



KHUSHBOO CROSSES
OVER TO BJP
FROM CONGRESS



B'DESH APPROVES
DEATH PENALTY
FOR RAPE CASES

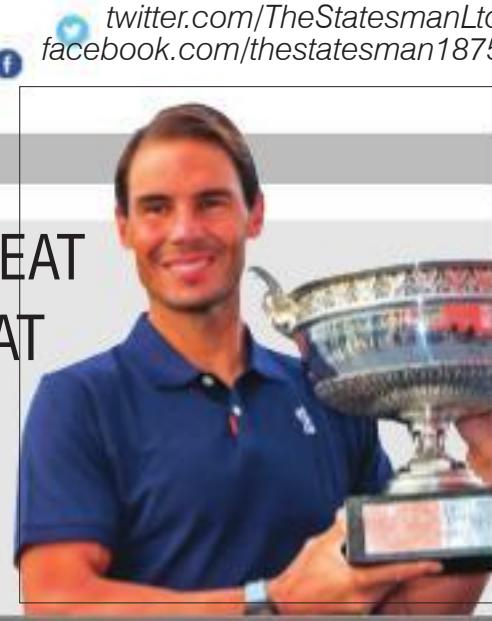
P4

P9



HARRY OPENS UP
ON EDUCATION,
BEING A FATHER

P10



WHY NADAL'S FEAT
IS AMONG GREAT
ACHIEVEMENTS

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 35 and 20 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 91% Min: 38%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 35.4°C (+2) Min: 19.4°C (-1)

SUN RISES

06:21 hrs

MOON RISES

03:17 hrs

SUN SETS

17:54 hrs

MOON SETS

15:52 hrs

DETAILED FORECAST

THUMBNAILS



Indian Youth Congress activists hold candle march protest against the death of Hathras rape victim. At the Jantar Mantar in the Capital on Monday. AMARJEET SINGH

(DETAILS ON PAGE 5)

Seven abducted Indians in Libya freed: The seven Indians, hailing from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh who were kidnapped in Libya last month have been released, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Monday. "We are happy to inform that the seven Indian nationals who had been abducted at Assherif in Libya on 14 September were finally released yesterday. Our Ambassador to Tunisia Punit Roy Kundal spoke to them over phone after they were handed over by the abductors to the company Al Shola Al Mudia," the MEA said.

Major power failure disrupts Mumbai: A major power failure struck Mumbai around 10 a.m. on Monday, affecting normal life including thousands stranded in stalled suburban trains. Power was restored around noon in many areas in South Mumbai. "Due to Grid failure at Padga - Kalwa there is total failure of electricity in Mumbai. The restoration work is in progress," the Brihamumbai Electric Supply and Transport informed on Twitter.

P5

Two Stanford economists win Nobel Prize for auction theory



Two American economists won the Nobel Prize on Monday for improving the theory of how auctions work and inventing new and better auction formats that are now woven into many parts of the economy.

The discoveries of Paul R. Milgrom (left) and Robert B. Wilson have benefited sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world, the Nobel Committee said, noting that the auction formats developed by the winners have been used to sell radio frequencies, fishing quotas and airport landing slots.

Both economists are based at Stanford University in California, and Milgrom said he received news of their win in a strange way. I got a knock at my door from Bob Wilson, he said. He was my Ph.D. advisor, and he lives right across the street from me. Milgrom said students and colleagues had long suggested he and Wilson might be due for the prize.

"It's really sweet actually, he said. "It's nice to have their respect but their affection as well. The winners were announced in Stockholm by Goran Hansson, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, rounding off a week of Nobel Prizes. Wilson, 83, described his former student as genius behind all of this auction work, noting that they first worked together on auctions in the 1970s."

Bollyproducers move HC against Republic, Times Now

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

Leading Bollywood producers on Monday approached the Delhi High Court seeking to restrain Republic TV and Times Now from making or publishing allegedly irresponsible, derogatory and defamatory remarks against film industry and conducting media trials against its members on various issues.

The lawsuit by four Bollywood industry associations and thirty four leading producers have also sought to restrain them from interfering with the right to privacy of persons associated with the industry.

It has sought direction to Republic TV, its editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami and reporter Pradeep Bhandari, Times Now,

its editor-in-chief Rahul Shivshankar and group editor Navika Kumar, and unknown defendants as well as social media platforms to refrain from making or publishing allegedly irresponsible, derogatory and defamatory remarks against Bollywood.

The suit filed through DSK Legal firm said, This comes in the wake of these channels using highly derogatory words and expressions for Bollywood such as 'dirt', 'filth', 'scum', 'druggies' and expressions such as it is Bollywood where the dirt needs to be cleaned', all the perfumes of Arabia cannot take away the stench and the stink of this filth and scum of the underbelly of Bollywood'. This is the dirtiest industry in the country', and cocaine and LSD drenched Bollywood'.

As per the LTC Cash Voucher scheme, the minister informed that government employees can opt to receive cash amount to leave encashment plus three times the ticket fare, to buy items which attract a GST of 12 per cent or more. However, she also mentioned that the cash will have to spend on buying goods that attract 12 per cent or more GST.

"The Central government employees get LTC in a block of 4 years (one to anywhere in India and one hometown, or two for the home town). Air or rail fare, as per scale/entitlement, is reimbursed and in addition, leave encashment of 10 days (plus DA) is paid," she said.

India's Covid-19 caseload crosses 71-lakh mark

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

India's Covid-19 tally went past 71 lakh with 66,732 fresh cases, while the number of people who have recuperated crossed 61 lakh, pushing the recovery rate to 86.36 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

The country's Covid-19 caseload stands at 71,20,538. The death toll climbed to 1,09,150 with the virus claiming 816 lives in a day, the data updated at 8 am showed.

For the fourth day in a row, the number of active Covid-19 cases remained below 9 lakh.

These are 8,61,853 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which account for 12.10 per cent of the total caseload, the data



A health worker collects swab sample from a resident during a Covid-19 screening in Dharavi slums, on Monday.

showed. The case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection has dropped to 1.53 per cent.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on 23 August and 40 lakh on 5 September. It went past 50 lakh on 16 September, 60 lakh on 28 September and crossed 70 lakh on 11 October.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a total of 8,78,72,093 samples had been tested up to October 11. Of these, 9,94,851 samples were tested on Sunday.

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

Corona count dips in Delhi, number of deaths rises: The national capital today reported 1,849 new fresh novel coronavirus (Covid-19) cases with the caseload mounting to 3,11,188, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The number of tests conducted to detect these new Covid cases was 35,947 and the positivity rate stood at 5.14 per cent. However, the bulletin indicated that all was not well so far as the efforts to save Covid patients' lives were concerned. Delhi today recorded another spike in fresh coronavirus fatalities, which rose to 40. The national capital's coronavirus death toll thus shot up to 5,809, the bulletin said. The city's Covid death figure yesterday was 29. It was 48 on 10 October. The number of those who succumbed to this contagious,



deadly virus infection was stated to be 39 on 9 October.

Govt announces cash-for-LTC, festival advance to boost demand

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman today announced various steps including a payment of cash in lieu of LTC (Leave Travel Concession) and Rs 10,000 festival advance to government employees to stimulate consumer demand during the festival season.

In a Press conference, the minister also announced additional capital spending and Rs 12,000 crore, 50-year interest-free loan to states to boost the economy that was affected due to the pandemic.

As per the LTC Cash Voucher scheme, the minister informed that government employees can opt to receive cash amount to leave encashment plus three times the ticket fare, to buy items which attract a GST of 12 per cent or more. However, she also mentioned that the cash will have to spend on buying goods that attract 12 per cent or more GST.

"The Central government

employees get LTC in a block of 4 years (one to anywhere in India and one hometown, or two for the home town). Air or rail fare, as per scale/entitlement, is reimbursed and in addition, leave encashment of 10 days (plus DA) is paid," she said.

"Due to Covid-19, employees are not in a position to avail LTC. In lieu of one LTC, a cash payment will be made- full payment on leave encashment and payment of fare in 3 flat-rate slabs depending on the class of entitlement," said Sitharaman. An employee

opting for this scheme, will be required to buy goods/services worth 3-times the fare and 1-time the leave encashment before 31 March, 2021. Central public sector enterprises and banks will also follow the cue and give cash in place of leave travel con-

cession (LTC). "If Central government employees opt for it, this will cost around Rs 5,675 crore. The employees of PSBs and PSUs allowed to avail this facility, and for PSBs and PSUs the cost will be Rs 1,900 crores. The demand infusion in the economy by Central government and PSUs will be approx Rs 19,000 crore," said Nirmala Sitharaman.

The government also announced to give one-time Rs 10,000 salary loan to all its officers and employees as a festival advance. It will be an interest free loan and employees will have to avail it by 31 March. The amount is supposed to be recovered in maximum 10 installments. Employees will get pre-loaded

Rupay card of the advance value. The government will bear bank charges in this regard. "The festival advance along with other similar advances were abolished on the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission.

The outgo under the head is expected to be Rs 4,000 crore, if 50 per cent adoption by states is taken into account, another Rs 4,000 crore festival advances would be disbursed," she said.

With these two measures, Sitharaman claims to create a consumer demand of about Rs 28,000 crore.

The government in May announced a Rs 20 lakh crore "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" stimulus, is pushing ahead with a full opening to try to boost the economy ahead of the usually high-spending festival season. A tough lockdown imposed to stem the spread of coronavirus had resulted in the economy contracting by a record 23.9 per cent during April-June.

Explaining further, the minister said that the measures by the government to stimulate demand must not burden the common citizen with future inflation and must not put government debt on an unsustainable path. Also, a special Rs 12,000 crore interest-free, 50-year loan will be given to states for capital expenditure. Of this, Rs 1,600 crore will be for the North-Eastern states and Rs 900 crore for Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.



In times of Covid-19 and despite the border tensions caused by Pakistan and China, the country was not only resolutely facing them but also bringing about historical changes in all sectors of development

RAJNATH SINGH
DEFENCE MINISTER

Capital

Kejriwal calls for 'complete rollback' of central agri laws

Delhi CM joins the anti-farm laws protest at Jantar Mantar, organised by the AAP's Punjab unit; police later detain AAP MP Bhagwant Mann along with 136 Punjab AAP leaders and workers

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal today demanded a complete rollback of the Narendra Modi government's three controversial farm laws as he participated in a protest held by the AAP's Punjab unit at Jantar Mantar in the national capital.

Addressing his protesting party leaders and workers from Punjab at Jantar Mantar, Kejriwal said the AAP has a "very clear stand" on the Centre's contentious agriculture sector laws.

"We want a complete rollback of the three laws. It is non-negotiable," the Delhi CM

asserted. "Second, a law on MSP (Minimum Support Price) must be brought in the country. Bring a new law to guarantee 100 per cent MSP. The whole of Delhi is standing with farmers in this fight and as Delhi chief minister, I support you in this protest."

Making an oblique reference to the Congress party, Kejriwal said some parties were indulging in politics over the contentious farm laws.

"When the Bill was being made a leader of the national party was present in the



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal addressing Punjab AAP activists during their protest against the Centre's farm laws, at Jantar Mantar in the Capital on Monday.

committee and who congratulated the BJP for making the law, and made sure that the Bill got passed. When it was passed, they are protesting. Are people stupid?" he said without taking names.

Kejriwal said that the BJP had promised to implement the Swaminathan Commission report but was now doing "exact opposite" of what was recommended in it.

"When they (BJP) came

asking for votes, they said they will implement the Swaminathan report, but after winning what did they do? They are removing the MSP," he charged.

"When our government was formed in Delhi, government schools and hospitals were in a bad shape. So what did we do? We did not shut them, we improved them. The BJP has betrayed the farmers of this country," Kejriwal charged.

Kejriwal was joined by senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh, Punjab MP Bhagwant Mann, and other leaders in addressing the protesters.

Police claimed the permission was not granted to them for holding the protest as agitations have not been allowed as per the guidelines of the DDMA (Delhi Disaster Management Authority) in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

A senior police official said they allowed the protest as long as it was peaceful but then "they started getting agitated so we detained them".

The three controversial central laws -- Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020 -- were enacted last month after President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to them.

The agitating Opposition parties and farmers have been up in arms against these "anti-farmers" legislations as they apprehend that they would pave the way for dismantling of the MSP system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporates.

The Modi government has claimed that these farm laws will bring farmers better opportunities and usher in new technologies in the agriculture sector.

TAKING TO STREETS



The agitating doctors and nurses of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation-run Bara Hindu Rao Hospital continue to hold protest against their pending salaries. In the Capital on Monday.

DEEPAK

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF
SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL,
LD. ACJ / CCJ / ARC
ROOM NO. 03, PATIALA
HOUSE COURTS
NEW DELHI

Petition No. SC-15/2020

KARTIK GUPTA,
VS.
STATE & ORS.
(Petitioner)

FOR SUCCESSION
CERTIFICATE UNDER
INDIAN SUCCESSION
ACT, 1925

To,

All concerned.

Whereas in the above noted petition, the applicant / petitioner has applied for succession certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased LATE SH. RAMESH GUPTA S/o LATE SH. M.L. GUPTA DIED ON DT.

13.11.2009 AT RAJIV GANDHI

CANCER INSTITUTE NEW

DELHI. Are required to send

particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Court, to be standing in the name of deceased.

Whereas the 04.11.2020 at 10 o'

clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing and the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the seal

of the court on this 05.10.2020

ACJ / CCJ / ARC

PHC, ND

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
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CHANGE
OF NAME

I, AMITAVA Mukherjee, S/o. Late Samir Kumar Mukherjee and Gita Mukherjee, R/o. 107, Madhumurali Colony, Kazipara, Barasat, 24 Parganas (N), Pin-700124, do hereby declare that I have changed my name to Riimon Mukherjee and gender as Transgender (Third Gender), vide affidavit sworn before Lt. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Barasat Court, Sl. No. 9973 dated 28.09.2020. Henceforth, I, Amitava Mukherjee and Riimon Mukherjee is the same and one identical person in all future purposes.

I, JC-378163Y Sub & Hony. Sub. Maj. Ashit Kumar Mallick S/o. Ratan Krishna Mallick, R/o. Lokanath Sarani (behind Lokanath Mandir), Vill. Barberia, PO - Jagannathpur, PS - Barasat (at present Duttapukur), Distt. North 24 Parganas, Kol-700126, W.B. My wife Shampa Mallick's date of birth 21.11.1971, has wrongly been written in my Ex-Serviceman documents on as 02.07.1968, on 14.09.2020, Ld. Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class at Barasat Court, Affidavit Number 5646 declared above.

I, 13882216M, Ex-NK Swapan Kumar Paul residing at Vill. Daksin Nanna, P.O. Malancha, P.S. Bispur, Dist. North 24 Parganas, W.B. I have change my daughter's name from Surachita Paul to Sochorita Pal due to mismatch of her with civil documents. Her date of Birth is 15.08.1993, vide an affidavit hens before The Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class at Barrackpore, W.B. on dated 28.09.2020. Surachita Paul and Surachita Paul same and one identical person.

I, ALOKE Kumar Bose, S/o. late Pravat Kumar Bose, Madhya Kalkiakpur, P.O. + P.S. Barasat, 24 Pgs. (North), Kol-124, but wrongly recorded my Passport No. (J3815175) my name is Aloke Bose, S/o. Pravat Kumar Bose shall henceforth vide affidavit at Barasat Court Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) date 29.9.2020. Declared my name is Aloke Kumar Bose, & Aloke Bose same & identical person.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

MY client Prem Lal Khadtra S/o Bua Ditta and Prabha Khadtra W/o Prem Khadtra R/o H.No.63 raju extra old palan road kakrota south west delhi-110078 has severed all relations and debarred his son Satish Khadtra and his wife Kirti Gupta from his movable-immovable properties for their misconduct. My client and his family will not be responsible for any acts in future.

Rahul Tuteja Advocate Office No.317/21 Street No.5, Madanpuri, Gurugram

THIS is to notify that my clients: (1) Sri Pratik Kumar Biswas, S/o. late Kalyan Kumar Biswas, (2) Smt. Boni Biswas Paul, D/o. late Kalyan Kumar Biswas and (3) Smt. Kakali Biswas, W/o. late Pranit Biswas, and (4) Smt. Tamalika Biswas, D/o. late Pranit Biswas, have lost

the original Conveyance Deed for the year 1949, recorded in Book No. 1, Volume No. 12, pages from 17 to 24, Deed No. 352 for the year 1949, registered before the additional District Sub-Registrar at Sealdah, District 24 Pgs. executed by Smt. Nila Ganguli, W/o. Krishna Das Ganguli as Vendor of the First Part in favour of one Smt. Gita Biswas, now deceased, as purchaser of the other part in respect of land covered 2 Cottahs and 2 Sq.ft. more or less at present within the limits of the KMC Ward No. 068 known and numbered as Municipal Premises Nos. 18/8, Jamini Roy Sarani, formerly Ballygunge Place East, Police Station Gariahat, Kolkata-700019 from their custody and accordingly lodged a General Diary in Gariahat Police Station vide G.D.E. No. 302, dated 06.10.2020. If any person, organization, financial institution have any claim or demand in or upon the aforesaid property may contact with the under- signed within 15 days from the date hereof failing which no further claims and demands shall be entertained and the right title, interest and possession of the present Owners will be established and certified copy to the same may be treated as original considering the same as free from all encumbrances, liens and attachments whatsoever.

Sudhir Kumar Das Advocate 16, Bhuban Sarkar Lane Kolkata-70007 Mob. 09432325817

NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited by the DEO, SSA, NADIA for Construction Works of Girls' Toilet at School level. For details and to submit the tender please log on to <https://wtbidders.gov.in> or contact the DEO, SSA, Nadia.

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RE. 1, AIR-SURCHARGE: Kathmandu - Re. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1
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The newly established Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University began its functioning by holding its board meeting today.

It is likely to begin its academic session next year after having designed its courses in close consultation with the industry sector. Announcing at an online press conference, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "the setting up of this 'unique' university was 'a dream' for him and the first major step towards its realisation had been taken."

"The first board meeting of Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University took place today. I met all the Board members," Kejriwal said.

Dr Neharika Vohra, head of the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship, IIM-Ahmedabad, has been appointed its Vice-Chancellor. The board members include Pramath Raj Sinha, founding dean of the Indian School of Business and Founder of Ashoka University, Genpath founder Pramod Bhasin, Naukri.com founder Sanjeev Bikhchandani, well-known entrepreneur Shrikant Sastri and IP

University founding Vice-Chancellor KK Aggarwal, the Chief Minister said.

The objective of the university is to ensure that the students who pass out from here get the jobs they want or are capable of launching their own businesses so that they can provide jobs to other employment seekers, the Chief Minister declared. Kejriwal said, "The experts designing the new university's courses would do so in close consultation with industry bodies and companies."

Those interesting in launching their own units should be capable of doing so without difficulty.

"The university will have to address the employability

situations not favourable, won't hold Ramlila this year: Committees post Delhi govt's new norms

PTI

NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

Various committees organising huge Ramlila celebrations across Delhi, including at Red Fort grounds, have decided to "not hold the event" this year as the situation is not feasible and there are "too many restrictions" in the fresh guidelines issued for holding events, an official of their umbrella body



Create awareness among the farmers to use motors with ISI standards and also to ensure that the capacitors meet ISI standards.

Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY
ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2020

03

Farm laws: SAD gives 7-day ultimatum to Punjab CM

SAD issues ultimatum to Capt Amarinder Singh for convening a special session of the Punjab Assembly within a week to negate the Centre's controversial agriculture sector laws or face stir

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 12 OCTOBER

The Opposition Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Monday gave a seven-day ultimatum to Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh for convening a special session of the Punjab Assembly to declare the entire state a notified Mandi (principal market area) and reject the Centre's recent laws on farm marketing besides repealing the state's own amended APMC Act of 2017.

After a special meeting of the SAD core committee, chaired by party president Sukhbir Singh Badal this afternoon, the party said in the event of the Congress CM's refusal to convene the Assembly session within a week, the party would gherao his residence.

The SAD core committee also iterated its continued



firm support to the agitating farmers' organisations fighting for the cause of the beleaguered peasantry, especially against the three controversial central farm Acts.

Giving details of decisions taken at the core committee meeting, principal advisor to the SAD president, Harcharan Bains, said: "The

ultimatum to Amarinder Singh has become necessary in view of the CM's continued refusal to take a clear stand against the anti-farmer Acts of the Centre government as well as his stubborn refusal to declare the entire state a principal market area where the Centre's Acts would no longer be implementable."

Bains said that the party's

ultimatum comes in the wake of Capt Amarinder's "daily flip-flops" on the convening of the state Assembly session.

He said the SAD wants the Centre to make assured marketing of farmers' crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP) a constitutionally mandatory provision at par with the fundamental right.

The party also wants the MSP be fixed as per the Swaminathan formula of 50 per cent profit plus the sum total of all the costs incurred by the farmers.

The SAD core committee also decided to take up the issue of early reopening of the Kartarpur Corridor with the external affairs minister soon to ensure Sikh pilgrims could pay obeisance at the shrine in Pakistan in the run-up to the 551st Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev.

The SAD committee also expressed serious concern at the mishandling of the Hathras gangrape-murder incident by the Uttar Pradesh government and asked it to ensure the victim family gets justice besides taking strict exemplary action against police officials who had committed the body of the victim forcibly. "Such acts have no place in a democracy," it asserted.

BJP distorting Atal Tunnel's history: HP Cong president

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 12 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Congress chief Kuldeep Singh Rathore on Monday accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of trying to "distort" the history of Atal Tunnel at Rohtang and charged that this seemed to be the case as the foundation stone laid by former UPA government was missing from the tunnel.

Talking to media in Shimla, Rathore said that the then UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, former Union Steel Minister Virbhadra Singh and former Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal had laid the foundation stone of Atal Tunnel Rohtang on 28 June 2010.

"It is surprising that the foundation stone bearing the names of Congress and BJP leaders was missing and the onus for the entire fiasco lies with the state government and district administration," he added.

State Congress chief said the act was entirely illegal and against democratic norms as the BJP was indulging in such tactics to serve its political motives. He further stated that he had directed the local Congress leaders in Kullu district to file a complaint in this regard with the police as it was a serious issue and amounted to tam-



Kuldeep Singh Rathore rakes up the issue of 'missing' foundation stone that was laid by then UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi at Atal Tunnel on 28 June 2010. Demanding that it should be restored within 15 days, he says otherwise the Congress will be forced to hold statewide protests against such 'illegal and undemocratic' move

pering with historical facts.

"I have written a letter to Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on the issue of missing foundation stone and a copy of the letter has also been sent to Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu, seeking action in the case.

We have requested the Chief Minister to complete the probe in the case within 15 days and restore the missing plaque, otherwise the party will resort to protests across the state

Minister Narendra Modi led NDA government on the issue of farm bills and said Congress party was with the farmers on these issues as these bills will badly affect the farming community. "The farm bills will lead to hoarding of agricultural products and only big businessmen will benefit from these legislations while farmers will suffer as they will be forced to sell their crops at throwaway prices," he added.

HP gears up to tackle chemical disasters

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 12 OCTOBER

The Himachal Pradesh government on Monday organised an online incident response system (IRS) and table top exercise on chemical (industrial) disasters for coordinated response during emergencies.

Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) R D Dhiman chaired the meeting for online IRS training on chemical (industrial) disasters, involving all the 12 districts to discuss the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, officials and departments.

The aim of the training is to sensitise the officials about the role of IRS and responsibilities of the Incident Response Team during disaster.

The HP government organises training for various stakeholders to sensitise them on coordinated response during industrial exigencies

The training is being organised to establish a well-coordinated response system at State and District level to deal with emergency situations," he added.

Dhiman said the Incident Response System (IRS) is an effective mechanism for reducing the scope for ad-hoc measures in response.

"It incorporates all the tasks that may be performed during Disaster Management irrespective of their level of complexity. Organization

functions through Incident Response Teams (IRTs) in the field, in-line with their administrative structure and DM Act 2005.

The IRTs are pre-designed at all levels: State, District, Sub-Division and Tehsil/Block. On receipt of early warning, the Responsible Officer (RO) will activate them.

In case a disaster occurs without any warning, the local IRT will respond and contact RO for further support, if required and set coordination between the District, State and National level in activating effective response," he said.

Dhiman directed the authority to conduct mock drills and said the mock exercise is the best way to test the adequacy and efficacy of a Uni-

fied response plans of the State and Districts against disasters and to find gaps in the resources, manpower, equipment, communication and systems.

He further stated that the mock exercise gives the opportunity to re-examine the existing roles and responsibilities of the stakeholder departments which can be altered accordingly to enhance coordination and synergize efforts of various emergency support functions (ESFs) of the state and the districts.

He expressed hope that the active participation of all the stakeholders in the IRS training, will help in accomplishing its desired objectives and would generate constructive and practical inputs in enhancing the collective response to disasters in the Himachal.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL



The Indian Youth Congress activists hold a candlelight protest march against the gangrape-murder of a Dalit girl allegedly by four upper-caste men in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras, at Jantar Mantar in the Capital on Monday.

AMARJEET SINGH

5 held for duping people on pretext of getting train, bus tickets confirmed

PTI
NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

The Delhi Police has arrested five members of a gang which used to allegedly dupe people on the pretext of getting their bus or train tickets confirmed, officials said on Monday.

The accused have been identified as Sanjay Kumar (40), a resident of Sultanpur, Lal Babu Sahani (27), a resident of Samaypur Badali,

Santosh Kumar (27), a resident of Badali and Rakesh Mandal (26) and Rajeev Mandal (22), residents of Shakurpur, they said.

Police said a man named Sanjay Kumar lodged a complaint on October 6 at the Mahendra Park police station in which he alleged that he was duped by some people on the pretext of getting confirmed bus tickets.

He and his son first boarded an e-rickshaw from Singhu Border to ISBT at Kashmere Gate. Three men also boarded the e-rickshaw along with them. They pretended that they were also going to Lucknow and tried to befriend him.

The accused asked Kumar if he had a train or bus ticket

Police said a man named Sanjay Kumar lodged a complaint on October 6 at the Mahendra Park police station in which he alleged that he was duped by some people on the pretext of getting confirmed bus tickets.

to travel to Barabanki and when they got to know that Kumar did not have it, the accused asked him to come along with them to a ticket booking office at Jahangirpuri, a senior police officer said.

The complainant and his son de-boarded the e-rickshaw in Jahangirpuri.

Another man, pretending to be an agent, approached Kumar and asked him to provide his ATM card and pin numbers so that he could buy the bus tickets.

Kumar gave his ATM card and pin number to his son and sent him with them to buy tickets, the officer said.

One of the accused, who stayed back with Kumar also left after 20 minutes, after telling him that he was going to check whether tickets have been booked or not, police said.

Thereafter, Kumar got nine messages on his mobile regarding withdrawal of Rs 68,500 from his account, police said.

"During investigation, police scanned the CCTV footage and on Saturday, all five accused were apprehended from near Haiderpur metro station," Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) Vijayanta Arya said.

During interrogation, the accused told the police that they used to dupe people after befriending them by posing as passengers or ticket agents.

The accused said during festive seasons, the number of people commuting from Haryana, Punjab and Delhi to Bihar and UP increases and the victims easily get trapped as they are in need of confirmed tickets, the DCP said.

One laptop, Rs 13,500 cash, 42 mobile phones and other things were recovered from their possession, police said, adding that the accused also confessed to their involvement in a number of other cases.

Baroda bypoll: Khattar says any BJP worker can defeat Hooda



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 12 OCTOBER

With Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda challenging Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to contest the upcoming Baroda Assembly bypoll against him, the latter on Monday said even an ordinary Bharatiya Janata Party worker was capable of defeating former CM Hooda.

Khattar reminded Hooda the Congress party did an experiment earlier too in Jind bypolls in January 2019, but faced defeat.

"They experimented earlier when they had fielded a national level leader (Randep Singh Surjewala). We are saying this time too they should do another experiment (in Baroda)," said the CM when asked to comment on Hooda daring him to fight for Baroda Assembly seat fell

Hooda, who is the Leader of the Opposition in Haryana assembly, had said if the Khattar government is confident of its performance, the chief minister should contest the by-election.

Hooda is capable of defeating Khattar from Baroda. "If he decides to jump into fray, even an ordinary worker of our party is capable of defeating him," Khattar told reporters on the sidelines of an event.

He said a new and ordinary worker of BJP Krishan Midha had inflicted defeat on Congress' senior leader Randep Singh Surjewala from

Jind, a seat which the saffron party had won for the first time.

"Like in Jind, our ordinary and new party worker defeated Surjewala, here too (in Baroda), an ordinary and local worker will defeat Hooda if he contests from there," said Khattar.

The bypoll to the Baroda will be held on 3 November while the counting of votes is to take place on 10 November. Hooda had recently said all sections of the society were fed up with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP-JJP) government. He had also said there was

the anger of the farming community against the Centre's three farm laws.

"This government has failed on all fronts. During the past six years, they neglected the constituency (Baroda) and now they talk of development, but people have seen their true face and will teach them a lesson in the bypoll," Hooda had said. Baroda assembly seat falling in Jat-dominated Deswali belt of Rohtak-Sonipat region is considered Hooda's stronghold and the Congress had reaped rich electoral gains in the 2019 assembly polls from there.

Himachal CM tests positive for Covid



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 12 OCTOBER

Thakur said he is isolated at his official residence based on the advice of doctors.

that the Chief Minister is in home quarantine as a precaution since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's day-long visit to inaugurate Atal Tunnel in Kullu district on October 3, after there were reports that a local MLA from Kullu district, who had tested Covid positive on October 2, had met Chief Minister during the functions.

It is surprising the foundation stone laid by former UPA government was missing from the tunnel.

HIMACHAL PRADESH CONGRESS CHIEF KULDEEP SINGH RATHORE
ACCUSING BJP OF TRYING TO DISTORT HISTORY OF ATAL TUNNEL ROHTANG

THUMBNAILS



Workers on contract with Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation install new power lines on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Monday. **PTI**

MP girl escapes captor: A 17-year-old girl from Madhya Pradesh escaped from the alleged captivity of a man, who was taking her to Delhi on the pretext of imparting sewing and embroidery training, and walked for days to reach Hathras before she could get help from police. The girl set out with a group of 11 others for Delhi about a week ago. **PTI**

Khushboo quits Cong, joins BJP

Alleges she was being cornered in Congress; TNCC chief Alagiri says it will not cause any loss to party

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 12 OCTOBER



Actor-turned-politician and former Congress national spokesperson Khushboo Sundar today quit the party and joined BJP in New Delhi in the presence of senior BJP leaders.

Once a leading actress in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam cinemas, Khushboo entered politics through DMK with the blessings of late M Karunanidhi and later quit that party over differences with M K Stalin, to join Congress.

Khushboo left for New Delhi last night and refused to make any comment to the media. Reacting to her decision, TNCC president K S Alagiri said it would not cause any loss to the party. Alagiri alleged that she did not act according to the party's propaganda. Party cadres saw her just as an actor and not as a leader. Her resignation is in no way a loss to the party, he added.

Reliable sources in the party said that the difference of opinion with the TNCC president forced Khushboo, one of the most recognisable faces of the party in the state, to join Congress, not for any monetary gains, name or fame.

said that the difference of opinion with the TNCC president forced Khushboo, one of the most recognisable faces of the party in the state, to join Congress, not for any monetary gains, name or fame.

Congress, meanwhile, announced in Delhi that Khushboo was removed from her post of Congress Committee spokesperson with "immediate effect".

Suppressed by some in Cong, says Khushboo: In a letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, she said she was being cornered in Congress and suppressed by "a few ele-

ments at the higher level within the party who have no connectivity with the ground reality or public recognition". In the letter, she said she had joined Congress, not for any monetary gains, name or fame.

Thanking Mrs Gandhi for providing her opportunity to serve the country as the national spokesperson and primary member of Congress, Khushboo said she came into the Congress fold at a time when it was at its lowest being defeated in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Speculations of her joining

BJP: Reports that Khushboo would join the BJP had been doing the rounds for quite some time, especially after she welcomed the BJP government's NEP 2020 and also apologised to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for differing with the stand taken by the party.

On 10 October, the actor, on her Twitter handle, had given a hint of quitting Congress saying: "Many see a change in me. Well as you age, you evolve n grow, learn n unlearn, perceptions change, likes n dislikes too, thoughts n ideas take a new shape, dreams are new, you understand the difference between like n love, between right n wrong. Change is inevitable."

'Will make sure TN sees victory in upcoming polls' Talking to the media after joining BJP, Khushboo said, "It gives me immense pleasure to become a part of BJP. We need Modi ji to take the nation to the next level. I am completely happy with the Bharatiya

Janata Party and promise to do my best."

"I will also make sure that my state Tamil Nadu sees victory in the upcoming elections. I am here as the millions of people of the country who have great hopes on the leadership of esteemed Honorable PM Narendra Modi ji. I'll work like any other cadre to the best of my abilities," she said.

She was once a strident critic of the BJP and lambasted some of the decisions of the Modi government. She also participated in the protest demonstration held by the Congress party last week in protest against the three Farm Bills enacted in Parliament.

"I, after a long thorough thought process over a period of time, have decided to end my association with the party," she said, and tendered her resignation from the primary membership of the Congress. Wife of noted Tamil filmmaker Sundar C, she became a household name in TN after 1991 Tamil flick *Chinna Thambi*.

device. CCTVs have not been damaged in lightning, but those have been destroyed by someone. Ramesh said stating that Swapna had told the ED that she had met CM at Cliff House at least six times and the CM had introduced his principal secretary M Sivasankar to her and has unofficially given the responsibility to manage affairs with UAE Consulate to Sivasankar. Chennithala said that CM should tell the public what business gold smuggling case accused Swapna had at Cliff House. He further said that the CPI-M is staying away from channel discussions as the party cannot defend these allegations.

Meanwhile, the NIA has on Monday informed the special NIA court in Kochi that the agency has found that one of the accused, Muhammad Ali, in the case has terrorist links. Ali had made calls to members of proscribed terror outfits, ISIS and SIMI.

Cliff House source of corruption in Kerala, alleges Chennithala

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 12 OCTOBER

Senior Congress leader and Opposition leader in the Kerala Assembly Ramesh Chennithala has on Monday seized on the statement by Swapna Suresh, the prime accused in the Kerala gold smuggling case to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to target chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan and to seek his resignation on the charge of abetting economic offenders.

Inaugurating a state-wide protest by the UDF demanding resignation of Vijayan on the charge of abetting economic offenders, Chennithala alleged that Cliff House, the official residence of the CM, is the source of all corruptions in the state.

He said that the CM claimed that lightning had damaged the surveillance cameras at Cliff House, the official residence of the CM, is the source of all corruptions in the state.

The CM claimed that lightning had damaged the surveillance cameras at Cliff House, the official residence of the CM, is the source of all corruptions in the state.

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Hamirpur Division HPPWD, Hamirpur in form No. 6 & 8 on behalf of Governor of H.P. for the following works from the contractors of appropriate class enlisted with HP.PWD. The tender shall be opened in the presence of the contractors / firms or their representatives who wish to present.

TIME SCHEDULE OF TENDER:-

- 1 Date and time of receipt of application for tender form:- 05.11.2020 up to 4.00 P.M.
- 2 Date and time of issue of tender form :- 07.11.2020 up to 3.00 P.M.
- 3 Date and time of receipt of tenders:- 09.11.2020 up to 10.30 A.M.
- 4 Date and time of opening of tenders:- 09.11.2020 at 11.30 A.M.

The request for issue of tenders should be on the PRESCRIBED APPLICATION FORM which can be obtained from the office of undersigned and tenders will be issued to only those contractors who qualify the criteria after the scrutiny of application forms by the Committee constituted for this purpose.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost	EMD (in Rs.)	Time Limit	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Eligible Class of contractor
1.	Restoration of rain damages on Bhota Tal via Sihdhpur road Km: 0/0 to 4/500. (SH:- Providing and laying WMM and Roller compacted cement concrete pavement at RD: 3/500 to 4/100 at Various RD's) (Under Missing C.D.)	498398.00	10000.00	Two Months	350/-	Class D
2.	Missing CD on Rangas Kangoo road Km: 0/0 to 5/500 (SH:- Providing cement concrete Pavement at Km: 0/480 to 0/610).	3,35,834/-	6800/-	One Month	350/-	Class D
3.	C/O link road from Rashan Dipo Mohin to Harizan Basti Mohin Bahlji Km: 0/0 to 4/0 under MMGSY (SH:- Hiring of JCB for formation cutting).	204620	41.00	One Month	350/-	Class D
4.	Missing CD on Rangas Kangoo road Km: 0/0 to 6/0. (SH:- C/O Hume pipe culvert at Km: 4/400)	171890.00	3500.00	Two Months	350/-	Class D
5.	A/R & M/O Jol Sapper Neri road Km: 0/0 to 5/500. (SH:- Repair of Pot holes at RD: 0/0 to 5/500).	299193.00	3500.00	One Month	350/-	Class D
6.	Improvement of Black spot on Jol Sapper Neri road in Km: 0/0 to 6/0. (SH:- C/O RWall and providing/Fixing Crash Barrier in Km 3/10 to 3/400 (RHS)	287328.00	5800.00	One Month	350/-	Class D
7.	A/R & M/O HPPWD, JE office Kafe Amb at Bohni in Tehsil & Distt: Hamirpur (SH:- C/O Roofing at 1st floor)	356774.00	7200/-	One Month	350/-	Class D
8.	The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate, Time deposit account in any of the post office in HP / FDR of any Bank duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Hamirpur Division, HP-PWD. Hamirpur must be accompanied with the application for receipt of tender form along with cost of form .Tender application received without earnest money will be rejected.					
9.	The contractors / firms should possess the following documents (photo copy to be attached with application for obtaining the tenders documents):-					
(i)	Latest enlistment / renewal orders with application for obtaining the tenders documents.					
(ii)	GST Number issued by the State Tax Department.					
(iii)	PAN (Permanent Account Number) issued by the Income Tax Department.					
10.	The Executive Engineer, Hamirpur Division HPPWD, Hamirpur reserves the right to reject any tender without assigning any reasons(s).					
11.	4. The Cess Charges @ 1 % will be deducted from the gross amount of work done by the Contractor.					
12.	The work will be completed by the contractor with in the stipulated period.					
13.	The contractor / firms are required to insert the rate of each item in wards as well as in figures failing which Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/rejects any over all tender.					
14.	The tender shall be issued to only those contractor /firms who are eligible, suitable and competent.					
15.	The tender forms shall be issued to eligible contractors depending upon their past performance and work experience which shall be duly evaluated by the technical evaluation committee.					
16.	The Contractor/firm having necessary documents and past adequate experience shall be preferred.					
17.	The Contractor / who have failed to start/Complete the work in hand with in reasonable time shall not be issued tender Forms.					
18.	A contractor enlisted in a particular class shall be eligible to tender for his own class and one step below.					
19.	Only one No. tender form will be issued to the eligible contractor.					
20.	If 09.11.2020 happens to be holiday the tender shall be opened on next working day at 11.00.					
21.	GST will be deducted as per rates fixed by the Govt.					

3652/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No. I, HPPWD, Mandi, DisttMandi(H.P.) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Eligible Class of Contractor
1.	Periodic maintenance of Pali to Shilag road (PMGSY rural road) MRL-033 under Performance Based Financial Incentive 2019-20 (during the year 2020-21) by MoRD to eligible States, as Central Assistance. (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete, including profile correction in Km 1/0 to 5/0).	39,15,735/-	66,200/-	350/-	One month	"C to above deal with bituminous work"
2.	Periodic maintenance of Pali to Shilag road (PMGSY rural road) MRL-035 under Performance Based Financial Incentive 2019-20 (during the year 2020-21) by MoRD to eligible States, as Central Assistance. (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete, including profile correction in Km 2/0 to 4/0).	19,95,279/-	37,400/-	500/-	One month	All classes deal with bituminous work
3.	Periodic maintenance of Nagdhara to Shiva road (PMGSY rural road) MRL-063 under Performance Based Financial Incentive 2019-20 (during the year 2020-21) by MoRD to eligible States, as Central Assistance. (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete, including profile correction in Km 3/0 to 6/0).	9,82,095/-	19,600/-	350/-	One month	All classes deal with bituminous work
4.	Periodic maintenance of BarnalaRiyagi road (VR0144) Rural Road under Additional Annual maintenance Plan for the year 2020-21 (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete including profile correction in Km 5/0 to 6/0)	9,63,389/-	19,300/-	350/-	One month	All classes deal with bituminous work
5.	Periodic maintenance of Chubhi to Farsh road (VR0046) Rural Road under Additional Annual maintenance Plan for the year 2020-21 (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete including profile correction in Km 1/0 to 2/0)	9,63,389/-	19,300/-	350/-	One month	All classes deal with bituminous work

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htpentrants.gov.in>.

Bidders will be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://htpentrants.gov.in>. Digitalsignature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:

- 1 Date of Online Publication 21.10.2020 1000 HRS
- 2 Document Download Start and End Date 21.10.2020 1000 HRS up to 02.11.2020 1700 HRS
- 3 Bid Submission Start and End Date 21.10.2020 1000 HRS up to 02.11.2020 1700 HRS
- 4 Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document 03.11.2020 up to 1100 HRS
- 5 Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid. 03.11.2020 1130 HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS: The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover

- i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".
- ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/D Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No. I, HPPWD Mandi, Distt.Mandi (H.P.) a payable at Mandi as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 03.11.2020 at 11.30 HRS in the office of **Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No. I, HPPWD Mandi, Distt.Mandi (H.P.)** by the authorised officer. In their interest the renderers are advised to



This is the most shameful and cowardly act... Now only women will have to take the responsibility of women safety

CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY PRIYANKA GANDHI

STEPPING UP ATTACK ON UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT OVER HATHRAS CASE

The Statesman

05

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2020

THUMBNAILS



A resident reacts after her swab sample was collected at a civic clinic in Dharavi slums, in Mumbai on Monday.

AFP

2 LeT militants killed:
Two LeT militants, including a top Pakistani commander involved in several recent attacks on security forces, were on Monday killed in an encounter in Srinagar's Old Barzulla area.

PTI

MBA programme: Jaipuri Institute of Management, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad (UP) launched a business analytics professional MBA programme. This programme focuses on preparing participants for an advanced career in management by giving them a foundation in various management topics that are essential for building capabilities to succeed in the modern business landscape, said a Press release statement.

SNS

China creating dispute at border, says Rajnath



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

After Pakistan, China is also creating a dispute at the border with India as if it is part of a "mission," defence minister Rajnath Singh said today as he dedicated to the nation as many as 44 bridges built in border areas of Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and laid the foundation of the strategically important Nechoipu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh. These bridges will help the armed forces in ensuring quick movement of troops and weapons.

Inaugurating the bridges at an online event, Singh congratulated the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for completing the bridges in a record time. The country, the minister said, is progressing in all sectors and resolutely facing the challenge posed by Covid-19 despite the border tensions and disputes caused by Pakistan and China.

"You are well aware of the situation created along our northern and eastern borders... first Pakistan, and now also by China, as if a border dispute is being created under a mission. We have a border of about 7,000 km with these countries, where the tensions remain," he said.

Singh said the construction of the bridges would benefit

Major power failure disrupts Mumbai, leaves trains stuck

BEST officials blame Tata Power for grid failure; CM Uddhav Thackeray orders an immediate probe

SNS & PTI
MUMBAI, 12 OCTOBER

A major power failure struck Mumbai around 10 am on Monday, affecting normal life, including thousands stranded in stalled suburban trains. Power was restored around noon in many areas such as Churchgate in south Mumbai.

Office workers were seen ambling outside their offices in a humid October morning with computers off, including staff airing themselves under trees at the Marine Drive police station.

While some momentarily feared the power failure was a power cut in their home and office due to scores of unpaid electricity bills caused by lockdown financial woes, the power outage had affected millions across the Mumbai Metropolitan area of Mumbai, Thane and New Mumbai.

"The electric supply is interrupted due to TATA's incomming electric supply failure. Inconvenience is regretted," Brihammumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) informed from its Twitter account around 11 am. "Due to Grid failure at Padgha - Kalwa there is total failure of electricity in Mumbai. The restoration work is in progress."

Maharashtra state energy minister Nitin Raut said the power outage happened when the MSETCL 400 KV Kalwa-Padgha GIS circuit was taken for repair and maintenance, and a technical failure in the second unit tripped from the load.



The MSEDL (also called Mahavitaran or Mahadiscom), a public sector undertaking by the Maharashtra state government, is the largest electricity distribution utility in India supplying electricity to the entire Maharashtra state.

While BEST officials have blamed Tata Power for the grid failure, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray has ordered an immediate probe.

"At 10.10 am there were simultaneous substation tripping in MSETCL's Kalwa, Kharghar causing a huge dip in frequency in the Mumbai transmission system which led to tripping of Mumbai power supply," Tata Power said.

India's largest integrated power company Tata Power is

among multiple electricity suppliers, including the state-run BEST and Adani Electricity, that power India's financial capital.

Hospitals, including those on Covid-19 service, informed us they faced little problems having automatically switched to back-up power supply from generators.

The Mumbai international airport, the Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange, too, reported their daily work was unaffected by the power outage.

"Power supply to all essential services in Mumbai, Mumbai suburbs, Kalyan, Thane, Palghar and New Mumbai have been restored," energy minister Raut announced around 1.30 pm. "Non-essential services will also be restored shortly."

Train services had earlier been disrupted with thou-

sands of Monday morning commuters stranded en route.

The Central Railway (CR) posted photographs of the railway police force helping commuters out of carriages.

"Power supply restored on CR main line at 12.26 hrs," Central Railway officials informed through social media.

The Western Railway notified an hour later that "WR's suburban train services are restored between Churchgate and Borivali. Services were already on between Borivali and Virar."

The Western Railways had earlier urged people "not to panic" and requested passengers "to please co-operate and maintain social distance. Please do not walk on tracks."

Five WR long-distance trains were rescheduled due to the power outage.

Some school exams for today were rescheduled for Sunday, 18 October.

As befitting these social media dominated times, Mumbaiites lost no time sharing both their sense of humour and frustration with jokes, memes and messages.

"Thank you for WORLD'S BEST #powercut," cracked a news anchor from his Twitter account 'Shehzad Jai Hind', referring to the Brihammumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST).

"This is a good time to appreciate 24x7 electricity in Mumbai. Stuff we take for granted," investment analyst Anupam Gupta offered some

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India, China hold 7th round of military talks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

with the Chinese on 21 September in Moldo.

Expectations of a breakthrough at the meeting were low with India insisting on the restoration of the status quo ante that existed in eastern Ladakh in early May.

At the talks, the two sides were expected to further explore steps to maintain stability on the ground and avoid any action that might lead to fresh tensions between them.

Ahead of today's talks, sources said India would press for complete disengagement and de-escalation of troops from both sides.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh had convened a key meeting of the China Study Group on Friday to finalise India's strategy for the commander level talks.

PM to address Bengal during Durga Puja: Vijayvargiya



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, 12 OCTOBER

Vijayvargiya said that the date of Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah's probable visit to the state ahead of the Pujas is yet to be finalised.

"He will be visiting north Bengal ahead of the Durga Pujas. But the dates are not yet fixed," he told newsmen.

According to the party sources, Shah is likely to visit West Bengal ahead of the Pujas to look into the organisational aspects of BJP ahead of the 2021 state assembly polls.

After decades of its limited presence in the politically polarised state, BJP has emerged as the main rival to the ruling Trinamool Congress winning 18 of its 42 Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 general elections. With BJP's strength increasing manifold in the last few years in the state, where it has never been in power, its leaders have expressed confidence that the saffron party will end Banerjee's 10-year rule in the assembly polls.

Over 50,000 voters opt for postal ballots in Phase-1 of Bihar Assembly polls

NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

More than 50,000 electors have opted to exercise the facility to vote through postal ballots in the forthcoming phase I of the Bihar Assembly elections 2020.

This is for the first time that Bihar government has extended postal voting facility to citizen above 80 years of age and PwD category. Earlier it was normally permitted to security

'This is the first time that postal ballot facility is being extended to both the categories in Bihar elections'

forces engaged in internal and external security duties.

Giving details the Election Commission said more than 52,000 electors belonging to senior citizen (above 80 years of age) and PwD categories have opted for postal ballots in the first phase.

"These electors will be provided postal ballots on pre-informed date(s) by the Returning Officers with proper security and videography arrangements to ensure secrecy, safety, and transparency in the process" said a senior officer of the Election Commission here on Monday.

He said this is the first time that postal ballot facility is being extended to both the categories in Bihar elections. "Booth Level Officers of 71 Assembly constituencies in Bihar have reached out to more than four lakh such electors.

Remaining electors intend to visit the booth on the poll day for voting," he said.

General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Bihar 2020 were announced on 25 September.

In the first phase, polling in 71 ACs spread over 16 districts of Bihar, is to be held on 28 October. Earlier, during EC's visit to Bihar from 29 September-1 October, 2020, attention was drawn to certain concerns regarding the implementation of this provision for the above categories of voters to comprehensively address these concerns, on 3 October.

"We have called the three-day-long truckers' strike from today to protest against the Mamata Banerjee government's indifference to meet up our two demands—implement safe axle loading and stop overloading of goods—in our state.

The state chief secretary and transport secretary had called me up on Sunday urging to withdraw the strike.

But we will continue our pre-scheduled programme till the chief minister Miss Mamata Banerjee does not sit with us to solve our grievances," Subhas Chandra Bose, secretary of FWBTOA, told The Statesman today.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer (Train Set), Northern Railway Charbagh Workshop, Lucknow invites following e-tender from reputed firms for works as given below:

Tender No.	W-CB-AMC PS/2020-21/01
Name of Work	Comprehensive AMC for Vande Bharat (Train-08) for 25KV AC, IGBT based 3-phase propulsion system, Make- M/s Medha, Qty.-02Rake.
Estimated Cost of Work	Rs. 1,50,08,504/- (exclusive of GST)
Earnest Money	Rs. 2,25,100/- only (accepted through net banking or payment gateway only)
Cost of Tender Form	₹ 5,000/- only (accepted through net banking or payment gateway only)
Period of Contract	One Year
Date & Time for submission of Tender	from 21.10.2020 to 04.11.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.
Date & Time for Opening of Tender	after 15.15 Hrs. on 04.11.2020.

* The tender form may be submitted on the website www.ireps.gov.in from 21.10.2020 to 04.11.2020 (up to 15.00 hrs). * Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, any such manual offer received shall be ignored. * Contractors are allowed to make payment against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipt, FDR etc. are not allowed. * The tender will be opened on specified date and time as above. In case the above date is a holiday the tender opening would be conducted at the same times on the next working day.

* No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening the technical & commercial offers. Even suo-moto post letter of the tender shall be treated as NULL & void. Tender No. NR/CB Workshop/October/AMC PS/2020-21/01 Date : 10.10.2020.

2191/20 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

How LJP's move is set to alter Bihar politics

MANOJ CHAURASIA
PATNA, 12 OCTOBER

Poll scene in Bihar has turned interesting with scores of alliances trying luck in the elections this time.

In all, there are at least five alliances which have joined to the poll fray, which include the NDA, Mahagathbandhan or the Grand Alliance, Grand Democratic Secular Front (GDSF) led by former Union minister Upendra Kushwaha, Progressive Democratic Alliance (PDA) led by former MP Pappu Yadav and United Democratic Alliance (UDA) headed by former Union minister Yashwant Sinha.

However, what has infused much interest in this election

is the move by the Lok Janashakti Party (LJP) to contest elections against its own ally, the JD-U, in Bihar. The LJP headed by Chirag Paswan, son of Dalit politician Ram Vilas Paswan who died a couple of days back, has announced to field candidates against 143 seats – mostly against the JD-U which was given 122 seats by the BJP under the seat sharing arrangement.

Past records have shown the NDA, especially the JD-U, is likely to suffer severe electoral damage due to the very move of the LJP for two reasons – first the sympathy wave as a result of Paswan's death midway through polling and secondly the nature of LJP voters.

Political observers are of the opinion that Bihar could witness a hung House if the LJP is able to make a cut into BJP's votes.

It is very interesting to note here that LJP chief Chi-

rag Paswan has not said a bit against the BJP and has been constantly heaping praises on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, indicating his "love" for the saffron camp.

Observers say a hung House could, rather, usher in a "new opportunity" before the BJP which has been constantly riding piggyback on Nitish to come to power in Bihar.

The hung Assembly will be a good opportunity for the BJP. Either it will try to form its own government with the support of others or this could lead to imposition of the President's Rule in the state. Both options suit the BJP," commented a political expert.

Experts opine the NDA, especially the JD-U, is likely to suffer severe electoral damage due to the very move of the LJP for two reasons – first the sympathy wave as a result of Paswan's death midway through polling and secondly the

Premature celebration

Eaching agreement on the choice of Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy as the ruling AIADMK's chief ministerial candidate for the coming Assembly election in Tamil Nadu has led to 'victory' celebrations in Chennai with bursting of firecrackers and distribution of sweets. Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, runner-up for the coveted position, graciously proposed Palaniswamy's name after wresting control of the party by constituting a 11-member steering committee to manage the party in which his supporters dominate. While both leaders claim victory, Panneerselvam is the real winner. Going by the voters' propensity to change governments every five years, it is the turn of Opposition DMK to bag the coming election. If the AIADMK fails to garner a majority, it would spell the end of Palaniswamy's political career whereas Panneerselvam would be left with control of a party having the largest number of members in the State. The AIADMK joined the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance during last year's Lok Sabha election in which the BJP drew a blank. The parties have not severed ties so far. State BJP president L Murugan ruled out his party accepting Palaniswamy leading the NDA in the assembly election. On the contrary, the NDA will have a BJP nominee leading the alliance at the polls, he said. A top AIADMK's leader has made it clear that only parties accepting Palaniswamy as the Chief Minister candidate can join the alliance. The AIADMK has been a personality-oriented party with no distinct ideology or policy. Unfortunately, after its founder-leader MG Ramachandran and his successor J Jayalalitha, the party has been bereft of charismatic leaders.

Other than the DMK fielding MK Stalin, as its Chief Minister candidate, a plethora of political parties are entering the field with candidates of their own. The BJP is toying with the idea of heading an NDA alliance, with its own candidate. To add glamour to the alliance and with an eye on Muslim votes, the BJP had roped in Tamil film star Kushboo, a well-known party hopper. By easing out long-time leaders like H Raja and not accommodating even a single leader from Tamil Nadu in the just reconstituted national executive, the BJP leadership has sent confusing signals about the party's seriousness about expanding its footprint in Tamil Nadu. Veteran BJP leader and former Union minister P. Radhakrishnan said the AIADMK's alliance with the BJP was only for the last Lok Sabha election. The party could forge an alliance with any like-minded party for the election. Kamal Haasan, popular film star with his own outfit, hopes to emerge as the dark horse and capture Fort St George. Seeman, leader of Nam Tamilar Party, even after drawing a blank in the 2016 Assembly election, has not given up his ambition of fielding candidates in all 234 constituencies, while superstar Rajnikant is waiting in the wings for the pandemic to blow over to take the plunge.

Tougher approach

The disdainful rejection by China of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-Wen's call for "meaningful talks" to resolve differences confirms that Beijing is in no mood to rein in its belligerence towards its far smaller neighbour and is determined to punish Taipei for what it calls obstructing "cross-strait exchanges", its promotion of "independence actions" and its linking up with "external forces for provocations". China wants Taiwan to return to a consensus on what it calls the "one China, different interpretations" principle, which essentially means obtaining permission to function as a democracy by acknowledging Beijing's sovereignty over its territory. To that end, China has stepped up provocations, its fighter jets constantly buzzing Taiwan. Increasing Chinese prickliness over Taiwan also manifested itself through a wholly unwarranted missile directed at Indian newspapers for publishing advertisements on Taiwan's National Day, asking that they stick to the official one-China policy followed by the government of India. While this gratuitous advice was largely ignored by newspapers, the Indian government chose to react by stating that the country had a free media that could report on anything. No one stops China from advertising its own position if it so wishes, but by bypassing diplomatic channels, its embassy in New Delhi has opened up an opportunity for Indian diplomats to react similarly when Beijing's state-run media publish articles - as it often does - that run counter to stated Indian positions. That though is easier said than done, for traditionally, New Delhi has adopted a namb-pamby approach to Chinese excesses, including its annexation of Tibet, its subjugation of Uighurs and its transgressions in Indian territories. It is all very well to blame Jawaharlal Nehru and Krishna Menon for surrendering diplomatically to Beijing; the truth is that not one of their successors - including those in the present dispensation - has chosen to revisit the policy on China or proactively addressed Chinese aggressions. Instead India, like many of their batsmen of an earlier era confronting pace bowling has chosen to play off the back foot when not backing away towards square leg. This reticence in dealing with the northern neighbour must end, and Indian diplomats must, if necessary, take a cue from India's free Press and tiny Taiwan's government. The Taiwanese President had responded to a statement by President Xi Jinping in the United Nations where he had claimed that China never sought hegemony, nor to create a sphere of influence. If Beijing can "heed Taiwan's voice, change the way it handles cross-strait relations, and jointly facilitate cross-strait reconciliation and peaceful dialogue, I believe that regional tension can surely be resolved," President Tsai had said. Beijing cut contacts with Mrs Tsai's government following her election in 2016 and has steadily increased diplomatic, military and economic pressure on her.

Just think from the perspective of a child and imagine how lonely one would feel without any friends? This applies more to the adolescent students of higher classes and residential schools as they are at the most crucial stage of their lives. Why can't they be allowed to return to school with some special measures (like ensuring proper sanitisation)?

Why is this issue not being addressed to a significant extent? Last month, we saw that the dates for JEE entrance exam were announced within a day in the Supreme Court and the vulgar topic of Prashant Bhushan extended for about two weeks. Is any attention being paid to the wants, desires, happiness and future of children?

Yours, etc., Anurag Nath, Student of Class X, Siliguri, 10 October.

LONG-TERM GOALS

SIR, With reference to your comment, "Nuanced approaches" (October 8), from security assistance and governance to economic development infrastructure,

Bureaucratised Society

The power of patronage, lack of accountability and corruption, which are the bane of bureaucracy, often inspire young men and women in India to join it. Additionally, the hierarchy in the Indian Government is such that the scientist, doctor, engineer and the technocrat all work under the bureaucrat



The Oxford English Dictionary defines a bureaucrat as: "An official in a government department, in particular, one perceived as being concerned with procedural correctness at the expense of people's needs." There are other definitions of bureaucracy - all with the underlying thought that bureaucrats are a lot that value rules and procedure more than the outcome. Everyone, however, agrees that whatever be its drawbacks, the bureaucracy is a necessary evil; the bureaucrat efficiently splits the complicated task of governance into smaller jobs that can be handled by domain experts. Viewed in this perspective, our inherited 'generalist bureaucracy' is a contradiction in terms; such a bureaucracy was suited only for a colonial administration, whose main task was to govern rather than serve.

The bureaucratic form of administration has a long history; bureaucrats called the tune in ancient Egypt, in the Roman Empire, and in imperial China. Bureaucracy has always grown like Jack's beanstalk; early Rome had maybe a few hundred bureaucrats but in its last days, the Roman Empire had no less than 30,000 to 35,000 bureaucrats! A swollen bureaucracy and excessive taxation spelt the doom of the mighty Roman empire. "The number of ministers, of magistrates, of officers, and of servants, who filled the different departments of the state, was multiplied beyond the example of former times; and (if we may borrow the warm expression of a con-temporary) 'when the proportion of those who received exceeded the proportion of those who contributed the provinces were op-pressed by the weight of tributes'" (Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Edward Gibbon).

No doubt, the public was also responsible for the fall of the Roman empire, the Roman public ceased to concern itself with public affairs, once it had free food and elaborate games and spectacles to watch.

Modern times have seen a resurgence of the bureaucracy;

the rise of the modern nation-state was accompanied by the bureaucratisation of administra-

tion and creation of a permanent corps of officials. Initially, bureaucratisation helped democratisation because it eliminated feudal, plutocratic, and patriarchal bases of administration. The German sociologist, Max Weber, was the first to study the bureaucracy scientifically. He propounded the bureaucratic theory of management that envisioned bureaucracy laying down an impersonal and rule-based administration. According to Weber, a high level of efficiency was the characteristic of the bureaucracy. Starting from British times, we have had a long history of being ruled by bureaucrats; top bureaucrats were deputed from London, who were aided by lower level home-grown ones. However, at no time has our bureaucracy come even close to the Weberian ideal of impersonality and efficiency.

At the time of Independence, there was a proposal to do away with the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police (the precursors of the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service, respectively) but our founding fathers realised that they themselves had no administrative experience, so along with the British Chiefs of defence services, the services of colonial bureaucrats were also retained. Despite its many failures, bureaucracy has successfully perpetuated itself; at the time of Independence the Government of India had around thirty secretaries, which are nearer a hundred now. Politicians are often voted out of power but bureaucrats always rule the roost. Looking to its many material successes, our youth is enamoured of the bureaucracy, though for patently wrong reasons. The power of patronage, lack of accountability and corruption, which are the bane of bureaucracy, often inspire young men and women in India to join the bureaucracy. Additionally, the hierarchy in the Indian Government is such that the scientist, doctor, engineer

and the technocrat, all work under the bureaucrat. No wonder, the prime ambition of any young man or woman in India is to join the permanent bureaucracy, at whatever level.

Such admiration for bureaucracy has made it easy for bureaucratic values to permeate all sections of society. The bureaucratisation of our society has affected the pursuit of excellence and knowledge; the best minds try to get into bureaucracy, shunning art, literature, science and research. This scenario is strikingly similar to the one seen in the last days of the Roman Empire: "The minds of men were gradually reduced to the same level, the fire of genius was extinguished, and even the military spirit evapo-rated" (Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire: Edward Gibbon).

Traditionally, politicians and bureaucrats had perpetually been at loggerheads, if not openly then covertly, as brilliantly portrayed in the television series 'Yes Minister' and 'Yes, Prime Minister.' However, in India, at some point of time bureaucrats and politicians decided to collaborate; to the exclusion of their own party workers, politicians recruited bureaucrats as their closest advisors. Politicisation of the bureaucracy has been a fait accompli for long but a new challenge has now emerged, that of bureaucratisation of politics.

Political parties organizing themselves in bureaucratic structures, is one of the manifestations of this phenomenon. Even more significantly, most political parties have sacrificed inner party democracy to a culture of nomination for party posts. Taking another cue from bureaucrats, politicians have learnt not to counter their opponents politically, but to use enforcement agencies against them.

Looking to the failure of the bureaucracy in resolving the problems of modern society, anti-bureaucratic reform efforts

are gaining momentum in England and Australia, in what is called New Public Management, which aims at decentralisation, market-based decision making, replacing career civil servants by managers on contract, reducing the number of rules and enhancing the discretion and accountability of persons working lower down.

It is contended that bureaucratisation would do away with the procedure-based approach of administration and would make governance more flexible and performance oriented. But, moving in the opposite direction, the Indian Government is trying to make governance even more centralised and procedure-based and as a corollary, reduce discretion with public servants. So far, this approach has neither decreased corruption nor has it increased performance but has, doubtless, reduced flexibility.

We have, so far proved unequal to most of the challenges facing our polity. First, we had the problem of criminalisation of politics, which has increased over the years with 233 MPs (43 per cent) of the current Lok Sabha facing criminal charges compared to 34 per cent in the last Lok Sabha (Source: Association of Democratic Reforms), despite the best efforts of civil society and active intervention of the Supreme Court. Then, we had the problem of politicisation of the bureaucracy, which has been resolved only with the entire bureaucracy being politicised. We now have to see how we cope with the bureaucratisation of politics.

Let us recognise the danger of our entire society getting infected with the enervating influence of bureaucratisation which would make us lose our native genius, vigour and efficiency. Appearing on the Phil Donahue show in 1979, Nobel laureate Milton Friedman summarised the pitfalls of bureaucratisation beautifully: "The world runs on individuals pursuing their self-interests. The great achievements of civilization have not come from government bureaus. Einstein didn't construct his theory under order from a bureaucrat. Henry Ford didn't revolutionize the automobile industry that way."

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Vietnam leads Asean cybersecurity talks

Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Public Security Luong Tam Quang affirmed Vietnam's commitment to actively and responsibly taking part in Asean cooperative mechanisms on cybersecurity. He was speaking at a teleconference of ASEAN ministers on cybersecurity on Wednesday. Vietnam recognises the need and importance of building responsible codes of conduct online to maintain healthy, safe cyberspace and ensure information security amid the huge changes of digital transformation, he said.

The Vietnamese government has assigned the public security ministry to finalise a legal framework on cybersecurity consistent with regional and international standards to facilitate tightening cybersecurity, cybercrime prevention and control in Vietnam as well as international cooperation, he said. Vietnam has implemented the National Digital Transformation Programme towards 2025, with a vision to 2030 with the aim of making the country among 50 leading e-government countries. "In this digital transformation process, network information security and safety is the key factor in creating a safe environment for digital transformation," he said. The ministry has focused on protecting critical information infrastructures through promoting training, improving qualifications and capacity of the specialised security teams as well as conducting research to develop and apply advanced software and technology.

The ministry has also paid attention to international cooperation with countries inside and outside the

Việt Nam News

region to respond to attacks on information infrastructures, he said. At the meeting, delegates from Asean countries agreed on the spirit of working together to address cybersecurity challenges in a comprehensive and sustainable way.

Secretary-general of Asean Dato Lim Jock Hoi said promoting regional cybersecurity cooperation has become important and served as a driving force for member countries to complete the overall Asean post-Covid-19 recovery. S Iswaran, Singapore Minister for Communications and Information and Minister-in-charge of Cybersecurity, applauded Asean member states for their steadfast focus on strengthening cybersecurity, domestically and in collaboration with regional and international partners.

Singapore is ready to work with all Asean partners to safeguard cyberspace, he said. To enhance security for operational technology (OT) and the internet of things, Iswaran announced that the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore will establish an OT Cybersecurity Expert Panel and launch the Cybersecurity Labelling Scheme. The Asean ministerial meeting on cybersecurity was held within the framework of Singapore International Cyber Week 2020 which is taking place from October 5 to 9.

As Asean Chair 2020, Vietnam is preparing for the 37th Asean Summit to take place in November, said Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Quoc Dung at the virtual ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on Wednesday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

Spare a thought for children

SIR, More than six months have passed under lockdown, but still no proper guidelines have come up regarding the re-opening of schools. Just the date keeps changing - from 21 September to 15 October and so on. If everything can be opened in the country from temples to restaurants to offices, then why not schools?

Just think from the perspective of a child and imagine how lonely one would feel without any friends? This applies more to the adolescent students of higher classes and residential schools as they are at the most crucial stage of their lives. Why can't they be allowed to return to school with some special measures (like ensuring proper sanitisation)?

Why is this issue not being addressed to a significant extent? Last month, we saw that the dates for JEE entrance exam were announced within a day in the Supreme Court and the vulgar topic of Prashant Bhushan extended for about two weeks. Is any attention being paid to the wants, desires, happiness and future of children?



Yours, etc., Anurag Nath, Student of Class X, Siliguri, 10 October.

LONG-TERM GOALS

SIR, With reference to your comment, "Nuanced approaches" (October 8), from security assistance and governance to economic development infrastructure,

DUBIOUS ADVICE

SIR, As per the extant Supreme Court ruling, a practitioner of one system of medicine cannot practice other systems in which he or she isn't qualified and should be treated as a quack if he or she does so.

The Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has recommended Ayush for Covid treatment which is akin to breach of law and a punishable offence. He seems to follow the tactics of running with the hares and hunting with the hounds just to keep his party top brass happy and to keep gullible Covid patients in good humour through dubious means.

Yours, etc., Dr Basudeb Dutta, Santipur, 11 October.

UNRULY CLASHES

SIR, Apropos your news item 'Violent clashes erupt in Kolkata, Howrah during BJP's march to Nabanna' (October 9), I must say that BJP supporters had shown scant regard for the law, particularly when they were informed about the recent Supreme Court ruling barring protestors blocking public roads indefinitely.

Though SE Asian nations may prefer to be closer to the US, they are different and some even tend to lean towards China, to avoid an assertive Beijing. Quad would thus represent an opportunity to cultivate these like-minded countries to collaborate on a host of projects and initiatives that they may not be able to accomplish on their own. And that could be the first phase of engage-

ment with the region by Quad. As it goes about acquiring political overtones, it could design and fabricate a security umbrella for the region.

Yours, etc., R Narayanan, Navi Mumbai, 8 October.

INSPIRING

SIR, Apropos Sushma Saksema's article "A dream fulfilled" (October 11) shows that all rational dreams of human life can be fulfilled should there be a genuine urge. The story is inspiring. Yours, etc., AK Deb Biswas, Hooghly, 11 October.

It is time to dump the one-China policy

HARSHA KAKAR

A head of Taiwan's national day on 10 October, the Chinese embassy in India penned a letter to Indian media houses asking them to adhere to the government's One-China policy. The letter stated, "Taiwan shall not be referred to as a country (nation) or Republic of China or the leader of China's Taiwan region as President." It added, "We hope Indian media can stick to Indian government's position on Taiwan question and do not violate the One-China principle." It could be a warning that not adhering to Chinese demands would imply no advertisements. However, it is a continuation of Chinese wolf-warrior diplomacy seeking to pressure Indian media houses.

Currently there are heightened tensions between China and India along the northern borders as also between China and Taiwan. Taiwan's foreign minister, Joseph Wu, reacted to the Chinese letter and stated, "India is the largest democracy on Earth with a vibrant press and freedom-loving people. But it looks like communist China is hoping to march into the subcontinent by imposing censorship. Taiwan's Indian friends will have one reply: GET LOST!" Indians criticized the Chinese letter while support to Taiwan, a small nation facing a possible Chinese assault, skyrocketed. The Indian government stated that its media is free.

India, on the other hand, has been diplomatically meek in its response to Chinese comments on internal matters and aggression in Ladakh. The Indian foreign minister greeted his Chinese counterpart on China's founding day on 1 October, whereas the Chinese ambassador greeted India on Independence Day. Mr. Jaishankar was unwilling to mention China in his address at the QUAD conference. The joint statement issued after his meeting with his Chinese counterpart in Moscow, on the sidelines of the SCO summit, also endorsed the Chinese viewpoint of



terming the LAC as border areas.

The Prime Minister, displaying a similar attitude, refused to officially acknowledge his birthday greetings by Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, and the Dalai Lama, continuing to adhere to India's One-China policy. India also did not officially convey national day greetings to Taiwan. Mr. Modi has officially not accused China of occupying Indian territory in any public statement. The only positive action which has been taken is employing the Special Frontier Force, comprising of wards of Tibetan Refugees, in operations in Ladakh.

In August, the Chinese government mouthpiece carried an interview of the Pakistan ambassador to China on Kashmir. It was a one-sided story and projected India as a villain. The same mouthpiece refused to

carry the Indian embassy's rebuttal to the interview, compelling the embassy to publish it on its website. On the contrary, India's free press rushes to interview the Chinese ambassador and carries his viewpoints, even if critical to India.

Officially, China has never followed the One-India policy. It recently announced that it does not accept Ladakh as a Union Territory, and while ignoring Indian objections constructs roads through disputed Gilgit-Baltistan. Simultaneously, it diplomatically censures India whenever there are visits by Indian leaders or foreign diplomats to Arunachal Pradesh. China has also blocked foreign funding for developmental projects in Arunachal claiming it to be disputed.

China has supported insurgen-

cies in the North East, an aspect India has never discussed with them. As per current inputs, ULFA, an Assamese rebel group, has moved its bases from Myanmar to Yunnan province of China. It had also adopted the stapled visa policy for residents of Kashmir and Arunachal.

The only Indian leader to have questioned China on its policy was Sushma Swaraj as the foreign minister. In June 2014, during an interaction with the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi, the late Mrs Swaraj had stated, 'Mr Minister, we support the One China policy. However, we expect you to also have a One India policy.' It was the first and possibly last time that India displayed its willingness to counter China.

India should learn from Taiwan and counter Chinese attempts to

browbeat India diplomatically. There are multiple reasons why India must change its One-China policy.

If there must be close coordination between military and diplomatic efforts to resolve the ongoing standoff in Ladakh, then both must display the same level of aggressive power. If the army displays strength and resolve and warns China that crossing Indian army redlines in Ladakh could invite firing and India is prepared for escalation, then diplomacy cannot project a weak stance. Weak diplomacy will be exploited. China only moves back in the face of stiff opposition. Its willingness to discuss disengagement is because it is aware that clashes akin to Galwan would impact morale of its soldiers. India's strength flows from its current deployment south of the Pangong Tso. Hence, in every conversation, China demands disengagement must commence with Indian pullback from this region. As per China, Indian deployment is within their territory, which India disputes.

Indian actions have compelled China to break its policy of 70 years and maintain PLA forces in Ladakh through the winters. The growing propaganda warfare by Chinese state-owned media is a sign of desperation in seeking to impact the morale of those Indian soldiers.

The positive bargaining stance which the army has provided must be backed by diplomats and the national leadership by breaking their decades-old norm of a One-China policy. This would display firmness in resolve and a determination to counter China on its own ground. As a start the LAC should be referred to as the India-Tibet border. It would also indicate that India can be equally supportive of anti-China movements, in case China adopts the same approach. Further, as Mrs Swaraj had stated, the one-nation game can be played by both sides.

A Jekyll and Hyde policy of soft diplomacy and a hard-military face will never succeed in negotiations. On the contrary, it would project a weak government which is willing to accept partial, if not complete, Chinese demands and give them an advantage. The ideal face should be a resolute diplomacy alongside a hard-military policy. This change in approach must be visible in future comments and negotiations with the Chinese. India must dump its One-China policy.

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

A tangle of limbs and alliances



ZARRAR KHUHRO

If politics makes for strange bedfellows, and if war is the continuation of politics by other means, then it's no surprise that war is a geopolitical orgy, a tangle of limbs and alliances, of overtures and rejections and not-so-secret trysts and thrusts.

Take the hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian enclave located within Azerbaijan's borders.

Though the world recognises Nagorno-Karabakh as being Azerbaijan's territory, it has been governed independently since 1994, and while

the breakaway region does enjoy Armenian support, even Armenia does not recognise it as an independent state.

In 1920, Azeri forces tried to gain control but while that operation was ongoing Bolshevik forces took over Azerbaijan. Delighted, Armenia thought that the Russians, culturally and religiously closer to Armenians than they are to Azeris, would hand the territory to them. That delight didn't last long and the following year Bolshevik forces took over Armenia as well. While the new authorities pledged to resolve the issue it went into cold storage for the next many decades.

One reason was that, at that point, Stalin didn't want to annoy Turkey which was and still is Azerbaijan's number one ally, and which was then being viewed by Moscow as a potential ally that could develop along communist lines. The more compelling reason was that even though both Armenia and Azerbaijan were now part of the USSR, keeping them at loggerheads suited Stalin and his successors, because it placed Moscow in the role of supreme arbiter. With the disintegration of the USSR, hostilities over Karabakh restarted and Azeri forces were pushed back from Nagorno-Karabakh in 1994 resulting in a stalemate that

has lasted till now.

Today, while Turkey remains the most vocal supporter of Azerbaijan and is providing not just diplomatic but also military aid, the other regional alliances are a tangled web.

Take Iran for example: conventional wisdom would dictate that it would be a supporter of Azerbaijan, a Shia-majority state, over Christian Armenia but reality tends to be more complex. Iran isn't delighted at the idea of having Turkey entrenched on its northern border and has domestic concerns to deal with as well in the form of rising Azeri Turk nationalism in Iran itself, which is home to an estimated 12 million Azeris. While largely integrated, in recent years there have been signs of civil unrest in that community, which complains of having its language and identity marginalised by the Iranian government. This nationalism has been amplified in recent years by increased contacts with their fellows in Azerbaijan and satellite broadcasts from Turkey and other Turkic nations.

This nationalistic outreach is consistent with Turkey's policies under Erdogan, who is actively playing the pan-Turkic card and for whom this war is great way to play to the nationalist gallery and also distract from growing economic woes and what seems like a solidifying encirclement of Turkey in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean.

Along with wanting to keep Turkey out, Iran is also wary of the dangers of growing Russian involvement in a region considered by Moscow as being largely within its historic sphere of influence. Thus far Russia has been playing both sides against the middle and waiting to see who emerges on top — at the

moment Azerbaijan seems to dominate the battlefield — while also selling arms to both sides.

Of course, a completely victorious Azerbaijan is not quite in Russia's interests either as Azeri gas is a strategic rival to Russia's own gas industry which is not only a major source of foreign exchange but also a crucial geopolitical lever for Mos-cow. So, Moscow and its neo-ally Iran would both likely want to see the status quo prevail and are thus calling for a ceasefire.

While Iran has lately been at pains to stress its neutrality and dispel the perception that it is backing Armenia, the fact is that historically it has leaned towards Armenia as opposed to Azerbaijan for one major reason: Israel.

Ever since Turkey and Israel's strategic partnership started fraying some 15 years back, Tel Aviv has painstakingly built up its relations with Azerbaijan with one aim being to establish a monitoring station on Iran's border. To that end reports claim that Mossad has set up a listening station in Azerbaijan though as a US diplomat said, "nine-tenths of [the relationship] is beneath the surface...". However, we do know that Israel sells large quantities of weapons to Azerbaijan, which is also a major source of oil for Israel. Of course, with Israel's growing relations with Gulf states it's likely that the value of the Azerbaijani alliance will diminish in relative terms. Speaking of the Gulf, naturally the UAE is also out to cause as much discomfort to Turkey as it can and has thus been strengthening its economic and military cooperation with Armenia. Strange bedfellows indeed.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28102

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The disestablishment of the Church in Wales does not seem to have impoverished it; in fact the Church is said to be better off now than it was when it was a State Church. The funds which are now available for the support of the clergy and other expenses consist of the capital that was created by the commutation of the life-interests of the clergy, the grant of a million and a quarter from the National Exchequer, and an endowment fund of a million pounds that is being raised by voluntary subscription. The Archbishop of Wales, with a style and dignity similar to those of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, is in a position of much more freedom than they, being the head of a Church that is now free to manage its own affairs. It is said that there is evidence already that the members of the Church will now take much more interest in its affairs, and will readily use the freedom they possess to adapt their Church more completely to national circumstances and to the changing needs of the times. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in taking leave of the Welsh Bishops as members of the Convocation of Canterbury, expressed the hope that the Welsh Church was entering upon its new life, "not without mark of storm and loss" but under a "glow of sunrise, a glow which is to abide and to lighten into its perfect day."

NEWS ITEMS

BURMA'S FUTURE

The Lieutenant-Governor held a Durbar in the Ball Room, Government House, this afternoon, which was attended by the Judges of the Chief Court, Members of the Legislative Council, Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies. About one hundred ladies were provided with seating accommodation in the galleries. After the conferment of various titles and the presentation of honours the Lieutenant-Governor made a speech. At the outset His Honour alluded to the great disappointment felt by the Province at H.R.H. the Prince of Wales' inability to include Burma in his proposed Indian tour. He could not, however sympathise with any expression of dissatisfaction which suggested that the non-inclusion of the visit in any way implied a slight having been laid on the Province or on its people by the omission.

PORT TRUST HOTEL SCHEME

Bombay is not to have its Port Trust hotel after all. The first reading of the Bill to make its erection possible was carried at the meeting of the Legislative Council by the casting vote of the Chairman, but since then it is understood that the Viceroy has intimated that, in view of the opposition to the proposal it will not be possible for the Government of India to give its assent, and it is probable that the Bill will be withdrawn at the next meeting of the Council, and a new Bill substituted which will legalise the expenditure which has been incurred by the Trust in the provision of accommodation for travellers. Some contracts had already been granted in anticipation of the passage of the Bill, and these have been withdrawn.

CEYLON REFORMS

Relying in the House of Commons to Commander Wedgwood, Sir L.S. Amery said he hoped that instruments providing for the changes in the constitution of Ceylon would be in the hands of the Governor when he returned to Ceylon. In further reply he said it was not proposed to give the voters in the special electorates for Europeans, Kandyans, Sinhalese, Burgher, Mohammedan and Indian communities the right of voting in territorial constituencies as well. Sir L. Amery added that definite proposals as regards giving Indian electorate franchise would not be presented to Lord Milner until the matter had been examined on the spot after the Governor's return.

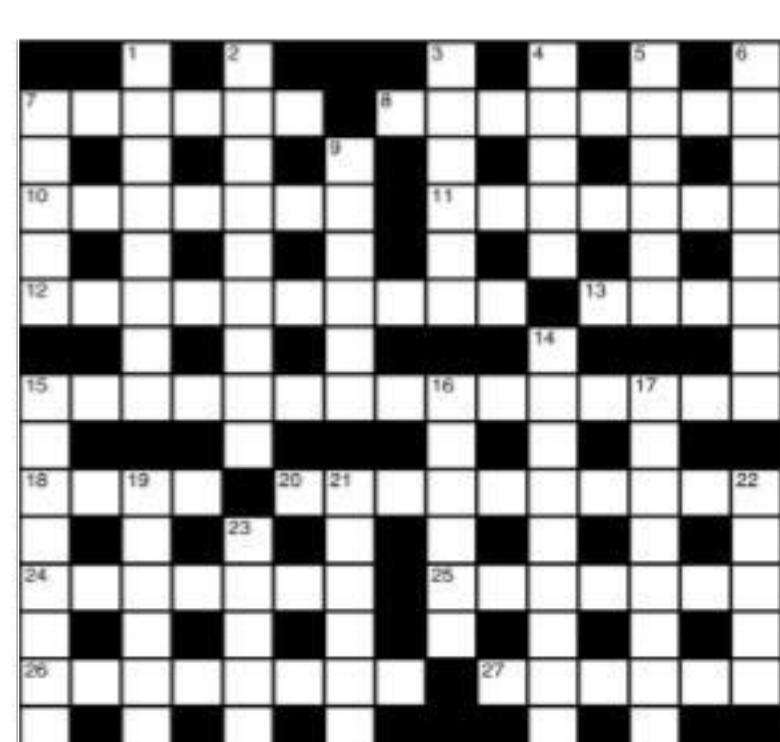
CONVICTIONS

Mr. S.M. Bhowmik, Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore, disposed today of the Khargpur opium case, in which Gore Khan and six others were charged with having carried four maunds and seventeen seers of crude opium in nine kit-bags by the down Bombay Mail. All the seven accused were found guilty under Section 120B(2), clause, I.P.C., and sentenced each to rigorous imprisonment for 6 months. All the accused, excepting Gore Khan, were also found guilty under the Opium Act, and sentenced each to one year's rigorous imprisonment, and a fine of Rs 500.

COMMUNION SERVICE

Today's service in St. Paul's was most impressive and imposing. A procession of bishops all wearing scarlet convocation robes, headed by cross-bearers and choir, and finishing with the Bishop of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury went from the south door to the west door in bright sunshine, watched by thousands of reverent spectators. The Metropolitans of Australia, India, Canada and South Africa assisted. The celebration concluded with the chanting of the Nunc Dimittis. All the South African bishops were present.

CROSSWORD



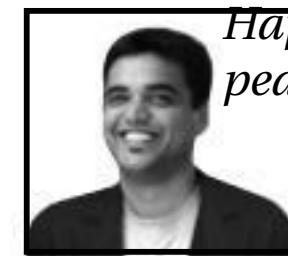
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 7 This is in every way sacred for audience (6)
- 8 Cyclist, say, cycling before and behind (8)
- 10 Maybe ecology sees Crosophile in landscape catching cold (7)
- 11 An ancient royal pub joins a row over hotel (7)
- 12 I heard a common pet's expensive in Paris for anybody who's striking (10)
- 13 Fruit and veg recipe (4)
- 15 Mainland/North Iona steamship's working and we're all connected (2,3,2,6)
- 18 Adolescent initially needs support earlier on (4)
- 20 Instrument held in one area?
- 24 Tree in WWI battle swathed in gas (7)
- 25 Give up the burden (7)
- 26 Brings up return of routine work, ends in more stress (8)
- 27 A cereal crop, except on pastureland (6)
- 29 DOWN
- 1 Stadium music featuring ELO post-break-up, making comeback (8)
- 2 A soldier in the pampas? That's bananas (9)
- 3 Folk hero regularly seen to split apple with head shot (6)
- 4 In our Airbnb we have this climbing wild rose (5)
- 5 Rat seen in a river several years running (6)

- 6 Edward holds that place is linked with a painter (8)
- 7 Refuse to break sweat (5)
- 9 Crimes of these receivers? (6)
- 14 15A refuted (4,2,3)
- 15 Regarding request for plain cake? (8)
- 16 Character's new, not initially fully developed (6)
- 17 A fury flies up with consort high above the ground (8)
- 19 Formerly fortified wine and strong beer (6)
- 21 I'll stay in festival for short time - it's more relaxed (6)
- 22 Bread - a way to get Japanese sort to rise (5)
- 23 A film for everyone in the round is a wonderful thing (5)

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



Happy to share that India food delivery volumes have reached pre-COVID peaks. A number of cities are now at over 120 per cent of pre-COVID peaks.

DEEPIINDER GOYAL
ZOMATO FOUNDER AND CEO

THUMBNAILS

MG Motor India's innovation programme: MG Motor India on Monday said it has started the second phase of its initiative to support innovations in the mobility sector - 'MG Developer Program & Grant 2.0'. The programme aims to identify and endorse new-age solutions that improve customer experiences as well as the efficiency of the automotive sector and in the second phase its scope is being expanded with a wider ambit, including new categories such as sustainability, ease of business and innovation in times of COVID-19, the company said in a statement.

Now use Amazon pay for your Uber rides: Amazon Pay on Monday announced to integrate its digital payments platform with ride-hailing app Uber for customers to make contactless, safe and secure payments for their rides. The customers will need to link their Amazon Pay account to Uber by clicking on the 'Payments' icon and choosing Amazon Pay. The ride fare for any subsequent Uber trips will be automatically paid from their Amazon Pay balance after the completion of a trip, the companies said in a statement.

Hero MotoCorp: Leading two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp on Monday said it has launched a new variant of its 125cc bike Glamour priced at Rs 72,000 (ex-showroom). The new trim comes with new features like the USB charger attached to the handlebar. PTI

Itel forays into smart TV segment: Smart devices maker Itel on Monday announced its foray into smart LED TV segment in India. It is available across different screen sizes of 32-inch to 55-inch in price ranging from Rs 8,999 to Rs 34,499 respectively. Transion India CEO Arijeet Talapatra said, "itel is all set to bridge the gap by providing its customers with NextGen technology loaded TV portfolio coupled with value and affordability." SNS

Gems, jewellery industry showed resilience: Goyal

Once again the industry has proven to the world that when forced to face any adversity it performs better

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 12 OCTOBER

The gems and jewellery industry has shown resilience through these testing times and used technology to showcase the intrinsically created pieces to buyers across the globe on the India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) Virtual platform, Union minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. "This environment of technology to reach customers all across the world shows the resilience of Indian industry and the government to serve customers, particularly with the festive season around the corner, both in India and across the world," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said at the inaugural ceremony of the five-day IIJS Virtual organised by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

Once again the industry has proven to the world that when forced to face any adversity, it performs much better, he added. "This will demonstrate to the world that we are a trust-



ed partner or trusted supplier, someone that you can engage with and enjoy the benefits, the spirit of success, the spirit of fighting adversity," Goyal noted.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who was also present on the occasion, assured support to the gems and jewellery industry to make Mumbai a jewellery and diamond trading hub.

"Jewellery is not only for fashion but also it is our culture and tradition, which is diverse and rich. On this occa-

sion I welcome the industry to come together with us to make the state the global jewellery and diamond trading hub," the chief minister said. He said the government wants to join hands with the industry to set up an institute for jewellery designing and trading in Mumbai. "We are already setting up a jewellery park but we can further explore what else can be done to further enhance the institution and the government will give all support for this. But I have one condition for this, that is

to create employment opportunities for the people of Maharashtra," Thackeray added.

GJEPC chairman Colin Shah stated that manufacturing activities have been back to 89 per cent following all safety measures as per the government guidelines. "We are extremely optimistic that in the third and fourth quarters, with orders coming in from the US, Hong Kong, the Middle East and other Asian countries, we slowly and surely will get back to the pre-COVID

level, and even on the path of recovery," he said. Shah said the council has embarked on several virtual buyer-seller platforms to propel trade and boost exports. "We organised ...gold and diamond buyer-seller meet in September, which was extremely successful, there was an actual business which was transacted on this platform.

In total, we plan to do 10 such virtual buyer-seller meets in the next couple of months," he added. GJEPC vice chairman Vipul Shah said COVID-19 is an unprecedented situation that was never faced before and collectively, the gems and jewellery industry has shown that challenge is adding value to the situation.

"The industry is making optimum use of digital means to deal on the day to day basis, or the industry has been quick to add up to the new normal. The central government and the state governments have played a crucial role in helping the industry to cope with the situation," he added.

Too little too less: Markets slip on FM's stimulus news



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI 12 OCTOBER

Sensex made healthy gains. It crossed the 40,900 points early in the trade. At around 1.30 p.m., the S&P BSE Sensex traded at 40,433.14, lower by 76.35 points or 0.19 percent from the previous close of 40,509.49. The NSE Nifty50 traded at 11,879.70, lower by 34.50 points or 0.29 per cent from its previous close.

Analysts opined that expensive propositions along with profit booking also impacted the market sentiment. Similarly, the S&P BSE

Walmart, Flipkart Group pump in additional investment in Ninjacart

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

Walmart and Flipkart Group on Monday announced a fresh round of investment in Bengaluru-based business-to-business (B2B) supply chain company Ninjacart.

The companies, however, did not disclose the amount being invested. The transaction is expected to close by the end of the month. In the coming months, Ninjacart will use the capital to expand to new markets and build new offerings and supply chains for emerging customer segments, while continuing to innovate on the supply chain to make it more efficient, reliable, and profitable, a statement said.

"This follows the investment made by Walmart and the Flipkart Group in December 2019, as the companies continue to focus on ensur-

ing access to high-quality fresh produce for consumers and retailers while creating economic opportunities for farmers through the continued use of technology," it added.

For Ninjacart, this further deepens the partnership with Walmart and the Flipkart Group to improve its offerings and enhance customer experience, it said. "As Flipkart grows its Supermart (grocery) and Flipkart Quick (hyperlocal business), Ninjacart will continue to play a key role in providing fresh produce to consumers across the country as they increasingly look at e-grocery to meet their needs," it added.

Flipkart Group CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy said the e-grocery market in India has seen tremendous growth over the past several months as people have increasingly taken to ordering groceries and fresh produce online.

Omega Seiki, FITT join hands to work on EV technology, research

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

Omega Seiki Mobility and FITT an industry interface organisation established by the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, have partnered to jointly work on electric vehicle technologies and advanced research. The two partners have signed a memorandum of understanding for a collaboration that will be primarily aimed at innovating alternate energy powered vehicles and other emerging technologies in EV space, including efficiency and performance improvement of Omega Seiki Mobility's existing vehicles, the company said in a statement.

Omega Seiki Mobility (OSM) is a part of the Anglian Omega Group and it manufactures electric three-wheeler cargo carriers. The collaboration with FITT will explore the valuable resources in alternative energy-powered vehicles and other emerging technologies in the EV industry, he added. Stating that e-mobility has arrived in India, FITT Managing Director Anil Wali said, "This (the partnership) is a milestone occasion as it brings together two parties from different walks of life, who have the potential to work jointly towards this global disruption of electric mobility."

India Inc welcomes govt stimulus to boost demand

NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

India Inc on Monday cheered Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement of payment of cash in lieu of LTC and Rs 10,000 festival advance to government employees, saying these measures will boost morale while instilling a "feel good" factor in the people and energize growth.

Ficci President Sangita Reddy said, "Our government has delivered in a very innovative and fiscally prudent way to boost demand in the economy. The set of measures announced today for supporting consumption and investment demand would energize growth over the remaining part of the year."

"The overall impact of these measures will be to the tune of Rs 1 lakh crore and this is sizable," she added. PTI

PUBLIC SECTOR ROUNDUP

New terminal building at Guwahati airport soon

Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) airport, also known as Guwahati International Airport, is one of the biggest and busiest international airports of North-Eastern India. To meet the futuristic demands of Guwahati and add to the infrastructural

development of the expanding city, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken the work for construction of new integrated terminal building at the cost of Rs 1232 crore.

At present, the LGBI airport handles over six million passengers annually. The new

terminal building will be capable of handling 4300 domestic and 200 international passengers during peak hours and about 10 million passengers annually. Equipped with 64 check in counters, 20 self-check in kiosks, six baggage carousels, in-line baggage

security screening system and 10 aero bridges, the terminal will be an energy efficient building.

More than 38 per cent of the project work is completed and the new terminal building is scheduled to be ready by June, 2022.

LIC declares policyholders bonus of ₹51K cr for '19-20

Life Insurance Corporation of India, India's largest life insurer, declared a bonus of more than Rs 51000 crore for its policyholders.

In just concluded half year 2020-21, LIC has achieved more than Rs 25000 crore in first year premium income in Individual New Business performance as at 30 September 2020 as compared to Rs 24867.70 crore as on 30 September 2019.

Under its Jeevan Shanti plan, LIC collected Rs 11456.41 crore as first year premium as at 30 September 2020.

The ULIP business of LIC is also doing very well this year.

As at 30 September, 2020 LIC sold 16844 policies with a premium of Rs 128.63 crore as compared to 12940 policies sold during the same period last year for first year premium of Rs 24.24 crore showing a growth rate of more than 500 per cent in premium.

LIC Pension and Group Schemes Vertical collected Rs 62,112.27 crore as Group Schemes New Business Premium Income as at 30 September 2020.

The Corporation's Composite Market Share in number of policies and First Year Premium is 67.82 per cent and 70.57 per cent respectively for Q2.

SAIL registers 31% growth in sales in Q2 over CPLY

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has registered an impressive 31.3 per cent growth in sales during the second quarter (Q2) of FY 2020-21 over Q2 FY 2019-20 (July-September). Post the COVID-19 related lockdown, the company has been witnessing an impressive sales performance which started in June 2020.

This has led to the company's H1 sales of FY 2020-21 bounce back to the levels achieved during CPLY. During the Q2 of FY 2020-21, the saleable steel production also registered a growth of 5.2 per

cent over CPLY. The company's strategic marketing efforts and customer-centric initiatives coupled with teamwork across the company, has contributed to this improvement in sales and production.

SAIL chairman Anil Kumar Chaudhary said, "The challenges during COVID-19 not only gave us an opportunity to test our resolve in the face of odds but also made us more determined to perform better. Our focused strategies coupled with zeal of the marketing team helped to leverage every single opportunity in the market."

PLEDGE TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST COVID-19

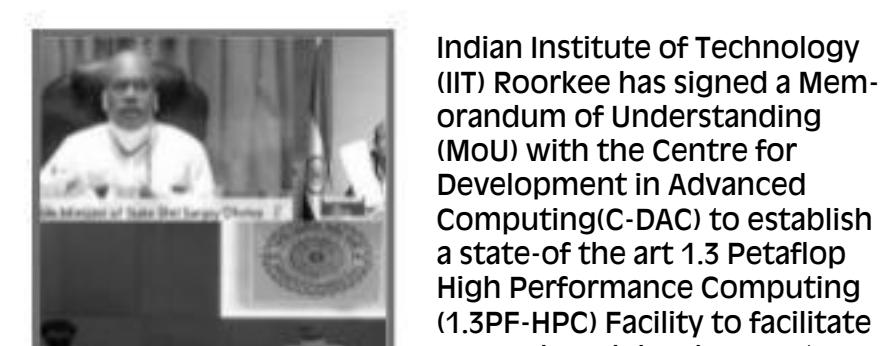


Over 15,000 DFCCIL employees, staff as well as personnel belonging to contractors and project partners participated in a pledge to safeguard against COVID-19 across 14 field units and sub units and 16 functional stations on 8 October.

ITPO PLEDGE

The officials of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) took pledge to fight against spread of COVID-19, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. It was administered by ITPO executive director Rajesh Agrawal through video conferencing.

IIT ROORKEE INKS MOU



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to establish a state-of-the-art 1.3 Petaflop High Performance Computing (1.3PF-HPC) Facility to facilitate research and development activities.

ACI ASQ AWARDS 2019



AII chairman presents ACI ASQ Awards 2019 to Board members on behalf of winning airports namely Chandigarh, Mangaluru, Trivandrum and Lucknow on 8 October.

SCOPE'S COMPENDIUM ON PSEs



Prakash Javadekar, Minister Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Information & Broadcasting and Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises (SCOPE)'s compendium 'Building Self Reliant, Resilient, Resilient India - PSEs Contribution Amidst Covid-19.'

Sahara says ₹3,226 cr paid to cooperative society members in 75 days

Sahara group on Monday said it has paid Rs 3,226 crore to more than 10 lakh members of its four associated cooperative credit societies in the last 75 days, including some payments against requests from people who had complained about delayed payouts. The group said there has

been some delay in payments, primarily due to an embargo imposed for last eight years by the Supreme Court, while approximately Rs 22,000 crore of its funds, including interest amount, are deposited in the Sahara-Sebi account, which was created to refund bondholders of two group firms. In a state-

BDU's Delhi division sends dairy, food products rale to Bangladesh

General Manager Northern & North Central Railways, Rajiv Chaudhary informed that with the pursuant to efforts of Business Development Units (BDU) of Delhi Division has sent demand based one PCET rale of 20 VPs+1SLR having dairy/food products from Diwana (Haryana) to Benapole (Bangladesh) on 8 October.

This is the first time that Delhi Division has sent rale of dairy/food products to Bangladesh which resulted in earning of railway revenue at the tune of Rs 24,20,415. To increase the share of freight traffic through Railways, BDU has been set up at headquarter as well as at division level also.

General Manager Northern Railway & North Central Railways Rajiv Chaudhary conducted a meeting with MD of DFCCIL and concerned officers of Northern Railway and DFCCIL at Headquarters office, Baroda House, New Delhi on 7 October. The meeting was focused on time lines related to yard modifications, utilities shifting, road over and road under bridges and other connect-

ed works related to commissioning of projects. Various aspects with respect to yard modifications, utilities shifting, road over and road under bridges were discussed in detail. He said that yard modifications and construction of ROB/RUB and elimination of level crossings will certainly improve the safety. He reviewed the work done over the zone and stressed upon to improve infrastructure, create an environment of trust, support and confidence amongst the customers. He told department heads to expedite and complete the work in stipulated time manner so that commissioning of projects could be delivered timely.



In terms of addressing testing, tracing and treatment, what the Trump administration has offered is wholly insufficient. We remain at an impasse

US HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI

ON COVID-19 RELIEF TALKS WITH WHITE HOUSE

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	31	27 H
HONG KONG	28	26 R
TOKYO	18	14 R
LONDON	12	9 R
DUBAI	37	26 S
SAN FRANCISCO	23	14 CL
NEW YORK	20	12 R
MOSCOW	17	9 CL

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

THUMBNAILS



A couple sits under a mural featuring icons of the late Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) on the eve of the fourth anniversary of his death, at a restaurant in Bangkok on Monday.

AFP

Indian in UAE assaulted: Two Nigerian women are undergoing trial at a Dubai court for luring an Indian man to an apartment on the pretext of giving a massage and assaulting and confining him, with the help of others, and taking his credit cards to withdraw over 33,000 dirhams (approx Rs 6.5 lakh), media reports said on Monday.

AP

Oli govt under pressure to speak up against China: The K.P. Sharma Oli government in Nepal is now facing increasing heat and is under pressure from several quarters to speak up against the boundary encroachment by China. Recent reports have suggested that China has encroached upon Nepali territory in Humla district and one boundary pillar no 12 has been constructed by the Chinese without notice of the Nepalese side.

AP

UK set for new 3-tier Covid-19 lockdown

Boris will make a statement in the House of Commons to lay out details of the country's new three-tier system of coronavirus restrictions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON, 12 OCTOBER

A set of makeshift hospitals built in record time earlier this year to help deal with an influx of COVID-19 cases are being asked to mobilise in parts of northern England on Monday as coronavirus infections register a spike in varying degrees across the UK.

The announcement regarding the Nightingale Hospitals being put on standby comes as UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will make a statement in the House of Commons to lay out details of the country's new three-tier system of coronavirus restrictions, with the third tier reserved for the most severe lockdown rules in line with the severity of the number of cases.

Johnson chaired a meeting of the emergency COBRA [Cabinet Office Briefing Room A] committee with top officials



to finalise the new system and is also set to address the nation in a televised briefing later on Monday evening.

The National Health Service (NHS) is putting the Nightingale Hospitals in Manchester, Sunderland and Harrogate on standby to open for patients, said Professor Stephen Powis, NHS England's medical director.

They are being asked to get ready to accept patients whether that's COVID-19 patients or people recovering from the virus. They could be asked to provide elective and diagnostic services for patients with conditions other than the virus, he said.

Manchester's medical lead Dr Jane Eddleston said north-west England has about 40 per cent of all the country's Covid cases, which is "proving challenging". Greater Manchester has seen a three-fold increase in the number of patients in intensive care in the last five weeks and an eight-fold increase in admissions.

"I stress to you the importance of us taking this disease extremely seriously," she said. The Liverpool City Region

is also expected to face the tightest restrictions under the new three-tier system, which will classify regions as being on "medium", "high" or "very high" alert.

Steve Rotheram, the city region's mayor, says negotiations have taken place through the night but no deal has been agreed yet.

Manchester City Council leader Sir Richard Leese said the region was waiting to find out if they would be able to stay in tier two, and is arguing that the government has not presented any evidence that hospitality is responsible for spreading COVID-19 in the area.

It reflects a growing divide between different parts of the country over the blanket shutting down of businesses, which local mayors say would be devastating in the long-term. Gyms, casinos and pubs are among the businesses expected to be impacted by the top-level restrictions, with new

curbs to be reviewed after a month.

Tougher measures were already introduced in Scotland last Friday, including the closure of pubs and restaurants across the central belt, while the Welsh government has said the next few days could see tougher lockdown measures coming in.

On Sunday, 12,872 people in the UK were reported to have tested positive for coronavirus around 2,294 fewer than on Saturday and there were a further 65 deaths down from 81 on Saturday. This is a nationwide phenomenon now that rates are changing upwards across the UK," said Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England and one of the government's key advisers. He also warned that the virus was now spreading from younger age groups into those aged over 60.

"And this is again of significant concern... because

of course the elderly suffer a much worse course with COVID-19, they are admitted to hospital for longer periods, and they are more difficult to save, he said. His comments during a briefing on Monday come a day after he warned that the UK was heading into a coronavirus headwind.

Another senior adviser, Peter Horby, chairman of the government advisory group Nervtag, said a second national lockdown was a possibility when asked by the BBC.

The numbers are not looking good at all. We've got increasing cases, increasing hospitalisations, both in younger adults but also in the elderly those most at risk and we are starting to see the number of deaths increase as well, he said.

Asked during the interview if the UK faced a second national lockdown, he said: I think that's a possibility and we have to do what we can to avoid that at all costs.

Trump's task: Resetting campaign that GOP fears is slipping

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 12 OCTOBER



President Donald Trump is running out of time to recover from a series of self-inflicted setbacks that have rattled his base of support and triggered alarm among Republicans who fear the White House is on the verge of being lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

The one-two punch of Trump's coronavirus diagnosis and his widely panned debate performance also has Republicans worried they could lose control of the Senate. With just over three weeks until Election Day, Senate races in some reliably red states, including South Carolina and Kansas, are competitive, aided by a surge in Democratic fundraising that has put both the Republican Party and Trump's campaign at an unexpected financial disadvantage.

The president will aim for a reset this week, hoping an aggressive travel schedule and Judge Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court confirmation

hearings will energize his most loyal supporters and shift attention away from a virus that has killed more than 214,000 Americans on his watch.

Optimists in the president's inner circle point to his unique ability to command attention and to his 2016 campaign, which also seemed destined for defeat before a late shift.

But that comeback was aided by outside forces against an unpopular opponent. This year's campaign, other Republicans worry, may instead

This account of Trump's

reelection effort was compiled from interviews with nearly two dozen White House and campaign officials and Republicans close to the West Wing, many of whom were not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

It describes how a race that has generally been stable for months has endured a series of historic jolts.

Republicans began sensing warning signs last month. The death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg animated conservatives but also electrified Democrats, driving a tsunami of cash toward Biden and down-ballot Democrats. Trump's heavily derided debate performance only exacerbated the problem, as even his own supporters found him rude as he so frequently interrupted Biden.

Reviewing data afterward, campaign aides worried as they started to see Trump's support begin to slip. They saw the president's coronavirus diagnosis as only compounding the problem, particularly with

seniors. "It's not good," said Alex Conant, a senior campaign adviser to Sen. Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential campaign. "It's been a long time since Donald Trump has had any good news, and when he does have good news, he manages to step on it."

The Trump campaign insists the president can win reelection, saying his return to the road will excite his base while claiming that public polling has undercut their supporters.

But national polls have shown Biden with a significant lead.

And while the margins in the battleground states are smaller, Trump has faced stubborn deficits in most of the states that will decide the election.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said Friday that if people are depressed and upset on Election Day, I think we could lose the White House and both houses of Congress, that it could be a bloodbath of Watergate proportions.

EU weighs Russia sanctions over Navalny poisoning



ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUSSELS, 12 OCTOBER

for Navalny's poisoning than a Russian involvement and responsibility.

They said they would push for EU sanctions to target individuals deemed responsible for this crime and breach of international norms, based on their official function, as well as an entity involved in the Novichok program.

The ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, are considering a proposal from France and Germany to freeze the assets of those suspected of involvement and ban them from travelling in Europe under sanctions to combat the use and spread of chemical weapons.

In parallel, the EU agreed Monday to extend until October 16, 2021, the system allowing the 27-nation bloc to impose sanctions on people and organizations involved in the development and use of chemical weapons.

Nine people are already on this list for accused of involvement in the Novichok attack in Salisbury, England, two years ago and five linked to the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons.

One organization Syria's Scientific Studies and Research Center is also subject to sanctions.

The ministers will also discuss whether to add more names to a list of Belarus officials hit by sanctions over the conduct of that country's presidential elections in August and the security crackdown that followed the polls, whose results the EU has refused to recognize.

Supreme Court nominee Barrett faces Senate despite virus

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 12 OCTOBER

Confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett are set to begin as a divided Senate charges ahead on President Donald Trump's pick to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and cement a conservative court majority before Election Day.

Barrett, a federal appeals court judge, will tell the Senate Judiciary Committee that she is forever grateful for Ginsburg's trailblazing path as a woman.

But she is resolved to maintain the perspective of her own mentor, the late conservative Justice Antonin Scalia and apply the law as written, according to her prepared opening remarks for the hearings, which start Monday as the country is in the grips of the coronavirus pandemic.

Courts are not designed to solve every problem or right

every wrong in our public life, Barrett says in the remarks, which The Associated Press obtained.

Republicans, who control the Senate, are moving at a breakneck pace to seat Barrett before the November 3 election to secure Trump's pick and hear a high-profile challenge to the Affordable Care Act and any election-related challenges.

Democrats are trying in vain to delay the fast-track confirmation by raising fresh concerns about the safety of meeting during the pandemic after two GOP senators on the panel tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., have not said if they will attend in person. Lee's spokesman said the senator is symptom-free but would be making a decision on whether to attend Monday morning, per his doctor's orders. A spokesman for Tillis did not respond to mul-

tiple requests for comment. Both tested positive 10 days ago. Key Democrats are staying away.

California Sen. Kamala Harris, the Democratic vice presidential nominee and a committee member, plans to participate remotely from her Senate office due to coronavirus concerns, which also seemed destined for defeat before a late shift.

The committee released a letter from the Architect of the Capitol on Sunday that says the hearing room has been set up in consultation with the Office of Attending Physician with appropriate distance between seats and air ventilation systems that meet or exceed industry standards.

We're going to work safely," said the committee's chairman, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., on Fox News Channel's Sunday Morning Futures. He said he took a coronavirus test last week and is negative.

Trump chose the 48-year-old judge after the death last

month of Ginsburg, a liberal icon. It's the opportunity to entrench a conservative majority on the court for years to come with his third justice.

Outside groups are pushing Democrats to make a strong case against what they call an illegitimate confirmation, when people are already voting in some states, saying the winner of the presidency should make the pick. No Supreme Court justice has ever been confirmed so close to a presidential contest.

The public is with them that this shouldn't happen before the election, said Brian Fallon, executive director of Demand Justice, which advocates against right-leaning nominees.

The country will get an extended look at Barrett over the next three days in hearings like none other during the heated election environment and the pandemic limiting public access. Faith and family punctuate her testimony,

and she said would bring a few new perspectives as the first mother of school-age children on the nine-member court. Barrett says she uses her children as a test when deciding cases, asking herself how she would view the decision if one of her children were the party she was ruling against.

Even though I would not like the result, I would understand that the decision was fairly reasonable and grounded in the law, she says in the prepared remarks.

A Catholic, she says she believes in the power of prayer. Barrett's religious views and past leadership role in a Catholic faith community pose a challenge for Democrats as they try to probe her judicial approach to abortion, gay marriage and other social issues without veering into inappropriate questions of her faith.

Ordinarily, Barrett would

get to show off her family and seven children. But the White

House event announcing her nomination, in which most of the audience did not wear masks, has been labeled a superspreader for the coronavirus.

More than two dozen people linked to the September 26 Rose Garden event, including the two GOP senators, have contracted COVID-19 since then. Barrett and her family went maskless at the event. She and her husband, Jesse, tested positive for the virus earlier this year and recovered, two administration officials have said.

Democrats already were enraged that Republicans are moving so quickly having refused to consider President Barack Obama nominee in February 2016, well before that year's election.

Barrett is the most openly anti-abortion Supreme Court nominee in decades and her vote could provide a majority to restrict if not overturn abortion rights.

On her schooling, Markle said she was very grateful for the ability to attend university, with plentiful books to whet my appetite both at home and school. When young girls have access to education, everyone wins and everyone succeeds. It just opens the door for societal success at the highest level, she said.

In reference to their son, the couple said they felt especially privileged to be able to spend time with him and watch him grow.

We were both there for his first steps, his first run, his first fall, his first everything else, said Harry. It's just fantastic because I think [in] so many ways we are fortunate to have this time to watch him grow, and in the absence of Covid we would travel and be working more externally and would miss a lot of those moments. It's been a lot of really good family time, added

But what was able to just be manufactured and churned out, it's almost unsurvivable, that's so big, you can't think of what that feels like, because I don't care if you're 15 or 25, if people are saying things about you that aren't true, what that does to your mental and emotional health is so damaging.

Unlike surgical masks,

which are disposed of after use, cloth masks are re-used. While it can be tempting to use the same mask for multiple days in a row, or to give it a quick hand-wash or wipe-over, our research suggests that this increases the risk of contamination, MacIntyre said.

The researchers analysed

naviruses in their analysis. It is based on self-reported washing data and was conducted in 2015.

The latest study, published in the journal BMJ Open, is still the only RCT ever conducted on the efficacy of cloth masks in preventing viral infections, they said.

The researchers did a deep dive into the 2

The Covid-19 situation has given rise to novel digital knowledge etiquette, setting new expectations for both students and teachers

ARYAPRITA GANGULY

These are unprecedented times, and potentially a watershed point on the ever flattening curve that is the concern around technology supplanting classrooms. We have debated ourselves over the last decade bouncing ideas off each other at multiple symposia, contemplating ways and means to combat the threat of this insidious enemy that we made technology out to be, apparently with the single-minded objective of bidding us, educators, adieu.

And then the novel coronavirus threw a spanner in that rhetoric. We are in the throes of what seems like a global experiment in achieving a semblance of urgent verisimilitude with physical co-presence. I see a silver lining here. The slow pace of change in academic institutions globally is lamentable, with centuries-old, lecture-based approaches to teaching, entrenched institutional biases, and outmoded classrooms. Covid-19 has become a catalyst for educational institutions worldwide to search for innovative solutions executed to varying degrees of inconvenience in a relatively short period of time. This is an assessment of the impact and an analysis of this experimental response, from an educator's point of view.

Our institution conducted the annual examination in the last week of March without any hassle, entirely online. On an operational execution front, it was an unequivocal hurrah! Instructors have had to learn how to use online platforms, adapt their teaching methods, maintain student engagement and find new ways to evaluate students. Traditional in-person classroom learning, we swiftly realised, will have to be substituted by novel learning modalities - running the gamut from live broadcasts to educational influencers to virtual reality experiences. These are exciting times to be an educator.

Students have been beneficiaries, too. Aside from gaining obvious perks, like not having to commute, being able to study at their own pace, and



Adding diversity to learning styles

utilising a quieter working environment, they stand a chance at gaining extremely useful skills, such as IT, adaptability, and a greater sense of working within a digital space. Varied solutions have been implemented around the globe, some particularly well-aligned with learning outcomes. In one Nigerian school, the World Economic Forum reports, standard asynchronous online learning tools (such as reading material via Google Classroom), were augmented with synchronous face-to-face video instruction, to help pre-empt school closures. Similarly, students at one school in Lebanon began leveraging online learning, even for subjects such as physical education. Students shot and sent over their own videos of athletic training and sports to their teachers as homework, pushing them to learn new digital skills.

All is not rosy though. Learners need a little empathy, and that is where I fear we might be missing the forest for the trees in the rush to

respond effectively to the pandemic. Remote learning has already begun showing its ugly wrinkles. A lot of my students have told me of their compromised learning experience in the absence of accountability. If it's not their attention being consumed by the technological paraphernalia surrounding their attempts at writing examinations with online invigilation, it is about battling ennui to show up for online discussion sessions.

The main disadvantage is not always having a teacher on hand to give an instant answer to a question. From having received preliminary feelers from my students on this assumed delivery-gap, the classroom setting itself seems conducive to familiar methods of learning. Going entirely online disrupts this familiar learning space, puncturing their psychological contract struck with the lead learner, i.e., the instructor. Maintaining continuity in one's learning journey soothes another problematic aspect of the contemporary learning

experience – diversity of learning styles. This novel experiment adds yet another variable to that already ripe inequation.

Herein, however, also lies an opportunity. It is becoming increasingly evident that educational innovation is receiving attention beyond the typical government-funded or non-profit-backed social project. The Indian government must accelerate its execution of subsidies for SMEs across the country geared towards innovations in this space, with immediate effect- so that smarter platforms allow for more equitable opportunities to access learning. This black swan event will therefore serve to propel the EdTech business in the foreseeable (or should I say unforeseeable?) future, with vigilant investors hoping for a magic bullet to emerge from this churning that allows seamless transitioning to consistent online learning. But what will this unforeseeable future look like? Psychologist John Suler spoke of the Online Disinhibition Effect, wherein physical barriers to feeling empowered, such as age, race, gender and skin tone, are relatively relaxed online, allowing a more authentic expression of the self.

The associated social psychological phenomenon of disinhibition may well sound the death-knell for transmitted learning making it imperative for instructors to allow for more open discussion forums and reduced power distance between learner and lead learner. I imagine a novel digital learning etiquette emerging, setting new expectations of both parties. From unshackled students, the future will expect questions to be asked without fear of labels in a safer space. From adaptive instructors, especially digital immigrants, it will expect familiarity with platforms and even newer student-engagement tricks up our sleeves so that our digital natives continue to see us as relevant.

The writer is course leader for management, Indian School of Business and Finance, New Delhi

SACHIN GUPTA

The global pandemic has brought about multifarious changes in the working of every sector. It has led to closing of education intuitions to prevent the spread of the virus, giving rise to a new and innovative gateway for imparting education -- virtual classrooms. Global experimentation with remote teaching is the most efficient option available to bridge the education gap. Almost every education institution today has opted for the online mode. Medium of these virtual classes are platforms like Zoom, Google Hangouts or Microsoft Teams to name a few. Adapting to this new mode was quite difficult initially but it is turning out to be an effective mode for both students and teachers and the best alternative option under the current circumstances.

This mode is certainly the future of new education as it enables one to learn wherever one is, uplifting the technical advancement and definitely making education more creative. Here are the top five features of experimental mode of learning that can potentially define the future of new education.

Flexibility

Online education is enabling teachers and students to set their personal learning pace, adding more flexibility to set class schedule, discovering innovative methods to check student's learning. Now the student can take his lecture from anywhere. It is also helping students to improvise time management skills and consequently become more disciplined, which in turn helps to maintain a good work-study balance. Unlike the traditional means of learning, students can give his assessments online as well as avail course material online. There is a direct contact between teacher and students, which enables both parties to understand and respond in the required way.

Affordability/cost saving

Online education is unarguably the most affordable option as compared to offline mode of learning as it eliminates a wide range of payment options and the student can pay for webinars or courses that are most relevant to him/her. Besides, it eliminates commuting costs, course material costs and many more miscellaneous fees that come into facilitating



GROWING FAMILIARITY WITH DIGITAL WORLD

Here are the top five features of experimental mode of learning that can potentially define the future of new education

in-person classes. Therefore, there is less monetary investment while education remains more advanced.

Easily accessible

Online education enables studying or teaching from anywhere

around the world. There is no need of commuting from one place to another or follow any rigid schedule which not only helps to save time, but also helps in saving money. One requires nothing more than a smooth internet connection for a vir-

tual classroom set up. Online learning helps in eliminating social and physical barriers, i.e. learning from a foreign institution remotely is accessible now. Many skill-based online certificates and courses are also available which are accessible through online modes for better learning.

Career relevant

Learning with the new method of education is more flexible and facilitates multi-tasking as students can think beyond their school syllabus and apply for courses to meet career relevant skills, all while sitting at home. Such preparations boost up a student's résumé making him future ready. E-learning is not only beneficial for students but also for the teachers as it is making teachers more updated to e-teaching techniques.

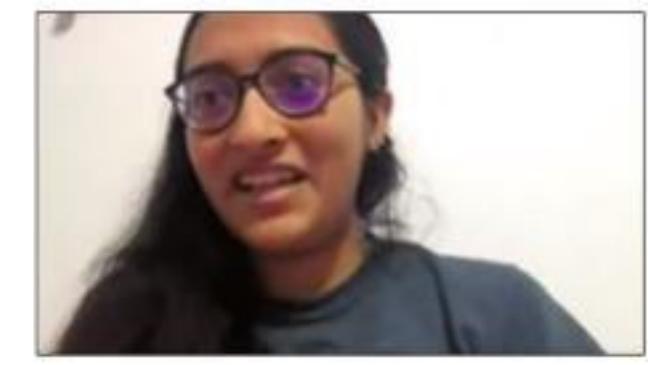
Enhance new age technology

Unlike traditional education, learning online is more advanced, as now students and teachers both are becoming more innovative, they are gradually discovering the unexplored, giving rise to new trends. Both are navigating the course lectures, downloading study materials, interacting online, communicating well digitally and forming new networks. E-learning allows wide scope of practical and innovative learning. Online education ensures learning more than what is just written in textbooks. The student can avail study material in the form of video, document, and voice notes among others. It can, therefore, be concluded that virtual education has widened the scope of learning as now students can learn through various sources, get familiar to digital world.

The writer is chancellor, Sanskriti University

PLUS POINTS

Informative meet



The Rotaract Club of Joka organised a webinar on "Normal Body: A Patriarchal Myth" recently. A talk session was arranged, which was moderated by Prof Sushma Murthy, Christ University, Bangalore. The panelists included Dr Niladri Ranjan Chatterjee, professor at The University of Kalyani and Swara Patel, founder of The Period Society.

The two-hour session mainly covered various informative, scientific and perspective based areas related to gender roles, materiality of the body, misconceptions regarding gender dysphoria and patriarchal myths, which have subjugated and misguided the people throughout the ages. When asked about how she feels about the taboos related to menstruation, Patel said, "We only whisper about menstruation, but never talk about it." At the end few pertinent questions from the attendees were answered in detail by the panelists.

- SOUMI MANDAL

End of a session



A five-day virtual workshop on "System Engineering (Recent Trends and Advances in IoT)", sponsored by AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy concluded recently at Dr SPM IIIT Naya Raipur.

The programme was conducted by Dr Shrishal Tripathi, Dr Manoj Kumar Majumder and Dr Anurag Singh. There were 78 participants from IIT, NIT, IIIT, BITS PILANI, and government/ private engineering colleges. The workshop had 14 sessions, including expert talk and online hands on sessions. All the participants received certificates from AICTE Portal and the volunteers received token of appreciation through certificate given by the workshop coordinators.

Improved healthcare



Digital Health Platforms recently organised a webinar on E-Commerce in Pharmaceuticals: An Emerging Segment of Business for pharmacy students. The event was held in partnership with the Ram-Eesh Institute of Voc and Tech Education. Among other things, the event focused on the need for a modern, technology driven and consumer-centric pharmaceutical sector in India and the need for a retail revolution in the segment.

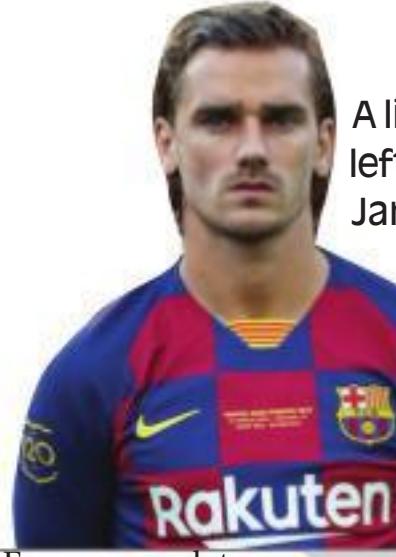
Some of the pertinent issues discussed included opportunities for budding pharmacists in the sector; role of technology (automation, AI and machine learning) in retail sales of medicines; how pharmacists can leverage technology to create an impact in patient management; and how technology is improving access, affordability and traceability of medicines.

Helping learners



With its vision to support study abroad aspirants amidst the global pandemic, Pearson launched Pearson Classroom-- a fully online teacher-driven student success platform for high-stakes English exams recently. The platform is designed to support institutes, teachers, students and administrators. It is powered by E2Language, most popular and trusted English language test preparation company.

Pearson Classroom will not only assist students with practice, assessments and mock tests but also help teachers overcome the challenges of online delivery with quality teaching and learning content, proven methodologies, and skill-building. Furthermore, it will provide institutes/schools with teacher management, student enrolments, timetabling, fully online or in-classroom teaching tools, activity and course creation and sharing and much more. The classroom content will offer 900+ practice questions, 250+ hours of teaching content delivered on a state-of-the-art platform.



SLIDE SHOW

A little over a year ago, Antoine Griezmann (in photo, left) was throwing glitter into the air to imitate LeBron James' chalk-toss routine in celebration of his first Barcelona goal, raising expectations about his future with the club. Now, he is just trying to keep his spot in the starting line-up. Players years younger than him have got higher and higher.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Pant out: Delhi Capitals wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant will be out of action for about a week in the Indian Premier League, skipper Shreyas Iyer has confirmed. Pant injured himself on Friday during the match against Rajasthan Royals, which the Capitals won.

Top duo: Kagiso Rabada of Delhi Capitals and Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul continue to lead the lists of leading wicket-takers and run-scorers following the conclusion of 27 matches in the Indian Premier League. On Sunday, Rabada took 2/28 in his four overs.

All cleared: Anwar Ali has been cleared to play competitive football by the English Football Association's cardiology consensus panel chairman Sanjay Sharma. The junior India international on Sunday met the All-India Football Federation's medical panel.

Red helmet: Lewis Hamilton was presented with one of Michael Schumacher's famous red helmets by his son Mick after taking a record-equalling 91st career victory at the Eifel Grand Prix. The six-time world champion took full advantage of Valtteri Bottas's retirement.

Memory lane: Arsene Wenger says he would have been open to an advisory role at former club Arsenal after stepping down as manager. The legendary boss left the club just over two years ago and instead of returning to the dugout has taken a role within Fifa.

Sample collection: The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) on Monday said it has started collecting samples of players competing in the Indian Premier League in the UAE after enlisting personnel from Dubai. The agency posted a tweet to confirm the move.

FMSI president: Former racer Alkar Ibrahim was on Monday unanimously elected for a second term as the president of India's motor-sports governing body, FMSI. The elections were held via video-conference amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Ibrahim had his first stint as FMSI chief from 2016-2018 following which he was replaced by J Prithviraj.

Toni Bou wins World Championship: With six wins out of a possible eight, Toni Bou wrapped up this short, yet particular 2020 TrialGP World Championship. The Repsol Honda Team rider took the top honours in the second Italian TrialGP held in Lazzate, Italy, with Takahisa Fujinami taking seventh overall place in the world championship. Toni Bou once again dominated the day from start to finish to snatch a sixth win of the season.

Ishant out of IPL: Veteran pacer Ishant Sharma was on Monday ruled out of the Indian Premier League with a rib-cage injury, his team Delhi Capitals said. Ishant is the second Delhi Capitals player to be ruled out after leg-spinner Amit Mishra, whose campaign ended due to a ring finger fracture sustained during one of the earlier matches.

Podium finish for Alex Marquez: The Repsol Honda Team achieved their best result of the season to date, Alex Marquez stunning with second place from 18th on the grid as Stefan Bradl makes it a double top ten. With only first practice on Friday as true wet experience on a MotoGP bike, Alex Marquez shot forward from 18th on the grid and made up eight places in just a few laps. Settling into his rhythm and gauging the conditions, Alex progressively got faster and was a full second quicker than the leaders throughout the middle of the race.

CSK up against SRH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 12 OCTOBER

Time is fast running out for the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings, a team which desperately needs its batting to click when it takes on Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Tuesday in a battle to keep its IPL hopes alive.

The three-time champions and last edition's runner-up, CSK are seeking a revival of fortunes after suffering five defeats in seven games. They are currently at the penultimate position in the eight-team standings halfway into the tournament.

Considered one of the most successful chasers in the history of IPL with a chase-master in Dhoni, CSK's batting struggle this year can be gauged from the fact that all their defeats came while going after targets.

While Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis have had decent outings so far, CSK need a stronger show from its faltering middle order to.

After facing brickbats for persisting with Kedar Jadhav, CSK dropped him in their last match and his replacement Narayan Jagadeesan (33 off 28) made a decent score in the company of Ambati Rayudu (42 off 40). However, CSK's chase fell apart after the duo departed.

CSK vs SRH: Match begins at 7.30 pm IST.

The tie also provides Dhoni and Co. a chance to avenge their seven-run loss to SRH in their previous outing. SRH, on the other hand, are a only a tad better-placed than CSK at the fifth spot with three wins from seven games. But the five-wicket defeat to Rajasthan Royals on Sunday would be hurting the Hyderabad outfit badly at a stone stage, they looked in complete control after posting a competitive 158 for 4.

Batting has not been SRH's

concern at all as the likes of Jonny Bairstow, skipper David Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson are all among runs and have the ability to shoulder the responsibility on their own. But it is the bowling unit which let SRH down on Sunday. Despite losing senior pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh to injuries, SRH have shown

tremendous fighting abilities with Rashid Khan and yorker specialist T Natarajan doing the job for the side. But on Sunday SRH let Royals off the hook in the middle overs after reducing them to 78 for 5. The likes of Sandeep Sharma, Khaleel Ahmed and young Abhishek Sharma are the weak links in bowling which they need to address.



M S Dhoni

Chapman is dead

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 12 OCTOBER

Former India football captain Carlton Chapman died today after suffering a heart failure in Bangalore. He was 49. Chapman, a product of the Tata Football Academy, was one of the leading players in the country in his time.

Playing for East Bengal, he distinguished himself with a triple strike against Al Zawra of Iraq in the Asian Cup Winners Cup.

During his spell at JCT Mills, which started in 1995, the team won 14 tournaments. After one season with FC

Kochin in 1997-98, Chapman returned to East Bengal in 1998. The team won the National Football League under his captaincy in 2001, before he announced his retirement from professional football. For India, he played between 1995 and 2001 and also captained the side.

Chapman coached the TFA team, then in I-League 2nd Division, from 2002 to 2008. In December 2017, Chapman was appointed technical director of a Kozhikode-based football academy.

ICC chairperson: Process for election starts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 12 OCTOBER

The ICC on Monday set October 18 as the deadline for its Board of Directors to propose candidates for the chairman's post to succeed Shashank Manohar, ending a nearly three-month-long impasse on the nomination process.

The process will be overseen by an independent chairman of the ICC Audit Committee.

However, the global body has not specified the voting procedure in case there are multiple candidates.

If elections happen as per existing rules, a candidate would require two thirds of the 17 ICC Board member votes,

which roughly comes to 11 or 12. However, there are a few member nations, who want a simple majority vote where nine would be enough to win an election.

That is precisely the reason, ICC stated that the next chairman might assume office only from the month of December.

"The process, which is being overseen by the Independent Chairman of the ICC Audit Committee, has commenced and the first stage is for the nominations of potential candidates to be made by current Board Directors by 18 October 2020," ICC stated in a release.

Manohar's deputy Imran Khanwaja is currently the acting chairman after the Indian stepped down in July. "The process for the election of its next Chairperson is underway and is expected to be concluded by early December," the ICC stated. The process of nomination, however, remains the same where a current Board of Director nominates a candidate, who needs to be seconded by another director.

"As outlined in the ICC Constitution, to be eligible, potential candidates must be either a current or former ICC Director," the release concluded.

A senior official privy to developments in the ICC Board room said that the month and half gap between nomination and election has been bought in order to work out a consensus if possible. "You have to understand that the main reason for the delay is not being able to work out a consensus candidate. Otherwise, you won't take five months since Shashank stepped down in July 1 and the next chairman will effectively take charge in December."

"At least two powerful boards want simple majority while one board with a former ICC honcho is swimming in opposite direction," the senior official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Federer all praise for record-equalling Nadal after French Open final

AGENCIES

PARIS, 12 OCTOBER

Roger Federer saw Rafael Nadal (in photo) equal his all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles with a 13th French Open victory on Sunday and hailed it as "one of sport's greatest achievements."

Nadal demolished Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 to add a 13th Roland Garros to his four US Opens, two Wimbledons and one Australian Open crown.

"I have always had the utmost respect for my friend Rafa as a person and a champion," tweeted Federer, who sat out the tournament to recover from knee surgery.

"As my greatest rival over many years, I believe we have pushed each other to become better players."

"Therefore it is a true honour for me to congratulate him on his 20th Grand Slam victory. It is especially amazing that he has won Roland Garros an incredible 13 times, which is one of the greatest achievements in sport. I hope the 20 is just another step on the continuing journey for both of us."

Federer won his 20th and most recent Grand Slam title at the 2018 Australian Open and despite having already turned 39, the Swiss star still intends to return to



action in 2021.

Nadal said: "I think he's happy when I'm winning and I'm happy when he's doing the things well."

"It means a lot the positive relationship that we have together because we have been going through a great rivalry for a very, very long time."

In an unrelated development, Chris Evert has

called out Novak Djokovic

for saying his rivalry with Nadal was the greatest in the history of the sport.

"I've played (Rafa) more than I (have) played any other player in my professional career. Our head-to-head is the biggest head-to-head ever in the history of the sport... he's definitely my greatest rival," Djokovic said after his comprehensive loss to Nadal.

France and Portugal in goalless stalemate

AGENCIES

PARIS, 12 OCTOBER



with seven points after three games, while France are second, also with seven. Croatia are third on three after winning 2-1 at home to Sweden, who are bottom with no points.

"We were very consistent defensively, but we lacked a goal."

We had a few opportunities to score and didn't, but both teams were good defensively and offensively," said Portugal defender Raphael Guerreiro. Team mate Nelson Semedo explained his side's conservative tactics.

"We've picked up a good result in a game where both sides would have made the most from any mistake. We have to be cautious in games like this," he said. Portugal defender Pepe looked to have finally broken the deadlock late on when he

placed a diving header in the net following a free kick but he was ruled offside.

Belgium upset in London

Marcus Rashford's penalty and a deflected strike from Mason Mount helped England come from a goal down to overcome top-ranked Belgium 2-1 at Wembley on Sunday and climb above them in their Nations League group.

Romelu Lukaku opened the scoring for the visitors from the penalty spot in the 16th minute after being brought down by a lunging tackle from England's Eric Dier. It was the Inter Milan striker's 13th goal in his last 11 matches for his country.

The Belgians pressed forward, with Yannick Carrasco and Kevin de Bruyne finding space and time to create seven shots on goal to England's two in the first half. Part of England's struggle to make opportunities stemmed from manager Gareth Southgate fielding a five-man backline, and perhaps from his decision to leave midfielder

Jack Grealish - Man of the Match for his creative efforts in a midweek 3-0 friendly win over Wales - on the bench. Nevertheless, when England won a cornerlet in the half, Belgium's Thomas Meunier clumsily pulled down the hosts' captain Jordan Henderson to concede a penalty. Rashford converted from the spot to register his 11th goal in an England shirt.

Mancini fumes

Italy coach Roberto Mancini fumed over the state of the pitch after his team were held to a 0-0 draw away to Poland in the Nations League on Sunday. After a glaring miss by Federico Chiesa early in the game, Italy struggled to create chances and managed only three shots on target despite enjoying 60 per cent of possession. Even so, Italy extended their unbeaten run to 18 matches as they stayed top of League A Group One with five points from three games. The Netherlands and Poland have four each and Bosnia two.

World Cup qualifier

Forward Rodrygo said on Sunday that Brazil would not compromise their attacking instincts against a dangerous Peru side when the teams would meet in their South American Zone 2022 World Cup qualifier.

Brazil will enter Tuesday's match at Estadio Nacional in Lima on the back of a 5-0 rout of Bolivia while Peru drew 2-2 against Paraguay in last week's opening round of CONMEBOL qualifiers. "We have to maintain an attacking mindset at all times," the 19-year-old told a virtual press conference. "We're going to continue to play the way we always do because attacking is in the DNA of Brazilian players," added Rodrygo, who was introduced as a 58th-minute substitute against Bolivia at Corinthians Arena on Friday. The Real Madrid player heaped praise on Peru, who he said would test the five-time world champions, despite the absence of their captain and all-time leading scorer Paolo Guerrero because of a knee injury.