat on a dharna at the offices of the administration in Meerut, Saharanpur, Baghpat, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar, Bulandshahar, Hapur, Sambhal, Amroha, Rampur, Bijnor and Moradabad districts of Western UP.

The Samajwadi party lead-



Farmers holding protest against the Centre's agriculture legislations in Amroha on Monday. SNS

ers and workers also protested against the Centre's farm Bills and raised other crucial issues including payment of

dues of sugarcane farmers and the deteriorating law and order situation.

While leading the protest

in Muzzaffarnagar, BKU leader Rakesh Tikait targeted the ruling BJP in his address to the farmers. He blamed the Modi government of allegedly "benefiting the handful of capitalists" for which it is "bent on abolishing the Mandi system in the country".

"The fight of farmers against the government's exploitation would continue," said Dharmendra Malik, state BKU spokesperson, adding that the farmers have demanded immediate withdrawal of the controversial legislations. These protests against the Centre's farm legislations were held by the farmers under the aegis of the BKU at the collectorate and tehsil offices in all districts of Western UP. The protesting farmers gave a charter of their demands to the officials in which they mainly pressed for immediate withdrawal of the controversial legislations besides raising other major farmers' issues.

On its part, the Samajwadi Party, led by its former minister Shahid Manzoor, and Meerut district president Rajpal Singh, demonstrated at the collectorate and tehsil offices in Meerut. They also handed over a memorandum to the officials, demanding

immediate withdrawal of the Centre's agriculture legislations.

"On Sunday, a black chapter was added to the history of the Indian democracy which was murdered in the Rajya Sabha," said Manzoor, adding that they are with the farmers on this issue and strongly demand that these legislations must be withdrawn immediately.

Apart from raising other important issues related to the farmers, the protesting SP activists also highlighted poor law and order situation in UP, said Rajpal Singh. He charged that the "double-engine BJP government", in the state as well as at the Centre, has "miserably failed" on every front.

The BKU(Bhanu group) also staged such dharnas and protests in Amroha, Sambhal, Moradabad and other districts. They were led by their vice president Diwakar Choudhary. Hundreds of farmers affiliated to this organisation held protest at the collectorate office in Amroha and handed over their memorandum to the officials there. "We strongly demand the withdrawal of these controversial Centre's Bills," said Diwakar.

Chopper scam: Court to pass order on cognisance of charge sheet on 25 Sept

PTI
NEW DELHI, 21 SEPTEMBER

Special Judge Arvind Kumar reserved order for 25 September after the public prosecutor, appearing for the CBI, submitted his argument that there was enough material to proceed against both the alleged middlemen as well as 13 others in the case

An amount of 42.27 million euro was paid by the Westland Group Companies to the firms of the applicant as kickbacks/ bribes without undertaking any work against the receipt of such amount, it said.

It said that out of the kickbacks received from AgustaWestland, Michel further made payments to various persons in India.

Michel was taken into custody by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on December 5 last year after his extradition from Dubai, while the ED took him into custody on December 22 last year. He is currently in judicial custody in both cases.

Dubai-based businessman Saxena was extradited to India on January 31, 2019 in connection with the scam relating to the purchase of 12 VVIP helicopters from AgustaWestland.

ED had earlier arrested Saxena but he was later granted bail after the agency supported his plea to turn approver in the case.

The agencies had told the court that Michel made 24.25 million euro and 1,60,96,245 pound from the now-scraped AgustaWestland deal.

The CBI has alleged that the deal signed in February 2010 to supply VVIP choppers worth 556.262 million euro caused an estimated loss of 398.21 million euro (about Rs 2,666 crore) to the state exchequer.

Martyred soldier's family in HP threatens to return Kirti Chakra

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 21 SEPTEMBER

Upset over non-fulfilment of promises made to honour the sacrifice of a martyred soldier Anil Kumar Chauhan for the last 18 years, the martyr's family from Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh on Monday threatened to return Kirti Chakra that was awarded to him in 2004.

However, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur pacified the martyr's mother Raj Kumari and other family members after meeting them outside the Governor's residence in Shimla and said the state government would soon honour promises made to the family. "I wasn't aware about this issue but now I will look into it and make sure that the promises made in the past are fulfilled," he told the martyr's family members.

Thakur said the state government is committed to provide full respect and honour to the martyrs who had made supreme sacrifice for the cause of the nation.

He assured the mother of martyr Anil Chauhan that he would look into the

matter and appropriate action would be taken in this respect.

He said that he would look into all such cases, if there were any in the state and directions will be issued to fulfill promises by the state governments in the past to the martyrs' families.

"The state government would ensure that promises made by successive governments in Himachal Pradesh to honour my son's sacrifice and it is the reason that she had come to Shimla to return the medal," she added.

On Monday, Raj Kumari, a resident of Chambi village

noting the submission of advocate Ashok Agarwal,

called Peace.

The meaning of this year's theme 'Shaping Peace Together' is that all of us together

should establish peace and for the sake of world peace

comes stable and a smile comes to our face which is

'In the school of peace, we are all students'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 21 SEPTEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Monday said that "in the school of peace, we are all students and we all must work hard to improve our performance in this school".

"When we talk of education for peace, we have to understand that it is not about only children," he said while addressing HP Bharat Scouts and Guides on the occasion of International Day of Peace through video conferencing from Raj Bhavan, Shimla.

Dattatreya said in the current scenario when there is a greater threat to peace, there is a need to understand its importance and to play a more active role in spreading and protecting peace.

"Peace means the stability of mind. If any action that is in our own interest, in the interest of others, in the interest of nature then our mind becomes stable and a smile comes to our face which is

called Peace.

The meaning of this year's theme 'Shaping Peace Together' is that all of us together

should establish peace and for the sake of world peace

comes stable and a smile comes to our face which is



HP Governor Bandaru Dattatreya addressing HP Bharat Scouts and Guides on the occasion of International Day of Peace through video conferencing from Raj Bhavan in Shimla on Monday. SNS

we all work together with compassion, kindness and hope," he added.

HP Governor further stated that the International Day of Peace provides us with a

valuable opportunity to assess our progress for peace and to repeat the resolution.

"This day reminds us that in this era of immense scientific progress and global

development, peace is still a fragile pigeon that needs more care and protection.

In view of the global upheaval, the importance of the International Day of Peace is even more important," he said.

He asked all to pledge to become better students in the school of peace so that we can have peace in our home, neighbourhood and our country.

He added that Bharat Scouts and Guides Himachal Pradesh has an important contribution in the field of peace and the way it is developing the capacity of youth, making them active citizens and working towards spread of peace was laudable.

Earlier, Director of Higher Education and State Chief Commissioner of Bharat Scouts and Guides Himachal Pradesh, Amarjeet Kumar Sharma, welcomed the Governor and lauded the role of the organization in playing a constructive role in society.

Secretary to Governor, Rakesh Kanwar, was also present on the occasion.

Punjab makes physical education compulsory for school students

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 21 SEPTEMBER

The Punjab government has decided to make physical education-related activities compulsory for school children in the state.

This decision will be implemented after reopening of school following Covid-19, a spokesperson of the Punjab school education department said after getting the green signal from state education minister Vijay Inder Singh.

The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) director has issued letters to all district education officers and school heads in this regard.

hidden talents, to ensure their all round development and to give them the right direction beside to provide a high level platform for sports by selecting talented players.

These physical activities will help the students to be physically fit as well as increase their flexibility and strengthen their muscles.

The spokesperson said various sports for physical activities have been included for the students from Class I to XII.

The purpose of initiating physical activities for the students is to identify their

The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) director has issued letters to all district education officers and school heads in this regard

This campaign will continue for another day by way of House-to-House activity to trace and administer polio drops to the left out children on booth day. On the first day of the activity, about 3.74 lakh (59 percent) children under five years of age have been administered polio drops.

This campaign will continue for another day by way of House-to-House activity to trace and administer polio drops to the left out children on booth day. On the first day of the activity, about 3.74 lakh (59 percent) children under five years of age have been administered polio drops.

Besides about 4,000 health teams, 500 field supervisors in all districts and five to six district supervisors in each district supervised the activity apart from Independent Monitors of NPSP-WHO.

Pulse polio campaign underway in Haryana's Covid high-risk areas



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 21 SEPTEMBER

Even as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to be a huge challenge, about 6.3 lakh children are being covered by the first round of sub national immunisation (SNID) pulse polio campaign 2020-21 in the Covid high-risk areas, including containment zones, while adhering to the social distancing norms in 13 districts of Haryana.

The department carried out booth activity on the first day in 13 districts — Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Jhajjar, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Mewat, Palwal, Panchkula, Panipat, Rohtak, Sonipat and Yarnanagar — to maintain the polio free status of the state.

An official spokesperson said due to the present circumstances due to Covid-19 pandemic, all health officers and frontline workers performed their duty with full precautions like use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits, masks, sanitizers, gloves etc. Teams followed hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene & social distancing measures as well.

This campaign will continue for another day by way of House-to-House activity to trace and administer polio drops to the left out children on booth day. On the first day of the activity, about 3.74 lakh (59 percent) children under five years of age were covered.

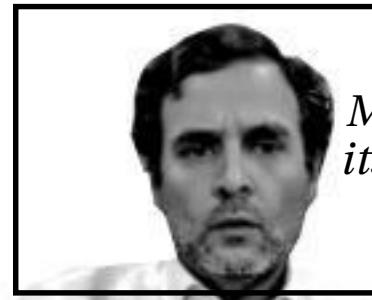
This campaign will continue for another day by way of House-to-House activity to trace and administer polio drops to the left out children on booth day. On the first day of the activity, about 3.74 lakh (59 percent) children under five years of age have been administered polio drops.

These physical activities will help the students to be physically fit as well as increase their flexibility and strengthen their muscles.

This will also increase the tolerance, focus and physical balance of the students. They will also develop a sense of leadership by physical activities, the spokesperson added.



HP Governor Bandaru Dattatreya addressing HP Bharat Scouts and Guides on the occasion of International Day of Peace through video conferencing from Raj Bhavan in Shimla on Monday. SNS



Modi govt sometimes blames god, sometimes people, but not its 'misrule'

CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI
ATTACKING CENTRE OVER UNION MINISTER HARSH VARDHAN'S REMARKS ON SPREAD OF COVID-19

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



A vendor arranges traditional dresses ahead of 'Navratri' at Law Garden Bazaar in Ahmedabad on Monday.

PM lays foundation for 9 highway projects: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for nine national highway projects worth over Rs 14,258 crore in poll-bound Bihar on Monday and launched optical fibre internet services to connect the state's all 45,945 villages.

CRPF personnel injured in gunfight with militants: A CRPF personnel was injured in an encounter between militants and security forces in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, police said. The security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Nawad area of Charar-e-Sharief in the central Kashmir district after receiving information about the presence of militants there, a police official said.

PM Modi likely to inaugurate Atal tunnel: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate Atal tunnel on Leh-Manali highway in Himachal Pradesh's Rohtang on 3 October, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said on Monday. According to the PM's tentative programme, he will also visit Lahaul, Thakur said.

Potato outlets: The Darjeeling district administration has opened three mobile outlets that will sell potato of the Jyoti variety at Rs 25/kg through the Agri Marketing Department. The outlets have been opened at College Para in Siliguri, RMC premises in Siliguri and Shiv Mandir area at Matigaon, officials said.

BJD's opposition to farm Bills a jolt to BJP

Congress will launch a massive signature campaign in which it aims to collect two crore signatures from farmers & poor people against farm Bills

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 21 SEPTEMBER

The Biju Janata Dal's opposition to the farm Bills in Parliament is said to have come as a jolt to the BJD leadership which had entrusted Union ministers Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan and BJP RS MP Aswini Vaishnav to liaison and ensure support of the regional party.

Yesterday's development has created a flutter in political circles here. It is amply clear that the BJD did try its best to elicit support of the BJD and had engaged its leaders to manage the regional party.

Reliable sources said Aswini Vaishnav, bureaucrat turned BJD MP who was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Odisha with the support of the BJD was the most worried among the three. Goyal is believed to have told some of the BJD MPs yesterday that he had repeatedly telephoned chief minister Naveen Patnaik and a powerful bureaucrat in Odisha but they did not respond to his calls.

The BJD MP's said they will abide by their party high command's decision which, in this case, is to oppose the farm Bill. Some of the BJD MPs retorted saying that the BJD Central leaders had, in all these years, never bothered to talk or seek their views, instead they had all along secured directive from Bhubaneswar.

BUKU protest

Farmers in as many as twelve districts of western Uttar Pradesh came out opposing the controversial agriculture bill of Modi government on Monday. The protest was on the call of Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU). A similar protest was also staged by Samajwadi Party.

Supporting the farmers of Punjab and Haryana who had been protesting against the agriculture Bill of the Modi government, BKU leaders and supporters demonstrated and sat on a dharna at the offices of tehsil and District Magistrate in Meerut. Telangana CM who himself takes keen interest in his horticulture farm



Samajwadi Party members led by former minister Shahid Manzoor and district president Rajpal Singh protest against farm Bills at Meerut collectorate on Monday. ■ SNS

KCR may lead farmers' protest in Telangana

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 21 SEPTEMBER

Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao may lead the protests by farmers, said a senior minister of Telangana Cabinet who accused the NDA government of being anti-farmer a day after the farm Bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha by voice vote amid strong objection from Opposition parties.

Rao has already opposed the Bills terming them as "sugar coated pills" aimed at paving the entry of corporate and private trade in the farming sector. Telangana CM who himself takes keen interest in his horticulture farm

has a pro-farmer image and has introduced several schemes for farmers. Rao had directed his party MPs in Rajya Sabha to vote against the Bills.

Today, a senior minister in Rao's Cabinet, Talasani Srinivas slammed the Centre for bringing when the entire farm community was protesting against the legislation.

"If required KCR will lead the protests of the farmers," said the minister. Srinivas went on to allege that even vice president N Venkaiah Naidu was against the Farm Bills and hence he was not present in the House when the bills were passed.

"Even vice president Venkaiah Naidu does not like these Bills. That's why he was not in the House when these were passed," said Srinivas. He went on to add that it was a conspiracy to hand over the agriculture sector to the corporates.

The Bills were introduced at a time when farmers are reeling under the effects of the pandemic as well as rains. The way the Bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha through voice vote was a murder of democracy, said the minister.

The TRS minister demanded that the Bills should be immediately withdrawn by the government.

BACK TO NORMAL



Students at school grounds before attending class at Koti Bagh Higher Secondary School in Srinagar as schools reopened after more than five months closure due to the Covid pandemic, on Monday. ■ AFP

India-China hold military level talks to resolve border tension

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 SEPTEMBER

Ladakh. This was the 6th round of talks between the top military commanders who have failed to thrash out differences during their five previous meetings.

The Indian delegation, led by Lt Gen Harinder Singh of the Indian Army, included Lt Gen P G K Menon who is

expected to take over from Singh next month as the head of the Leh-based 14 Corps.

For the first time, the military delegation at the talks also included Naveen Srivastava, Joint Secretary in the Indian External Affairs Ministry dealing with China. This was aimed at involving diplomats in the military level discussions.

The talks this time took place at Moldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The two sides came face to face after a gap of more than a month. The last round of talks had taken place on 2 August when the Chinese side appeared reluctant to pull back from some of the key friction points.

PDP accuses Modi govt of taking 'anti-Kashmiri' steps

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 21 SEPTEMBER

Senior leaders and office bearers of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday held a full session for the first time after abrogation of Article 370 and accused the Modi government of taking 'anti-Kashmiri' steps.

This was the first meeting of the PDP in Srinagar after 5 August 2019, at its party headquarters as the leaders were allowed to step out of their residences after over a year. A meeting earlier this month was not allowed to be held by the administration.

The meeting observed that while on one hand, the internal situation of the state is very precarious, the situation at LOC with Pakistan and LAC with China is also on the boil.

Therefore, in the meeting, it was resolved that the party would continue to fight for resolution of the basic issue and advocate dialogue and reconciliation with all the stakeholders, as envisaged in the roadmap of our party which has become even more relevant.

vant today than ever before. Party will continue to work towards accomplishing the vision of Mufti Sayeed who envisaged that Jammu & Kashmir has to become a bridge of peace rather than a battlefield.

During the deliberations, it was observed that post 5 August, 2019 "false semblance of normalcy is being created which in fact resembles the peace of the graveyard. People are still shell shocked and unable to come to terms with what has happened. The situation has created a kind of a stalemate where nothing except all kinds of anti-Kashmiri steps like domicile laws etc are being pushed in a hurry. These steps are further adding to the anger and frustrations of people, whose resolve to fight this injustice gets stronger with time".

Gujarat Assembly pays tributes to ex-Prez Pranab

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, 21 SEPTEMBER

A brief, five-day monsoon session of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly began here today with the House paying its tributes to former President Pranab Mukherjee who passed away last month.

Mukherjee was also a member of the Rajya Sabha from the Gujarat Assembly dur-

ing the 1980s. The House also paid tributes to the 'Corona warriors', the doctors, nurses and other health workers who died in the line of duty towards the Covid-19 patients.

Chief minister Vijay Rupani later announced in the House that a package of Rs 3,700 crore would be paid to about 27 lakh farmers who have been hit by excess rains during the current monsoon season.

Anurag Kashyap denies sexual misconduct allegations, intends to pursue legal route

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 21 SEPTEMBER

Director Anurag Kashyap, who has been accused of sexual misconduct by actor Payal Ghosh, on Monday once again denied the allegations against him and said he intends to pursue remedies in law to the fullest extent.

Issuing a statement through his lawyer, Kashyap also said it was sad that a movement as important as the #MeToo one had been co-opted by vested interests and reduced to a mere tool for character assassination.

On Saturday, Ghosh claimed on Twitter that the *Gangs of Wasseypur* director was sexually inappropriate with her, an allegation he described as "baseless".

Kashyap, who has been backed by his former wives Arti Bajaj and Kalki Koelchin, also said it was an attempt to silence him.

On Monday, the 48-year-old director spoke through his lawyer Priyanka Khimani. My client, Anurag Kashyap, has been deeply pained by the false allegations of sexual misconduct that have recently surfaced against him. These allegations are completely false, malicious and dishonest.

Richa Chadha to sue Payal Ghosh in #MeToo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 21 SEPTEMBER

Actor Richa Chadha on Monday said she has initiated "appropriate" legal action after her name was dragged in a "defamatory" manner by actor Payal Ghosh, who has accused filmmaker Anurag Kashyap of sexual harassment.

Ghosh claimed that Kashyap boasted about his connection with megastar Amitabh Bachchan and claimed that there were other female artists who he got intimate with, including Chadha.

Chadha took to Twitter to share her lawyer Saveena

Calling Ghosh's allegations fictitious, Khimani added that they seriously undermine the #MeToo movement and seek to unconsciously trade upon the pain and trauma of actual victims of sexual harassment and abuse. "My client has been fully advised of his rights and remedies in law and intends to pursue them to the fullest extent", the statement added.

"You have fought for the freedom of women in your scripts, you've defended their integrity in your professional space as well as in your personal life. I have been witness to it, in the personal and professional space you have always seen me as your equal, you have stood up for my integrity even after our divorce, and you have supported me when I felt unsafe

in a work environment even before we got together, Kalki Koelchin," wrote on Instagram.

The actor, who worked with Kashyap in several films, including Dev D, said there was a place of dignity beyond the virtual blood bath. Hang on to that dignity, stay strong and keep doing the work you do. Love from an ex wife, she added.

legal rights and remedies in law as may be advised in her best interest."

The statement further read that the "Fukrey" star condemns her name being "unnecessarily and falsely dragged in a defamatory manner" into controversies and allegations raised by "third parties." "Though our client believes that genuinely wronged women should get justice at all costs, there are legislations that are intended to ensure that women have an equal standing in their workplace and to ensure that they have a cordial workplace in which their dignity and self-respect is protected.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Raju Gupta S/o: Chandra Gupta, R/o: Unknown, Age: 30 years, Height: 5' 4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Normal, Hair: Black & Short, Wearing: Black colour T-Shirt and sky blue pajama**, who admitted himself in Lady Harding Hospital, Delhi, he was declared dead during the treatment by doctor. In this regard a case DD No. 100-A Dated 08.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Connaught Place, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P.S. Connaught Place, Delhi
Tel.: 011-23364139, 22747100
DP/122/NDD/2020



APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one dead body of male name & address unknown. Age: about 50-52 Yrs, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, medium Build, Face oval, wearing blue shirt, blue colour underwear, half pant & bare footed was found near Shop No. 4085, Naya Bazar, Delhi on 14.09.2020.

In this regard a DD No. 66-A, dt. 14.09.2020 U/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at PS Lahori Gate, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary for identification.

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

S.H.O.,
P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23953776, 23958234
DP/579/N/2020

Indian Red Cross Society & St. John Ambulance (India)

National Head Quarter
1, Red Cross Road, New Delhi-110001
Ph.011-23716441/42/43

NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance (India) will be held on Thursday, the 15th October 2020 at 11.30 AM in virtual mode to transact the following business:-

- Confirmation of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 30th August, 2016
- Presentation of Indian Red Cross Society & St. John Ambulance (India)-
- Annual Report and Audited Annual Accounts of IRCS & St. John Ambulance (India) for the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19
- Annual Budget Estimates of Income and Expenditure of IRCS & St. John Ambulance (India) for the year 2020-21
- Appointment of Statutory Auditors for the years 2020-21 & 2021-22 and their remuneration

for consideration and adoption by the General Body.

- Announcement of awards to best performing branches/ centres/ brigade units, blood banks and volunteers / workers of IRCS & St. John Ambulance (India) for the years 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19

- Any other item with the approval of the Hon'ble Chairman.

Participants will join from their respective locations.

[Link for joining the meeting and further information, including detailed Agenda Notes, may be seen on IRCS Website w.w.Indianredcross.org.]

Secretary - General

davp 17185/11/0001/2021



Dragon's games

While attention in India is riveted on the tense border with China in Ladakh, this is not the only theatre where the dragon is ratcheting up pressure as it seeks to extend its frontiers. Over the weekend, the Chinese reportedly sent waves of aircraft menacingly close to Taiwan in an apparent bid to intimidate a territory it claims as its own. Taiwan has lived independently but in fear since 1949 because China has always claimed suzerainty over the island and has said more than once that it would be justified in even using force to reclaim it. The weekend actions followed what Beijing perceives as increased American support to Taiwan, which has been visited twice in recent weeks by senior officials from Washington. In August, Health Secretary Alex Azar had visited Taipei ostensibly to learn how Taiwan had managed the coronavirus outbreak. Last week, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs, Keith Krach, visited the island amid reports that the United States is planning arms sales to Taiwan. With the convoluted logic that Beijing follows in all matters relating to Taiwan, it sees these actions as provocations, to be countered with the sort of belligerence it exhibited over the weekend. Such brinkmanship - as is involved in sending squadrons jets screaming towards Taiwan - is fraught with risk because the two countries do not have an official dialogue mechanism. Taiwan of late has started to scramble its own aircraft to counter the Chinese actions, which means that one rash step could easily trigger a crisis.

Any conflict between the two, while heavily loaded in favour of China, will severely impact Asia, and may force the United States, which has played a key role in raising temperatures, to intervene. It would be rash to predict how events will unfold thereafter, but clearly peace and tranquillity in the region will be disturbed. China's increasing aggression may be backed, as it claims, by historical claims but seems to be guided entirely by contemporary geopolitics. While all countries around the world struggle to cope with the coronavirus pandemic, which originated from China and has now been controlled there, the dragon has sought to play on the vulnerabilities of its neighbours with aggression. There was no logical reason for this summer's incursions in Ladakh, nor for the exaggerated rhetoric on maritime disputes in the South China Sea. Now the steady stepping up of tensions with Taiwan suggests Beijing sees an opportunity in the travails of its neighbours. It also realises that there is today no country capable of exercising effective moral or military counter pressure, nor indeed a global body that could intervene to knock sanity into the heads of China's leaders, a severely emaciated United Nations having long abandoned its responsibility. In the circumstances, countries such as Taiwan and India, and others that are likely to be targeted next, must create a confluence of interests to safeguard themselves.

Bad bubble

The Indian Premier League has begun, well, only just. And it will carry on into the second week of November. When you consider the fact, having reckoned with the dates, that the players will be obliged to stay in what is being called a bio-secure bubble, it may surprise you that they did not really tell you much about what this pseudo-scientific term implies. First, and foremost, is the stipulation of complete isolation. No player can stir out of his room, or look in on his peer next door in the hotel where they have been put up. Word is that some Indian cricketers, completely unaware of what they had let themselves in for when signing on the dotted line, wondered aloud if visiting the hotel lobby, with social distancing maintained, was okay and they were told they were just not allowed to go anywhere out, unless practice sessions were to be gone for. And going for practice sessions was no fun, given that cricketers were not expected even for a moment to be lax in terms of health protocols. The Board of Control for Cricket in India is in this shepherded by the British company that, after its recent experiments and experiences back home, has got the thing up, quite clearly insisting on the sort of zero-tolerance attitude to normality that has, until Covid-19 struck, been life beyond the boundary. The IPL, of course, had taken a nasty hit when quite an impressive number of people with Chennai Super Kings tested positive for the coronavirus, and unofficial information from West Asia subsequently suggested that the BCCI was prevailed upon to have the message driven home that no leeway for a slip there and a slide here would be permitted where the rules meant for the bio-security bubble were concerned. Virat Kohli, of Royal Challengers Bangalore, got up on the bully pulpit to deliver the customary be-good-boys lecture that told the world how serious the BCCI was about, ahem, players' safety.

It may have been misled into prioritising body over mind - and not balancing the two - given that so many weeks' continued isolation can be something that maddens humans. The principle that underpins it is also at odds with sport's enjoyment and celebration of life, the reasons why virtually everyone everywhere loves games and players. Administrators might talk of the extraordinary situation spawned by the killer virus, but players would not have been exposed to the very serious risk of psychological damage if the commercial instincts laced into the game did not deem a return to action an urgent necessity at a time when people were still dying like flies in a lot of places, including India. And you cannot really rule out the bubble being stuck with indefinitely, what with the pandemic showing no signs of an early exit. How many players will come to be affected is the question, not if the bubble is bad.

Japan's new boss ~ I

Suga is less charismatic than Abe but has deep insights in the governance process and knows how to deal with the bureaucracy and get results. He has led a regimented and disciplined life that has helped in his political journey



In an extraordinary parliament session in Tokyo on 16 September, Japan elected the new leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Toshihide Suga, as the country's first prime minister to succeed Abe Shinzo who had made a surprise announcement on 28 August to demit office on health grounds. With this the Abe era ends much to the dismay of friends in India and in many countries. The legacy that he leaves behind shall remain for quite some time. As Suga readies to form a "continuity cabinet" and is expected to keep about half of the outgoing Cabinet, speculation is rife on what his domestic and foreign policy priorities would be.

Before attempting to analyse these, it might be pertinent to mention the significant but noble peculiarities of the Japanese system and political culture wherein two recent developments deserve close look. The two developments that touched sentiments of the Japanese people in the past two years received extensive media attention in India. Japan's Emperor Akihito abdicated after expressing his desire to do so in an August 2014 TV address. This required some procedural changes to be compiled with and led to a new Reiwa era in 2019 when his son Naruhito succeeded him as the next Emperor. This was also on the ground that the outgoing emperor expressed his inability to discharge official responsibilities because of old age.

The other development is recent when Prime Minister Abe decided to demit office owing to health conditions. Normally politicians around the world, including in India, clung to office

by hook or crook ignoring whether they are physically in a position to discharge official duties as they are addicted to power and the glamour attached to the office.

Finding a successor to Abe was a smooth affair. That happened on 14 September when the ruling LDP, enjoying a comfortable majority in the Lower House, ensured a smooth political transition. In the factional politics that cloud Japan's political culture and politics, there were three strong contenders - Chief Cabinet Secretary Toshihide Suga, former Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba and former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida. The current deputy prime minister Taro Aso, once a heavyweight, preferred to stay away from the race to be the king maker rather than the king and backed Suga to succeed Abe. In the presidential election for the party chief held on 14 September, Suga, a loyal aide to Abe won a landslide victory.

In the leadership election Suga (71) won 377 votes out of 534 votes cast, while Ishiba won 68 votes and Kishida got 89. With the LDP enjoying a majority in the Lower House, Suga was easily elected as the prime minister in a parliamentary vote on 16 September, allowing him to serve out Abe's term as party leader through September 2021.

What would Suga's priorities be now? Would he continue with Abe's signature "Abenomics" strategy of a hyper-easy monetary policy, government spend-

ing and reforms while dealing with the pandemic and a slumping economy, and confronting longer-term issues such as Japan's aging population and low birth rate? Soon after his election as party president, Suga promised to continue with the reforms started by Abe, which means that there shall be continuity in policies without major deviations. Suga counts the revitalisation of the regional economy as one of his key priorities.

What is Suga's political background?

Suga is less charismatic than Abe but has deep insights in the governance process and how to deal with the bureaucracy and get results. His background is humble. Born on 6 December 1948 in a snow-covered village in the northern prefecture of Akita to strawberry farmer Wasaburo and schoolteacher Tatsu, Suga tended the field as a child and being the eldest son, was expected to eventually take on the family business.

Suga's father Wasaburo worked for South Manchuria Railway Co. during World War II. On his return to Japan, he developed a late-harvest variety of strawberry following the country's surrender. It proved a hit, selling for a premium to city dwellers. Suga was reluctant to become a farmer himself and after high school he ran away from home to find work in Tokyo.

He ended up at a cardboard factory but quickly became disillusioned and quit, enrolling at Hosei University in 1969. He had no interest in the wave of student protests against the Japan-US security alliance and the Vietnam War sweeping the country at the time and got busy with a number of odd jobs such as working as a security guard and low-level newsroom assistant to pay his way through school. He did make time for sports, becoming vice-captain of the karate team.

After graduating and joining an electrical maintenance company, Suga grew interested in politics and became a Diet member's secretary, learning the ins and outs of the trade for more than a decade before successfully running for the Yokohama city assembly in 1987.

His political debut in national politics came in 1996 when the son of an aging member of the House of Representatives who was to take over his father's constituency unexpectedly passed away, leaving open a spot to run on the Liberal Democratic Party ticket. Suga stepped in and won the seat at the age of 47. In contrast, his predecessor, the scion of a political dynasty, was groomed for office from a young age. That way, Suga is a self-made man scaling the political ladder by his own effort.

Suga received his first Cabinet position during Abe's first stint in power from 2006 to 2007. As minister of internal affairs, he introduced a *hometown tax* programme that gives tax deductions for donations made to local governments in the countryside. Then, he played a key role in Abe's return to power in late 2012. Since then he has led a regimented and disciplined life that has helped in his political journey.

(To Be Concluded)

A MEMBER OF THE



Asian Voices

Aim of ensuring a stable food supply

Efforts to promote the use of food technology to produce foodstuffs artificially have been launched with the aim of ensuring a stable food supply and preventing global warming. Through technological innovation, it is hoped that products that are tasty and safe to eat will be realised. Examples of foodstuffs produced by food tech are plant-based meat substitutes made from such agricultural products as soybeans, and cultured meat made from beef cells using advanced technology. Alternative meat is widely used by eateries ranging from fast-food outlets to high-end restaurants in the US and Europe, which have taken a lead in the food-tech sector. It is also sold in some hamburger chains in Japan. Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has set up a study group with food companies, universities, research institutes and other entities and compiled a report that stressed the importance of such efforts for Japan, which is highly dependent on food imports from foreign countries. The ministry plans to launch a public-private council soon to consider measures to create rules to ensure food quality and protect intellectual property rights. It is desirable for the ministry to closely examine issues to be tackled and take steps while listening to public opinions. The primary objective for promoting the use of food technology is to prepare for possible food crises in the future.

The Phnom Penh Post

The UN estimates that the world's population will increase by more than 20 per cent to 9.7 billion +in 2050.

Growth in developing countries could result in shortages of food, especially meat, a protein source. Technological development is expected to make it easier to mass-produce alternative meat and cultured meat compared to that from livestock. The use of food technology also could help solve environmental problems. Methane gas emissions from the burps of cows are said to contribute to global warming. If alternative meat is produced mainly from soybeans, it can reduce the impact on the environment. Such meat is low in calories and cholesterol, meeting the growing global trend of health consciousness. An important point is to take appropriate measures to dispel consumer concerns about the safety of such food products. In Japan, there is a high level of public demand for food safety. Standards for quality and labeling should be clarified, and a certification system for business operators, among other rules, should be established. Producers are urged to continue their efforts to improve the quality of artificial food products in terms of taste and texture, among other things. It is also essential to curb the relatively high prices of such products.

RAJARAM PANDA
The writer, a leading expert on Japan, was formerly Senior Fellow at the IDSA

Underestimating power of religion

SIR, Prafull Goradia's article on Communist Parties (9 September) provokes me to present my thoughts. In the first part of more than eight decades of my life, 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, VG 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."

The sense of fatalistic acceptance, of servile worship of the established fact lies deeply embedded in all religions. But at the same

time people can be activated by using religious concepts and texts that can be interpreted in various ways. Swami Vivekananda has interpreted Vedantic truth of sameness; all are parts of one infinite of Brahman. He had envisaged a society where all irrespective of caste would enjoy the same opportunities and rights in order to ameliorate the deplorable conditions of his compatriots.

Opposing fatalism he thought that man makes his own life. He said, "Man is man, so long as he is struggling to rise above nature and his nature is both inter-

nal and external." He adds: "Angels or gods, whatever you may call them, have all become men, if they want to become perfect. This is the great centre, the wonderful poise, and the wonderful opportunity - this human life."

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

TENSIONS AT LAC

SIR, Tensions along the LAC have escalated with Chinese troops firing in the air to intimidate the Indian side at Mukhpuri Top in eastern Ladakh's Chushul sector. This is the first time in 45

years that firing has taken place at the LAC, further exemplifying China's disregard for the 1993 Peace and Tranquillity Agreement and subsequent arrangements to ensure calm on the LAC. It's clear that China wants to unilaterally push the LAC westwards and is extremely upset with Indian forces preemptively occupying strategic heights on the Kailash range - on the Indian side of the LAC - that gives them a clear line of sight of the crucial PLA Moldo garrison and helps them dominate all ingress routes through the Spanggur Gap.

But eastern Ladakh is

only one part of the larger strategic security tussle in play. According to intelligence reports, the PLA has violated the LAC several times over the past two months in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand. Thus, China could keep the entire LAC hot and force a war on India. With far deeper pockets, and having contained the Covid pandemic, Beijing may think it can outmanoeuvre New Delhi.

To tackle this challenge, India has no choice but to adopt a response whereby it must work on multiple fronts. It will need bigger spending to shore up its defences. The Indian economy is contracting by 10-15 per cent in the current fiscal. This needs to be quickly arrested through a big fiscal stimulus package to revive growth in the short term, and simultaneously enacting deep reforms to put the economy on a high growth trajectory.

On the foreign policy front, India must push for an alliance of democracies to counter China. This should include, immediately, asking for advanced satellite intel from the US for greater domain awareness along the

LAC. Domestically, the government must foster social cohesion and unity at home, which must include arresting the present trend of political polarisation for perceived short-term electoral ends. States' grievances on GST compensation should be addressed. We must recognise that China today poses an unprecedented strategic security challenge. The only way we can rise to the occasion is if we become internally strong by mobilising all available resources.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra,
Mohali, September 10.

HOUNDED

SIR, It seems, ancient Greek story-teller Aesop's fable "The Wolf and the Lamb" (at the stream) is being re-enacted two and half a millennium later to frame certain celebrities from the Mumbai film world - Rhea Chakraborty and Kangana Ranaut, for instance. The former was sought to be implicated in the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, for which she was grilled for more than twenty-five hours.

Then she was arrested in a drug-related case. Though Ranaut's fall from grace has its origin in intolerance to her criticism of law and order in a city reputed to have bred characters like Dawood Ibrahim and Chhota Rajan, she too might face the music when she would be hounded with drug-related charges. Let us hope she is not demolished like part of her building.

Yours, etc. B Mondal,
Kolkata, 13 September.

ILLOGICAL

SIR, The recent statement by the Government in Parliament about non-availability of any record of the actual number of deaths of migrant labour during their trek home or of the job losses suffered by them is an immature and illogical statement. On the one hand, the government had proudly announced a package of Rs. 20 lakh crore to mitigate losses incurred because of the lockdown but on the other hand, it has simply refused to share details about migrant labour. The labour class is like farmers in being the backbone of the economy. If this class remains unemployed, then the GDP of the nation can never recover. The government must seriously consider the situation as the GDP is at an all-time low and unemployment has also broken all previous records. The government must take care of labour by maintaining actual data about them and base economic policy on this data.

Yours, etc., Navneet Seth, Punjab, 15 September.

Military talks will fail, India must prepare for long haul

HARSHA KAKAR

Let me state that these thoughts were penned even before military talks recommenced. These views are not pessimist, but realistic. In my opinion, military talks would lead to no tangible result leaving forces of both nations in their currently deployed positions through the harsh winter. The reasons are many, beginning with a massive trust deficit to variation in perceptions and firm demands of both sides. In addition, neither nation would be willing to take the first step back, thereby showing itself to be acting under pressure. This is harsh reality and must be accepted.

A major cause for failure in the military talks lies in shortcomings in the joint statement issued in Moscow by the two foreign ministers.

Firstly, by not including the basic Indian demand of status quo ante of April 2020 and by changing the term LAC to border areas, the joint statement opened doors to new interpretations of the LAC, which would be unacceptable to the other nation. It is possible that the two foreign ministers had differences of opinion, failed to reach a consensus on the current crisis but issued a statement to set the stage for future talks. However, the statement opened more doors to differing perceptions, rather than closing them.

Secondly, lowering the level of talks to army and Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China border affairs (WMCC) has slowed decision making on resolving current tensions along the LAC. Both these platforms are avenues of conveying viewpoints, assessment and acceptance. This could be better achieved by utilizing embassies. The Chinese insistence on adopting this avenue is indicative that they are not rushing for a resolution but willing to prolong the standoff.

Thirdly, the joint statement emphasises the Chinese insistence on disengagement, not de-escalation and withdrawal. China has, since Galwan, sought disengagement, seeking

to enhance distance between forces as it fears another Galwan would be counter-productive for its poorly trained and unmotivated conscript soldiers. India is seeking de-escalation and restoration of status quo ante which China avoids accepting, and which India appears hesitant to push.

For China, disengagement implies India withdrawing from its current deployment on the Kailash Ridge, while India demands Chinese forces deployed close to Indian positions pull back. China would suggest mutual pullback of troops located in proximity to the Kailash Ridge, which India will reject. Recent local army-level talks had similar suggestions from China, which were rejected.

Apart from this, there are other differences, the major being the perception of the LAC. India is of the view that its current deployment remains within its perceived LAC and Chinese must withdraw to positions held prior to April 2020. This gets further complicated with massive trust deficit between the two forces. The Indian army doubts that if it vacates its current dominating positions, these would be occupied by China. Even if new confidence building measures, as proposed in Moscow, are implemented, the trust deficit would remain, unless the LAC is delineated.

Hence, diplomacy, as suggested by the foreign ministers, at current levels of the army and WMCC is unlikely to produce results. The Indian army would be unwilling to withdraw from its present gains unless assured that China will not occupy them. India carries past experiences of Jelep La, Sikkim, of 1965.

China would never attempt any offensive action unless it is assured of success. It has achieved its present dispositions without firing a bullet, however for once has been stymied. It has no option but to either hold on to its gains or plan an offensive. India has dug in deep, prepared to thwart Chinese plans. It would seek to cause immense losses to China in a defensive battle, if pushed, rather than initiating any offensive. Exercising the



military options would therefore not suit either nation.

Chinese propaganda machinery, seeking to apply pressure on India harps on 1962, conveniently bypassing 1967 Nathu La and Cho La actions and even recently, Galwan, where it suffered heavily.

The LAC is now a de-facto LOC (as with Pak), with permanent forward deployment within eyeball range. If this scenario continues, then India must lay down for itself its long-term aims and not rush into seeking midway solutions which China will invariably propose. There is no doubt that maintaining present positions would imply economic and human costs, but it must be accepted. It was China which began the game, India must seek to conclude it, and for once on its own terms, ignoring Chinese half-measures.

India occupied and held on to

Siachen for nearly three decades, over which there has been no resolution. India also reoccupied Kargil and reorganized its forces to ensure similar incidents do not recur. It did so aware that talks to resolve Indo-Pak border issues are a remote possibility. In both these cases it continues bearing economic and human life costs yet is unwilling to relent. It should be the same with the LAC in Ladakh.

Indian plans must include maintaining its present positions and gaining further tactical and strategic advantage in case an opportunity presents itself. Simultaneously, it should continue decoupling its economy from China and if possible, bring in other nations on the bandwagon. It must enhance its international grouping and announce its true intentions for doing so. All this while, it must set long-term objectives, which should not change even if there are changes

in government. If the Chinese can consider long term objectives and plans, India should adopt a similar approach.

The long-term objectives, after which India would be willing to de-escalate and withdraw must include delineation of the LAC, an agreement not to occupy vacant areas along the delineated border and a commitment to keeping access open for Mansarovar pilgrims through Lipu Lekh (this would resolve the Indo-Nepal-China border issue). All future talks, including at the diplomatic level, must include elements of the army thus presenting a diplomatic-military interface. The involvement of a Joint Secretary in the current talks is a welcome step. India must remain firm and unrelenting if it seeks a holistic solution.

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

The crisis of a lonely world

MALEEHAA LODHI

There is little doubt that the present era is among the most unsettled moments in contemporary history. The 75th session of the UN General Assembly has begun at a time of deep divisions in the world even as it seeks to reaffirm the collective commitment to multilateralism, now under unprecedented stress. This is being challenged by big and regional powers trying to rewrite the rules of the game by unilateral actions, which is eroding even the semblance of a rules-based international order. This urged UN Secretary General António Guterres to recently reiterate that multilateralism is needed more than ever to "repair broken trust in a broken world".

Many paradoxes characterise the global landscape today. The world is more interconnected than ever before and yet so atomised. International solidarity has never been more needed to deal with common challenges but unity remains elusive. The Covid-19 crisis has thrown these paradoxes into sharper relief.

Noreena Hertz's new book deals with this and more. As the world grapples with the coronavirus crisis, The Lonely Century deals with another pandemic afflicting the globe, which the author argues, is both personal and political, and whose linkages and varied aspects she explores in her work, punctuated by research findings from several disciplines. She defines loneliness as not just a feeling of being unsupported in a social and familial context but also by fellow citizens, governments and the state. An example she cites is of the



years preceding the coronavirus crisis when two-thirds of people living in democracies felt their governments were not acting in their interests.

Feelings of isolation and loneliness soared, she writes, during the lockdowns and social distancing imposed by Covid-19. But what she calls the lonely century didn't begin in 2020. Even earlier, people felt isolated and disconnected. We are, she asserts, in the midst of a global crisis of loneliness. It is also a political crisis, she maintains, fuelling divisiveness and extremism in the US, Europe and across the world, and closely connected to right-wing populism.

She argues that a conflation of diverse causes and events have generated a 'lonely planet' — 'structural and institutional discrimination', an urbanisation wave, rise of neoliberalism and fundamental changes to how we live. Smartphones and social media have also played an "integral

role", making us "more angry and tribal". She describes neoliberalism as a particularly harsh form of capitalism and maintains that this has made us "see ourselves as competitors not collaborators, consumers not citizens, hoarders not sharers, takers not givers, hustlers, not helpers".

Having known Noreena, an economist and writer, over the years, I spoke to her about her latest book and asked how she manages to write on such diverse subjects. Her first work The Silent Takeover was, as its subtitle indicated, about global capitalism and the 'death of democracy'. It examined how governments had been losing power to private business and its impact on 21st-century politics and society. Her last book, Eyes Wide Open dealt with the present era's information deluge and navigating this complex data landscape to make smart decisions.

She explained that the common

theme in all her books has been to understand a world in profound change and how to shape the personal and political choices citizens have to make. Did the Covid-19 crisis motivate her to write her latest book? She said she began researching it two years ago and was completing the book when the virus struck. The global loneliness trend the book discusses predated Covid-19 but was accelerated by it. What about the connection between the loneliness phenomenon and support for right-wing populism? She said populist leaders exploit vulnerable, disconnected citizens by offering a 'manufactured or branded community' to elicit their backing by giving them a sense of belonging.

As this is among the more insightful parts of the book it merits greater consideration. Hertz argues that the ties that bind people to each other and to the state have been eroding as increasing numbers of people now feel isolated and disconnected from other citizens and their governments. This trend she fears will be compounded by the pandemic as economic stress will likely fuel more disaffection from political leaders. These conditions, she shows persuasively, offer an enabling environment for extremist politicians to manipulate. They, in turn, foster even more the politics of intolerance often invoking the threat of their country being taken over by immigrants or those of other ethnicities and religions. Of course, perceptions of isolation are not the only factor behind support for right-wing populism. Hertz acknowledges this and recognises that populism in different countries has different underlying reasons. But she points to a growing body of data that shows that feelings of isolation and

alienation have played a key role in shaping today's fraught political landscape. And she cites the Trump phenomenon as the case of a leader exploiting people's economic vulnerability and their sense of going unheard by traditional politicians.

Her chapter on digital distraction, brought on by technology, and social media is also very insightful. She uses research findings to press the case that these too are contributing to the loneliness crisis. Smartphones "fragment our attention", estrange us from people and "create a splintered self" — among other damaging effects she mentions. Apart from pushing people into isolated digital bubbles, social media is creating a meaner, more aggressive and angrier world. This is more than apparent from 'trolling' and offensive online behaviour. Therefore, Hertz urges the need to hold social media to account and acknowledge the great dangers of "tech addiction".

As she explained to me, her aim in her book is not just to analyse the worrying trends of a lonely century but to call for action — for politicians to listen carefully to public concerns and grievances, for capitalism to align itself to the common good, for governments to address long-standing inequalities and for people to put tolerance and compassion at the heart of their pursuits. Governments have a unique opportunity "to seize the moment to rebuild our post-Covid world".

The question is whether this sensible advice will be heeded by those who are shaping the destinies of their nations and of a deeply troubled world.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28081

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The date of the formal termination of the war is a point on which there has been a good deal of excusable misunderstanding. Many people have not been quite clear as to whether the 'end of the war' meant the end of the war with Germany only or with all Germany's allies. The question has been answered repeatedly, and it is now explained again in the Order in Council, issued at Home, which states, in order to remove misapprehension, that, while the war with Germany ended on January 10, the termination of the war as a whole will be when the last of the peace treaties has been signed and ratified. According to the "Termination of the Present War (Definition) Act," the date at which the war ends, for legal purposes, is to be fixed by Order in Council, and "the date so declared shall be as nearly as may be the date of the exchange or deposit of ratifications of the treaty or treaties of peace." The signature of the Turkish treaty, expected shortly, will be followed by the necessary ratifications, and then at last the word "Finis" may be written to the history of the Great War. Presumably, there will be either another Order in Council, or an official notification of some kind, to fix the definite date on which all enactments which are to remain in force for a stated period after the legal termination of the war will enter upon their final stage.

NEWS ITEMS

REFORM SCHEME COUNCILS

The question of provision for the accommodation in Simla for the enlarged councils under the Reforms Scheme has recently been engaging the attention of the Government of India. It has now been decided, after careful consideration, to leave the question of providing permanent accommodation to be dealt with by the Reformed Councils themselves, and in the meantime to erect on the Kennedy Lodge site, adjacent to the Government of India Civil Secretariat offices, in Gorton Castle, a single Council Chamber for the temporary use of the Lower House. In view of the great dearth of suitable office accommodation in Simla, which has become greatly accentuated of late years, the Chamber has been designed on lines, which will admit of its being readily transformed into office rooms when the permanent Council Chamber is built.

MIDNAPORE FLOODS

Further details regarding the breach in the Takavi embankment at Dobandhi show that some five square miles of land are still under water. A small number of houses have collapsed, and nearly a dozen are submerged. No loss of life is reported. The gap has not yet been filled up, but it is hoped that early repairs will be affected. The water has washed away seedlings and seriously damaged the standing crops in the villages. Mr. A.W. Cook, District Magistrate, on receiving the report of the disaster has already sent Rs 500 to alleviate the distress of the sufferers and is taking all necessary measures to avoid further trouble. As a result of heavy rain since Sunday, the Cossy river passing by Midnapore town is flooded.

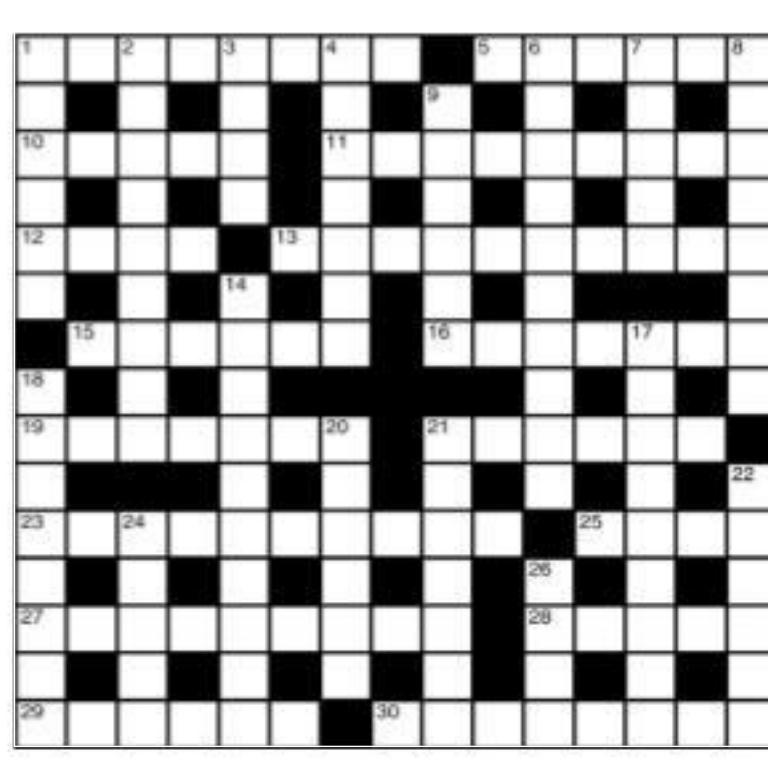
STRIKE AT GOVERNMENT PRESSES

Up to yesterday the men who do ticka work at the Government Printing Presses at Hastings Street and Dhurrumtollah had not resumed. In the morning the strikers held a meeting at College Square, where it was resolved not to return to work, unless the conditions from their point of view offered were more satisfactory. Yesterday about four European sergeants and twenty constables guarded the Press building at Hastings Street and a similar number of policemen were stationed near the Dhurrumtollah Press buildings, while six European sergeants and forty constables were kept ready at the Lall Bazar Police Headquarters, with the motor prison van standing by to convey them promptly in case of any emergency. There was no disturbance at either of the Press establishments.

INDIAN PORTS

The Government of India contemplate undertaking legislation relating to ports next autumn. A Bill to transfer Chittagong port to the Government of India is practically ready, and details have been already settled. A Bill to control Vizagapatam harbour will be ready soon. Ports and port developments will be Government of India subjects under the Reforms scheme and these two Bills will enable the Railway Board to take over and develop Vizagapatam and Chittagong. When full effect is given to the Reforms it may be found necessary to create a portfolio for communications and transportation, including ports, and a distinct portfolio will stimulate expansion of communications and transport facilities.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

POSTPONED	SPORT
TO APE	PSH
ROAST	COMFORTER
TIPPEO	OEA
RED POLL	TURMOIL
ALIULI	PL
INVERTED	COMMAS
TIR	ATC
HOLLIER	THANTHOU
SLIPUPS	AMITABLE
RNTKRNRR	
ABITTTHICK	ERATO
ESEEESVVO	
LATER	RENASCENT

ACROSS

- 1 Winter party cocktail? (8)
- 5 Artist penning book with ends of crayons (6)
- 10 Pub dashed would-be healthier claim (5)
- 11 Mixing hot treacle endlessly makes pudding (9)
- 12 Paradise in secluded England (4)
- 13 Blokes' joint creates camaraderie (10)
- 15 Fixed enclosure containing fish (6)
- 16 Rent fuss causes violent storm (7)
- 19 From beginning to end, pesticide hurts fruit (7)
- 21 Roman leader's vehicle circumvents sinister-looking marine (6)
- 23 Can reset by scrambling controls electronically (10)

DOWN

- 25 Old president pursues black cutie (4)
- 27 Spooner's parrot cuts back sticky treats (9)
- 28 Host read out his letters (5)
- 29 Allegedly eliminate means of present transportation? (6)
- 30 Refusal abroad to accept a European emperor (8)
- 1 Argentine fossil vertebrae exhibits (6)
- 2 Her actors restrained as musicians (9)
- 3 Wolf down starters of beef or lamb tikka (4)
- 4 Wary about companion's carnality (7)
- 6 Tube employee who operates from home (10)
- 7 Aggressively masculine yet essentially fetching (5)

- 8 Hogs peed all over farmer's best friend (8)
- 9 Dose of Aspirin, for example, efficient in races (6)
- 14 Socialist woman's circle that is misleading (3,7)
- 17 Landslide victory gained by one in a Chanel ensemble (9)
- 18 Spots the French going after their neighbour's charcuterie (8)
- 20 Performance about publicity trail (6)
- 21 Clinton's issue with part of London (7)
- 22 Academic head maintains setter's lower status (6)
- 24 Beauty may have appeal over the phone (5)
- 26 Bring up forecast for fantastic captain (4)

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



Banks are not risk averse but they are being prudent in these trying times

RAJNISH KUMAR
SBI CHAIRMAN

THUMBNAILS

RCap asset monetisation: Anil Ambani-led Reliance Capital, which recently defaulted on repayments to its debenture holders and other creditors, has begun the process for monetisation of its assets, market sources said. Reliance Capital has begun the process for its asset monetisation and expression of interest (EOI) by the trustee ~ Visitra ~ will be issued this week, they said.

Samsung price cut: In a move to boost sales ahead of the festive season, electronics major Samsung has announced a reduction in prices of its Galaxy A & Galaxy M series smartphones. The price cut ranges from Rs 500 to Rs 1500 depending upon the model, according to a statement issued by the company.

SBI cash chase: State Bank of India, in a regulatory filing on Monday, said it has raised Rs 7,000 crore by issuing Basel III compliant bonds.



Sensex dips 812 pts on global sell-off

Sell-off was triggered by resurgence of coronavirus cases in Europe which stoked fears of another round of lockdowns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 21 SEPTEMBER

The Sensex dived 812 points while the Nifty closed below the 11,300 mark today, in tandem with a global sell-off after a resurgence of coronavirus cases in Europe stoked fears of another round of lockdowns.

Denmark, Greece and Spain have imposed fresh restrictions on activities to tackle a surge in Covid-19 infections. Britain too is considering a second nation-wide lockdown, prompting investors in Europe to offload travel, consumption and banking stocks.

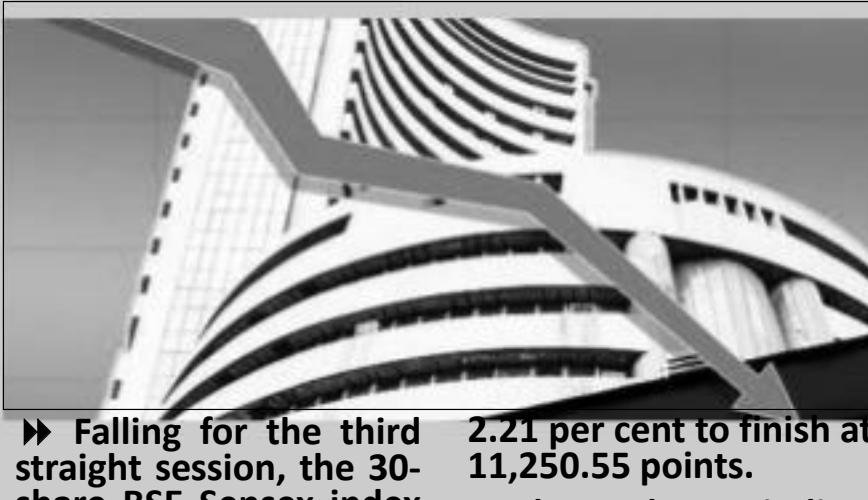
Falling for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex index ended 811.68 points or 2.09 per cent lower at 38,034.14 points.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty tumbled 254.40 points or 2.21 per cent to finish at 11,250.55 points.

IndusInd Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, tanking 8.67 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki, Axis Bank and Bajaj Finance.

Only three index components ended in the green ~

MONDAY MAYHEM



► Falling for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex index ended 811.68 points or 2.09 per cent lower at 38,034.14 points.

► Similarly, the NSE Nifty tumbled 254.40 points or

Kotak Bank, Infosys and TCS, rising up to 0.86 per cent.

The market capitalisation of all BSE-listed companies fell to Rs 1,54,76,979.16 crore, wiping off Rs 4.23 lakh crore of investor wealth.

Indian benchmark indices succumbed to profit booking in the second half of the trading day and ended more than 2 per cent down. It was in sync with global cues which turned negative following a surge in infections in various countries,

including in Europe.

Additional restrictions were being considered in Europe following an increase in infections. With high valuations and worries that earnings may not justify such valuations, anything soon, markets may trade uncertain for the time being. Stay cautious," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

All sectoral indices ended in the red, with BSE telecom, realty, metal, auto, healthcare and

basic materials cracking up to 5.77 per cent.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices crashed as much as 3.61 per cent.

In rest of Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul ended significantly lower.

Stock exchanges in Europe witnessed heavy sell-off in opening trade, declining up to 3 per cent.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 2.04 per cent lower at \$42.27 per barrel.

In the forex market, the rupee strengthened 7 paise and closed at 73.38 against the US dollar. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.43 against the US dollar, and finally settled for the day at 73.38 against the greenback, registering a rise of 7 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee had settled at 73.45 against the US dollar. During the session, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 73.26 and a low of 73.50 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.29 per cent to 93.19.

Route Mobile makes dream debut on SEs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 21 SEPTEMBER

Shares of Route Mobile Ltd on Monday made a stellar stock market debut as they jumped 86 per cent at close of trade against its issue price of Rs 350.

Challenging the verdict, Lodha claimed that the estate is conclusively defined by the inventory of assets unanimously prepared by joint administrators and produced in court in 2013.

He claimed that based on that definition, the estate is a minority shareholder, even after considering its indirect holding through investment companies, in all four manufacturing firms within the larger promoter group.

The appeal said that Friday's verdict sees Priyamvada Devi, the deceased wife of MP Birla, as a "single individual promoter," which Lodha claimed is absurd. The appeal is likely to be heard by a Division Bench of the high court later this week.

Birla case:
Lodha appeals
against high
court order

KOLKATA, 21 SEPTEMBER

Harsh Vardhan Lodha today filed an appeal before a Division Bench of Calcutta High Court challenging a Single Bench order that restrained him from holding any office in any of the entities of M P Birla Group during pendency of a suit over succession of the M P Birla Estate.

Challenging the verdict, Lodha claimed that the estate is conclusively defined by the inventory of assets unanimously prepared by joint administrators and produced in court in 2013.

He claimed that based on that definition, the estate is a minority shareholder, even after considering its indirect holding through investment companies, in all four manufacturing firms within the larger promoter group.

The appeal said that Friday's verdict sees Priyamvada Devi, the deceased wife of MP Birla, as a "single individual promoter," which Lodha claimed is absurd. The appeal is likely to be heard by a Division Bench of the high court later this week.

Privatise select PSBs, dilute role of DFS: Rajan to govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 21 SEPTEMBER

Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan today suggested the government to privatise select public sector banks (PSBs), set up a bad bank to deal with NPA's and dilute the role of department of financial services (DFS).

The reforms are necessary to ensure growth of the banking system without the periodic boom-bust cycles, said a paper titled "Indian Banks: A Time to Reform?" co-authored by Rajan and former Reserve Bank deputy governor Viral Acharya.

"Re-privatisation of select PSBs can then be undertaken as part of a carefully calibrated strategy, bringing in private investors who have both financial expertise as well as technological expertise; corporate houses must be kept from acquiring significant stakes, given their natural conflicts of interest," the paper noted.

According to the paper, private asset management and national asset management "bad banks" should be encouraged in parallel to the online platform for distressed loan sales.

The national public sector "bad bank" could serve as a vehicle to aggregate

ment obtains enormous power from directing bank lending, it said sometimes this power is exercised to advance public goals such as financial inclusion or infrastructure finance, sometimes it is used to offer patronage to, or exercise control over industrialists.

"Winding down department of financial services in the ministry of finance is essential, both as an affirmative signal of the intent to grant bank boards and management independence and as a commitment not to engage in 'mission creep' when compulsions arise to use banks for serving costly social or political objectives," the paper said.

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loans, create management teams for distressed firms, and possibly buy and hold distressed assets in a sector like power till demand returns.

"It could provide fall-back prices for loans sold by PSBs," the paper suggested.

It also argued that state-linked banks can be a first step in altering the ownership structure of some public sector banks (PSBs), where the government brings down its stakes to below 50 per cent, creating distance from operations of banks, and improv-

ing governance along the way.

"Apart from regulatory and market reforms, we propose reforms to bank governance and ownership, especially for public sector banks. With the current enormous strains on government finances, there may be a window of opportunity in which these reforms may be possible since the status quo is untenable," the paper said.

On dealing with bad loans, the paper said out-of-court restructuring frameworks

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can be designed for time-bound negotiations between creditors of a stressed firm, failing which the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) filing should apply.

The two need to work in tandem as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Court's (IBC) procedural threat serves as the fall-back, facilitating meaningful negotiation out of court, it added. On bank licencing norms, the paper pitched for on-tap licencing of banks to be kept open at all time.

"On-tap licensing for banks can be kept open at all times with an annual invitation for applications to create more vibrant banking with entry of better players, especially allowing high-performing micro-credit institutions to become small finance banks, and similarly, high-performing small finance banks to become universal banks."

"Conversely, poorly performing universal banks can be relegated to small finance bank status," it suggested.

The paper also stressed on the need of allowing PSBs to recruit laterally while retaining the talent they have.

"Incentive structures for management need to be strengthened with longer terms for senior management, better assessment of performance, performance-based promotions and extensions, as well as some reliance on lateral hiring, which would also bring in state-of-the-art banking ideas and practices," it said.

Plastics Export Promotion Council launches trading app

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 21 SEPTEMBER

provides information on export schemes, governmental trade notifications, events and exhibitions for exporters.

"This is an ideal time for Plexcouncil to launch the app considering that every exporter is looking for new business development opportunities in the post-Covid-19 scenario and geopolitical shifts in global trade dynamics," said Plexcouncil chairman Ravish Kamath.

The new app is part of Plexcouncil's intention to increase India's share in the global plastics export market.

India's plastic industry exports to more than 150 countries. The European Union, United States, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Turkey are among the major trading partners.

Cumulative value of plastics export during April-June 2020 was \$2.21 billion. Plexcouncil reported double-digit growth in cordage, fishnets and polyester films, despite the economic slowdown.

PUBLIC SECTOR ROUNDUP

Tuticorin airport on expansion spree

In order to cater to the rising passenger traffic and the demand for better services, AAI's Tuticorin airport is undergoing major up-gradation in phases with the cost of Rs 381 crore. The master project includes widening extension and strengthening work of existing runway and associated infrastructure.

The construction of the new domestic terminal building is also planned, spreading over an area of 13,530 sqm. The new terminal building will be able to handle 600 passengers during peak hours.

The terminal building will be equipped with all the modern facilities and passenger amenities with the provision of two aerobridges and 500 car parking facilities along with 100 taxi parking and 5 bus/coach parking. The building will be designed aesthetically appealing with sooth-

ing interiors matching the modern elements of architecture.

The new domestic terminal building at Tuticorin airport will be designed with a four-star rating under GRIHA with environmentally sustainable features. Along with the domestic terminal building, construction of new ATC tower-cum-technical block, fire station, isolation bay, aprons and five aircraft parking bays to park A-320 type of aircraft is also part of the project.

There is a demand for expansion of the airport as it is the only airport located beyond Madurai in southern Tamil Nadu region for improvement of trade, tourism and domestic travel in Tuticorin and neighbouring Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari districts. The project for up-gradation and expansion of the airport is likely to be operationalised by March 2023.

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In order to strengthen the security system and enhance passenger convenience, a new In-Line Baggage Screening System (ILBS) was inaugurated on 20 September, at AAI's Srinagar International Airport. B V R Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir inaugurated the new facility in presence of Santosh Dhone, Airport director Srinagar International airport, District Authorities and other officials were also present.

ILBS with CTX 9800 DSL (computed tomography)

scanners has been com-

misioned the cost of Rs

12.67 crore. This In-Line hold

baggage system (HBS) is

integrated with airport Bag-

gage Handling System (BHS)

to provide a complete hold

baggage processing and

screening system.

The existing registered X-

ray machines installed at

check-in area to screen reg-

istered baggage before drop-

ing at the check-in coun-

ters, resulting in faster pas-

senger processing, mini-

imum queuing time, and

less congestion at check-in

area.

Srinagar airport gets new in-line baggage screening system

ing peak hours. Keeping in view the security, multi-level CT-EDS based in-line detection system is installed at Srinagar Airport.

Now, passengers will not be required to scan their registered baggage before dropping at the check-in counters, resulting in faster passenger processing, minimum queuing time, and less congestion at check-in area.

The advanced screening system also includes an explosive detection system which can scan baggage 360° and create CT-Slice with 3D image to detect explosive material in bag-

gage.

Garg has a vast experience of 27 years and has served with distinction in various capacities in Indian Railways as well as DMRC.

Garg received the 'Project Leader of the Year' award in 2019 from Project Management Association, India for the efficient completion of the Noida-Greater Noida Metro line.

N Rly GM holds performance review meet

Rajiv Chaudhry, General Manager, Northern & North Central held a review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway through video conference.

Deliberations were held on keeping focus on safety on tracks, enhancement of speed, Business Development Units (BDU) and freight loading.

Focus on safety on tracks, mobility enhancement work, 160 kmph speed enhancement, Business Development Units (BDU) and Freight loading

ment Units (BDU) and freight loading. He said that, safety is the prime focus

over Northern Railway. He reviewed the work done over the zone in improving the maintenance standard

There is still a broad agreement among the international community that the JCPOA should be preserved...



HEAD OF IRAN'S NUCLEAR AGENCY ALI AKBAR SALEHI
AT A CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

The Statesman

NEW DELHI TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

09

Opposition parties in Pak launch alliance to oust PM Imran Khan

A resolution was adopted by APC alleges Khan govt has been granted 'fake stability by same establishment'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 21 SEPTEMBER

Demanding Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's immediate resignation, the country's major Opposition parties have launched an alliance to hold a countrywide protest movement to oust his government.

A 26-point joint resolution was adopted on Sunday by the All Parties Conference (APC), which was hosted by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and attended by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) and several other parties.

At a joint press conference after the end of the multi-party meeting, JUI-F chief Mufti Muzaffar Rehman read out the resolution and said that the Opposition parties have agreed to launch an

alliance named Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to organise countrywide protests against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government from October.

The resolution alleged that the Khan government has been granted "fake stability by the same establishment" that interfered with the elections to bring the incumbent rulers to power.

In an obvious reference to the powerful Pakistan Army, the resolution expressed "extreme concern" over the increasing interference of the establishment in the internal affairs of the country and regarded it as a "danger to the nation's stability and institutions".

According to the resolution, the protests would start in phases. In the first phase, the Opposition parties will hold joint rallies in all four provinces in October. The second phase



will begin in December during which the Opposition will hold huge rallies across the country.

Finally, a "decisive" long march towards Islamabad would start in January next year to oust the government.

The forum also demanded that elections be held again in a transparent manner and that electoral reforms should be passed in order to ensure free and fair polls.

Terming the Parliament a "rubber stamp", the PDM declared that the opposition will not cooperate with the government in the legislative

process.

The Opposition will also enlist lawyers, traders, farmers, students, media as well as members of the civil society in its movement. In order to oust the government, opposition parties will use "every legal and constitutional option in and out of parliament, which include moving no-confidence motions and collective resignations from assemblies at an appropriate time," the resolution stated.

The joint resolution, JUI-F chief Rehman said, has also rejected any attempt to introduce a presidential form of government in the country and pledged to strengthen the parliamentary system of the country.

Earlier, addressing the multi-party conference through a video link from London, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif said the struggle of the Opposition

parties was not against Khan but against those who brought an "inefficient" man to power.

The 70-year-old PML-N supremo has been living in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treatment.

On Friday, PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talked to him over phone and invited him to virtually attend the conference.

Sharif staged a political comeback by criticising the country's powerful military establishment for allegedly supporting Khan.

"Our struggle is not against Imran Khan. Today, our struggle is against those who installed Imran Khan and who manipulated elections (of 2018) to bring an inefficient man like him into power and thus destroyed the country, he said.

LONE RIDER



A Syrian man rides a motorcycle past a US military vehicle patrolling the town of Tal Tamr, in Syria's northeastern Hasakeh province, on Monday. AFP

Judge agrees to delay US government restrictions on WeChat

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, 21 SEPTEMBER

A judge has approved a request from a group of U.S. WeChat users to delay looming federal government restrictions that could effectively make the popular app nearly impossible to use.

In a ruling dated Saturday, Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler in California said the government's actions would affect users' First Amendment rights, as an effective ban on the app would remove their platform for communication.

WeChat is a messaging-

focused app popular with many Chinese-speaking Americans that serves as a lifeline to friends, family, customers and business contacts in China. It's owned by Chinese tech giant Tencent.

The group of WeChat users requested an injunction after the U.S. Commerce Department said Friday it would bar WeChat from U.S. app stores and keep it from accessing essential internet services in the country beginning Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

Early on Monday, WeChat was still available for download at Apple and Android app

stores.

The Trump administration has targeted WeChat and another Chinese-owned app, TikTok, for national security and data privacy concerns, in the latest flashpoint amid rising tensions between Washington and Beijing. The administration contends that the data of U.S. users collected by the two apps could be shared with the Chinese government.

On Saturday, President Donald Trump said he supported a proposed deal that would have TikTok partner with Oracle and Wal-Mart to

form a U.S. company. There is still a chance that TikTok could be banned in the U.S. as of Nov. 12 if the deal isn't completed, under the restrictions put in place by the Commerce Department.

However, a restriction to bar TikTok from app stores in the U.S., similar to what WeChat faced, was pushed back a week to Sept. 27 after Trump backed the latest TikTok deal.

On Sunday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Fox News that the government will ensure that under the TikTok-Oracle-Wal-Mart deal, no American's data would end up in

the possession of the Chinese government. Trump reiterated on a TV show on Monday that he could still withdraw his approval if the deal didn't satisfy his concerns about security and who controls TikTok, which is currently owned by Chinese company ByteDance.

"There can be zero security risks," he told "Fox & Friends." In the WeChat case, the users argued that the moves targeting the all-in-one app with instant-messaging, social media and other communication tools would restrict free speech.

Singapore develops robot for Covid-19 swab tests

SINGAPORE, 21 SEPTEMBER

Singapore has developed a robot that carries out nasal swabbing to diagnose Covid-19, in a bid to reduce healthcare workers' risk of exposure to the deadly coronavirus.

Clinicians from the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) and Singapore General Hospital (SGH) have partnered with Biobot Surgical, a firm specialising in medical robotics technology, to develop the SwabBot, Channel NewsAsia reported.

The self-administered robot, that automates the taking of Covid-19 swab tests, will help reduce healthcare workers' risk of exposure to the coronavirus, it said.

The robot helps address the limitations of manual Covid-19 swab tests by reducing the need for trained manpower, standardising the consistency of the swabs taken and "providing greater throughput" of swab tests as the robot does not suffer from fatigue, the three groups said in a statement.

The SwabBot is a self-administered robot, patients can activate and terminate the process at will. When a patient is ready, they can use their chin to activate the robot and start the swabbing process.

The robot then extends the swab through the nose to the back of the nasal cavity. PTI

Plaque symbolising Thai democracy removed from royal field in less than a day

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BANGKOK, 21 SEPTEMBER



A plaque honouring struggles for democracy in Thailand was removed from a royal field less than 24 hours after being installed by anti-government protesters and was submitted as evidence in connection with a complaint by officials that its installation was illegal, police said on Monday.

The plaque had been installed Sunday at Sanam Luang, the historic field in the capital where tens of thousands of people rallied peacefully over the weekend. The two-day demonstration was the largest this year by protesters who are calling for new elections and reform of the monarchy.

An officer at a nearby police station said the government's Fine Arts Department and the Bangkok city government filed a complaint that protesters had destroyed an archaeological site and handed the plaque over to us to be used as evidence. "They are the responsible agencies over the

area, as it is a public area registered as an archaeological site, said the officer, police Supt. Worasak Pitsitbannakorn.

"They reported the damage to us and we will have to determine which laws have been violated." He said that the two agencies were responsible for removing the plaque, but that police were present as witnesses for legal reasons. Sanam Luang is a designated royal site near Bangkok's Grand Palace that until the last few years had

been open to everyone. The plaque was installed in a part of the dirt field that was cemented over several years ago. That plaque was a symbolic replacement for one mysteriously ripped out from the pavement and taken away three years ago. That plaque, located at a plaza in another part of Bangkok's old centre, honoured the 1932 revolution that saw the military force a change from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy. It was replaced by a plaque praising the monarchy. The new round brass plaque was installed Sunday by activists who made a hole in the Sanam Luang pavement and held a short religious ceremony.

"At the dawn of September 20, here is where the people proclaim that this country belongs to the people, read part of the inscription. Student protest leader Parit Penguin Chiwarak, who was among those who installed the new plaque, said that its removal did not matter.

South China Sea Watch: Taiwan alarm and Indonesia standoff

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, 21 SEPTEMBER

China to the west and Taiwan to the east.

CHINA COAST GUARD LEAVES INDONESIA WATERS

An Indonesian patrol ship confronted a Chinese coast guard vessel that spent almost three days in waters where Indonesia claims economic rights and are near the southernmost part of China's disputed South China Sea claims.

We asked them to move out as it was Indonesia's EEZ. But they insisted that it is China's nine-dash-line territory. Our officers at the vessel argued with them until they moved out, said Aan Kurnia, chief of the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency. The Chinese coast guard vessel finally left the North Natuna Sea on Monday at 11:20 am, he said.

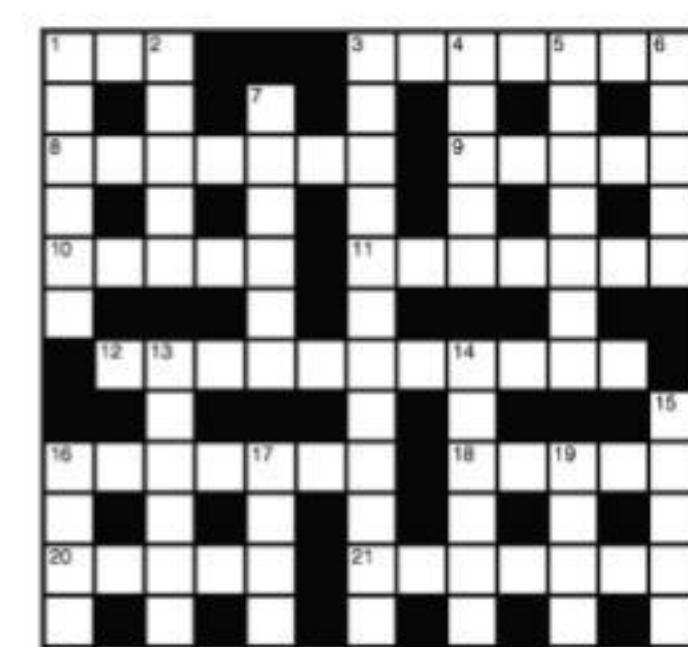
US OFFICIAL: CHINA INSINCERELY TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA

A US official accused China last week of bullying and insincerity in its dealings with Southeast Asian nations.

US Assistant Secretary of State David Stilwell said Tuesday that Chinese insincerity is best illustrated in its aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea, where it has turned disputed reefs into weaponised artificial island outposts despite a commitment not to militarise the region.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Beam of light (3)	1 Revote (6)
3 Marked by damage (7)	2 Offspring (5)
8 Drop (7)	3 Well placed (Informal)
9 Edible mollusc (5)	4 Superficial (5)
10 Quarrel (5)	5 Love affair (7)
11 Childhood (7)	6 Match between local
12 Vegetable seller (11)	7 Hind (6)
16 To that place (7)	13 Rootstock (7)
17 Presage (5)	14 Citrus fruit (6)
20 Decorate (5)	15 Playful (6)
21 Female big cat (7)	16 Amphibians (5)
22 Stipulate (7)	17 Vietnamese capital (5)
23 Month (3)	19 Shine brightly (5)

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800125151

23864470

U.P. Railways 23868709

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 08001801407

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513125, Call Center 09910383338, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 23466262 (City)

25652294 (Airport)

Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23453473

FLIGHT INQUIRY

AIR CANADA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 415281407

25656421/25656431 Reservation

415281407

AIR FRANCE Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

25652294 (Airport)

Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23453473

SCRABBLE BRAND

port 011-25671580; Terminal I

B 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838

JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111

EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 3373377

QATAR AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 0505000000

QATAR AIRWAYS Flight



Lebanon should not face a Cabinet formation crisis because the challenges faced by Lebanon do not allow for wasting a single minute...

LEBANON'S PRESIDENT MICHEL AOUN

WARNING OF 'HELL' IF NO NEW GOVT IS FORMED

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	30	26 R
HONG KONG	31	28 H
TOKYO	25	20 S
LONDON	26	15 H
DUBAI	39	27 S
SAN FRANCISCO	21	14 H
NEW YORK	24	16 S
MOSCOW	21	9 H

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

THUMBNAILS



A Medical Resident holds a placard during a protest against their working conditions in front of the regional health department in Barcelona, on Monday.

AP

Yoshihide dials Trump: Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held his first talks with US President Donald Trump since he took office, a diplomatic phone call that was one of his first as the country's leader and one that highlights the close tie between the two allies. AP

Child sex case: An Israeli court on Monday approved the extradition of a former teacher wanted in Australia on charges of child sex abuse, paving the way for her to stand trial after a six-year legal battle. Malka Leifer, a former educator who is accused of sexually abusing several former students, has been fighting extradition from Israel since 2014. AP

Mountaineer passes away: Ang Rita Sherpa, the legendary Nepalese mountaineer who scaled the world's highest mountain peak, Mt Everest, 10 times without bottled oxygen, died in Kathmandu on Monday at the age of 72, the country's Mountaineering Association said. PTI

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location	Provision of 04 Nos LED Screens (Kiosk) and 01 LED TV to display of meeting schedule at Conference Hall, Committee Room, Disaster management Room, Entry Gate no 2 & 4 in Rail Bhawan.
App. Cost of the work (?)	₹ 7,57,297.10/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (?)	₹ 15,200/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexure-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender	Tender uploading/closing date & time - 14.10.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website & particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi- 110055.
Tender No: 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-921 Date: 21.09.2020	2049/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders on PWD form 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Theog Division, H.P.P.W.D., Theog on behalf of the Governor of HP for the following works from the eligible contractors enlisted in H.P.P.W.D. (B&R) whose registration stood renewed as per revised rules and also registered under the H.P. General Sales Tax Act, 1968 so as to reach in this office on or before 19/10/2020 up to 11:00 A.M. and the same shall be opened on the same day at 11:30 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representative who may like to be present. The tender documents can be had from this office against cash payment (Non-refundable) on 17/10/2020 up to 4:00 P.M. and the application for issue of tender form shall be received on 16/10/2020 up to 4:00 P.M.

The amount of earnest money in the shape of NSCs/FDR deposit at call of any of the Post Office/ Bank duly pledged in favour of XEN HPPWD, Theog must be accompanied with the application for tender documents. Please note no exemption orders of earnest money will be entertained. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money as mentioned above will similarly be rejected. The offer of the tenders shall be kept open for 90 days. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject any tender of tenders without assigning any reasons. If it happens to be a holiday on the day of opening of tenders the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

- | Sr. No | Name of work | Name of Divn. | Estimated cost (Rs.) | Earnest money (Rs.) | Cost of form (Rs.) | Time allowed for completion |
|--------|--|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Improvement of Black spot on Lafughati to Patial road km. 0/0 to 10/0 (SH:- Providing and fixing crash barrier from km. 3/465 to 5/95) | Theog | 4,90,058 | 10,000 | 350 | Two months |
- (1) The contractors are required to produce a copy of their PAN No/Sale tax No. with sales tax clearance Certificate and should produce a copy of enlistment /renewal letter.
 (2) Special care should be taken to write the rates both in figures and in words failing which tender is likely to be rejected.
 (3) The contractor will have to submit the proof of registration Under Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provision Act 1952 (EPF number) within a month from award of work/contract. Failure to observe this condition shall render the tender of contractor liable to summary rejection.
 (4) The bidder are advised to quote rates inclusive of G.S.T. as applicable notified vide Additional Chief Secretary (PWD) to the Govt. of H.P. letter No. PBW(B)C/17/2012 dated 07/08/2018. G.S.T. shall not be paid extra.
 (5) The contractor will give affidavit duly attested from the competent authority that he has not more than two works in hand for execution failing which the application shall be rejected.
 (6) The contractors whose rates are abnormally low may be asked to furnish the full justification of his rates failing which he will be debarred to complete in tendering for three months.
 (7) The provision of notification issued vide Addl. Chief Secretary (PWD) to the govt. of H.P. Notification No.PBW(B)22/1/2002 dated 26/5/2015 shall also be applicable.

Executive Engineer,
Theog Division, B&R,
H.P.P.W.D., Theog
On Behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

3181/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

Lebanon should not face a Cabinet formation crisis because the challenges faced by Lebanon do not allow for wasting a single minute...

The United Nations marked its actual 75th anniversary

the signing of the U.N. Charter in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 by delegates from about 50 countries - on that date this year at an event scaled down because of the coronavirus pandemic

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Key to understanding concepts

Students who study in their mother tongue not only find it easier to learn and retain information for longer periods but also relate to them in real life



NEELIMA KAMRAH

The National Education Policy move to introduce teaching and learning in the mother tongue is a particularly bold move. The prelude of the mother tongue will encourage a child to go to school with enthusiasm. The mother tongue is not just a language but a sense of belonging and valuing it can aid in fostering respect for one's heritage. The NEP's move will definitely help to bring back the emphasis and importance of our Indian languages and perhaps, also help to de-emphasise the importance of English. Being bilingual will also open up social and cultural opportunities for students and help one develop new perspectives.

NEP 2020 is exactly on the lines of basic education by Mahatma Gandhi. According to him, school must be an extension of home. There must be concordance between the impressions which a child gathers at home and at school, if the best results are to be obtained. Like we cannot play a veena without a plectrum or a drum without its sticks, similarly mother tongue is essential for a deeper understanding of concepts. The only way to achieve a natural flow of thoughts is through our mother tongue.

Gandhi said, "I must cling to my mother tongue as to my mother's breast, in spite of its shortcomings. It alone can give me the life-giving milk." (Harijan, 1946). Language holds the key to understanding and without it

any concept taught remains meaningless. One can master a concept only if one has a strong hold on the language it is presented in and there is no language more conducive than one's mother tongue for learning. It has been proven time and again through research that students who study in their mother tongue find it easier to learn the information presented, retain it for longer periods and find it easier to understand the concepts and relate them to real life. Quantitatively, studies also show that children who receive schooling in their mother-tongue from early grades have better learning outcomes overall and have significantly better literacy levels. Apart from academic benefits, learning in mother tongue has proven to

improve speaking skills and social skills which are key factors in creating well rounded citizens.

The proposed system provides a very promising prospect for our future education system and can revolutionise the teaching-learning process. However, there are few creases in the proposed plan, which can be ironed out by making certain changes in the system. If with careful planning this system is implemented successfully, I am certain it can make a positive impact in our current education system.

Strengthening foundation for learning

Home is the first school for any kid and children should be taught in their mother tongue. Beginning with mother

tongue at home and learning in foreign language in school slows down the learning process. Any foreign language can be easily learnt by a child even after class V because of brain plasticity. When the language of instruction is in the mother tongue, children can understand concepts faster and retain them for longer.

Engaging in classroom conversation

The use of mother tongue as a medium of instruction in classroom helps students to understand easily and connect with the classroom conversation. Learning in foreign language may lead to distraction among students. Due to the use of English language, many parents are not able to participate in their child's schooling. This will increase the rate of parental participation in child's schooling and will lead to strong home-school partnerships.

Increasing mental skills

Being bilingual enhances analytical skills; they have higher synaptic activity in the brain due to multiple languages, which shows higher mental flexibility and processing power. Learning in local language will boost self-confidence and will be able to express themselves in better ways.

Maintaining cultural heritage

India has different and beautiful languages which are unique in itself. The loss of our languages and dialects will be cultural loss not just to India but also to the world. Learning through mother language or local language helps children to connect with their ancestors in a way which others can't. Developed countries offer education in their native language, which helps in preserving and maintaining cultural heritage. Despite its various advantages, there are a few shortcomings to this approach. Firstly, this concept is hard to implement in metro cities where the students from multilingual backgrounds attend the same school hence, it is hard to enforce a language as the primary mode of teaching. Another downfall of this approach is that it does not consider the plight of children who need to transfer from one city to another. Children who transfer schools could face challenges adapting to a new language in their new schools.

The writer is principal, KIIIT world school

PLUS POINTS

Virtual convocation



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati will host its 22nd convocation virtually today, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the students as the chief guest. Ramesh Pokhrayal, education minister, government of India, and Sanjay Dhotre, minister of state for education, government of India, will be the guests of honour. Sarbananda Sonowal, chief minister of Assam will be the special guest. The institute has created a virtual reality-based award distribution where one can experience an avatar of the recipient of the award collecting a medal from directors own avatar surrogating him, from the comfort of their home. It has also created a photo-booth, with an option of different backgrounds, for students to take pictures at some selected locations on the campus.

The event will be Live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ros6o-VAPE> and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/itgwt/posts/351516218504302>

Imparting education



Aiming at reducing the skill gap in the industry, Intellipaat—an EdTech platform announced its tie-up with SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR), to help professionals' upskill themselves in the field of digital marketing.

The certification programme offered in collaboration with SPJIMR caters to the growing demand in the field of digital marketing. The tie-up aims at bringing high-quality learning to the masses, where the teaching panel includes faculty from SPJIMR and industry experts. All professionals enrolling in this course will receive a joint certificate. In this five-months programme, all learners will work on multiple business case studies, assignments, and capstone projects that will help them get real-life work exposure. For details visit: <https://intellipaat.com/certification-in-digital-marketing-spjimr/>

Bringing transformation



The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was launched in July 2020 after the Union cabinet approved it. It aims to overhaul the country's education system with several overdue changes.

A webinar organised by the Education Promotion Society for India (EPSI) invited directors of some business schools and management institutions of the country to deliberate on NEP and various associated aspects. Prominent speakers included Dr Bhimaraya Metri, chairman, Board of Management Studies, AICTE, Dr Debasish Chatterjee, director, IIM Kozhikode, Dr J Philip, founder and chairman, XIME Bangalore, Dr Jitendra K Das, director, FORE School of Management, New Delhi, and Shreevats Jaipuria, vice chairman, Jaipuria Institute of Management among others.

According to Dr Das, NEP 2020 is like a breath of fresh air and everyone should look at it positively, as a strategic roadmap or policy document.

Assessing aptitude

XLRI - Xavier School of Management recently announced the date for the upcoming Xavier Aptitude Test (XAT) 2021 to be held on 3 January 2021. The last date for application is 30 November 2020.

XAT 2021 will accept applications for XLRI Jamshedpur and XLRI I Delhi-NCR campus. A candidate can choose two preferred test cities for the test. More than 89 institutes are using the XAT score for their respective admission process. Candidates who are holding a bachelor's degree in any discipline and those appearing for their final examination in 2021 may also apply. NRI and foreign candidates may apply through their GMAT scores. For details visit: <https://xatonline.in/>

INTEGRAL PART OF TODAY'S EDUCATION

SOM SHARMA

In recent times where every sector is teeming with uncertainties, the job market has become quite competitive and difficult to crack for graduates. This is mainly because their degrees are limited to theoretical knowledge without much practical exposure. Employers today heavily believe on resumes that consists a relevant work history, whether that's in the form of internships, volunteer work, or actual job experience. Therefore attaining internship experience has become an integral part of education for all students.

Keeping in mind the recent scenario, opting for offline internships is not a feasible option. Therefore learning virtual is a new trend and best possible alternative available. Virtual international internships have widened the scope of learning as it ensures building up the career-relevant skills and getting internationally-recognised, fostering inter-cultural experience without even travelling or having a stiff nine to five schedule, among other things. Here are the five doors that virtual international internships have broadened:

*Learning has become affordable: Earlier undergoing international internships required a lot of travelling costs, accommodation costs, time and many other resources. However, to get exposure to international standards of learning today, all one needs is an internet connection. Remote working has eliminated all costs leading to an increase in efficiency as now one can sit at home and work according to one's standard time even with limited resources.

*Building certified global networks: Virtual internship magnifies the scope of learning as here one is sitting at one's home and gaining experience meeting worldwide standards. Interacting globally helps in making a network of like-minded co-interns, mentors and supervisors. Developing networks in a different country helps to create a community of international colleagues and professionals that one can reach out to anytime according to one's needs.

*Learning as per international standards: What can be a better option than staying at home, working at flexible hours and boosting up knowledge according to global standards? Virtual internships allow students to learn the latest and most effective market skills and techniques, which enhances personal training, resumes and adds more chances for students to attain jobs after completion of education.

*Helping in becoming tech-

Virtual internships of international standards have widened the scope of learning as it nurtures career-relevant skills while fostering inter-cultural experience

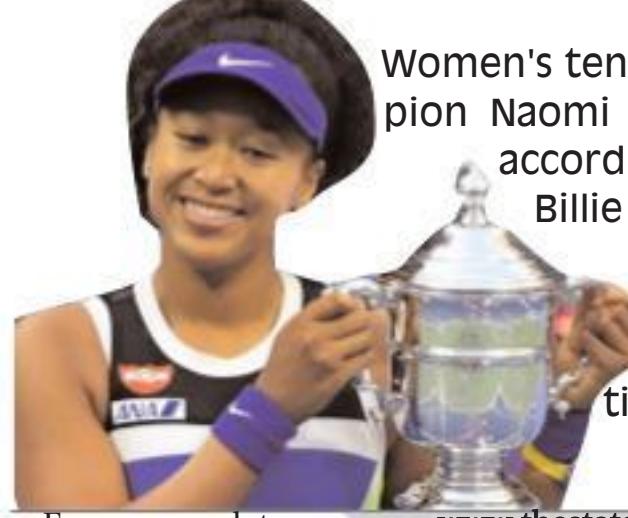


savvy: Unlike pre pandemic times, completing online internships are more about using technology and understanding communication platforms such as Zoom, Slack, Proofhub, Dropbox, Togl, Co-schedule and Google Apps that businesses are using to stay connected while not working in an office. By gaining digital advancement one will quickly be able to adapt to the same or similar platforms in one's future work environment.

*Boosting up one's resume: Working remotely helps in improvising management and self-discipline skills and most importantly adds on to the international work experience that has been attained over time. These internships help in making students more responsible as it teaches one to kick start one's own journey and take initiative, which is highly preferred by potential employers.

The writer is founder, Edu Brain Group

GREAT LEADER



Women's tennis is very fortunate to have US Open champion Naomi Osaka (**photo, left**) as its new figurehead, according to one of the sport's greatest trail-blazers, Billie Jean King. Not only did the 22-year-old Japanese player win a second title at Flushing Meadows but she also became a champion for equality, taking the lead in highlighting racial injustice.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Legal battle: Paralympian Arjuna Karmakar has moved Delhi High Court, challenging his three-year suspension. The plea seeks the setting aside of the suspension order by the disciplinary panel of the Paralympic Committee of India.

Madrid held: Real Madrid had an underwhelming return to La Liga as they could only draw 0-0 away to Real Sociedad on Sunday in the first game of their title defence. They looked rusty and particularly toothless up front, barely creating any chances of note.

Mbappe strikes: Kylian Mbappe marked his return to action with a vintage performance and a goal as champions Paris St Germain rediscovered their form with an impressive 3-0 win at Nice in Ligue 1 on Sunday. Mbappe fired PSG ahead with a 38th-minute penalty.

Good start: Andrea Pirlo got his coaching career off to a winning start as his Juventus side began their quest for a 10th successive Serie A title with a 3-0 win over Sampdoria on Sunday. Dejan Kulusevski, Leonardo Bonucci and Cristiano Ronaldo scored the goals.

Liverpool win: Champions Liverpool and Leicester City maintained their winning starts to the Premier League on Sunday. Sadio Mane scored twice to give Liverpool a 2-0 victory at Chelsea who played half the game with 10 men. Leicester beat Burnley 4-2.

Italian Open: Novak Djokovic advanced to the final of the Italian Open for the 10th time on Sunday with a straight sets win over Casper Ruud. The world number one came through 7-5, 6-3 to advance to the final of the clay-court tournament he has won four times.

Halep v Pliskova: Simona Halep beat Caroline Mugerza 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 on Sunday to reach the Italian Open final, on course for her third straight Title. The Romanian will next face Karolina Pliskova after the Czech beat compatriot Marta Vondrousova 6-2, 6-4.

Camp affected: Two of the 27 cricketers in a Bangladesh team skill camp have shown Covid-19 symptoms and they were isolated apart from those who were in close contact with them. The cricketers, coaches and officials underwent coronavirus tests this month.

Alex Marquez 7th: Consistent hard work from Alex Marquez and the Repsol Honda Team was rewarded as the rookie achieved his best MotoGP result to date. Crossing the line in 7th and 11.929 seconds back on winner Viñales, he rounded out a strong weekend.

US Open: Bryson DeChambeau has scored a six-shot US Open win. He began Sunday two shots behind Matthew Wolff but clinched his first major title with a mix of drives and clutch putts, shooting a flawless three-under-par 67 to reach six under.

Asian big-league game goes ahead with 15 Covid-19 patients

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

RIYADH, 21 SEPTEMBER



Asian champions Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia played Iran's Shahrood on Sunday despite 15 of their players testing positive for Covid-19, after Asia's football body refused to postpone the game.

The Saudi team said on Saturday they had "asked the Asian Football Confederation to postpone" the match in Qatar's Al Janoub stadium after tests showed that 10 players had "been infected with Covid-19," adding to five players who had already tested positive.

According to AFC rules, Al Hilal were able to play the match as 14 of their players were available, including two goalkeepers.

Since 13 September, Al Hilal had announced five cases of the disease among

their players, including captain Salman al-Faraj, who left quarantine on Sunday after testing negative for the disease for a second time.

Six members of the technical, medical and administrative staff also tested positive for the disease, the club

said on Sunday.

The Saudi team, mostly made up of reserves, held Shahrood to a 0-0 draw to qualify for the knockout stages despite missing French striker Bafetimbi Gomis and Italian midfielder Sebastian Giovinco, who had both tested

positive for the Covid-19 illness.

Al Hilal coach Razvan Lucescu had called up players from the Saudi champions' youth team as substitutes.

Al Hilal had scored a 2-0 win over their Iranian rivals when the teams met before the pandemic-enforced a seven-month break but struggled to make any headway in the reverse fixture at the Al Janoub Stadium.

Shahr Khodro, who have not won a single match and are also yet to score a goal in Group B, grabbed their first point with the draw while Al Hilal stayed top of the table with 11 points from five matches.

Mansour al-Bishi missed a sitter for Al Hilal, putting the ball over the net off a pass from Hatan Bahabri and the latter himself saw his shot

deflected away by Shahr Khodro goalkeeper Mohamed Kia later in the game.

The Al Hilal defence survived a major scare but Shahr Khodro failed to open their Champions League account with Farshad Faraji heading over the post following a corner.

Under its coronavirus rules, the AFC is able to reschedule matches in exceptional circumstances.

The club's manager Saud Kariri said in a video posted on social media that the outbreak within the team had started at a 7 September party to celebrate their victory in the Saudi league.

"The AFC isn't obliged to respect the title-holders, but should respect fair competition and guarantee equal opportunities for those taking part in the championship," he said.

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Afridi takes 4 wickets in 4 balls



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE LONDON, 21 SEPTEMBER

Pakistan fast bowler Shaheen Afridi (**in photo**) took four wickets in four balls to lead Hampshire to victory over Middlesex on Sunday in the Vitality Blast. Afridi finished the match with figures of 6/19, which was his best in T20 cricket and the best ever by any bowler in the shortest format for Hampshire.

Afridi started the 18th over of the match with the opposition needing 23 to win from 18 balls with four wickets in hand. His first two balls went for as many runs after which he bowled a series of yorkers, all of which hit the stumps behind the batsmen facing them. Afridi accounted for John Simpson, who was on 48, Steven Finn, Thilan Walawalkar and Tim Murtagh with consecutive deliveries to achieve the rare feat.

Interestingly, the pace-man had a below-par season thus far, having previously taken just one wicket and given away 111 runs.

Middlesex were chasing 142. They lost their wickets to Afridi on the home stretch of the chase and were eventually all out for 121 in the 20th over. This was Hampshire's first win of the season.

Royals underdogs against CSK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH, 21 SEPTEMBER



A depleted Rajasthan Royals have an onerous task of stopping the mighty Chennai Super Kings on a Sharjah wicket with no Ben Stokes in their line-up but skipper Steve Smith's availability after recovering from a concussion injury has lifted some gloom ahead of their IPL match on Tuesday.

Smith, who missed the ODI series against England, has undergone various concussion test protocols and is ready to tee off. He was hit on the head during a session prior to the first ODI in Manchester.

"Been in Dubai for a couple of days now with some good rest and then got into a bit of running. Yesterday, I did a bit of zig-zag running, which is part of the protocols to get back to play," Smith was quoted as saying in a press statement, issued by the franchise.

"And today I will have a hit in the nets. Hopefully, pull up well from the hit and be good to play tomorrow," the Australian said.

Coach Andrew McDonald also expressed his happiness at skipper's availability.

"Fantastic news that Steve is available. It's fantastic especially on the back of some set-backs back in the UK. It's obviously great to have your skipper available for the first game as I've said before we are in really good hands."

Stokes' father's illness has kept him out of action for some time now and his absence, certainly in the first half of the league, would disturb the balance of the Royals, perennial under-performers.

Apart from premier all-rounder Stokes, also absent from the first match will be Jos Buttler, their impact player at the top-order. The England batsman will be missing the first game as he arrived separately with his family and need to undergo mandatory 36-hour quarantine in Dubai.

Last edition's runner-up, CSK exacted revenge on defend-

ing champions Mumbai Indians, beating them by five wickets in the tournament opener here on Saturday.

Jofra Archer's presence will be important along with seasoned T20 stars like South African batsman David Miller, Australian pacer Andrew Tye and England all-rounder Tom Curran.

The Royals' main problem lies in their Indian core, which hasn't exactly been consistent. The likes of Sanju Samson, Robin Uthappa, Jaydev Unadkat and Varun Aaron have failed to live up to the expectations over the years.

Sharjah pitch will be a different challenge for the bowlers both in terms of surface as well as the size of the ground.

"The guys have been able to feel what it's like batting at the centre and have had plenty of fielding down there, so they are quite familiar with the stadium.

"Clearly a different surface to Dubai or Abu Dhabi in terms of runs and the size of the venue so it'll create some difficult challenges there for the bowling unit so no question there being a high-scoring ground," McDonald said.

CSK have once again shown how to work around with resources and Sam Curran coming good with an all-round show means that Dwayne Bravo would not be missed even if he misses a few more games due to injury.

Rayudu and Faf du Plessis perfectly maintained the CSK

"run-chase template" of attacking in the back 10 by preserving wickets.

The addition of Piyush Chawla, a very successful IPL bowler, is also a big plus.

However it needs to be seen

how Deepak Chahar is shaping up after sustaining a niggle in the final over of the MI innings. In case, Chahar can't make it, they have ready replacement in Shardul Thakur.

Match starts at 7.30 IST.

Devdutt Padikkal shines for RCB on IPL debut with half century



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 21 SEPTEMBER

Devdutt Padikkal (**in photo**) displayed his highly rated talent with a half-century on IPL debut before AB de Villiers provided the much-needed final flourish to take Royal Challengers Bangalore to 163 for five in their tournament opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Monday.

The class and calmness Padikkal (56 off 42, 8 fours) showed in his first high-profile game was remarkable,

so much so that Australian limited overs captain Aaron Finch (29 off 27) was happy to play second fiddle at the other end.

Sunrisers pulled things back in the middle overs following a 90-run opening stand between Padikkal and Finch. De Villiers (51 off 30) came up with crucial boundary hits towards the end to take the team score past 160.

The 20-year-old Padikkal, possessing a near perfect balance in the crease, played all around the ground, play-

ing the pull and aerial cover drive with equal confidence.

Padikkal got going with three boundaries in an over off left-arm pacer T Natarajan.

The left-handed opener brought up his half-century with a slog sweep over the fielder at deep square leg.

With the openers looking good, RCB cruised to 86 for no loss in 10 overs. However, both Padikkal and Finch fell off successive balls and that put the brakes on the scoring rate with RCB collecting only 30 runs from the

next five overs.

Skipper Virat Kohli departed after scoring 14 off 13, leaving de Villiers to provide the final flourish. The South African star delivered once again, smashing his 200th six for RCB in the process.

SCOREBOARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore Innings
D Padikkal b Shankar 56
A Finch lbw b Abhishek Sharma 29
V Kohli c Rashid Khan b Natarajan 14
AB de Villiers run out (Pandey/Bairstow) 7
S Duke run out (Bairstow) 7
J Philippe not out 1

Extras: 5 (lb 1, nb 2, w 2)
Total: 163 (5 wkt, 20 Overs)
Bowling: B Kumar 4-0-25-0, Sandeep Sharma 4-0-36-0, T Natarajan 4-0-34-1, M Marsh 0-6-0, V Shankar 1-2-0-14-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-31-0, Abhishek Sharma 2-0-16-1

Dhoni prefers players who are good in all departments: Chahar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

DUBAI, 21 SEPTEMBER

Chennai Super Kings paceman Deepak Chahar has revealed skipper MS Dhoni prefers players who can contribute in all departments, especially in the shortest format of the game. Chahar is one of the top performers of CSK with 22 wickets in 17 matches at an economy rate of 7.63.

CSK won their first IPL game, which was against Mumbai Indians, by five wickets as Chahar bagged two wickets.

"I think Dhoni prefers those who are good in all departments. He likes those who can contribute in terms of batting, bowling and fielding. A bowler

can have a bad day but he can change a match by grabbing a good catch or can win the match in a six or a four," Chahar told former India opener Akash Chopra on his show, *Aakash Vaani*.

"If you look at our team, we have many players who are good in every department. T20 is a format that requires you to do everything. There are a lot of teams in the IPL which have a strong batting line-up or a strong bowling attack but they remain dependent on a few cricketers. If they do well, they end up winning matches single-handedly but if they don't, the team struggles," Chahar said.

It was former India captain Dhoni who got Chahar into the

courage and asked Mahi bhai*** when he was sitting in a room. Hesaid, 'I groom players' and that's it. He didn't say anything else," Chahar added.

Jibe at umpire

Virender Sehwag criticised the umpiring in the Kings XI Punjab-Delhi Capitals game after Chris Jordan's run was adjudged incomplete despite replays showing the ball had crossed the line. After being pushed to the brink, Delhi Capitals held their nerve to edge out Kings XI Punjab in a heart-stopping super-over decider to open their IPL campaign on a positive note on Sunday.

After the 20-over-each-way

match tied at 157 runs, the super-over rule was enforced and in the pressure-cooker situation, Shreyas Iyer's Delhi team prevailed at Sharjah International Cricket Stadium.

During the 19th over of KXIP's innings, when Mayank Agarwal and Chris Jordan were batting, the square-leg umpire adjudged that a second run was not complete. Replays showed Jordan's bat had crossed the line.

"I don't agree with the Man-of-the-Match choice. The umpire who gave this short-run verdict should have been the Man of the Match. That wasn't a short run. And that was the difference," wrote Sehwag on his Twitter account.

tistician Rajneesh Gupta.

Interestingly, Kohli also occupies the second spot on this list. He has so far scored 130 off Chennai Super Kings' Dwayne Bravo, who has not been able to get the master batsman out even once in the world's most lucrative Twenty20 tournament. Before the start of the 13th edition of the IPL on Saturday in the United Arab Emirates, Ashwin bagged 125 wickets at 26.47 each in 139 matches. Mumbai India's hard-hitting batsman Kieron Pollard has so far conceded the most runs without ever getting out a particular batsman -- Kohli, in this instance -- according to sta-

tistics hitting the most sixes off a particular bowler. Before the start of the IPL on Saturday, Mishra had bowled 79 balls to the West Indian Pollard