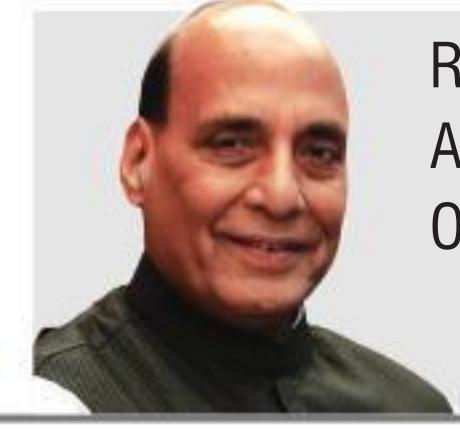




SIVASANKAR  
IN ED NET



P4

RAJNATH TELLS  
ARMY TO BE WARY  
OF CHINESE ACTIONS



P5

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION  
US VISION OF LANKA  
DIFFERENT FROM  
'PREDATOR' CHINA

P9

THE GOAL THAT  
WAS FOR THE  
SCRAPBOOK



P12

## WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 32 and 15 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 83% Min: 34%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 30.9°C (0) Min: 13.8°C (-2)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

06:32 hrs 17:39 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

16:43 hrs 05:11 hrs

## THUMBNAILS



AAP leaders protest against privatisation of sanitisation services by SDMC, at Gate No. 5 of Civic Centre, in the Capital on Wednesday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

**Delhi University VC suspended:** Vice-Chancellor of University of Delhi has been suspended on President Ram Nath Kovind's orders, the Union education ministry said on Wednesday, amid a major row over appointments that spawned an ugly power tussle. The education ministry had asked the President to allow an inquiry against Yogesh Tyagi after a dispute over appointments to the university last week. On Tuesday night, Kovind allowed inquiry against the VC accused of 'misconduct'. P4

**Delhi schools to remain closed till further orders:** All schools in Delhi will continue to be closed till further orders in view of the COVID-19 situation, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia announced on Wednesday. Parents are not in favour of reopening schools either. Sisodia said at an online press conference. The Delhi government had earlier announced that schools will remain closed till October 31. P2

## Parl panel seeks Twitter's explanation for showing Ladakh as part of China

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER

A parliamentary committee on Wednesday came down heavily on Twitter for showing Ladakh as part of China, saying it amounted to treason and an explanation must be tendered by the US-based parent of the social media platform in form of an affidavit, sources in the panel said.

Appearing before the joint committee of parliament on Data Protection Bill, chaired by BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi, representatives of Twitter India "begged apology", but they were told by the members that it was a criminal offence that questioned the sovereignty of the country and an affidavit must be submitted by Twitter Inc, not by its 'marketing arm' Twitter India, sources added.

They were questioned for more than two hours by the panel members, mainly on Ladakh being shown as part

of China on the Twitter app. "The committee was of the unanimous opinion that Twitter's explanation on showing Ladakh as part of China was inadequate," Lekhi told after the meeting.

The Twitter representatives told the panel that the social media company respects the sensitivities of India, she said.

"But, it is not only a question of the sensitivity of India or Indians. It is a question about national integrity and sovereignty of the country, and not respecting that is a criminal offence. And displaying Indian map improperly and incorrectly is an offence of treason and attracts imprisonment of seven years, she said."

Lekhi said Twitter was also asked about its banning policy.

"Shadow banning, banning policy there is no clarity about it. Such actions are very subjective... Twitter is

becoming a law onto themselves and under these circumstances, they are violating Article 19 of the Constitution about the freedom of expression," she said.

Sources said some members also raised questions about Twitter's transparency policy and its actions during elections, especially vis-a-vis their policies in other countries.

Asked for their comments, a Twitter spokesperson said in an emailed statement, "The recent geotagging issue was swiftly resolved by our teams. We are committed to openness, transparency around our work and will remain in regular touch with the Government to share timely updates."

Multiple sources in the panel said Twitter officials "begged apology" for Ladakh being shown as part of China on its app, but they were told by members that whatever they wanted to say on

the issue should be given in writing in form of an affidavit by Twitter Inc, the parent company of the social media platform.

They said Twitter India is "just a marketing arm" of US-based parent Twitter Inc, and therefore a written reply should come from them.

Twitter India, based in Singapore, mainly deals with advertisement revenues and takes all major decisions related to the region, some members opined.

Officials who deposed before the panel on behalf of Twitter India included Shagufta Kamran, senior manager, public policy; Ayushi Kapoor, legal counsel; Pallavi Walia, policy communications; and Manvinder Bali, corporate security.

Officials from the Ministry of Electronics, Information and Technology, and the Ministry of Law and Justice also deposed before the panel.

The Indian government on October 22 had warned Twitter about its location setting that showed Leh in China, saying any disrespect towards the country's sovereignty and integrity is totally unacceptable.

In a strongly-worded letter, Ajay Sawhney, Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), asked Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey to respect the country's sensitivities, sources in the ministry had said.

Twitter also came under heavy criticism and faced a backlash from social media users after its geotagging feature displayed "Jammu & Kashmir, the People's Republic of China" in a live broadcast from Leh's Hall of Fame, a war memorial for fallen soldiers in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

At that time, Twitter had called it a technical issue that had been swiftly resolved.

The new coronavirus cases reported in India in a span of 24 hours remained below 45,000, even as the total Covid-19 caseload inched closer to 80 lakh, the Union health ministry said on Wednesday.

The country's Covid-19 caseload mounted to 79,90,322 with 43,893 fresh cases being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,20,010 with 508 new fatalities, the ministry data updated at 8 am showed.

A total of 72,59,509 people have recuperated from Covid-19 so far, pushing the national recovery rate to 90.85 per cent, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.50 per cent. The active coronavirus infections cases remained below 7 lakh for six days in a row, it said.

There are 6,10,803 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country as on date, which comprises 7.64 per

cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

According to ICMR, a cumulative total of 10,54,87,680 samples have been tested up to 27 October, with 10,66,786 samples tested on Tuesday.

The 508 latest fatalities include 115 from Maharashtra, 44 each from Delhi and Karnataka, 36 from Uttar Pradesh and 27 from Tamil Nadu. A total 1,20,010 deaths reported so far in the coun-

Int'l flights suspended till 30 Nov: DGCA



NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER  
The suspension of scheduled international passenger flights has been extended till November 30 amid the coronavirus pandemic, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said on Wednesday.

"However, the international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case-to-case basis," the Indian aviation regulator said in a circular.

The scheduled international passenger services have been suspended in India since March 23 due to the coronavirus pandemic. But special international flights have been operating under the Vande Bharat Mission since May and under the bilateral 'air bubble' arrangements with selected countries since July.

India has formed air bubble pacts with around 18 countries, including the US, the UK, UAE, Kenya, Bhutan and France. Under an air bubble pact between two countries, special international flights can be operated by their airlines between their territories.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) circular also mentioned that the suspension does not affect the operation of international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by it.

The scheduled domestic passenger flights resumed in India on May 25 after a gap of two months amid the pandemic situation. PTI

## India's new Covid cases remain below 45k

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER

With 5,673 cases, Delhi scales new Corona peak

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER

The new coronavirus cases reported in India in a span of 24 hours remained below 45,000, even as the total Covid-19 caseload inched closer to 80 lakh, the Union health ministry said on Wednesday.

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try. The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

FACT FILE	
TOTAL CASES	79,90,322
ACTIVE CASES	6,10,803
NEW CASES	43,893
NEW RECOVERIES	58,439
TOTAL DEATHS	1,20,010

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8 A.M. WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2020

## NIA raids media house, NGOs in Srinagar in terror-funding case

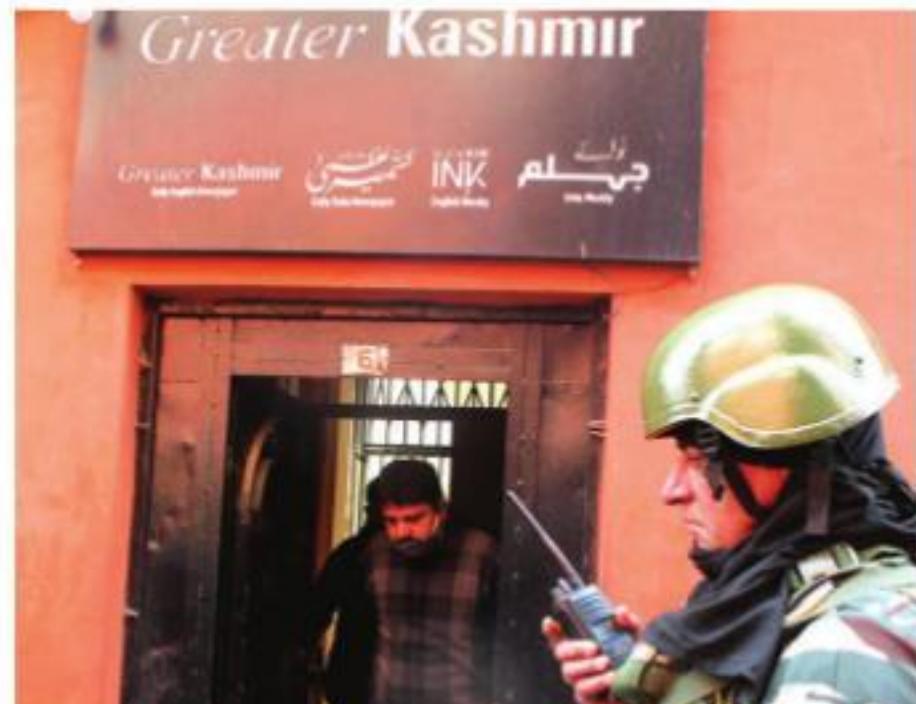
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 28 OCTOBER

In a major crackdown on alleged terror funding, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday raided media house and NGOs in Srinagar and seized "several incriminating documents and electronic devices".

NIA sleuths also raided the office of Kashmir's prominent Greater Kashmir daily in the press enclave on the Residency Road.

The NIA launched a major crackdown on terror funding this morning in Kashmir and conducted raids on NGOs and journalists across 10 locations in Kashmir and one at Bengaluru.

NIA, in a statement, said



the raids were in connection with a case pertaining to certain so-called NGOs and Trusts raising funds in India and abroad in the name of charitable activities and then using

those funds for carrying out secessionist and separatist activities in J&K.

This case was registered by NIA on 8/10/2020 u/s 120B, 124 A IPC and sections 17, 18, 22A, 22C, 38, 39 and 40 UA(P)A, 1967 on receipt of credible information that certain NGOs and Trusts are collecting funds domestically and abroad through so-called donations and business contributions etc. and are then utilizing these funds for secessionist and terrorist activities in J&K, the NIA said.

Those whose premises have been searched, include residence and office of Khurram Parvez (coordinator of J&K Coalition of Civil Society), his associates Parvez Ahmad Bukhari, Parvez Ahmad Matta and Bengaluru-based associate Swati Sheshadri; Ms. Parveena Ahanger, Chairperson of Association of Persons of Disappeared Persons (APDPK) and offices of NGO Athrouat and Greater Kashmir Trust.

The residence of Khurram Parvez, a key person running a NGO in Kashmir, was raided. NIA sleuths conducted raids at four different locations in Srinagar, including Sonwar, Nawa Kadal, Nehru Park and Pratap Park area.

Khurram Parvez was earlier detained for over two months in 2019 under the Public Safety Act (PSA). Greater Kashmir's editor Fayaz Ahmad Kaloo was last year questioned by the NIA.

Bukhari, Parvez Ahmad Matta and Bengaluru-based associate Swati Sheshadri; Ms. Parveena Ahanger, Chairperson of Association of Persons of Disappeared Persons (APDPK) and offices of NGO Athrouat and Greater Kashmir Trust.

There were allegations that funds were sourced through hawala channels and were being used to spread terror in Kashmir.

Slamming the move, former J&K chief minister and PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti tweeted, "NIA raids on human rights activist Khurram Parvez & Greater Kashmir office in Srinagar is yet another example of GOI's vicious crackdown on freedom of expression & dissent. Sadly, NIA has become BJP's pet agency to intimidate & browbeat those who refuse to fall in line."

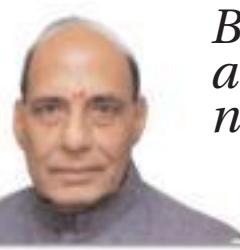
CBI: Rhea's charges against Sushant's sisters speculative

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 28 OCTOBER

The CBI on Wednesday told the Bombay High Court that Rhea Chakraborty's accusation that late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's sisters obtained a fake medical prescription for him was "mostly speculative".

Such speculation cannot be the basis of an FIR, the Central agency said in response to Rajput's sisters Priyanka Singh and Meetu Singh's petition seeking to quash the case lodged against them by Mumbai Police.

Chakraborty, Rajput's girlfriend, has alleged that a fabricated prescription was used to help him procure medicines here be quashed.



*Be it the problem of terrorism, insurgency or any external attack, the Army has played a significant role in neutralising those threats*

RAJNATH SINGH  
DEFENCE MINISTER

# Capital schools to remain shut due to virus situation: Sisodia

Deputy CM says it's not safe to reopen schools now and that students' parents also don't favour it

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER

All schools in Delhi will continue to be closed until next order due to the city's Covid-19 situation, deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia announced here today.

Students' parents were not in favour of reopening schools either, Sisodia said at an online press conference.

Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio, asserted that the schools' ongoing "online and semi-online" education will continue.

The Delhi government had earlier announced that schools will remain closed till 31 October.

"We keep getting feedback from parents that they are really concerned about whether it is safe to reopen schools. It is not. Wherever schools have reopened, Covid-19 cases among children have risen. So we have decided that as of now schools in the national capital will not reopen. They will continue to be



closed till further orders," Sisodia said.

Delhi today recorded 5,673 fresh cases of coronavirus infection, its highest single-day Covid spike so far. It had yesterday logged 4,853 Covid cases, which was the highest single-day spike till then. The national capital's Covid tally has crossed 3.7 lakh now.

The universities, colleges and schools across the country were closed on 16 March, when the Centre announced a nationwide classroom shutdown as part of measures to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. A nationwide lockdown was imposed on 25 March.

While several restrictions

were eased in different "Unlock" phases, educational institutions continued to remain closed. According to the "Unlock 5" guidelines, states can take a call on reopening schools in phases. Several states including Haryana, Punjab, UP and Sikkim have also begun the process of reopening schools.

Earlier, schools were allowed to call students from Class 9 to 12 to school on voluntary basis from 21 September. However, the Delhi government decided against it.

The Union education ministry had issued detailed guidelines for reopening of schools including thorough cleaning and disinfection of premises, flexibility in attendance, no assessment for up to three weeks and ensuring a smooth transition from the home-based schooling during the coronavirus-induced lockdown to the formal schooling.

Schools have been advised to form task teams such as emergency care support and response teams, general support teams for all stakeholders, commodity support teams, hygiene inspection teams,

among others, with earmarked responsibilities.

The Maharashtra government has said it will assess the Covid situation post-Diwali and till then schools will continue to remain closed.

The Gujarat government has also said it is likely to consider reopening schools only after Diwali. West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has said a decision on reopening of schools will be taken only after mid-November.

The Karnataka government has said it is in no hurry to reopen schools and will take a call on the issue after evaluating all aspects. The Meghalaya government has sought feedback from parents before taking a final decision on reopening of schools in the state.

The Mizoram government has decided to shut all schools that were reopened for students of classes 10 and 12 due to the rising number of locally transmitted Covid cases and also because some pupils have tested positive for the infection.

## Parents welcome Delhi govt's decision to keep schools shut

PTI

NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER

With the number of Covid-19 cases on the rise, parents of children attending schools in Delhi have welcomed the government's decision to keep schools closed till further notice.

While online learning has been challenging and does not match the social environment of a school, nothing is more important than the safety of "our children", said parents.

On Wednesday, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia announced that all schools in the national capital would continue to be closed till further orders in view of the Covid-19 situation.

As of Tuesday night, Delhi reported 4,853 new coronavirus cases, the national capital's biggest ever single-day jump in cases.

Sisodia said parents were not in favour of reopening schools either.

One of them is Preeti Khachroo Chandra, whose 12-year-old daughter goes to Bluebells School International.

"The government's decision makes a lot of sense. From the safety perspective of children, there is limited infrastructure at schools to have social distancing and other hygiene protocols.

"With the number of coronavirus cases spiking in Delhi, it does not make sense to send children to schools. Their immune systems are sensitive and susceptible," said Chandra.

To ensure that the education process continues despite the pandemic, schools across Delhi, and the rest of the country had adopted an online mode of education soon after the lockdown to control the spread of Covid-19 was announced on March 25.

And, while adapting to the new version of school over the last six months has been difficult, parents such as Pallavi Sharma and Meenal Sehgal are not quite ready to let their children off to school.

Sharma, whose nine-year-old daughter is enrolled in Kalka Public School, said she had been getting queries from the school to check how the parents feel about reopening.

"We declined," she said.

"I don't understand the rush to send the kids back to school. I see the schools and teachers putting in so much efforts to make education easier."

The task gets even more difficult when both the parents are working, she added.

"It is so difficult to keep the children focussed while the classes are on. Now, every child has figured out that they can switch off their cameras and go about their monkey business without the teacher finding out."

new mode of education is a one-of-a-kind experience for children, and is helping them become more "independent".

"I think not reopening schools is the better decision. Children are at high risk, and we have to be really careful when it is about keeping them safe from the virus."

"Plus, I think that through online education, they are learning newer techniques like how to download files etc at a young age. They are adapting to technology. It is making them very prompt and more independent," she said.

But, Sehgal and all other parents agreed that online classes cannot be a substitute to physically attending schools, especially for children who are about to sit for their board examinations.

Sangam Kumar Giri, whose 15-year-old daughter is in class 10, understands the motivation behind Delhi government's decision but has a concern for those who would be taking up board exams. An exception could have been made for students in senior classes, for whom interacting with the teachers face to face is important, he reasoned.

"Children in classes between ninth and 12th are old enough to follow safety protocols, and if the government can find a system to make everything else work, why not schools."

"Over the last few months, my daughter's routine has gone for a toss. She spends nearly 8-9 hours, and from what I have understood, online classes alone are not very effective," Giri, whose daughter is enrolled in Chinmaya Vidyalaya, said.

Children's physical activity has been a major casualty of schools remaining closed for a prolonged period of time, said Sharma.

A lot of time at school was spent in extra-curricular activities like dance and sports, which her daughter misses.

"There are times when my daughter finds online classes boring, and misses her friends. The social element of being in school has completely disappeared," she said.

Ranjini Chalam whose nine-year-old boy attends the Don Bosco school said that in the absence of a school to go to, "parents have to play a bigger role than teachers in children's education".

The task gets even more difficult when both the parents are working, she added.

"It is so difficult to keep the children focussed while the classes are on. Now, every child has figured out that they can switch off their cameras and go about their monkey business without the teacher finding out."

## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF SH.  
H.S. JAGGI ADJ-02  
DWARAKA COURTS  
NEW DELHI  
Publication Notice  
Under Rule 5 Rule 20 of the  
(Code of Civil Procedure)  
Suit No.: PC NO. 44/2019  
Shyamli Rani Chakravarty  
@shyamliChakravarty  
-vs-  
State of NCT of Delhi  
and Others  
To  
1. Smt. Kamala Chaudhary  
D/o. late Parash Chandra  
Chakravarty, R/o. No. 3,  
Mahisila Colony, P.O. Asansol  
Distt. Burdwan  
West Bengal - 713301.  
2. Late Shri P.K. Chakravarty  
S/o. late Parash Chandra  
Chakravarty  
(a) Geeta Chakravarty, W/o.  
late Shri P.K. Chakravarty  
(b) Debi Chakravarty, D/o. late  
Shri P.K. Chakravarty  
(c) Debi Chakravarty, D/o.  
late Shri P.K. Chakravarty.  
...Defendants

3rd November 2020 at 10.00 a.m.  
Therefore the public at large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the said applicant he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader on the said date and time.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Court of this 28th day of September 2020.

Administrative Civil  
Court, Judge, South  
District, Saket Courts  
Complex, New Delhi,  
Seal of the Court

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING  
ATTENDANCE OF  
DEFENDANT

(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code  
of Civil Procedure)

In the Court of Sh. Sanatan  
Prasad, ADJ/01/EAST KKD,  
Delhi

Cs/3100/2016

Pankaj Gupta  
Versus

Rakesh Dayal

Rakesh @ Rakeshwar Dayal  
Mather, r/o D-12, Sector 10  
Digital Through its Prop. M/s.  
S.R. Enterprises Office at V-1,  
Local Shopping Centre, West  
Trilok Puri, Delhi-110091.

Also at: G-3, Nyay Khand-I,  
Shri Sai Mandir Road, Indrapuram-201010, Ghaziabad,  
U.P.

Also at: J-102, Shri Ganesh  
Apartments, 93, I.P. Extention,  
Delhi-110092.

Also at: A-2/37, Shiv Arcade,  
Acharya Niketan, Mayur Vihar  
Phase-I, Delhi-110095.

We, Harish Dewan & Madhu  
Dewan, r/o GG-1/201-C, Vikas  
New Delhi-110018, have  
disowned and disinherited our  
son Ritesh Dewan and our  
daughter in law Anamika  
Dewan from all our moveable  
and immovable properties  
we shall not be responsible  
of any thereof action.

Mrs. V.P. Tareena  
Advocate  
High Court  
Mob: 9717055996

Advt. No. 338/R-2020  
Dated: 29.10.2020

In the forenoon the day fixed  
for the final disposal, it will be  
heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and  
Seal of the Court of this 05th  
day of October 2020.

ADJ/01/East KKD, Delhi  
Seal of the Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby  
informed that my client Shri  
Rahul Bhawan, s/o Sh. D.R.  
Dhawn, r/o F-265, Gal No. 22,  
Laxmi Nagar-Delhi-110092,  
due to constant misbehaviour,  
physical and mental torture  
by his son Sh. Sandeep  
Bhawan & s/o Sh. Raj Bahadur  
Dhawn, r/o F-265, Gal No. 22,  
Laxmi Nagar-Delhi-110092,  
have disowned him from his  
all movable & immovable  
assets/propties and have  
severed all kind of social  
relationship with his son Sh.  
Sandeep Dhawn. My client  
will not be responsible for  
any kind of transaction/s  
carried out by him in respect  
of anything.

Ajay Kumar Porwal  
Advocate  
Kumar Chandra & Associates

196-J, IInd Floor, Ramesh  
Market East of Kalash,  
Kharar, Mohali-160065.

NOTICE

We, Harish Dewan & Madhu  
Dewan, r/o GG-1/201-C, Vikas  
New Delhi-110018, have  
disowned and disinherited our  
son Ritesh Dewan and our  
daughter in law Anamika  
Dewan from all our moveable  
and immovable properties  
we shall not be responsible  
of any thereof action.

Mrs. V.P. Tareena  
Advocate  
High Court  
Mob: 9717055996

Advt. No. 338/R-2020  
Dated: 29.10.2020

KOLKATA

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Kolkata-700 001

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Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751  
010.

Tel: (0674) 2588060/61/62/ 2586371,  
Fax: 0674-2588061

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statesmanbbsr@gmail.com

SILIGURI

13A, Dabgram Industrial Growth  
Centre,

P.O. Satellite Township,  
Siliguri-734015

Tel: 2568615, 2568063 and 2568787. Fax:

(0353) 2568296,

Email:  
siliguri@thestatesman.com

City Office: 3rd Floor, Rina Bhawan,  
Opp. HDFC Bank, Panitanki More,  
Sevoke Rd., Siliguri-734015.

Ph: 0353-2524077

SHIMLA

Cabin No. 305, P.C. Chambers  
Near Jodha Niwas

The Mall Shimla-171001, H.P.

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

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Manshi Rani, d/o Sukesh Mishra, R/o Village Bhurkunda Bazar, Dundua, P.S. Patratu, Distt. Ramgarh (Jharkhand) have changed my name from Shruti Mishra to Manshi Rani for a full and good cause.



Wherever schools have reopened, Covid-19 cases among children have risen. So we have decided that as of now schools in the national capital will not reopen

MANISH SISODIA  
DELHI DEPUTY CM

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2020

# Centre must not target Pb farmers over stir: Sukhbir

SAD chief says the Modi govt should not 'victimise' Punjab farmers for agitating against its agri laws and that its bid to do away with RDF fee to the state will cause them 'irreparable harm'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 28 OCTOBER

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)'s president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday said the Narendra Modi-led Union government should not 'victimise' farmers for agitating against the Centre's agricultural marketing laws.

He said by refusing to pay the rural development fund (RDF) component of Rs 1100 crore on government paddy purchase and adding such mechanisms to hurt farmers and Punjab has confirmed fears that the process to finish the "mandikaran" (grain market) system has begun.

In a statement, the SAD president, while condemning the Union ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution for not making any provision for the RDF in the cash credit limit extended for the current paddy procurement season, said this would adversely affect the food grain procurement system in Punjab.

He said the money received by Punjab from the RDF, which was around Rs 1850 crore per annum, was used to maintain 1800 mandis and 70,000 kilometres of rural link roads.

Asking the BJP-ruled Centre to make provision of the RDF fee component in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) provisional cost sheet immediately, Badal said Punjab was already reeling under an economic blockade due to stoppage of inbound goods trains to the state.

"Now it must not be subjected to an attack on infrastructure built to facilitate



farmers and rural areas. The Central government must take into account that the farmers who are agitating against its policies presently are the same who fed the nation for fifty years. The Centre should not use coercive measures against them and should win them over with love," he said.

Badal said the Punjab government should be allowed to withdraw the RDF from the cash credit limit it has received to purchase the paddy crop. The SAD president also said

"Not allowing the state to do this amounts to a direct attack on the rights of the state and is against the principle of federalism."

The Punjab Rural Development Act allows imposition of Mandi fee to maintain Mandi infrastructure as well as rural link roads. Funds under this head should not be denied under flimsy grounds of scrutiny as was being done by the Consumer Affairs department," he said.

The SAD president also said

the farmers of Punjab had given their all, including their most precious water resource, to fill the national food kitty. He said nothing should be done to harm the interests of farmers of Punjab and doing away with RDF fee to the state will cause them "irreparable harm".

Such steps will lead to further confrontation and could have serious long-term consequences threatening the peace of the state as well as its social and economic stability.

"Punjab being a border state can ill afford such a state of affairs. The Centre must eschew the path of confrontation and take steps to resolve the grievances of farmers by repealing the three agri-marketing laws and ensuring the farming community assured government purchase of all food produce as per minimum support price (MSP)", Badal added.

The SAD, an Opposition party in Punjab, recently quit the Modi ministry and walked out of the NDA alliance in protest against the Centre's "anti-farmers" laws despite having been the BJP's oldest

member.

Talking to media persons, Kashyap said Uddhav's remarks were "unacceptable". He said Himachal was also known as "Veer Bhoomi" as many youths of the state have protected the nation's borders bravely.

"He (Uddhav) should read the history and he will know that the youth of the state has

## Himachal BJP chief hits out at Uddhav over 'ganja fields' barb



HP BJP chief Suresh Kashyap addressing media persons in Shimla on Wednesday.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 28 OCTOBER

The Himachal Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s president Suresh Kashyap on Wednesday criticised Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray for his alleged "ganja fields"

barb against HP, saying his remarks were unfortunate for a state known as "Dev Bhoomi".

Kashyap also lashed out at Congress leaders for raising questions on construction of party offices at district level and said the offices were being constructed to facilitate the workers. But Congress seems to be afraid of this as it would further strengthen the party organisation in the state.

State BJP chief lauded the state government for upgrading Municipal Councils of Solan, Mandi and Palampur to Municipal Corporations and said the decision will go a long way in ensuring all round development of these towns.

"The state government will also ensure that the rights of people living in these towns are protected," he added.

served the country bravely on borders in the past," he added.

ipal Councils have been upgraded and this would ensure better facilities to people residing in these towns," he said.

Kashyap said these three towns were important from tourism, cultural and religious point of view and after their upgradation, the tourists will also get better facilities.

He also downplayed the protests against the decision of upgradation of these civic bodies into Municipal Corporations and said the issue would soon settle as the government had decided to provide relaxation in taxes on land and buildings.

"The state government will also ensure that the rights of people living in these towns are protected," he added.

## Himachal to create street vendors zones

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 28 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Urban Development minister Suresh Bhardwaj on Wednesday directed the officers to create street vendors' zones besides formulating the Grievances Redressal Committee (GRC) in the state.

Bhardwaj said the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the state government headed by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur had initiated several schemes for the welfare of street vendors.

"In order to provide a favourable atmosphere for identified street vendors, district level committees headed by District Magistrates will be formed. These committees will look into the

grievances of street vendors and ensure that none of them are exploited," he added.

He further stated that State Level Grievances Redressal Committee would also be formed as per the Street Vending Act 2014.

"Officials have been directed to take necessary action to create street vending zones so that vendors could be benefited by the welfare

schemes implemented by the Centre and state government," he added.

The Minister also directed the officials to initiate steps so that vendors could be benefitted by Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Aatma Nirbhar Yojna (PMGSVANI).

and said it is an ambitious scheme for which instructions had been given for its streamlining.

## Thakur asks officers to gear up for 2nd groundbreaking ceremony of projects

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 28 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Wednesday directed the officers to prepare for 2nd groundbreaking ceremony for investment projects for which memorandum of understandings (MoUs) were signed during the Investors Meet.

After the 14th meeting of State Single Window Clearance and Monitoring Authority (SSWC&MA), he said a target of Rs 10,000 crore has been set for the second ground breaking ceremony.

The second ground breaking ceremony will preferably be held on the occasion of completion of three years tenure of the present state government, he added.

He said in the SSWC&MA meeting, 20 proposals for setting up new industrial enterprises and expansion of existing units involving an approximate investment of Rs 868.58 crore and employment potential of over 2,500 persons were approved.

The new proposals approved include M/s Prosyptech 6 Pharmaceuticals Unit-II in Baddi, Solan district for manufacturing of dry powder injections, dry syrups, tablets, capsules, M/s Ideal Medical Devices Pvt Ltd in Kala Amb in Sirmour district for man-



HP CM Jai Ram Thakur presiding over the SSWC&MA meeting in Shimla on Wednesday.

ufacturing of single use syringes, pet bottles, corrugated cartons, needles.

M/s Vishal Engineering Company, Kala Amb in Sirmour district for manufacturing of Bottles and Caps, M/s Shriom Organics Private Limited, Paonta Sahib in Sirmour district for manufacturing of Thiocolchicoside, M/s Alutech Packaging Pvt LTD in Nalagarh in Solan district for manufacturing of foils, PVC-PVDC, M/s Allkind Healthcare Unit-III, Baddi in Solan district for manufacturing of tablet, capsules, injectables, aerosol products, cosmetic products, M/s Kumar Steelways Pvt LTD, Kala-Amb in Sirmour district for manufacturing of corrugated boxes, M/s Techno Plastic Industries, Kala Amb, Sirmour for manufacturing of Air Conditioning Equipments, Parts, M/s Microtek New Technologies Pvt Ltd Unit-II, Baddi, Solan for manufacturing of Infral Red Thermometer, high end inverters, UPS, Solar PCU, MPPT inverter etc.

Additional Chief Secretary Industries Ram Subhag Singh assured the Chief Minister that the department would work with greater dedication to ensure implementation of maximum projects in the state. The Commissioner-cum-Director Industries Hansraj Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary Revenue R D Dhami, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister J C Sharma were also present on the occasion.

### ON TOP OF THE WORLD



A girl enjoying horse riding on a sunny day. In Shimla on Wednesday.

LALIT KUMAR

## HP starts 3 new TV channels for online education

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 28 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Education Minister Govind Singh Thakur on Wednesday launched three new elementary, higher and vocational education TV channels in collaboration with Jio TV for providing quality online education contents for the students.

Thakur said with these channels, one more facility for online studies have been made available to students in the state.

"In the view of COVID-19 pandemic, the state government started 'Har Ghar Patshala' programme from pre-nursery to 12th standard through WhatsApp and started Gyanshala programme for Class 10th and 12th through Doordarshan Shimla," he added.

Govind Singh Thakur said that online content is being prepared by 200 teachers (State Resource Group) of the state and making it avail-



able to students every day through Har Ghar Patshala programme. Further, Deputy Director Education and Dis-

trict Programme Officers of the state Education Department are also assisting to make this programme a success, he

said. He further stated that the state government had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Jio TV on 20th August so that the Education Department could reach the students. Soon two more channels would also

be started for students, he added. State Education Minister said that e-content of every subject for students of 1st to 12th classes would be made available on Jio TV.

If any student is unable to view this e-content as per the subject schedule due to any reason, then the missed e-content will be available in catch-up throughout the week.

On converting this facility to video on demand, the overall education is going to be made available through Himachal Pradesh Jio TV soon. At the same time the department is also ensuring that the same e-content is available to the students on Jio TV and Har Ghar Patshala, so that the students can continue the process of their studies by any means as per their convenience," he added.

The Secretary, Education Rajiv Sharma, State Project Director of Samagra Shiksha Ashish Kohli and Representative of Jio TV Rohit Puri were also present on the occasion.

## Doctors of North Corp hospitals call off strike

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER

Doctors of North Delhi Municipal Corporation-run hospitals who have been agitating for the last several days over their pending salaries called off their strike on Wednesday, officials said.

While five resident doctors of Hindu Rao Hospital had been sitting on a relay hunger strike since Friday, senior doctors of the North Corporation-run facilities had gone on an indefinite strike on Tuesday. Their associations had joined hands in solidarity since Tuesday.

The strike by agitating doctors was called off as North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash offered juice to the medics on hunger strike. Salaries of all doctors have been released, till September," the NDMC said in a statement.

Senior doctors belonging to the Municipal Corporation Doctors' Association (MCDA) had gone on casual leave en masse over their

The members of the Resident Doctors' Association have been protesting for the past several days, seeking release of salaries due for the past three months

pending salaries on Monday and began an indefinite strike on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the strike continued in day time despite appeals from North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash to return to work as patient services were getting affected.

MCDA general secretary Maruti Sinha also said the strike has been called off. The members of the Resident Doctors' Association of the 900-bed hospital have been protesting for the past several days and had gone on an indefinite strike, seeking release of salaries due for the past three months.



GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER VIJAY RUPANI

SAYING HIS GOVERNMENT HAS DONE A GOOD JOB IN CONTROLLING THE PANDEMIC

## THUMBNAILS



Muslim demonstrators during a protest calling for the boycott of French products and denouncing French President Emmanuel Macron for his comments over Prophet Mohammed caricatures, in Mumbai on Wednesday.

**Street vendor zones:** Himachal Pradesh urban development minister Suresh Bhardwaj on Wednesday directed the officers to create a street vendors' zone besides formulating Grievances Redressal Committee in the state.

**Bullet-proof jacket smugglers arrested:** A gang of arms smugglers which was also dealing in bullet-proof jackets with criminals and white collar people of the region have been arrested by Jansath police of Muzaffarnagar district on Wednesday. Police recovered 3 bullet-proof jackets, 2 country-made pistols and 4 cartridges of 315 bore from them.

**Kerala House ruckus case:** A court in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday granted bail to two Kerala ministers in a criminal case in connection with the ruckus inside the state Assembly in 2015 during the tenure of Congress-led UDF government.

PTI

# Kerala gold smuggling: Sivasankar in ED custody

Opp mounts pressure on CM Vijayan, demands resignation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOCHE/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
28 OCTOBER

**M**Sivasankar, former principal secretary to Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has been taken into custody by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) from a private Ayurveda hospital in Thiruvananthapuram, minutes after his anticipatory bail plea was rejected by Kerala High Court in the sensational gold smuggling case, as the Opposition mounted pressure on the CM demanding his resignation over the matter.

The suspended IAS officer who was undergoing treatment in the hospital was brought to the ED office in Kochi for interrogation. His arrest would be registered later, it is learnt.

Earlier in the day, Kerala High Court denied anticipatory bail to Sivasankar, in the cases registered by the ED and the Customs Department in relation to the case.

The court said considering the gravity of the offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the applicant may not be entitled to the extraordinary relief of pre-arrest bail.

The single bench of Justice Ashok Menon observed that Sivasankar was in constant contact with one of the prime accused, Swapna Suresh, and that he had even volunteered to help her by contacting his Chartered Accountant and asking him to assist her in managing her finances.

"This indicates that there



is a fair possibility that applicant knew about Swapna's involvement in the alleged smuggling activity. Whether the applicant was himself actively involved in the commission of the offence is something which is to be investigated and found out," the court said.

Earlier on 16 October, an attempt by the Customs to take Sivasankar into custody from his home in Thiruvananthapuram led to dramatic scenes. He complained of chest pain and was shifted to a private hospital.

He was later shifted to Thiruvananthapuram medical college hospital, where he was discharged as a medical board which looked into his health did not find major complications. Meanwhile, he moved anticipatory bail applications in Kerala High Court and secured interim protection from arrest till 27 October.

Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala demanded chief minister Vijayan's resignation, stating he has lost the right to continue in office.

Talking to reporters at Cantonment House in Thiruvananthapuram, Chennithala said the corrupt practices were led by none other than Pinarayi Vijayan and that he should be grilled by the investigation team.

"Sivasankar is only a symptom. The CM is the real disease. The Opposition was ridiculed for raising allegations on deals,

including Sprinklr. But many corruption cases committed by Sivasankar as directed by the chief minister will come out one by one," he said. KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran said Sivasankar being taken into custody is almost the same as the chief minister being taken into custody and that the CM should resign from his post.

BJP leader and Union minister of state for external affairs, V Muraleedharan said chief minister Vijayan should resign for the sake of his government and party without waiting to face more disgrace. "BJP does not think that the case will conclude with Sivasankar," said Muraleedharan.

BJP former state president P K Krishnadas said the CM is the first accused in the case and the government is trying to block CBI probe in the state as it is fearing that the probe will reach the CPI-M leaders.

Protests were held at various parts of the state, including in front of the secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram, by Opposition parties and their youth wings demanding the resignation of the chief minister.

The protesters even burnt the effigy of Vijayan in some places.

Central agencies - National Investigation Agency, Customs and the Enforcement Directorate - are conducting separate inquiries into the seizure of gold worth nearly Rs 15 crore from a "diplomatic baggage" at Thiruvananthapuram International airport on 5 July.

## AP govt-SEC stand-off continues, YSRCP shuns all-party meet

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, 28 OCTOBER

The stand-off between Andhra Pradesh government and the State Election Commission (SEC) continues with the latter convening an all-party meeting today to discuss local body polls which was boycotted by YSRCP.

State Election Commissioner N Ramesh who was reinstated following court orders also held discussions with chief secretary Neelam Sawhney who apparently has conveyed that the state government was not ready to hold elections during the pandemic.

Although the commission had invited 19 parties, 11 TDP, BJP and Left parties attended the meeting while two Janata Dal (Secular) and Janasena gave their views in writing. The ruling YSRCP boycotted the meeting saying the SEC's conduct was biased.

Expressing sadness at the aspersions cast by YSRCP leaders the SEC said: "The commission is saddened at the aspersions on a transparent process undertaken which is a prelude to a stand it has to adopt before Hon'ble High Court in a PIL related to conduct of elections."

### Death penalty

A migrant worker from Bihar who killed nine people and dumped the bodies in a well in Warangal was awarded death penalty by a local court in Telangana. The trial of this sensational murder case which was earlier deemed as a mass suicide when the bodies were discovered during lockdown, was completed within 36 days.

Accused Sanjay Kumar Yadav, working at a gunny bag manufacturing mill, had mixed sleeping pills in food and strangled his victims, including six members of the same family who lived in the premises. Sanjay had a relationship with a relative of Mohammad Maqsood who hailed from West Bengal. After he killed Rafiqa he eliminated Maqsood, his wife, two sons, daughter and three year old grandchild.

With 5,673 cases, Delhi scales new Corona peak

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The city had yesterday logged 4,853 Covid cases, which was the highest single-day spike till then. The national capital's Covid tally has crossed 3.7 lakh now, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

Delhi's Covid caseload has shot up to 3,70,014, the health bulletin said.

Today's fresh cases were detected out of 60,571 tests, with the positivity rate also reaching a new high of 9.37 per cent.

The national capital logged 40 fresh Covid fatalities, which pushed its coronavirus toll to 6,396. The loss of lives due to Covid in the city was stated to be 44 yesterday.

Delhi has been recording more than 4,000 new coronavirus cases daily for the past several days.

According to today's health bulletin, 4,128 Covid patients recovered in the city during the past 24 hours and were discharged from various hospitals, which raised their cumulative number to 3,34,240. Delhi's Covid recovery rate dipped to 90.33 per cent.

The active coronavirus cases in the city rose to 29,378, including 6,883 hospitalised patients. Those patients undergoing treatment under home isolation numbered 16,822.

The number of containment zones in Delhi mounted to 3,047 now, the bulletin added.

## DUVCYogesh Tyagi suspended, to face probe over administrative lapses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER



Delhi University Vice Chancellor Yogesh Tyagi was suspended on the orders of President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday after an inquiry was instituted against him over allegations of administrative lapses and dereliction of duty, according to officials of the Ministry of Education (MoE).

Tyagi is possibly the first Delhi University VC to face suspension. University officials said such an action had not been taken against any VC in at least three decades.

The action comes amid a power tussle in the central university. The President, who is the Visitor to the university, has placed Tyagi under suspension to ensure that the inquiry is fair and that he is not able to tamper with material records or coerce the witnesses, a senior ministry official said.

Among the lapses flagged against Tyagi are non-filling of vacant positions, delay in redressal of sexual harassment cases and vigilance complaints in university, mishandling of the issue of ad-hoc teachers which led to a massive agitation, and non-submission of detailed plan for implementation of the Institution of Eminence (IoE) and the latest being certain appointments made while he is on medical leave.

"The President of India has his capacity as Visitor of the University, on consideration of facts and material available on

record, has ordered to conduct an inquiry into the allegations of dereliction of duties and lack of commitment and devotion to duty against Yogesh Tyagi," said Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Education (MoE).

"The president has also been pleased to place him under suspension with immediate effect until further orders as he may influence or coerce the witnesses and tamper with the material records of the university so as to ensure fair inquiry."

"All orders issued by or issued with the approval of Yogesh Tyagi during the period of his absence on medical ground are set aside and to be treated as null and void," he added.

Tyagi has been on leave since July 2 when he was admitted to AIIMS under emergency medical condition. The government had on July 17 given Pro-VC PC Joshi the charge of VC, until Tyagi resumes office.

"Yogesh Tyagi as Vice Chan-

cellor of University of Delhi failed to discharge the duties and responsibilities entrusted to him under the varsity's Act and Statutes. Many statutory and key posts remained vacant during his tenure in spite of regular follow-up by the Ministry.

Joshi had, meanwhile, notified the appointment of a new registrar, Vikas Gupta, whose interview had been completed and appointment cleared by the executive council on Wednesday.

The ministry then intervened in the power tussle between the vice chancellor and the pro-vice chancellor, saying appointments made by Tyagi were not "valid" as he is on leave.

The power tussle intensified with Jha writing to the ministry citing himself as "acting Registrar" and saying that all decisions taken by Tyagi are in accordance with university norms. The ministry took objection to the letter and directed the varsity to take strict action against him.

Meanwhile, the Delhi University has called an urgent Executive Council (EC) meeting on Thursday.

Tyagi's predecessor Dinesh Singh too had been locked in a battle with the government and there were repeated calls for his removal, but he completed his tenure.

## Guv Dhankhar to meet Amit Shah in Delhi today

Governor is expected to submit reports on law and order scenario of Bengal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 28 OCTOBER

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, who has been vocal about political killings and violence in Bengal and drawn criticism from the state government, will call upon Union home minister Amit Shah on 29 October in Delhi.

Mr Dhankhar left for Delhi this evening and is scheduled to return to Kolkata on 30 October. Taking to Twitter Mr Dhankhar wrote: "West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar will be on an official visit to Delhi from Oct 28-30. Governor Dhankhar leaves for Delhi on evening of Oct 28 and returns to Kolkata on Oct 30. His engagements include calling on the Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on Oct 29."

The visit is being considered significant as Dhankhar is expected to submit reports on the law and order situation of the state. He had earlier raised concern about the law and order situation in Bengal while the Bengal wing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been alleging about "deteriorating" law and order conditions in the state and has also complained to the Governor in this connection.

Mr Dhankhar's visit to the Capital comes ahead of BJP chief JP Nadda and Mr Shah's visit to Bengal next month.

Earlier this month, Mr Shah told in a TV interview that the law and order situ-

Nadda, Shah to visit Bengal next month

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 28 OCTOBER

Ahead of Bengal Assembly poll next year, Union Home minister Amit Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda will visit West Bengal next month to prepare election strategy. They will visit several districts including Junglemahal, Burdwan, Birbhum.

Nadda will visit Bengal on 6 and 7 November. The date of

Shah's visit is yet to be fixed.

Central BJP leadership also sought booth-level report in a bid to review organisational strength at each booth.

Senior BJP leadership today held a meeting to review the current organisational strength so they could send a report to the central leadership. BJP sources said that both Shah and Nadda will review the report before coming to the state to highlight

the issues against the Trinamul Congress government.

Meanwhile, senior BJP leaders condemned the alleged killing of BJP leader Milan Halder. Halder was beaten to death allegedly by TMC-backed miscreants. He was attacked while he was returning home at Kaugachi in Naihati. He was rushed to RG Kar hospital yesterday, and succumbed to his injuries.

## Left, Congress may move court on Mamata's 'hesitation' to arrest Gurung

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 28 OCTOBER

action in West Bengal is "worrying" and the demand by his party leaders demanding President's rule in the state is justified.

Mr Dhankhar's visit to the Capital comes ahead of BJP chief JP Nadda and Mr Shah's visit to Bengal next month.

Earlier this month, Mr Shah told in a TV interview that the law and order situ-

jeeling from 1 November. His visit to Darjeeling will take place at a time when political equations in the hills have changed after the supreme Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) leader Bimal Gurung walked out of the BJP-led NDA accusing it of not fulfilling its promises. Mr Gurung, who

was seen in the city after absconding for three years lent support to the ruling Trinamul Congress.

Mr Dhankhar will be staying at the Raj Bhavan in Darjeeling, the statement said. He is also scheduled to address a Press Conference at Siliguri on 1 November.

mouse race happened to arrest him resulting in the alleged killings of several police personnel including Amitava Malik, a sub-Inspector.

On the other hand, political temperature of Darjeeling is soaring this autumn with rallies and posters making a comeback to the picturesque hills. Over the past few days, the supporters of GJM leader Binoy Tamang have held rallies saying they do not want Mr. Gurung to return to the hills. The Binoy Tamang faction of the GJM holds sway over the hills by the control over the GTA-the regional autonomous body of the hills.

Assembly. "Why is the National Investigation Agency

gain him politically," Mr Bhat-

tacharya said.

Mr Tamang was not avail-

able for comment. "We will also talk to lawyers before moving to the court. It will take time because normal ser-

vices in the court are getting delayed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. Till then, we will take up the issue to the people's court unmasking the Trinamul Congress govern-

ment's political game plan on Bimal Gurung issue," said Mr Abdul Mannan, Congress Member of Parliament and Leader of the Opposition in the state legislative assembly.

He was charged with several sections under the Unlawful Activities and Prevention Act (UAPA) after he fled to avoid arrest.

He had been on the run since 2017 when a cat and

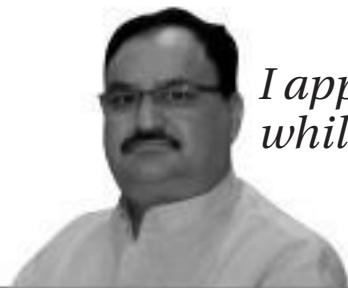
SUBHENDU MAITI  
KOLKATA, 28 OCTOBER

TMC Opposites CPI-M and Congress, which are all set to go for an electoral alliance in the forthcoming assembly polls scheduled next year in Bengal, may move the Calcutta High Court against Mamata Banerjee's government for her alleged reluctance to arrest Bimal Gurung, Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) founder who has recently made an appearance in Kolkata on 21 October after an exile of three years since 2017.

"Earlier, the state government had given charges under sections of the UAPA against GJM leader Binoy Tamang whom the chief minister had made the chief of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administra-



tion (GTA) in 2018 after Bimal Gurung faction had unleashed terror in the hills. Bringing charges under UAPA against someone is Tr



I appeal to people to take part in the grand festival of democracy while keeping Covid-related precautions in mind...

BJP PRESIDENT JP NADDA

APPEALING TO VOTERS TO CAST BALLOTS ABIDING TO ALL COVID PROTOCOLS

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2020

## THUMBNAILS



People travel in a cabin on India's longest river cable car connecting the northern and southern banks of the Brahmaputra at sunset, in Guwahati on Wednesday.

AFP

**Covid patients delivery babies:** Two Covid-19 positive patients have given birth to triplets and twins in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Raipur. All five children are secure and stable. Two of the triplets are with their mother and one is under observation in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). All three were found Covid negative in the first report. Twins are also kept in NICU.

SNS

**Terrorists killed:** A Pakistani and a local Kashmiri terrorist of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit were killed on Wednesday in an encounter with security forces in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

SNS

**PDP leader joins BJP:** A senior PDP leader joined the BJP in Jammu on Wednesday. Ramazan Hussain, who had unsuccessfully contested the 2014 assembly elections from Bani constituency on a BSP ticket before joining the PDP, was welcomed into the party fold by JK BJP president Ravinder Raina at the party headquarters, a party release said.

PTI

**70 cows die in shelter:** Over 70 cows died due to suspected food poisoning in a shelter attached to a temple in Haryana's Pancikkula on Wednesday, officials said. Thirty other cows that also fell ill at the Mata Mansa Devi Gaudham are responding to treatment.

PTI

**PIL in Guj HC:** Defector MLAs must bear bypoll costs

AHMEDABAD, 28 OCTOBER

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Gujarat High Court has demanded that politicians who resign and defect to other parties after getting elected on the ticket of one party, should be made to pay for the expenses of the by-election caused by their resignation.

The petitioner, senior advocate K R Koshti has urged the High Court to direct the Election Commission of India (ECI) to formulate some rules to recover expenses on by-elections from the legislators who resign from their original party and seek re-election from other parties.

The PIL in the High Court has come up in the backdrop of by-elections on 3 November for eight assembly seats, all caused due to defection of their MLAs elected on Congress tickets but crossed over to the ruling BJP.

As many as five of these defectors are now contesting the by-elections on BJP tickets from the same seats.

The PIL pointed out that 19 of the 77 Congress MLAs elected in December 2017 have so far resigned and joined the BJP. Most of them have either re-contested from the same seats or are re-contesting in this round of by-elections on BJP tickets.

Mentioning that such mid-term resignations cause an expense of Rs 2 crore due to by-election in the seat, the PIL demanded that the money should be recovered from the legislator who switched his political affiliation.

Public money should not be wasted in conducting by-elections caused by resignations of politicians, the PIL added.

SNS

# Bewary of Chinese intent & actions: Rajnath to Army

Defence minister lauds Army's handling of current security environment

SNS & AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER



Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday cautioned Army commanders to be wary of Chinese actions at disputed borders and their intent during military talks.

The minister said this while addressing the 'Army Commanders Conference,' an apex biannual event that formulates important policy decisions through collegiate deliberations. Border tensions with China at the Line of Actual Control are the main focus of deliberations in this year's four-day conference.

Sources privy to the minister's address said Singh pointed out that talks should be held honestly and in an atmosphere of trust to reach a solution. The defence minister also hinted that there has been a trust deficit since Chinese intent has been questionable.

In the meantime, Singh said on social media: "Addressed the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi today. I'm extremely proud of the initiatives undertaken by the Indian Army in the current secu-

rity environment." He also said that the Ministry of Defence is committed to facilitate the Army in their forward movement on the road to reforms and help them in achieving advantages in all areas.

Talking about empowering the force, Singh tweeted, "We will leave no stone unturned to strengthen the arms of our Armed forces." He expressed his confidence in the force and said that he is extremely proud of the initiatives undertaken by the Indian Army in the current security environment.

"The Indian Army has been successful in addressing several challenges to the security and sovereignty of this country since Independence," Singh said.

"Be it the problem of terrorism, insurgency or any external attack, the Army has played a significant role in neutralising those threats,"

## China slams Pompeo's remarks on Ladakh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER

China today reacted sharply to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's remarks expressing solidarity with India on the military stand-off at eastern Ladakh, saying the boundary question was a bilateral matter between India and China and there was no space for a third party to intervene.

"The two sides have been discussing disengagement and de-escalation in the

border areas through diplomatic and military channels.

China and India have the wisdom and ability to handle their differences properly," the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi said in a statement.

It also took exceptions to Pompeo's comments after the 2+2 ministerial dialogue in New Delhi, accusing Beijing of indulging in aggression against its neighbours, saying such remarks exposed Washington's Cold War mentality and ideological bias.

read out of the opening statements of all the dignitaries of US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.

Singh further said India would continue talks with China for peaceful resolution of the military stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh even as he complimented India troops for standing firm against the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Mizoram reports first Covid-19 death

GUWAHATI, 28 OCTOBER

Mizoram has recorded its first Covid-19 related mortality today as a 62-year-old citizen died at Zoram medical college hospital. State chief minister Pu Zoramthanga in a tweet condoled his death saying, "We are shocked, pained and will continue putting up our guards against this pandemic."

At present the state has 373 active patients as 80 new cases of the virus were detected till last evening.

The total number of infected persons went up to 2,607 out of which 2,233 individuals were discharged from the hospitals.

Meanwhile, the government declared lockdown in Aizawl municipal area beginning from Tuesday till 3 November.

Meanwhile, the death toll in Assam due to Covid-19 complications increased to 914 till Wednesday afternoon.

State health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in a tweet informed that 403 positive cases were reported in the last 24 hours. Presently the State has 12,845 active cases as the total number of infected persons rises up to 20,478 till date.

# Darjeeling Covid cases steady during Durga Puja

SANKHA GHOSH  
SILIGURI, 28 OCTOBER

The surge in Covid-19 cases that was seen before Durga Puja in Darjeeling district continued during the Puja. More than 100 cases were detected in a single day a few days before the Puja and the spurt continued in the district.

There was, however, a respite when the district recorded only 54 cases on Monday and 59 yesterday.

According to the district chief medical officer of health Dr Pralay Acharya, more focus would be laid on preventive steps during the upcoming festivals.

"We have taken up necessary steps to check Covid-19 cases. The admission rate of patients was not abnormal during Durga Puja. We will lay more emphasis on preventive measures for the upcoming festivals," he said.

The district had registered 722 Covid-19 cases in the last seven days (between 15 October and 21 October) before the beginning of the Puja. The SMC had logged 393 cases during this period.

"During this seven-day pre-Puja period, more than 100 cases were registered in five days, except for 15 and 18 October, when 87 and 76 had been reported. Durga Puja began on 22 October and the daily figures had been higher," said a health specialist tracking Covid cases.

Siliguri Fights Corona, a consortium of voluntary organisations, however, observed that despite several awareness drives, the response of the crowd was not satisfactory.

"Many puja organisers followed the Calcutta High Court order, making Durga Puja pandals no-entry zones. There had been massive awareness programmes from all quarters, but we have observed the crowd was uncontrolled, and swarms of revellers went pandal-hopping, and a good number of street food stalls were opened. A large number of people gathered at the ghats to watch the immersion, but they did not pay heed to physical distancing. We hope the administration will take steps to prevent such trends during the next festivals," said the joint convener of the organisation, Animesh Bose.

## Tejashwi seeks HC-monitored probe into Munger firing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA, 28 OCTOBER

every efforts to corner the ruling NDA.

Hitting out at the BJP, he asked the saffron party who he said never misses a chance to flay law and order during the RJD rule and trumpeting about "double engine" government (BJP led coalition in power at the centre as well as in Bihar) as "why they are silent now...Or whose order the incident happened?"

Congress national spokesman Randeep Surjewala alleged that "under influence of the BJP the devotees of lord Durga are being targeted by the police in the state."

While people alleged the young man, who was in his early 20s, died in police firing, the administration said he was hit by a bullet fired by somebody from among the crowd.

He backed Yadav's comparison of Munger police with the tyrant General Dyer.

Surjewala said the people are awaiting a response from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

LJP president Chirag Paswan has also launched an attack on Kumar over the Munger incident.

## Modi warns voters against 'Jungle Raj ke Yuvraaj' in Bihar

### Rahul: PM does not talk about unemployment in his speeches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DARBHANGA/MUZAFFARPUR/PATNA, 28 OCTOBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday tore into the opposition RJD in Bihar, calling its chief minister candidate Tejashwi Yadav the 'yuvraaj' (crown prince) of 'jungle raj' and attacking him over the promise of 10 lakh government jobs.

He cautioned people against the double whammy Bihar could face if those responsible for having turned the state 'beemar' (sick) were voted to power amid the global Covid-19 pandemic.

Addressing back to back rallies in Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur in north Bihar, and the state capital, the prime minister also set the tone for the day with a dash of Hindutva when he made a mention of Ayodhya at his first election meeting.

"Forget about government jobs. If they succeed (in winning), Bihar will lose jobs even in the private sector. The party has copyright over kidnappings and companies will be forced to shut shop and flee as they will be under duress because of extortion calls," Modi alleged.

He was apparently referring to Yadav's alluring promise of sanctioning 10 lakh permanent government jobs at the first cabinet meeting if his party was voted to power. He lauded chief minister Nitish Kumar for leading the state from misgovernance to good governance, from darkness to light, and from the phase where kid-

napping had become an industry to the one full of opportunities.

Repeatedly attacking Tejashwi Yadav, Modi said, "He has been brought up on a value system where public money is looted to help one's own family prosper. For such people job creation becomes a tool to make crores of rupees."

The prime minister warned the electorate against voting for the opposition Grand Alliance when the state was reeling under Covid-19. The prime minister said elements inimical to Bihar's progress were "eyeing greedily" the funds the Centre has kept aside for the state's development.

In an apparent acknowledgement of the preference

of the people of the state for government jobs, Modi dwelt on the measures taken by the Centre for bringing about transparency in competitive tests and streamlining examinations.

Politics over jobs has occupied centrestage in Bihar's electoral discourse with the BJP announcing creation of 19 lakh employment opportunities after Tejashwi's commitment to sanctioning 10 lakh government jobs.

The prime minister seemed delighted to see the massive turnouts at the rallies and, on more than one occasion, had to halt his speech and request enthusiastic supporters to stop chanting 'Modi, Modi' and quietly take their seats.

## WITH PRECAUTIONS



An electoral official checks the body temperature of a voter as he waits to cast his ballot for Bihar state Assembly elections at a polling station in Patna on Wednesday. ■ AFP

## Allowing outsiders to buy land in J&K aims at bringing demographic change: NC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 28 OCTOBER

Jamhooriyat, and Insaniyat' and the new notification is a case in point.

The Members of Parliament said that people of Jammu and Kashmir are feeling alienated from rest of the country and harboring the notion that nobody understands their sentiments.

Taking exception to the claim of the government on the demerits of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, they said that it was a "boycott to hoodwink people".

"Do other states like Himachal Pradesh have no investment? The industrial growth argument is a big bogey."

In Jammu, there were big industries before the abrogation of Article 370.

The problem for setting up MCs or other infrastructure is not Article 370 but the situation of the Valley.

## PDP, JKNPP stage anti-BJP protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAMMU, 28 OCTOBER

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and National Panthers Party (NPP) on Wednesday staged separate protests here, demanding repeal of the new land laws which have paved the way for people from outside Jammu and Kashmir to buy land in the Union Territory.

Led by General Secretary and former legislator Surinder Choudhary, PDP activists holding the tricolour as well as the party

flag assembled at the PDP headquarters at Gandhi Nagar and staged a rally to lodge their resentment against the BJP-led central government over the new land law.

Cong rejects notification of new land laws:

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Wednesday said his party rejects the new land laws notified by the Centre for the Union territory.

After fugitive Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha leader Bimal Gurung joined hands with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the Akhil Bharatiya Adi-vasi Vikas Parishad (ABA) plans to hold a meeting in the Dooars tentatively on 15 November to discuss the matter.

The Parishad also said it will not allow Terai-Dooarsland to be taken if a separate state of Gorkhaland is formed.

According to ABAV state working president Tej Kumar Toppo, they would hold the meeting as the Parishad president Birsha Tirkey is scheduled to visit the region on 14 November.

"We would adopt a resolution over Bimal Gurung's return to the hills, apprehending unrest and violence even in the Terai and the Dooars region if there is any fresh movement, demanding inclusion of additional land from the plains for a separate state of Gorkhaland," Mr Toppo said today.

"We would stand by our earlier decision. We will not give up an inch of land from the Adi-vasi-dominated Terai and the Dooars region. We don't have objections if both the Centre and the state grant them a separate state comprising the Hill areas.

We would intimate Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of our stand after adopting the resolution in the meeting," he added.

It may be noted here that the Dooars region, which is called "mini India" for its unity in diversity among people belonging to different communities, witnessed violence when the GJMM, under

Bimal Gurung, demanded a separate state, comprising areas of the Terai and the Dooars where Nepali-speaking people live.

The agitation happened during the tenure of the Left Front in the state and when the Trinamul Congress was trying hard to come to power in Bengal. Frequent clashes broke out at different places between Nepali and Adi-vasi people, especially in the Dooars region then. The ABAV played a key role in resisting the GJMM moves that time.

Significantly, Alipurduar MP John Barla and Sukra Munda belonging to the ABAV were initially

## Thai hot soup

**A**s Thailand's worried establishment gropes for a way to defuse a crisis that is increasingly making the continuance of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-Cha untenable, it is the focus of protestors on the powers of the monarchy that may be causing even concern. For it is no longer a question confined to the Southeast Asian country, having transcended borders to surface in Germany where the country's monarch spends considerable time. This week protestors submitted a petition to the German embassy in Bangkok, asking Berlin to investigate the King over tax and visa issues relating to his residence in the southern state of Bavaria. They have asked Germany to investigate whether the King exercised royal powers while in that country, a breach of law, and whether he was liable to pay German inheritance tax by virtue of his long residence. Already, support for the protestors in Germany is growing. An influential member of the German Parliament's foreign affairs committee has asked Chancellor Angela Merkel's government to freeze all trade negotiations with Thailand until the military junta blocks the path to democracy. Asked about the complaint, German Foreign Minister Heiko Mass told a news conference that the country has been continually monitoring the Thai King's activities on German soil. "If there are things that we consider illegal, that will have immediate consequences," he said. Thailand and Germany have diplomatic ties going back to 1862, a relationship that survived even during World War II. The two countries share a significant trading relationship, with Thailand having imported goods worth more than 5 billion euros and exported goods worth more than 6 billion euros in 2019. Thus, the possibility of the Thai establishment jettisoning the Prime Minister in order to preserve the status and prestige of the monarchy cannot be ruled out. Certainly, reports from Bangkok suggest that names of possible successors are already doing the rounds, although in a system designed to preserve the establishment's grip on power, it is unlikely that a change will mollify protestors, even if it takes the edge off the movement. Analysts believe that the government may either agree to step down or make some changes to the Constitution, but not both. But the demand least likely to be conceded is for reform of the monarchy.

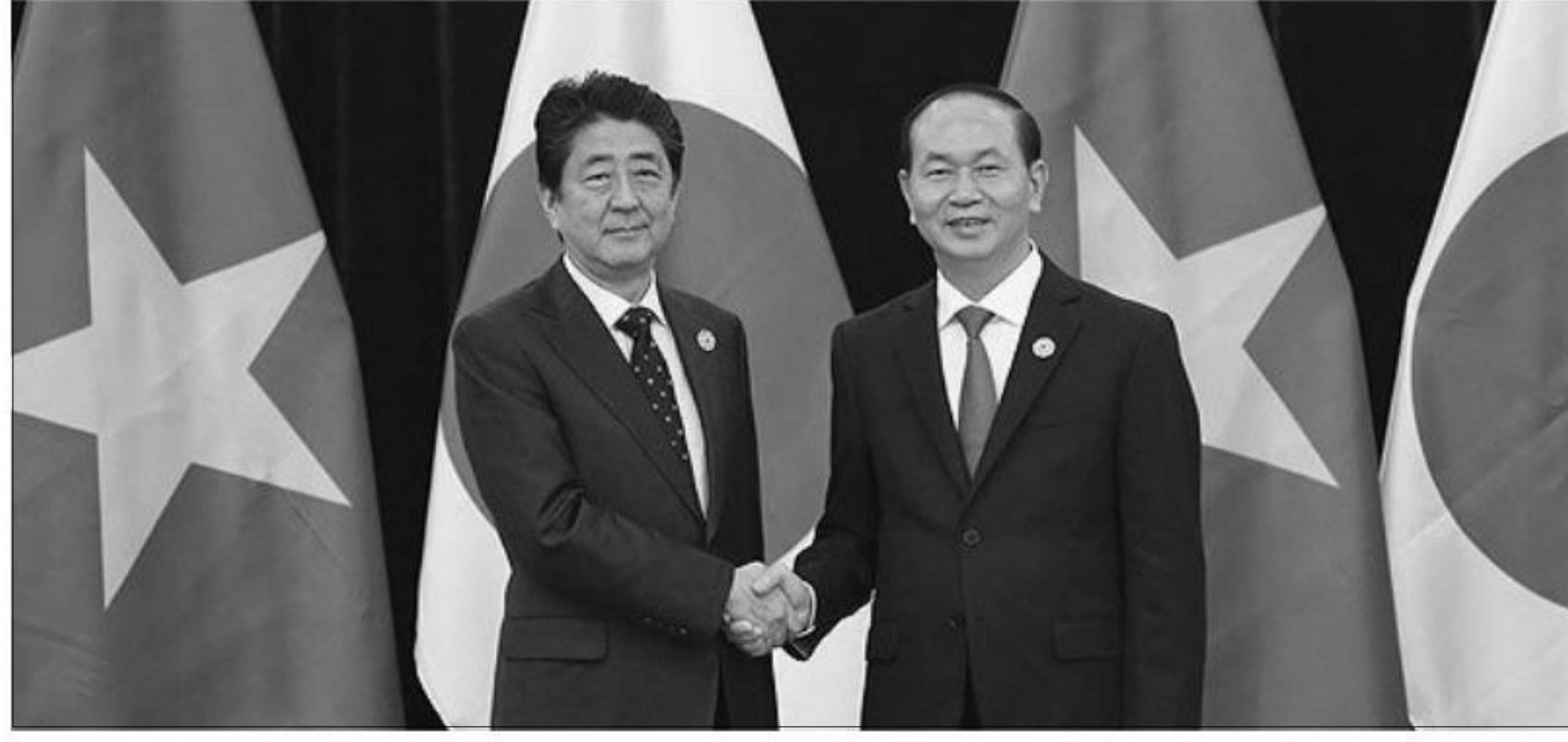
Perhaps anticipating this, the protestors have made it clear that all their demands ~ resignation of the Prime Minister, changes to the Constitution and reforms in the monarchy ~ must be conceded before they relent. Not even the use of water cannons or the imposition of an emergency in Bangkok was able to curb protests, forcing the government to sheepishly withdraw the latter measure. The last weapon is use of greater force. But the spectre of a crackdown that killed 25 protestors in 2010 still haunts the establishment and with a homegrown protest now having acquired a global dimension, that option may be off the table.

## Right to know

**T**hose who were inclined to give the Union government the benefit of the doubt when it claimed last year whilst amending the Right to Information Act that it was not seeking to dilute the provisions of the legislation, must now wonder, looking at the composition of the Central Information Commission, whether their faith was justified. For after the retirement of Mr Bimal Julka in August, the Commission has now been headless for two months and there is little to suggest that the position will be remedied soon. But even if it is, it is the other vacancies ~ of five of 10 Information Commissioners ~ that must cause alarm. This is not the first time the Commission has been headless during the NDA regime; the lackadaisical approach to filling up the top post and to keeping other posts vacant has resulted not just in an erosion of the institution but in swelling the list of pending cases, now said to be number more than 36,000. But to reduce the number of adjudicators to half, when that number should have been increased given the increasing use of the Act by citizens, is utterly inexplicable. This essentially means that the right to information, elevated to the status of a fundamental right by judgments of the apex court, has been severely compromised. When seen in the context of last year's amendments to the Act that changed the tenure and status of the Commissioners and took State Information Commissions wholly within the fold of the Union government, they suggest a less than benevolent attitude towards a democratic necessity. This is unhealthy. While delays in the process of appointing a CIC could be explained although only very partially by the outbreak of the coronavirus epidemic and the consequent lockdowns, the shortage of Information Commissioners has been a chronic problem and one that dates to pre-Covid days. If the government is fully committed to the democratic engagement, which it often says it is, it must seek to expand ~ and not restrict ~ the remit of the Act. It must view the right to information as being as vital to accountability and governance as Parliament was envisaged to be. Instead of aiding efforts at stonewalling information by bureaucrats, it must put in place mechanisms that significantly widen the ambit of suo motu disclosures under the Act. And it must get rid of a mindset that sees a preponderance of retired bureaucrats man posts in the Information Commission, when the Act enjoins it to appoint persons of eminence in public life with knowledge and experience of, in that order, law, science, technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance. Instead, recent events suggest the Act is being viewed as an albatross around the neck of governance. The citizen's right to know must be strengthened, not subjected to the contempt of apathy.

# Suga and Asia

**Vietnam is a popular choice for Japanese firms. It is seen as the site of the next economic miracle having registered consistent high economic growth despite the pandemic. Half of the 30 Japanese firms that used a 23.5 billion yen (\$222.9 million) government stimulus package to diversify supply chains in Southeast Asia targeted Vietnam**



**I**n his diplomatic debut after taking over from Abe Shinzo as Japan's Prime Minister in September, Yoshihide Suga, with little experience in the foreign policy domain, chose visits to Vietnam and Indonesia in order to deepen ties with the two Southeast Asian nations. The twin visits need to be seen from the perspective of geostrategy and geo-economics in the evolving scenario in the Indo-Pacific region.

The growing bonhomie between Japan and Vietnam stems from the increasing belligerence of China that threatens the established regional order as it attempts to rewrite it on its own terms with little respect or concern for other Asian nations' sensitivities. The same is true of Japan's ties with Indonesia and for that matter with the Asean grouping. A key component of the discussion between Suga and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc was to strengthen security and economics, including an agreement in principle for Japan to export military gear and technology amid the perceived threat from China. For Japan, Vietnam, which is serving as Asean chair this year, is the key to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Japan's foreign policy priority is to balance its deep economic ties with China with security concerns, including Beijing's push to assert claims over disputed Japan-controlled Senkaku islands in the East China Sea. In the South China Sea, Vietnam and other Asean members have territorial feuds with China but are wary of alienating a big economic partner and reluctant to get trapped in an intense confrontation between the US and China. China claims swathes of Vietnam's exclusive economic

zone as well as the Paracel and Spratly Islands and has drawn a nine-dash line overlapping exclusive economic zones of other claimants, thereby creating a territorial dispute in the South China Sea. The series of forays by Chinese naval warships into contested waters in complete violation of the territorial rights of others has turned the South China Sea into one of the most dangerous hotspots. Any further attempt by China to escalate tensions could have consequences that China could regret later.

In a sweeping reversal of policy, Japan ended a decades-old ban on overseas arms sales in 2014 to help strengthen the nation's military and lower the cost of home-built military equipment. This was the best that the Abe government could do as doing away with Article 9 of the Constitution that prevents Japan either from manufacturing or exporting arms, was next to impossible. This allowed Suga to engage in talks with Vietnam, Indonesia and possibly later with Thailand on deals to allow such exported arms. Another dimension of the visit is that it coincided with Japan's efforts to diversify its supply chains and reduce reliance on China by bringing production home or moving it to Southeast Asia for which the Abe government allocated had some capital in its stimulus package.

Vietnam is a popular choice for Japanese firms. Vietnam is the country that is seen as the site of the next economic miracle as the country has registered consistent

high economic growth despite the pandemic. Half of the 30 Japanese firms that used a 23.5 billion yen (\$222.9 million) government stimulus package to diversify supply chains in Southeast Asia targeted Vietnam. On its part, Vietnam has done its bit aggressively to court such investment.

Both countries also agreed to bolster their cooperation to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. This included restarting 'business track' travel as well as passenger flights between the two countries. Suga also said that Japan would help Vietnamese "trainees" working in Japan, many of whom are struggling as the Covid-19 outbreak hits Japanese companies.

Until now, Japanese security assistance has been to civilian agencies like the Vietnamese coastguard, but not the military. Now

with the new agreement inked, Japan shall sell military equipment and technology to Vietnam. Japan's first ever foreign military sale of defence equipment since 2014 had been to the Philippines when Japan sold a mix of long-range and mobile air surveillance radars. Japan and Vietnam share common concerns about China's maritime ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region which is why it makes sense for them to cooperate on maritime security issues.

Japan may not have much recent experience with providing security assistance, but it has a huge amount of experience with overseas development that could be critical at this time.

The South China Sea is at the

centre of the tensions in the region. China claims the entirety of the South China Sea on the basis of "historic rights," a position unsupported under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Six other Asian governments have territorial claims or maritime boundaries in the South China Sea that overlap with the sweeping claims of China. They are Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. Though Indonesia is not a party to the dispute, Beijing claims historic rights to parts of the sea overlapping Indonesia's exclusive economic zone. As regards positioning of Indonesia, it aligns its views with Japan but has reservations too. Indonesia is critical of the Japanese government for being inactive as Japanese companies plan to relocate their production bases from China to Vietnam but not to Indonesia. Indonesia is not yet comfortable with the Quad idea as it might annoy China whose enormous economic and military might may not be overlooked as it perceives the move to contain it. Such a perception would mean oversimplifying the current geopolitical landscape.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahendra Sirigar expressed his unhappiness a day before Suga was to land in Jakarta, saying that Japan's regional efforts to contain the pandemic were unsatisfactory. During his meeting with President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, Suga briefed the Indonesian side about his Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) initiative and endorsed Japan's unequivocal support to the Asean Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

With Hanoi holding the rotating Asean chair, it will this year host the East Asian Summit in November. That could be an opportunity to convert any trust deficit to build on strategic ties.

A MEMBER OF THE



ASIAN VOICES

## Napoleon' dead

**S**ri Lanka's Napoleon of Crime, Madush, who met his Waterloo last year, died on Tuesday. The police shot him dead at Maligawatte, Colombo, in what has been described as a confrontation between them and some of his confederates who allegedly tried to help him escape. A stock of heroin was found in an apartment which he allegedly led the police to. Samarasinghe Arachchige Madush Lakshitha aka Makandure Madush was no ordinary criminal. Having clawed his way up in the underworld, he became so powerful that his private army could strike anywhere at will as was evident from the Kalutara prison bus massacre in 2017. He meticulously planned the ambush on the prison vehicles while he was hiding in Dubai, and had the leader of a rival gang killed together with six others including two jailers. He obviously had inside help as he was aware of the last minute changes the prison officers, tasked with taking a group of prisoners including the victims to a court, had made to their plan. His businesses included drug running, extortion and contract killing. He used a fraction of his ill-gotten wealth for charity. He sponsored religious functions and reportedly lavished funds on some politicians.

The blame for the rise of Madush, a worker from a southern village, in the underworld should go to the police and successive governments, which did precious little to neutralise organised criminal networks. The traffic cops wait till motorists commit offences to fine them, and crime busters wait till criminals emerge strong to kill them!

In fact, governments have creat-

## The Island

ed monsters in the underworld to do their dirty work. The J. R. Jayewardene regime was responsible for the creation of Gonawala Sunil, who received a presidential pardon while serving a sentence for abducting and raping a teenage girl. He committed heinous crimes, carried out attacks on Opposition politicians and stuffed ballot boxes. He got killed when his political masters realised he knew too much and would go out of control. The Premadasa government sponsored Soththi Upali, who terrorised the country and had even high-ranking police officers salute him. He died at the hands of his rivals after the UNP had lost power. The Kumaratunga administration had a notorious underworld character, Beddagama Sanjeewa, appointed a police officer and attached to the Presidential Security Division. He rose above the law, and committed many a crime, but died a violent death when he became an embarrassment to that regime. The previous Rajapaksa government had a minister who specialised in underworld affairs. He had Opposition protests crushed, and journalists as well as media institutions attacked besides grabbing land in Colombo and its suburbs and extorting money. He helped drug kingpin Kudu Lal flee the country. The Jayapalana government did not promote criminals, but it allowed terrorists like Zahran, responsible for the Easter Sunday carnage, to emerge powerful.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## A time to get strict

**SIR,** This has reference to the news item "In festive season, PM calls for caution" (*The Statesman*, 21 October) and your editorial "Necessary caution" the following day. I think the PM and his dedicated team, the administration of all State governments and last but not the least, the Covid warriors deserve the gratitude of all of us for the very effective management of the pandemic.

India is vast country with about 1.35 billion people. Many of them are not as

aware about their personal hygiene as their counterparts in the developed worlds are.

Still, almost all of them have risen to the occasion and have done a remarkable job. The mortality rate is as low as 1.50 per cent.

The situation could have been even better if all citizens had followed strictly the same advice of the Health Ministry to wear masks when out of home and maintain social distance. We are a very indisciplined lot.

Without giving any

credit to Indira Gandhi and her son Sanjay for the excesses during the Emergency in 1975-77, one thing was achieved, and it was that some semblance of discipline in almost all walks of life could be noticed.

People started attending office on time, trains started maintaining schedules, university examinations were held in time and spitting in public places was contained.

I think the time has come during these pandemic days to enforce strict discipline on a section of citizens, if required by force, for their complete callousness.

By not wearing masks and not maintaining social distance, they are delaying the recovery process.

Yours, etc., Nirupam Halder,

Kolkata, 22 October.

### UNCERTAIN ALLIANCE

**SIR,** This refers to your report today headlined "Left, Cong forge Bengal Assembly poll pact". Recently, the Left front and Congress decided on an electoral understanding for next year's assembly polls in Bengal. Their common target is to unseat Trinamul Congress from power and to not allow BJP to form the government.

However, after their recent joint meetings, it is uncertain how they will fight polls together in Bengal. They are yet to draw up a common political declaration. Party workers at ground levels do not know whether their leaders are interested in a pre-poll alliance or will go for seat adjustment.

Both parties are unable to announce joint programmes and the Congress didn't accede to a Left proposal for a strike in Bengal on November 26.

Moreover, the state Congress President wanted the "alliance" to focus its energies against the Trinamul Congress and leave it to

### IMMENSE HARM

**SIR,** Ankhi Das has bid adieu to Facebook and speculation is rife that she will join politics. But the damage she has done by siding with the ruling dispensation through Facebook is immense. Facebook has chalked out an honourable exit plan for her without conducting any investigation of her role during the last nine years and especially 2014 onwards.

A suo motu investigation by the Competition Commission of India into the unfair trade practices by Facebook India is imperative.

Yours, etc., Baniprasanna Datta,

Kolkata, 28 October.

the party High Command to take on BJP.

But Left front leaders, on the other hand wouldn't budge from their anti-Trinamul, anti-BJP stance. Admittedly, a strong alliance of the Congress and Left Front can fight against the mighty Trinamul Congress and BJP. With elections looming, the two parties should coordinate their efforts if they are serious.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das,

Kolkata, 28 October.

### CONCERN VOICED

**SIR,** This refers to the letter, "Toppling Game" dated 20 October by Mr Arun Gupta. He has castigated the BJP government at the Centre and the West Bengal Governor for raising their voice against the Mamata Banerjee government.

As the Constitutional head of the State, the Governor voices his concerns where the Government fails in administration and ignores democratic values.

Yours, etc., Gautam Kumar Mazumder,

Basirhat, 27 October.



## What if Biden wins?



SUNIL SHARAN

Much of America will have a collective sigh of relief if Joe Biden becomes America's next president. All of the wokes and some in the right-wing as well. The racist Trump would have gone and would have taken the canker of racism from America's body politic along with him. But racism in America didn't start with Trump and will not end with Trump.

Police brutality against minorities will continue in Biden's reign, as it did under Barack Obama's. There will only be feeble attempts, if any, at

police reform. Remember the beer summit during Obama's time, when the black Harvard professor, Henry Louis Gates Jr., was arrested because he couldn't get into his own house. Biden was there to defuse the anger of the police against comments that Obama had made against them.

And that was the end of police reform for the next eight years of the Obama-Biden administration.

America is reeling under the onslaught of the pandemic. The economy desperately needs to be revived. Trump inherited a strong economy from Obama and let it rip further by lowering taxes and removing regula-

tions. That will be Trump's recipe to revive the economy if he wins. Biden on the other hand promises to resuscitate the economy with the green new deal and the millions of jobs that he says it will create.

Whether the green new deal costs ten trillion dollars or a hundred trillion dollars, trying to convert a fossil-fuel economy such as the one that we have into one based strongly on renewable energy has failed miserably. And that too not too long ago.

Obama and Biden poured tens of billions of dollars into the green economy but their bundlers and financiers made out like bandits with the money

by building fake companies. Even Bill Gates has admitted that wind and solar are not ready for prime time because they are intermittent.

Fracking created about half a million jobs in Obama's first term and was essential to making him win his second term. Obama let fracking go unimpeded, only banning it from federal lands. He even promoted America's fracking technology to China and Poland.

Biden on the other hand has been all over the map with fracking. During the Democratic primaries he said that there would be no new fracking under him. Now he's singing a dif-

ferent tune to win the general election. But the wokes in his party, the Kamala Harrises and the AOCs, are dead-set against fracking. Yes, Biden will be president, but can he afford to antagonize his woke base, especially since he would have another term to win.

The key to fracking is not to ban it or limit it but contain the pollution that emits from it, as President Trump outlined in the last presidential debate.

Biden faces tremendous foreign policy challenges. One has been hidden from public view. Al Qaeda has been planning to nuke America for over 20 years. How is that threat going to be combated? And just in case Al Qaeda succeeds in its nefarious plans, what is America's response going to be? Al Qaeda is not dead, it is alive and kicking. I have written a book, *Inside Al Qaeda's Plot to Nuke America*, which is available on Amazon.

The second major challenge is Iran. Obama and Biden deeply antagonized the Sunni Gulf States as well as Israel by inking the deal with Iran. Saudi Arabia and Israel are traditional allies of the US. Trump has restored amity with them and between them. I hail from India. Iran has made shrill noises on Kashmir annoying India no end. India has become firm friends with Israel and the Sunni Gulf States.

Thus a real friendship has emerged between the US, Israel, the Sunni Gulf States, and India. By re-entering a deal with Iran, Biden will only break the coalition against Iran. Israel, the Sunni Gulf States, and even India may abandon the US. Does Biden really want to do that?

Trump has been accused of undoing all that Obama and Biden achieved. But Biden promises to upend everything that Trump has done. Biden will take us back into an already-proven unsustainable era of building the economy. Biden will spurn America's dearest friends in order to clasp the hand of a crafty enemy. Biden has outlined no plans against Al Qaeda's nuclear threat. Biden will flail around with police reform. All of this will happen if Joe Biden becomes America's next president.

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

### 100 YEARS AGO

#### OCCASIONAL NOTE

It seems fairly clear that the trouble in Mesopotamia is of external origin. The incident of which the Times received news by mail, namely, of the wrecking of a train and the attempted murder of all the Indians in it by Arabs led by Syrian officers - the suppression of the telegraphed version by the Mesopotamian censor is very characteristic of the Indian methods of government applied to the country - shows clearly from which quarter the incitement comes. Apparently Mr. Lloyd George has allowed himself to be persuaded that if only another job can be found for the Emir Feisul, who will not co-operate with the French in Syria, the Mesopotamian trouble will end. A few more weeks may afford the spectacle of a King of Mesopotamia appointed by ukase of an English politician who was once a "little Welsh attorney." Colonel Lawrence, who, unlike Mr. Lloyd George, knows several of the Arab dialects and has spent many years in the company of Arabs in their own lands, is certain that the appointment of Feisul as King of Mesopotamia will have nothing but bad results. Time will show who is right but those who like to "back a winner" will not hesitate long in making their choice between the Prime Minister and the Colonel.

### NEWS ITEMS

#### DANGEROUS BRUSHES

The Director of Information requests publicity for a statement of precautionary measures to be taken against the danger of contracting anthrax from the use of infected brushes. Within the last few months several cases of anthrax due to infection contained in shaving brushes have occurred in India. Investigation has proved that most of the brushes are imported from Japan, but any brush not guaranteed by a known maker is open to suspicion. This refers not only to shaving brushes but also to tooth brushes, nail brushes and paint brushes. The Government of India recommends the method of disinfection and advises its employment before using any newly purchased brush. Government is considering the advisability of controlling the importation into India of brushes from other countries.

#### THE HOOKWORM DISEASE

A very important paper upon Hookworm Disease has recently appeared in the Lancet. The author Dr. S.T. Darling is well known for the thoroughness of his work on malaria at Panama. The paper referred to is based upon the results of extended observations on hookworm disease in Java, Brazil, Fiji and Malaya, in which the author was assisted by Drs. M.E. Barnes, W.G. Smille and H.P. Hacker. The primary object of the investigation was to ascertain the extent to which hookworm infection affected the working efficiency of the people. In most communities and districts the great bulk of the people are agriculturists, and it was found that practically 100 per cent of this class are infected. It was found also that there is a marked correspondence between the actual number of worms harboured in each case and the anaemia present.

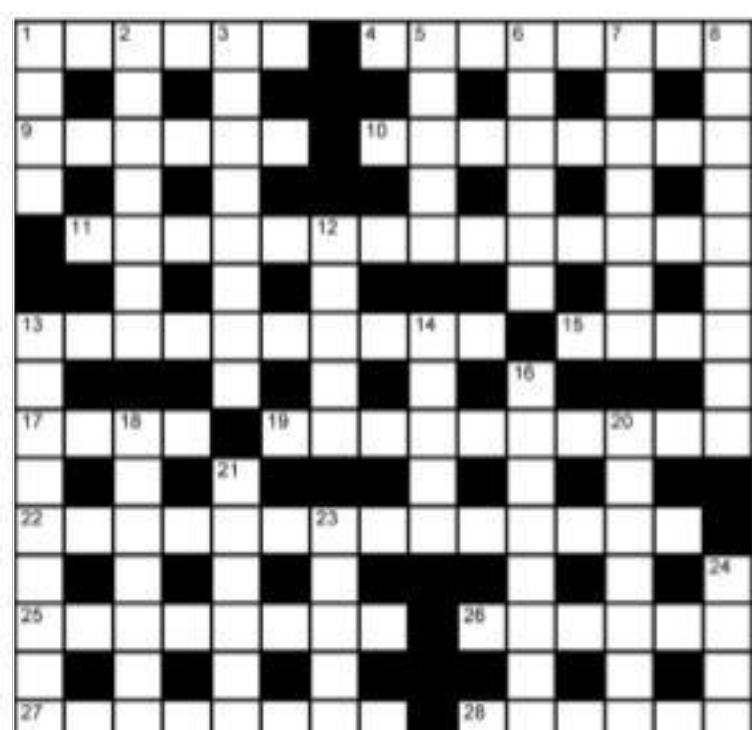
#### NON-COOPERATION

The following manifesto has been issued:- We the undersigned non-official members of the Imperial Legislative Council, while deeply regretting the resolution of the House of Lords on the Punjab affairs and the decision of the Allies over the Khilafat question, desire to impress our emphatic disapproval of the policy and principle of non-cooperation. It is our deliberate conviction that the movement can do no good but is fraught with harm to the best interests of the country. It will introduce elements of disorder and discord which will be fatal to the successful working of the Reforms Act, on which the future of the country so largely depends - (Sd.) Raja of Mahmudabad, Maharaja of Kasimbazar, Surendranath Banerjea, Devaprasad Sarvadhipuri, Srinivasa Sastry, R.D. Tata, Khan Shahib Shetty, Syed Mahomed Ali.

#### WARSAW

What is evidently the "Red" armies great offensive on Warsaw has begun, judging from the latest Polish communiqué, which reports furious fighting on practically the whole front around the city, and particularly to the east of the city, where says the communiqué, the 3rd and 16th Soviet armies, with a definite order to capture the capital, have begun, attacking Neap Radzim, which was occupied temporarily, but was later recaptured. Fierce fighting continues. On other points of the front the Poles claim that they are holding their own, and that they are even conducting successful counter-attacks except on the Bug, where in order to shorten their front, their command has ordered a withdrawal.

#### CROSSWORD



#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

#### ACROSS

- Bottleneck improvisation on record (6)
- Home bird gets film online here (8)
- Metallic element split in two somehow (6)
- Instrument electronic rock group used in ... thinks ... that's 11 and 13A, for a start (8)
- Mind about hotel's awfully small kitchen, originally seen in 1940s film (3,4,7)
- After a time, sure to be captivated by film (10)
- Capital of Laos, locally (4)
- Nothing works? Oh dear, I just miscalculated (4)

#### DOWN

- Dance? Tango being performed as Strictly option (10)
- Number given fine (Sex in Rome? Screwing brains out? That's not all to see) (4,10)
- Primarily cloudy, when in past tense? (8)
- European dukes holding court in film (2,4)
- Best haircut in film about moon landing (5,3)
- Small group of stars, reduced in total number (6)
- Sign name in Spanish city (4)
- Hob's gardener's first to have turned up, with new hose for pump (3,4)
- Bloomer due to a female drinking alcohol (4,4)
- Expertise in speech-making? Not at all (5)
- Top student for a good source of income? (6)
- Book featuring dead monarchs? Two of them appear in both 26 and 27 (7)
- Subdued time, before day in 1D (5,4)
- One of a set of 7 in Holst composition (5)
- Take advantage of generosity of one's GP? (6,3)
- Device for raising water a golf club's set up (5)
- Occasional table's description, if it contains 9? (8)
- Be the first to explore employing one taking drugs in Puerto Rico (7)
- Stop listening as solicitor describes a French female (4,3)
- Overtact badly, right away getting the bird (6)
- Horse mounted outside southern port (5)
- 27 seeing woman naked? Nice one! (4)

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

NO 28119



## THUMBNAILS

**Axius Bank profit:** Axis Bank on Wednesday reported a net profit of Rs 1,683 crore on a standalone basis for the quarter ended 30 September 2020 on account of decline in bad loans. The private sector lender had posted a loss of Rs 112.08 crore in the July-September period of the previous fiscal. The bank's total income rose marginally to Rs 19,870.07 crore in the second quarter of 2020-21, from Rs 19,333.57 crore in the same period last year, it said.

**India-Vietnam trade:** India is the future of the world and Vietnamese companies need to seriously consider India as an investment destination, said Pham Sanh Chau, ambassador of Vietnam to India. Addressing a webinar on India-Vietnam Business Forum organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Pham Sanh Chau said that there are many sectors that the two countries can complement each other such as tourism, textile, agriculture, petrochemical and healthcare. "To enhance the momentum of trade between the two countries, business links need to be further strengthened," he added.

SNS

**Cognizant MD:** IT major Cognizant has named Rajesh Nambiar as the chairman and managing director of its India operations and a member of its executive committee effective 9 November 2020. Nambiar will join Cognizant from Ciena, a networking, systems and software company, where he currently serves as the chairman and president of Ciena India, said a statement.

PTI

**Mutual fund:** Mahindra Manulife Investment Management Private Limited has launched "Mahindra Manulife Focused Equity Yojana", an open ended equity scheme that aims to invest in maximum 30 stocks across market capitalisation (i.e. multi cap). The new fund offer has opened on 26 October and will close on 9 November 2020, said a Press release from the company.

SNS

**Samsung offer:** Samsung on Wednesday announced the "Reward Yourself" campaign to add to the festive cheer. With "Reward Yourself", consumers get flat 10 per cent cashback with HDFC Bank credit and debit cards and SBI credit cards, exciting bundle offers and a range of other benefits on Samsung's wide portfolio of smartphones, wearables and tablets, said a Press release issued by the company.

SNS

**Truecaller features:** Building upon its core proposition of making communication safer for their users, Truecaller has rolled out three new features - Call Reason, Schedule SMS and SMS Translate - for users globally. All these features will be free for all consumers, it said.

SNS

All standard operating procedures and rule books of CIL are being revisited to make them more effective

PRAMOD AGRAWAL

CHAIRMAN &amp; MANAGING DIRECTOR, COAL INDIA

# L&T Q2 net profit falls 45% to ₹1,410 crore

Revenues decline by 12 per cent y-o-y due to lingering impact of the pandemic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER

**E**ngineering and construction giant Larsen & Toubro (L&T) today posted a 45 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,410.29 crore for the quarter ended 30 September 2020 compared with Rs 2,551.67 crore in the year-ago period.

The company had clocked a net profit of Rs 2,551.67 crore in the year-ago period, it said in a regulatory filing.

"Net profit after tax (PAT) and share in profit / loss) of joint ventures / associates from continuing operations before exceptional items for the quarter is at Rs 1,410 crore, registering a sequential improvement of nearly 4 times reflecting pickup in the business momentum.

"However, the impact of pandemic in terms of lower revenue, higher credit provisions in the financial services business and disruption of the metro services, led to decline of 45 per cent vis-à-vis reported PAT of corresponding quarter of the previous year

## PROGRESS REPORT

► Larsen & Toubro on Wednesday reported a 45 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,410.29 crore for the quarter ended 30 September 2020 compared with Rs 2,551.67 crore in the year-ago period.

► Total consolidated income fell to Rs 31,593.77 crore in July-September quarter of this fiscal, from Rs 35,924.89 crore in the

year-ago period.

► Total expenses slipped to Rs 29,455.57 crore as against Rs 32,622.14 crore earlier.

at Rs 2,552 crore," the company said in a statement.

Total consolidated income fell to Rs 31,593.77 crore in July-September quarter of this fiscal, from Rs 35,924.89 crore in the year-ago period.

Total expenses slipped to Rs 29,455.57 crore as against Rs 32,622.14 crore earlier.

During the quarter, the company completed divestment of its electrical and automation (E&A) business to Schneider Electric (SE), France, and has transferred



year-ago period.

► Total expenses slipped to Rs 29,455.57 crore as against Rs 32,622.14 crore earlier.

the business to Schneider on receipt of consideration on 31 August 2020, it said.

Net profit after tax from discontinued operations for the quarter comprises profits of E&A business till the date of divestment to Schneider on 31 August, amounting to Rs 45 crore and gain of Rs 8,101 crore (net of tax) on conclusion of divestment of the business.

"During the quarter, with the labour at various project sites reaching near pre-Covid levels, the businesses saw a pickup in execution momentum compared to Q1 FY2020-21 and achieved a sequential growth of 46 per cent.

"However, the revenue declined by 12 per cent y-o-y due to the lingering impact of the pandemic during the quarter under review," the company said.

International revenue during the quarter at Rs 12,148 crore constituted 39 per cent of the total revenue, it said.

The company further said strong emphasis by the government on infrastructure spending augurs well for the company and the National Infrastructure Pipeline, which lays out a detailed capex roadmap till 2025, provides visibility on the domestic infrastructure outlook.

The company said cash generation from operations was robust during the quarter which was strongly supplemented by proceeds from the divestment of E&A business.

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*US Senators are entrenched in their anti-China bias & obsessed with making up all sorts of lies to vilify China and seek selfish political gains*

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN WANG WENBIN  
CHINA DENIES ALLEGATIONS OF GENOCIDE IN XINJIANG

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2020

09

# US vision of Lanka very different from 'predator' China: Pompeo

Pompeo's visit comes in the backdrop of China's increasing forays in Sri Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, 28 OCTOBER

America's vision on Sri Lanka is "very different" from that of "predator" China, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said here on Tuesday as he met the leadership here and reaffirmed US' commitment to the island nation's sovereignty and security.

Addressing a joint press conference with his Sri Lankan counterpart Dinesh Gunawardena after bilateral talks, the top US diplomat said that the US and Sri Lanka shared a democratic vision.

Indeed, a strong sovereign Sri Lanka is a positive partner on the world stage. It can be a beacon for a free Indo-Pacific. The Chinese Communist Party is a predator. The US comes in a different way, we come as a friend, Pompeo said in response to a question.

Pompeo, who became the Trump administration's highest ranking official to visit Sri Lanka, said that the US and Sri Lanka shared a vision for democracy to build a relationship and the freedom to hold democratic elections.

Emphasising on the need for the freedom of navigation, the Secretary of State said that the US businesses are superior over the Chinese companies who are making big moves in Sri Lanka.

These American companies are the most reliable partners



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (L) speaks during a joint press briefing as Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena watches at the Ministry of Foreign Relations in Colombo on Wednesday. ■ AFP

on the planet. They are liable to the law, transparency. The US wants to increase its relationship with a democratic and fully independent Sri Lanka, he said. He said that he had discussed with Sri Lankan leaders the pandemic that came from Wuhan, China. Pompeo said that he held wide-ranging discussions about our security operations. Sri Lankan officers receiving training in the US. I am also proud that the US donated two coast guard cutters to the Navy.

He visited the St Anthony's Church in north Colombo, one of the churches devastated by last year's deadly Easter Sunday attacks.

Today, I laid a wreath at the Shrine of St. Anthony, one of the sites of the 2019 #Easter Attacks which killed and injured hundreds of innocent people.

We stand with the Sri Lankan people and the world to defeat violent extremism and bring perpetrators to justice. #USwithSL, Pompeo tweeted. Five Americans were killed.

The US has offered substantial counterterrorism assistance to help bring the killers of Americans and their own people to justice. Let us all stand together shoulder-to-shoulder and let's do even more together on the strength of our partnership armed by democratic values, Pompeo said. Gunawardena said that Sri Lanka would remain a non-aligned nation and it welcomes visits by the US officials. Meanwhile in Beijing, replying to a question about Pompeo's remarks about the Chinese Communist Party, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said

that forcing small and medium-sized countries to pick sides is a habitual behaviour of certain US politicians.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry official has published an article saying that it will handle its foreign relations in accordance with their people's will and their laws, instead of being guided by any foreigners, he noted.

Sri Lanka and China are traditional friendly neighbours. We have been conducting friendly cooperation on the basis of equal footing negotiations and mutual benefit which brings tangible benefits to the two countries' people. This will never be altered by any smears or slanders by other people or other countries.

We will work with Sri Lanka to expand and deepen our strategic cooperative partnership to bring more benefits for our peoples, and to contribute to the regional peace, stability and development, the spokesperson added.

Pompeo, in a tweet after he arrived here on Tuesday, said: I'm excited to be here in Colombo. I'm proud of the work @USEmbSL does to strengthen ties with the government, businesses, and people of Sri Lanka and look forward to expanding on those efforts during my visit. #USwithSL.

He was in India along with Defence Secretary Mark T Esper for the third edition of

the US-India 2+2 dialogue.

Pompeo's visit comes in the backdrop of China's increasing forays in Sri Lanka. The Chinese military has been flexing its muscles in the strategically vital Indo-Pacific region and is also engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

Early this month, India, the US, Japan and Australia agreed to step up coordination in creating a free and open Indo-Pacific. Pompeo's visit is being seen here as part of the US effort to have Sri Lanka on its side vis-a-vis China. Two weeks ago, a high-powered Chinese delegation led by ruling Communist Party Politburo member Yang Jiechi visited Colombo.

Just a day before Pompeo's visit, the Chinese Embassy accused the US of interfering in its ties with Sri Lanka. China is one of the biggest investors in various infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka. But there has been criticism, both locally and internationally, and growing concerns that China has lured Sri Lanka into a debt trap.

The previous Maithripala Sirisena government had entered into a 99-year lease with China in 2017 as a settlement of its debt by way of equity. Sri Lanka's economy, especially the tourism sector, has been hit hard since last year - initially by the Easter Sunday attacks and later by the ongoing pandemic.

# Hundreds of Muslims hold anti-France protest in B'desh

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
DHAKA, 28 OCTOBER

Turkish leaders condemn Charlie Hebdo cartoon of Erdogan: Turkish officials on Wednesday railed against French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo over its cover-page cartoon mocking Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and accused it of sowing the seeds of hatred and animosity. The cartoon could further heighten tensions between Turkey and France, which erupted over French President Emmanuel Macron's firm stance against Islamism following the beheading of a teacher who showed his class caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad for a free speech class.

cially comment. The party supports the introduction of Islamic law in the Muslim-majority South Asian nation, which is governed by a legal system largely based on British common law.

Wednesday's protest at the national Baitul Mukarram Mosque in downtown Dhaka came a day after about 10,000 Muslims from another Islamist

group, Islami Andolon Bangladesh, demonstrated in Dhaka to call for a boycott of French products. Muslim-majority countries across the world have been outraged by Macron's refusal last week to condemn the publication or display of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad. In Islam, any depiction of the prophet is prohibited.

## SACRED FLAMES



A priest stands in front of a fire at the Baramahini Temple during Dashain festival in Kathmandu, on Wednesday. ■ AFP

Tanzania votes for president amid fears of violence, fraud

NAIROBI, 28 OCTOBER

Voters in Tanzania are going to the polls on Wednesday for a presidential election that the opposition warns is already deeply compromised by manipulation and deadly violence.

My life is in danger, the chairman of one of the East African nation's top opposition parties, Freeman Mbewe of CHADEMA, tweeted early in the morning, asserting that heavily armed gangsters protected by police had raided his hotel and seized two of his security guards.

Tanzania, once praised for its relative peace and its peacemaking efforts in Africa, has become a human rights crisis as diplomats, the United Nations human rights office and others say the government under President John Magufuli has stifled media, civil society and opposition voices. He also has been accused of downplaying the pandemic.

The populist Magufuli, who made his name in part by targeting corruption, now seeks a second five-year term in one of Africa's most populous and fastest-growing economies. His top opposition challenger is Tundu Lissu, a survivor of an assassination attempt in 2017 who returned from exile earlier this year to campaign. Lissu has urged people to go into the streets to protest if election results are announced Thursday without being counted properly. The opposition, however, is split as 15 presidential candidates seek a win. More than 29 million have registered to vote on Wednesday. ■ AP

## US-Israel extend science accords into West Bank

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
JERUSALEM, 28 OCTOBER

The United States and Israel amended a series of scientific cooperation agreements on Wednesday to include Israeli institutions in the West Bank, a step that further blurs the status of settlements widely considered illegal under international law.

Until now, three US-Israeli science cooperation agreements excluded projects in areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war - including the West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

Israeli and American officials signed protocols amending the Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation, the Binational Science Foundation, and Binational Agricultural Research and Development Foundation at a ceremony in the West Bank settlement of Ariel.

The Palestinians seek the

## Eager for change, Chile faces long road to new constitution

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SANTIAGO (CHILE), 28 OCTOBER

The fireworks and street celebrations are over in Chile, and now many months of hard work and uncertainty loom for a population impatient for change.

One of Latin America's most affluent nations, and also one haunted by social and economic inequality, plans to draft a new constitution to replace the charter introduced during military rule decades ago.

The project's launch comes during a global pandemic that sapped Chile's economy and follows protests and deadly clashes with security forces since last year. Even though the protests ebbed during lockdown measures aimed at slowing the spread of the coronavirus, the potential for unrest remains.

In a statement, the US Embassy in Israel said that these geographic restrictions are no longer consistent with US policy, and that updating the agreements to remove them further strengthens the special bilateral relationship between the two countries.

can deliver the sweeping, egalitarian change that many in the country of 19 million people want won't be clear for years. How will a new Chilean constitution define new economic and social rights, which are only attainable if the funding resources are there?" said Cynthia Arnesson, director of the Latin America program at the Wilson Center in Washington.

The channeling of last year's social explosion into a process for political change is a major accomplishment. Meeting demands to overcome inequality through constitutional procedures will be a huge, but not insurmountable challenge, Arnesson said.

All parties with parliamentary representation should feel on notice. Luca Dammert, an academic at the same university, said the vote was a very strong blow to conventional politics.

On April 11 next year, the installation of the convention in the following month, and then a plebiscite on the proposed constitution in mid-2022.

The fact that Chileans voted to elect constituents who are not in Congress highlights an awkward dynamic: The constitutional project will unfold under the aegis of a government and Congress widely viewed as having failed their people. It has to be interpreted as a general and comprehensive rejection of the political class as a whole, said Marcelo Mella, a political analyst at the Universidad de Santiago de Chile, a university in Chile's capital.

All parties with parliamentary representation should feel on notice. Luca Dammert, an academic at the same university, said the vote was a very strong blow to conventional politics.

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ANKARA (TURKEY), 28 OCTOBER

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened Wednesday to launch a new military operation in northern Syria if Kurdish militants are not cleared from areas along its border with Syria.

In an address to his ruling party's legislators in parliament, the Turkish leader also said a Russian airstrike that targeted Turkey-backed Syrian rebels in Idlib earlier this week was an indication that Moscow was not looking for a lasting peace in the region.

If all of the terrorists aren't removed ... as it has been

promised to us, I repeat once again that we have a legitimate reason to intervene at any moment we feel the need to, Erdogan said.

His comments came days after a suspected Kurdish militant whom officials said had infiltrated into Turkey from Syria blew himself up in a town in the border province of Hatay, following a police chase. Security officials killed a second militant.

In his first remarks on Monday's airstrike that killed dozens of fighters, Erdogan said: Russia's attack targeting the Syrian National Army forces' training center is a sign that a lasting peace and calm is not wanted in the region.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



### SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Story (4)	2 Pleading for (8)
4 Spats (7)	3 Birding (5)
8 Assert (4)	4 Physical training room (9)
9 Complete remodelling (8)	5 Writing fluid (3)
10 Mince and potato dish (7)	6 Tending to arouse feelings (7)
13 Seafood (6)	7 Waxy fat (4)
15 Verse (6)	11 Appropriate (9)
16 Trend (10)	12 Eastern (8)
19 Affability (8)	14 Aquatic bird (7)
21 Obligation (4)	17 Trend (Informal) (5)
22 Children's play area (7)	18 Common sense (4)
23 Egg part (4)	20 Cleaning implement (3)

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

### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



### DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



### NEED TO KNOW

#### HOSPITALS

• AIIMS 26588500, 26588900  
• Mochardi Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447

• Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304

• Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747

• Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25496403  
• Guru Tegh Bahadur 2317473, 23325320

PAIR SCORE 160-170 JUDD FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

SCRABBLE® BRAND YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

RACK 1: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

RACK 2: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

RACK 3: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

RACK 4: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

JUDD TOTAL: 244

PAIR SCORE: 160-170 JUDD TOTAL: 244

SCRABBLE® BRAND YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

RACK 1: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

RACK 2: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

RACK 3: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

RACK 4: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

JUDD TOTAL: 244

PAIR SCORE: 160-170 JUDD TOTAL: 244

SCRABBLE® BRAND



Nobody has ever seen anything like we're witnessing right now. I think it's a very sad time and it'll go down as a very sad era for the media and certainly for big tech (companies)

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

World

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	18°C	12°C
LONDON	17°C	9°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	9°C
NEW YORK	10°C	7°C
MOSCOW	16°C	9°C

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

## THUMBNAILS



Anti-Brexit activist Steve Bray holds an EU flag and a placard on a bus stop shelter in Westminster, on Wednesday. ■ AFP

**SA Prez in quarantine:** South African president Cyril Ramaphosa has announced he has gone into quarantine after coming into contact with a dinner guest who has tested positive for Covid. Ramaphosa came into contact with a guest at a dinner of 35 people in Johannesburg last weekend, the president's spokesman said. ■ AP

**Boeing job cuts:** Boeing will cut more jobs as it continues to bleed money and lose revenue during a pandemic that has smothered demand for new airline planes. The company said that it expects to cut its workforce to about 130,000 employees by the end of next year, down 30,000 from the start of this year. ■ AP

**Heathrow airport:** London's Heathrow Airport says it has lost its place as Europe's busiest air hub to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris after the Covid pandemic grounded flights and Britain failed to approve passenger testing that could scale back quarantine requirements. ■ AP

**NXIVM guru gets 120 years in prison in sex-slaves case**

NEW YORK, 28 OCTOBER

Disgraced self-improvement guru Keith Raniere, whose NXIVM followers included millionaires and Hollywood actors, was sentenced to 120 years for turning some adherents into sex slaves branded with his initials and sexually abusing a 15-year-old.

US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis on Tuesday called Raniere ruthless and unyielding in crimes that were particularly egregious because he targeted girls and young women in the sex-trafficking conspiracy that resulted in Raniere's conviction last year.

He handed down the unusually stiff sentence in Brooklyn federal court after hearing 15 victims call for a long prison term to reflect the nightmares and anguish they'll confront the rest of their lives. As he announced the sentence, Garaufis noted that Raniere labelled some of the victims' claims lies. The judge told a woman who Raniere ordered to be kept in a room for two years when she was 18: "What happened to you is not your fault." He said that went for the other victims too.

Raniere, who looked at victims as they spoke in the courtroom, maintained his defiant tone, although he said he was truly sorry that his organisation led to a place where there is so much anger and so much pain."

Prosecutors had sought life in prison, while defense lawyer told the judge Raniere should face 20 years behind bars. The sentencing was the culmination of several years of revelations about Raniere's program, NXIVM, which charged thousands of dollars for invitation-only self-improvement courses at its headquarters near Albany, New York, along with branches in Mexico and Canada. ■ AP

# Lawsuits, voting struggles as Americans cast their ballot under shadow of Covid

The New York Times said in a report that lawyers have already filed more than 300 lawsuits across 44 states over issues related to voting during pandemic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW YORK, 28 OCTOBER

With Americans casting their ballot for the 2020 Presidential elections under the shadow of the coronavirus, lawsuits and voting struggles are being commonplace as Democrats try to make it easier for Americans to vote while Republicans are making it harder, a media report has said.

The New York Times said in a report that lawyers have already filed more than 300 lawsuits across 44 states over issues related to voting in the pandemic.

As more than 71 million Americans have already voted early in the elections, the report said the most important cases over voting are in the battleground states on which the presidential election or Senate control could hinge.

In Pennsylvania, the state's highest court has ruled that election officials should count mailed ballots that arrive up to three days after Election Day.



Supporters of US President Donald Trump attend a rally outside the "Make America Great Again" main event in Wisconsin. ■ AFP

However Pennsylvania Republicans are trying to get the Supreme Court to reverse the order, so that only ballots received by Election Day will count, the NYT report said.

In North Carolina, Republicans and the Trump campaign have asked the Supreme Court to block the state's board of elections from extending the deadline to receive mail ballots. The board has said ballots can arrive until November 12, as long as they were mailed by Election Day.

In Wisconsin, five Republican-appointed justices on the Supreme Court sided on Monday with Republican officials in Wisconsin, ruling that ballots must arrive by 8 p.m. on Election Day to count. Responding to this, the state's Democratic Party is urging voters to return mail ballots in person rather than mailing them.

The NYT report said that in Nevada, the Trump campaign has sued to stop the counting of absentee ballots in the Las Vegas area, evi-

dently hoping to challenge the signatures on many ballots.

In Texas, the state's top court on Tuesday upheld a policy announced by Greg Abbott, the Republican governor, which limits each county to a single drop-off box for mailed ballots. The state's largest county Harris, which includes Houston is home to 4.7 million people.

In many of these cases, Republicans have made the baseless claim that changing voting rules because of the pandemic could lead to fraud and that allowing ballots to be counted after Election Day leads to confusion and chaos, the report said.

Democrats have argued that protecting people's right to vote, during a national crisis, should be the top priority. They have also pointed out that some Republicans have changed their position on the counting of mailed ballots.

When late-arriving mail ballots seemed likely to help George W. Bush in Florida in 2000, Republicans argued that the state should count them, it said.

'We need you': GOP hunts for new voters in Trump territory

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SLIPPERY ROCK, 28 OCTOBER

President Donald Trump's campaign has a bold theory for how he will win reelection: It can tap a universe of millions of supporters who did not vote for him in 2016 but will do so this time.

Supposedly, these voters are overlooked by polls that show Trump consistently trailing Democrat Joe Biden. They are mostly the white working class from factory towns, farms and mining communities that Trump has elevated to near-mythic status as the forgotten Americans.

They are disaffected and disconnected from conventional politics. Yet they flock to the president's rallies, plaster their yards with signs and have been filling up voter registration rolls, the campaign insists. In few places will this strategy be tested as in Pennsylvania, a critical state

that Trump carried by only 44,292 votes out of 6.1 million cast in 2016. A Democratic surge of votes in cities and suburbs could quickly erase that narrow lead. To hold onto Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes, the president needs to prove that a hidden groundswell of supporters exists and will vote.

But the math behind the theory is tight. Trump's plan requires blowout victories and historic turnout in conservative strongholds across the state, places where he outperformed traditional Republicans four years ago and he knows must do even better.

His mission is made clear by his campaign stops in Pennsylvania this week: a tour through GOP areas like Latrobe, Littitz and Martinsburg. Trump has to drive turnout, said Terry Madonna, a professor at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster.

Judge stops Election Day gun ban near Michigan polling sites

DETROIT, 28 OCTOBER

A judge on Tuesday blocked a sudden ban on the open display of guns near Michigan polling places on Election Day.

Judge Christopher Murray acted just a few hours after hearing a challenge from gun-rights groups.

They said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, had exceeded her authority in banning people from openly carrying guns within 100 feet of polling places.

Critics argued that Benson failed to go through a formal rule-making process as required under state law.

To be clear: This case is not about the fragile state of mind of 21 voters, and what (Benson) envisions is the appropriate level of wokeness by voters, said Dean Greenblatt, attorney for the group Michigan Open Carry.

It's the question of raw abuse and assumption of power not authorized by law. An appeal is possible.

## Fb, Google, Twitter CEOs face grilling by senators

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 28 OCTOBER

COP senators making unfounded allegations that the tech giants show anti-conservative bias.

has asked Congress to strip some of the bedrock protections that have generally shielded the tech companies from legal responsibility for what people post on their platforms. Trump signed an executive order challenging the protections from lawsuits under the 1996 telecommunications law. For too long, social media platforms have hidden behind Section 230 protections to censor content that deviates from their beliefs, Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., the Commerce Committee chairman, said recently.

In their opening statements prepared for the hearing, Dorsey, Zuckerberg and Pichai addressed the proposals for changes to so-called Section 230, a provision of a 1996 law that has served as the foundation for unfettered speech on the internet.

Zuckerberg said Congress should update the law to make sure it's working as intended. We don't think tech companies should be making so many decisions about these important issues alone, he said, approving an active role for government regulators. Dorsey and Pichai, however, urged caution in making any changes. Undermining Sec 230 will result in far more removal of online speech and impose severe limitations on our collective ability to address harmful content and protect people online, Dorsey said.

## Satellite photos show construction at Iran N-site

DUBAI, 28 OCTOBER

Iran has begun construction at its Natanz nuclear facility, satellite images released Wednesday show, just as the UN's nuclear agency acknowledged Tehran is building an underground advanced centrifuge assembly plant after its last one exploded in a reported sabotage attack last summer.

The construction comes as the U.S. nears Election Day in a campaign pitting President Donald Trump, whose maximum pressure campaign against Iran has led Tehran to abandon all limits on its atomic program, and Joe Biden, who has expressed a willingness to return to the accord. The outcome of the vote likely will decide which approach America takes.

Since August, Iran has built a new or regraded road to the south of Natanz toward what analysts believe is a former firing range for security forces at the enrichment facility, images from San Francisco-based Planet Labs showed.

A satellite image shows the site cleared away with what appears to be construction equipment there.

Analysts from the James Martin Center say they believe that site is undergoing excavation. Iran's mission to the UN did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Rafael Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said his inspectors were aware of the construction.

The nationwide strike comes amid a deepening standoff between angry crowds who have been taking to the streets over the ruling and Poland's deeply conservative government, which has vowed not to back down.

The constitutional court ruling last Thursday has triggered daily mass protests across this central European nation of 38 million that are exposing deep divisions in a

## PRIESTLY DISCIPLINE



Shinto priests enter the main Meiji Shrine during a ceremony to mark 100 years since the founding of Meiji Shrine in Tokyo on Wednesday. ■ AFP

## Nationwide strike in Poland over abortion ruling

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WARSAW, 28 OCTOBER

People across Poland are vowed to stay off their jobs on Wednesday as part of a nationwide strike to protest a top court ruling that bans abortions in cases of congenital damaged fetuses.

The nationwide strike comes amid a deepening standoff between angry crowds who have been taking to the streets over the ruling and Poland's deeply conservative government, which has vowed not to back down.

The constitutional court ruling last Thursday has triggered daily mass protests across this central European nation of 38 million that are exposing deep divisions in a



People block traffic in the center of Warsaw during a protest against a decision by the Constitutional Court on abortion law restriction, Warsaw, on Wednesday. ■ AFP

churches at any cost.

He spoke to a camera backed by Polish flags in an announcement that some

critics compared to a notorious announcement of martial law in 1981 by communist leader Wojciech Jaruzelski. Some saw his words as an incitement to violence, since the 71-year-old holds the job of deputy prime minister in charge of police and security services.

Bartosz Weglarczyk, the editor of the new portal Onet, argued that Kaczynski was in effect giving permission to soccer hooligans and far-right extremists to beat people in the streets.

These words are shocking. These words can foreshadow anything, including the introduction of a state of emergency, censorship, arrests and God knows what else, Weglarczyk wrote.

## Germany and France prepare new lockdowns as Covid sweeps Europe

AGENCIES  
BERLIN/PARIS, 28 OCTOBER

### UN: Over 2 mn cases in just 1 week

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, 28 OCTOBER

The World Health Organisation said countries globally reported more than 2 million confirmed coronavirus cases last week the shortest time ever for such an exponential increase since the pandemic began.

In a weekly analysis of Covid, WHO said for the second consecutive week, the European region accounted for the biggest proportion of new cases, with more than 1.3 million reported cases or about 46 per cent of the worldwide total. The U.N. health agency said deaths were also on the rise in Europe, with about a 35 per cent spike since the previous

week. Although the number of deaths is gradually increasing, the proportion of deaths to cases remains relatively low, compared to the early phase of the pandemic in the spring, WHO said.

The agency also noted that hospitalisations and ICU occupancy due to Covid increased in 21 countries across Europe. It estimated about 18 per cent of Covid were hospitalized, with about 7 per cent needing ICU support or breathing machines. Globally, WHO said the countries reporting the highest numbers of cases remain unchanged as for the past three weeks: India, the US, France, Brazil, and the UK each week per 100,000 people.

schools and most businesses working and would be less severe than the near-total lockdowns imposed at the start of the crisis in March and April.

But the economic cost is likely to be heavy, wiping out the fragile signs of recovery seen over the summer and raising the prospect of a double-dip recession. European stock



Italian chefs and restauranteurs, wearing face masks and respecting social distance guidelines, participate in a protest at Pantheon Square in Rome on Wednesday, against the recent tightening of government nationwide Covid-19 restrictions in an attempt to halt the pandemic. ■ AFP

markets dived on Wednesday, hitting their lowest levels since June, while the euro fell against the dollar.

While leaders have been desperate to avoid the crippling cost of lockdowns, the new measures reflect mounting alarm at the galloping pace of the pandemic from Spain, France and Germany to Russia, Poland and Bulgaria. "If we wait until the intention

pandemic which has infected more than 42 million people and killed more than 1.1 million worldwide. Swiss hospitals could reach breaking point in days, officials warned.

Many French doctors are urging a new nationwide lockdown, noting that 58 per cent of the country's intensive care units are now occupied by Covid patients and medical staff are under increasing strain.

The government didn't take into account what the first wave was and didn't learn all its lessons, Frederic Valletoux, president of the French Hospital Federation, said Wednesday on France-Inter radio.

He called for full, month-long lockdown, saying this wave will be much more devastating for the hospital system.

Hospitals won't manage if we don't take drastic measures. Business owners and some politicians are pushing for a compromise, such as local lockdowns in the hardest-hit areas, or a lockdown that would allow schools to stay open.

## Melbourne ends 111-day virus lockdown

MELBOURNE, 28 OCTOBER

Coffee business owner Darren Silverman pulled his van over and wept when he heard on the radio that Melbourne's pandemic lockdown would be largely lifted on Wednesday after 111 days.

According to the Victoria state government the lockdown changes will allow 6,200 retail stores, 5,800 cafes and restaurants, 1,000 beauty

# Piecemeal approach will not clean air

**India's legal and regulatory framework to tackle pollution tends to be reactionary in nature, say TARINI MEHTA and KANAK MISHRA**

**I**ndia, the fifth most polluted country in the world, has twenty-one of the world's thirty most polluted cities (2019 World Air Quality Report, IQAir) and Delhi, as of 18 October 2020, has once again reached the number one rank. It is the most polluted capital city (IQAir Ranking). Despite measures recently put in place under the Graded Response Action Plan, Delhi's air quality has reached 'very poor' levels.

Air pollution is one of the most serious environmental health risks, causing an estimated seven million premature deaths each year globally, owing to cardiovascular diseases, cancers and respiratory infections (WHO). In the context of the pandemic, toxic air has additional ramifications, as it increases the risk of severe infections and lower immunity which increases vulnerability to Covid.

Despite a number of laws and policies, why is India failing to control air pollution? Firstly, environmental problems are dealt with in a piecemeal manner and often when courts step into the picture. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which lays down measures based on the city's air quality, is a case in point. The primary implementing and coordinating agency for it is the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), which has been operational for the past two decades with the aim of preventing and controlling pollution in Delhi. GRAP requires that over a dozen agencies work together and EPCA is responsible for coordinating between them. EPCA has not only failed in this regard, it has also failed to take punitive mea-



sures against violators.

Secondly, India's legal and regulatory framework to tackle pollution tends to be reactionary in nature. This has been the case right from the 1980s when the Supreme Court was called upon to protect the Taj Mahal from corrosion caused by pollution. Similarly, in the CNG case the Supreme Court once again stepped in when the executive failed in its duty to protect the right to life of citizens and put in place measures to control air pollution. In the Relocation of Industries (1995) case as well, the Supreme Court took a stand and ordered that polluting industries in Delhi be closed and relocated. These industries were not abiding by the city's zoning regulations laid down in the Delhi Master Plan.

Indeed, the Court has played a key

role by pushing the Government to enforce existing policies and put in place new policies to deal with air pollution. Yet, the problem persists. India's cities are expanding in an unplanned and unsustainable manner. The location of polluting industries near residential areas is further endangering the life and health of people. Effective environmental governance is hampered by the lack of political will and poor coordination between the various concerned agencies. Clearly a new approach is needed.

The current framework could be strengthened through the imposition of costs and penalties for those violating the law, complemented by a system of incentives for those operating in a sustainable manner and regulating emissions. Such frameworks have

proved to be successful in a number of countries. For instance, in 2008 France introduced the 'feebate' system for new cars. A tax is imposed on a buyer if the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the vehicle exceed a certain threshold and bonuses are offered if they are below a certain level. This has proved to be a successful framework for the regulation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of passenger cars, leading to a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the country. It also encourages trade in vehicles with low carbon emissions. Incentivizing positive measures to curb air pollution can enable a change in behavior, encouraging individuals as well as companies to implement measures to lower pollution. Furthermore, it can aid in moving the environmental protection discourse away from the 'development

versus environment' narrative towards policy-making aimed at sustainable development through the involvement of all stakeholders. This requires a targeted and comprehensive plan.

Regional action plans and coordination mechanisms together with time-bound targets to reduce pollution levels are an effective approach. In addition, policies and action plans need to be comprehensive and address all pollutants and polluting sources, supported by strict enforcement of laws and policies. Beijing, which at one time had dangerously high levels of air pollution, has been able to reduce its pollution through the implementation of a comprehensive, targeted framework.

In 2013, systematic and intensive measures for air pollution control were adopted by Beijing and by the end of

2017 fine particulate pollution (PM 2.5) fell by around 35 per cent (UN Press Release, March 2019). This reduction was brought about to a large extent through industrial restructuring and measures to control coal-fired boilers and provide cleaner domestic fuels.

With Covid cases beginning to rise again in Delhi and the advent of the toxic winter haze, the current piecemeal approach to air pollution can prove to be lethal. A comprehensive, target-driven policy needs to be devised to combat air pollution. To be effective this must involve all sectors of society and be complemented by the principles of equity and justice.

The writers are, respectively, Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor of Environmental Law, and a final year law student at Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University.

## DEBUNKING MYTHS ABOUT ORIGINALISM

**The meaning of the US Constitution is its original public meaning and its intention must be collected from its words, argues ILAN WURMAN**

**O**riginalism has featured prominently in each of the last three Supreme Court confirmation battles – those of Neil Gorsuch in 2017, Brett Kavanaugh in 2018 and now Amy Coney Barrett. Each time, misconceptions about this theory of constitutional interpretation have swirled: Isn't originalism self-defeating because the Founders weren't originalist? Don't originalists ignore the amendments written after 1789? Do originalists think the Constitution applies only to horse-drawn carriages and muskets?

As a constitutional law professor, the author of "A Debt Against the Living: An Introduction to Originalism," and an originalist, I'd like to answer some frequently asked questions about originalism – and to debunk some of the myths.

Originalism is the idea that we should interpret the Constitution with its original meaning. But what, exactly, is the Constitution's "original meaning"?

Some originalists argue it's the meaning as understood by those who ratified the Constitution in the various state conventions, or the public that elected those ratifiers. Others say it's the understanding of a reasonable, well-educated reader. Still other scholars claim the Constitution is written in legal language and should be interpreted with its original "legal" meaning. With this approach, for example, the term "ex post facto laws" likely refers only to retroactive criminal laws, and not to all retroactive laws.

Although critics of originalism make much of these intraoriginalist squabbles, the reality is all of the above approaches usually lead to the same answer.

Originalists believe the Constitution is a public instruction to legal officials, much as statutes are public instructions to citizens and to officials. As such, the Constitution should be interpreted the same way you would

interpret any communication intended as a public instruction.

For example, if you found a recipe for apple pie from 1789, you'd interpret it with a public meaning and not with a secret or esoteric meaning that you might use to interpret, say, a Socratic dialogue. Otherwise, the recipe would be an ineffective instruction. And you'd also interpret the recipe with its original meaning, that is, the meaning its creator intended to convey.

That does not, however, mean we should follow the apple pie recipe.

Maybe the recipe has some fatal defect or just doesn't meet modern tastes. In that case we can amend the recipe or perhaps abandon it. But doing so doesn't change what the recipe actually means.

The Constitution works the same way: As a public instruction, its meaning is its original public meaning.

Whether and why the Constitution is legitimate and binding such that we should follow it are separate questions – questions that are deeply contested even among originalists.

Some critics claim that originalism is self-defeating because the Founders themselves were not originalists. They say originalism is just an invention of the 1970s and 1980s, a reaction to judicial activism of the Warren Court (1953–1969). That is false.

All of the Founders were originalists. In 1826, James Madison wrote, "In the exposition of laws, and even of Constitutions, how many important errors may be produced by mere innovations in the use of words and phrases, if not controlled by a recurrence to the original and authentic meaning attached to them!"

Chief Justice John Marshall wrote in 1827 "that the intention of the [Constitution] must prevail; that this intention must be collected from its words; that its words are to be understood in that sense in which they are generally



used by those for whom the instrument was intended." Daniel Webster argued in 1840 that the Constitution must be interpreted in its "common and popular sense – in that sense in which the people may be supposed to have understood it when they ratified the Constitution." And as David P. Currie explained in his monumental study "The Constitution in Congress," between 1789 and 1861 "just about everybody" in Congress "was an originalist."

Despite popular belief, there is no difference between the two. Originalists interpret the Constitution with its original meaning; textualists interpret statutes with their original meanings. Same method, different texts.

Both originalists and textualists

argue that the secret intent of the Founding Fathers, or the legislative intent of statutory drafters, cannot override the text's clear meaning. The Founders' and drafters' intent, however, is evidence of what they likely meant by what they wrote.

For that reason, originalists like to look to James Madison's notes from the Constitutional Convention. In principle, textualists can look to "legislative history" like committee reports for the same reason. But textualists are wary of relying on legislative history because doing so is unreliable. There can be so many varying and competing statements in a statute's legislative history that relying on legislative history is, in the words of Judge Harold Levanthal,

kind of like going to a cocktail party, looking over the crowd, and picking out just your friends. Of course, that's why the First Amendment's protection for freedom of speech applies to the internet. It's why the Fourth Amendment's prohibition on unreasonable searches and seizures applies to GPS devices that police officers put on cars. And, yes, it's why the Second Amendment applies to more than just muskets. In other words, originalists are not bound by the original expected applications of the Constitution's text. They're bound by the original meaning of the text, and that meaning can and does apply to new and changing factual circumstances.

Justice Elena Kagan, appointed by

President Obama in 2010, famously announced at her confirmation hearing that "we're all originalists now." She meant that all justices take the text of the Constitution more seriously than they used to. Only three justices, however – Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh – are self-avowed originalists. Justice Samuel Alito and Chief Justice John Roberts both take a more pragmatic approach, giving more weight to precedents and consequences. Justices Stephen Breyer, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor believe the Constitution can and should evolve over time.

A more recent misconception is that originalists ignore all the amendments written after 1789, the year the Constitution went into effect. This is an odd criticism because that would include the Bill of Rights, which wasn't added until 1791. Originalists are bound by changes to the Constitution that have been properly made through the amendment process.

This is also why originalism can and does justify Brown v. Board of Education, the landmark school desegregation decision. The 14th Amendment's privileges or immunities clause – which provides that no state shall make or enforce any law that abridges the privileges or immunities of U.S. citizens – was an anti-discrimination provision with respect to civil rights under state law. If education is a civil right – and it is – then once it is acknowledged that segregation was never about equality but rather about keeping one race of Americans subordinated to another, segregated public schools obviously violate the Constitution.

That brings us to the final misconception: Isn't originalism just a rationalization for conservative results? The short answer is "no." Originalists take the bitter with the sweet. They may not like federal income taxes or the direct election of senators, but they accept the original meaning of the 16th and 17th amendments on those points. Moreover, originalists often believe – whether on abortion or same-sex marriage, for example – that controversial political and moral questions should be decided by the democratic, legislative process, a process that can lead to progressive, libertarian or conservative outcomes.

The writer is Associate Professor of Law, Arizona State University. This article was published on www.theconversation.com



## THE PICK OF THE LOT

Nico Rosberg hailed Lewis Hamilton's (*in photo, left*) record 92nd Formula One win and sporting longevity as a great achievement on Tuesday but said the way the Briton was using his platform to increase awareness of global issues was just as impressive. The 35-year-olds were team-mates and fierce rivals at Mercedes from 2013 until the German won the 2016 title and retired.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

## THUMBNAILS

Ronaldo suffers: Cristiano Ronaldo has tested positive again for coronavirus on the eve of Juventus' much-anticipated Champions League clash with Leo Messi's Barcelona. Portuguese TV reported Ronaldo "has once again tested positive for Covid-19."

**Positive test:** Increasingly controversial Fifa president Gianni Infantino is said to have tested positive for Covid-19. Infantino, who is 50 years old, has reported mild symptoms and is in self-isolation and will quarantine for at least 10 days, Fifa said.

**Maradona quarantined:** Maradona was quarantined on Tuesday at his residence in Argentina after one of his bodyguards came down with symptoms of Covid-19. The bodyguard is to undergo a test on Thursday to determine whether he has Covid-19.

**Disease control:** Tokyo 2020 organisers and Japanese officials said on Tuesday they might set up an infectious disease control centre at next year's Covid-19 pandemic-postponed Olympic Games, as they debated how to hold the event safely.

**Ticket refunds:** Olympics organisers will open applications for ticket refunds around the event in November, according to reports in Japan. The process will start in December for the Paralympics. The Olympics were put off this year because of the pandemic.

**Bartomeu out:** Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu resigned amid the fallout of his feud with star Lionel Messi, and on his way out revealed the Spanish club wanted to join a potential new super league of European teams. The board of directors also resigned.

**School meals:** Mesut Ozil has been providing free school meals for around 1,400 pupils in the north London area. The Arsenal midfielder's gesture is thought to encompass almost a dozen schools, where students have been able to collect free lunchtime meals.

**Coleman banned:** Men's 100m world champion Christian Coleman was banned for two years because of three violations of doping control rules. The Athletics Integrity Unit said Coleman would be banned until May 2022, forcing him to miss the Olympics next year.

**Pakistan vs Zimbabwe:** Former world champions Pakistan host Zimbabwe in the ICC men's World Cup Super League series in Rawalpindi from Friday as the teams begin their qualification campaign for the 2023 World Cup, scheduled to be held in India. The sides failing to qualify directly will get a second shot through a Qualifier.

**Honda achieves 800th Grand Prix victory:** Honda Moto3 rider Jaume Masia claimed victory in the Moto3 class, in Round 12 of the 2020 FIM World Championship Grand Prix held at MotorLand Aragón in Spain. Beginning with its first world grand prix race in 1961, in the 125cc class of the Spanish Grand Prix, Honda has now achieved an unprecedented 800 grand prix wins.

**Mumbai marathon:** Tata Mumbai Marathon, Asia's most prestigious marathon and a World Athletics Gold Label Race, has surpassed all previous records by raising Rs. 45.90 crore for charity, this was announced by United Way Mumbai, the event's Philanthropy Partner. The event continues to be the single largest sporting platform for philanthropy in India. Since its inception, TMM has now raised over Rs 135.90 crores, directly benefitting 700+ NGOs.

## Desperate KKR eye victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI, 28 OCTOBER

**A**lready out of play-offs reckoning, a relaxed Chennai Super Kings are ready to play party-poopers with an aim to foil Kolkata Knight Riders' desperate bid for a victory in an Indian Premier League game on Thursday.

KKR with 12 points from 12 games would like to win the next two encounters to ensure a smooth passage while CSK, currently at the bottom of the eight-team table, are only playing for pride. A possibility remains that multiple teams will end up on either 16 or 14 points and a comprehensive victory at this stage of the tournament, will bring the superior net run-rate into equation when the play-off spots are decided.

It won't get too easy for KKR against CSK, who handed an eight-wicket thrashing to Royal Challengers Bangalore in their previous out-

CSK vs KKR: Match begins at 7.30 pm IST.

been frustratingly inconsistent but is more than capable of being destructive on its day. Paceman Pat Cummins, the Knight Riders' costliest buy, has not been able to make the desired impact with the ball save for one game and would need to put his hand up in this crucial match. Against CSK, which is missing out on the play-offs for the first time ever, Kolkata's batting faces a varied attack which was boosted with the inclusion of Mitchell Santner in the last game and needs to step up.

CSK, on its part, will be aiming to build on the win over RCB and end the season on a high, apart from hurting the chances of play-off hopefuls.

KKR's unset-

tled batting order is a point of concern for Eoin Morgan, who would hope that former skipper Dinesh Karthik produces his A-game when it matters most. Nitish Rana, who shone in the win over Delhi Capitals came a cropper in the subsequent loss to Kings XI Punjab.

If the top-order fires, KKR will be better served as inconsistency has hurt the team in the course of the season as has the constant chopping and changing. The bowlers have done a good job so far, with Tamil Nadu's mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy being impressive and earning a spot in the Indian T20 team.

They need to be at the top of their game against the CSK batting unit that has

The batting showed some spark with the young Ruturaj Gaikwad coming up with an enterprising knock and skipper Dhoni will be hoping he keeps the good form going.

The CSK bowlers choked a strong RCB batting unit with a performance that reminded CSK of yore and that should be a worry for the KKR batsmen short on consistency.

For CSK, any win would be welcome as they endured a forgettable season which is just about to wind down.

England's World Cup-winning captain Morgan will hope to lead from the front but that would call for a collective performance. There is a lot at stake for the Knights and they would settle for nothing less than a big win.



## Padikkal hits 74 before Bumrah stops RCB at 164/6

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ABU DHABI, 28 OCTOBER

Young Devdutt Padikkal (*in photo*) pummelled the Mumbai Indians attack into submission with a 45-ball 74 before Jasprit Bumrah stopped Royal Challengers Bangalore at 164 for six in an IPL game here on Wednesday.

Put in to bat, Padikkal, who plundered 12 fours and a six, added 71 runs for the opening wicket with Josh Philippe (33).

However, the RCB then suffered a middle-order collapse as Mumbai roared back into the game with lead pacer Bumrah (3/14) doing the bulk of damage.

Padikkal began with a boundary over deep extra cover and then struck successive fours off Krunal



Pandya, as RCB fetched 12 runs in the third over. The two openers contin-

ued playing their shots, the highlight being Philippe's six over Trent Boult's head in

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the fifth over. Padikkal then went on the offensive against James Pattinson, collecting two fours, as RCB raced to 54 for no loss in six overs.

However, leg-spinner Rahul Chahar (1/43) pulled things back for Mumbai, removing Philippe, who was stumped by Quinton De Kock.

Padikkal, who hit another two boundaries off Chahar, completed his fifty with another four.

Skipper Virat Kohli (9) perished early as RCB slipped to

95/2, but Padikkal continued his onslaught against Chahar, hammering a six and two fours, as RCB got 16 runs in the 15th over.

Mumbai then took four wickets in quick succession, removing AB De Villiers (15), Shivam Dube (2), Padikkal and Chris Morris (4), as RCB slumped to 138/6. Gurkeerat Mann made a quick 14 but Mumbai, known for their effectiveness in the death, allowed RCB only 35 runs in the last five overs.

## SCOREBOARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore Innings:	Washington Sundar not out 10
Extras: 3 (b 0, lb 0, w 3, nb 0, p 0)	
Total: 164 (6 wkt., 20 Overs)	
Fall of Wickets: 71-1, 95-2, 131-3, 134-4, 134-5, 138-6	
Bowling: Boult 4-0-40, Bumrah 4-1-14-3, Pandya 4-0-27-0, Patterson 3-0-35-0, Kohli 4-0-43-1, Pollard 1-0-5-1	

## Four-Test series confirmed by Cricket Australia

AGENCIES

SYDNEY, 28 OCTOBER

Cricket Australia today confirmed that India would play a four-Test series on their tour Down Under, with the Melbourne Cricket Ground hosting the second Test on 26 December. The announcement came hours after Australia's second-largest city exited a months-long coronavirus lockdown which enabled the MCG to confirm it would stage its traditional Boxing Day Test.

"We can go ahead once the state government gives us the green light," the source added. The schedule will be made and announced once the approval comes through, he said. The teams will be required to get into a bio-secure bubble 14 days ahead of the competition's beginning. The stadiums in Salt Lake City, Kalyani and Barasat are expected to be allotted the matches. SNS

against New Zealand, South Africa, England and Pakistan, and India winning their only encounter at Eden Gardens versus Bangladesh in 2019.

"Australia-India represent one of the great rivalries in world sport and we are delighted to welcome Virat Kohli's outstanding squad to Australian shores this summer," Nick Hockley of Cricket Australia said.

Pandemic permitting, the India squad will arrive on 12 November and complete quarantine and Covid-19 protocols before the first of three One-Day Internationals on 27 November.

After three 50-over games and three Twenty20s in Sydney and Canberra, the tour will move to Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane for the Tests. Dates for the tour had been delayed by a coronavirus outbreak in Melbourne and wrangling over quarantine requirements. The Indians get an additional day-night warm-

up game in Sydney as a tune-up to the series-opening pink-ball Test. The tour will include a 14-day quarantine-cum-training period in Sydney starting 11 November for the India Premier League final on 10 November.

One-Day International series: November 27 - 1st ODI (Sydney, day-night), November 29 - 2nd ODI (Sydney, day-night), December 2 - 3rd ODI (Canberra, day-night). T20I series: December 4 - 1st T20 (Canberra, night), December 6 - 2nd T20 (Sydney, night), December 8 - 3rd T20 (Sydney, night)

Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series: December 17-21 - 1st Test (Adelaide Oval, day-night), December 26-30 - 2nd Test (Melbourne), January 7-11 - 3rd Test (Sydney), January 15-19 - 4th Test (Brisbane)

\*Matches and travel remain subject to any relevant government restrictions or requirements.

## Tendulkar all praise for Saha's shot-making excellence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 28 OCTOBER

Sachin Tendulkar lauded Wriddhiman Saha's (*in photo*) "under-rated" shot-making prowess while the national team's head coach Ravi Shastri found his 45-ball-87 simply "outstanding" as they lavished praise on the Test specialist's Indian Premier League performance for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Saha smashed 12 fours and two sixes for SRH in their 88-run victory over Delhi Capitals last night, showing his punitive skills, which had largely gone unnoticed over the years. "Very smart batting," Tendulkar tweeted. "I also feel that @Wriddhiman's quick scoring ability is invariably underrated," he also said.

He loved the manner in which Saha had been able to improvise. "Improved his shots after picking the line and length of the ball. There was no slogging at all. Played a fan-

chasing was an area of concern for his team and they needed to hit the "reset" button to seal an IPL play-off spot in the remaining two league games after suffering a third straight loss. After a flying start, the Capitals suffered a hat-trick of losses -- two of them while chasing -- to slip to the third spot in the IPL standings. The most recent of those defeats was last night.

"It's been a concern. When we decide to bowl first, we've given away big totals. We have to get better at that, we need to be better at bowling first and at chasing totals because so far, it hasn't worked for us," said Ponting during the post-match Press conference. DC now will have to dish out superlative performances against table-toppers Mumbai Indians and second-placed Royal Challengers Bangalore in their last two preliminary-phase games to seal their play-off spot.

## I-League in 2021'

KOLKATA, 28 OCTOBER

Football's I-League, which generally kicks off around November, is unlikely to begin this calendar year, with everything thrown out of gear in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The tournament's 2020-21 season could start in January 2021 if the government of West Bengal, where it has been decided to be held, okays the move, a source in the All-India Football Federation told The Statesman today.

"We can go ahead once the state government gives us the green light," the source added. The schedule will be made and announced once the approval comes through, he said. The teams will be required to get into a bio-secure bubble 14 days ahead of the competition's beginning. The stadiums in Salt Lake City, Kalyani and Barasat are expected to be allotted the matches. SNS

## Real Madrid in trouble despite late fightback

THE INDEPENDENT &amp; AGENCIES

MADRID, 28 OCTOBER



having no such trouble, with a 2-1 victory at Lokomotiv Moscow extending their winning run in the Champions League to 13 games. Also on a maximum of six points are Manchester City after a 3-0 win

photo, afp) scoring the club's 10,000th goal of their 128-year history to set up a 2-0 home win over FC Midtjylland. Bayern went unpunished for a sloppy performance in Moscow as Joshua Kimmich prolonged the German team's winning streak in the competition with a brilliantly taken 79th-minute goal.

Leon Goretzka put Bayern ahead in the 13th, but the champions gave up plenty of chances before Anton Miranchuk finally took one in the 70th. Bayern opened with a 4-0 win over Atletico Madrid, which got their Group A campaign back on track by rallying to beat Salzburg 3-2.

Joao Pedro scored twice, including the winner in the 85th minute.

Marcos Llorente opened the scoring for Atletico before Salzburg went ahead through goals by Dominik Szoboszlai and Mergim Berisha either side

of halftime.

Playing without a striker didn't stop Man City racking up the goals against Marseille. Sergio Agüero is back on the sidelines with a hamstring injury and with Gabriel Jesus also injured, City started at the Stade Velodrome with Ferran Torres then Raheem Sterling filling in as the makeshift center forward.

Both of them scored, either side of a goal by Ilkay Gundogan as City backed up their 3-1 win over Porto last week. Porto rebounded from that loss by beating Olympiacos 2-0 thanks to goals by Fbio Vieira and Srgio Oliveira. It was the 100th victory for Porto in the European Cup and Champions League.

Olympiacos opened with a 1-0 win over Marseille. Liverpool's defensive woes deepened as Fabiño was forced off with a hamstring injury during the first half of the win over

Midtjylland. The Brazil midfielder has been filling in at centre back for Virgil van Dijk, who is likely out for many months after damaging cruciate knee ligaments. With Joel Matip currently struggling for fitness, Liverpool have just one fit senior centre half in Joe Gomez. A 19-year-old, Rhys Williams, replaced Fabiño and Liverpool were shaky at times against the competition newcomers from Denmark. However, Jota scored in the 55th for a historic goal for Liverpool and substitute Mohamed Salah converted a stoppage-time penalty. Duv Zapata scored twice in six minutes as Atalanta rallied for a point against Ajax, who went 2-0 ahead thanks to Duan Tadic's penalty and a scruffy goal from Lassina Traoré. Atalanta is two points behind Liverpool in second place.

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