

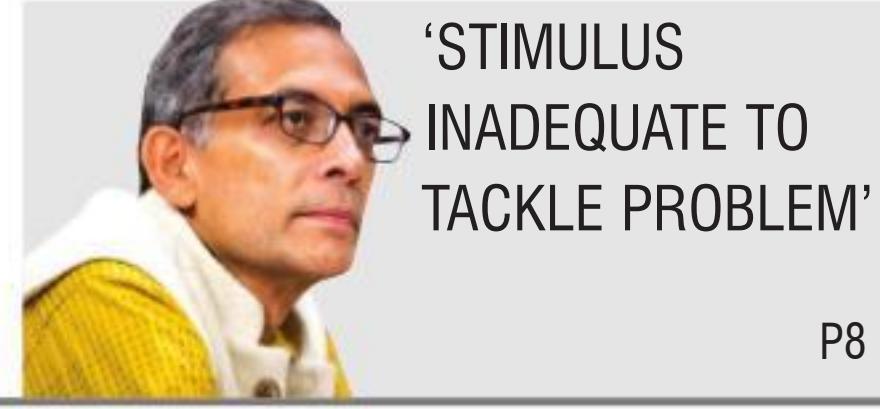


PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



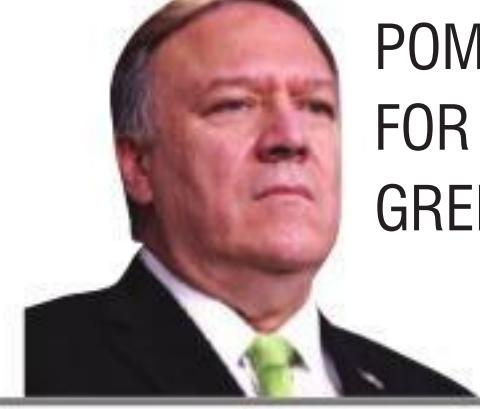
JAISHANKAR TO VISIT  
JAPAN FOR QUAD FMs  
MEET NEXT WEEK

P5



'STIMULUS  
INADEQUATE TO  
TACKLE PROBLEM'

P8



POMPEO VOICES SUPPORT  
FOR TALKS BETWEEN  
GREECE, TURKEY

P9

twitter.com/TheStatesmanLtd  
facebook.com/thestatesman1875

TOUR SCUPPERED  
BY QUARANTINE  
DISAGREEMENT

P12

## WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 37 and 22 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 91% Min: 42%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 36.5°C (+2) Min: 22.4°C (-1)

SUN RISES

06:14 hrs SUN SETS 18:08 hrs

MOON RISES

17:41 hrs MOON SETS 05:32 hrs

## THUMBNAILS



Delhi police detain Congress workers as they protest against Hathras gangrape, at Raisina Hills in the Capital on Tuesday. DEEPAK (P5)

V-P Naidu tests Covid positive: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday tested positive for Covid-19, the Vice President Secretariat said. It said Naidu, 71, is asymptomatic and in good health. "The Vice President of India who underwent a routine Covid-19 test today morning has been tested positive. He is however, asymptomatic and in good health," the Secretariat tweeted. Naidu has been advised home quarantine. His wife Usha Naidu has been tested negative and is in self-isolation, the tweet said.

EC not to hold Assembly bypolls in 7 seats across 4 states: The Election Commission on Tuesday decided not to hold Assembly bypolls in seven seats across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal at this stage after specific requests from the states. In a statement, the EC said it had received inputs from poll officials and chief secretaries of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. "In view of the above, the Commission has decided not to announce the conduct of elections at this stage in the seven vacancies in legislative assemblies of the states of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal," it said.

P5

## MHA rejects Amnesty's 'witch-hunt' allegation

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

Amnesty International on Tuesday said it is halting all its activities in India due to freezing of its accounts and claimed that it is being subjected to an "incessant witch-hunt" over unfounded and motivated allegations.

Amnesty India, in a statement, said the organisation has been compelled to let go of staff in India and stop all its ongoing campaign and research work.

"The complete freezing of Amnesty International India's bank accounts by the Government of India which it came to know on 10 September 2020, brings all the work being done by the organization to a grinding halt," it said.

However, the government has said that Amnesty has been receiving foreign funds illegally.

Responding to Amnesty International's decision to close its operations in India, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) today said that the international human rights watchdog had circumvented the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) to bring funds to India.

In a statement, the MHA said "The stand taken and the statements made by Amnesty International are unfortunate, exaggerated and far from the truth."

The facts were Amnesty International had received permission under the FCRA only once and that too 20 years ago (19.12.2000), MHA said. Since then Amnesty International, despite its repeated applications, was denied

FCRA approval by successive governments since as per law it is not eligible to get such an approval.

MHA said, however, in order to circumvent the FCRA regulations, Amnesty UK remitted large amounts of money to four entities registered in India, by classifying it as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

A significant amount of foreign money was also remitted to Amnesty (India) without MHA's approval under FCRA. This malafide rerouting of money was in contravention of extant legal provisions, MHA said.

Owing to these illegal practices of Amnesty, the previous government had also rejected the repeated applications of Amnesty to receive funds from overseas. This had led Amnesty to suspend its India operations once during that period as well, MHA pointed out.

"This bipartisan and purely legal approach towards Amnesty, under different governments, makes it clear that the entire fault lies in the dubious processes adopted by Amnesty to secure funds for its operations," MHA said.

MHA said, "All the glossy statements about humanitarian work and speaking truth to power are nothing but a ploy to divert attention from their activities which were in clear contravention of laid down Indian laws.

Such statements are also an attempt to extraneously influence the course of investigations by multiple agencies into the irregularities and illegalities carried out over the last few years."

## Dalit woman gang-raped in UP's Hathras dies in Delhi hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HATHRAS (UP), 29 SEPTEMBER:

A 19-year-old Dalit woman from Uttar Pradesh's Hathras died at Safdarjung hospital in Delhi on Tuesday morning, days after she was raped by four men here.

The family of the woman said she died around 3 am, Hathras SP Vikrant Vir said.

The woman was gang-raped on September 14 following which she was admitted to the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital in Aligarh. She was referred to the Delhi hospital on Monday after her condition showed no signs of improvement.

The accused had also tried to strangle her to death as she resisted their attempt and in the process, she had also ended up biting her

The four accused who have already been arrested will now also face charges under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC, according to the Hathras SP.

tongue and suffering a severe cut on it.

As spokesman of the Aligarh hospital had said that the woman's legs were completely paralysed and arms partially paralysed.

The four accused who have already been arrested will now also face charges under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC, according to the Hathras SP.

Opposition leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Mayawati have condemned the incident and demanded strict

punishment for the culprits of the heinous crime.

On September 14, the woman had gone to the fields with her mother and had gone missing soon after. She was later found brutally injured, with her tongue having a serious cut as she bit it while the accused attempted to strangle her, the SP had said while giving details of the incident.

The Hathras SP said initially they came to know that Sandip, 20, had tried to kill her following which he was arrested the same day. Later in her statement to the magistrate, the woman had said that besides Sandip, Ramu, Lavkush and Ravi had raped her and when she resisted their attempts, they tried to strangle her, leading to the cut in the tongue.

(SEE ALSO INSIDE PAGES)

list with nearly 20,000 recoveries, while Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh contributed more than 7,000 to the single-day recoveries, the ministry said.

The sustained high level of recoveries have led to a further widening of the gap between active and recovered cases, it said.

"Recovered cases exceed active cases by more than 41.5 lakh (41,53,831). The recovered cases are 5.38 times the active cases. The recoveries are consistently rising," the ministry underlined.

There are 9,47,576 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country presently, which is "merely" 15.42 per

cent of the total caseload and is "consistently declining".

The daily new recovered cases again exceeded the new infections, the ministry said.

While 84,877 patients recuperated from COVID-19 in 24 hours in the country, 70,589 new infections were reported during the same period, according to the data updated at 8 am Tuesday.

The total number of recoveries has touched 51,01,397 pushing the recovery rate to 83.01 per cent as on date.

The recovery rate was 82.58 per cent on Monday. Ten states and UTs account for 73 per cent of the 70,589

new cases that have been reported in 24 hours in the country.

Maharashtra continues to lead this tally, accounting for more than 11,000 cases, followed by Karnataka with more than 6,000.

There have been 776 fatalities in a day, with 10 states and UTs accounting for 78 per cent of the deaths in 24 hours due to coronavirus infection.

Of the new fatalities, Maharashtra reported more than 23 per cent with 180 deaths, followed by Tamil Nadu with 70. India's COVID-19 caseload mounted to 61,45,291 with 70,589 new infections, while the death toll reached 96,318

after 776 people succumbed to the disease in 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Delhi logs 48 fresh Covid deaths, highest in 75 days: With 59,102 tests conducted to identify coronavirus positive cases, Delhi today recorded 3,227 fresh Covid cases, which took its caseload to 2,76,325.

The national capital today recorded 48 deaths due to Covid - highest in 75 days - which pushed its coronavirus death toll to 5,320.

This was the highest number of Covid deaths reported in a day in the city since 16 July, when it had recorded 58 fatalities.

(SEE P2)

FACT FILE	
TOTAL CASES	61,45,291
ACTIVE CASES	9,47,576
NEW CASES	70,589
NEW RECOVERIES	84,877
TOTAL DEATHS	96,318

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 AM TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2020

Never accepted unilaterally defined 1959 LAC: India on China's assertion

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

India today rejected China's renewed attempt to revert to the 1959 Line of Actual Control (LAC), making it unequivocally clear to Beijing that its insistence of only one LAC was contrary to the solemn commitments made by it in various bilateral agreements.

"India has never accepted the so-called unilaterally defined 1959 LAC. This position has been consistent and well known, including to the Chinese side," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said in response to the Chinese foreign ministry's statement to a leading Indian daily that Beijing abides by the LAC as proposed by Premier Zhou Enlai to former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter dated 7 November 1959.

New Delhi noted that under various bilateral agreements, including the 1993 Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the LAC, 1996 Agreement on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the military field, 2005 Protocol on Implementation of CBMs, 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for settlement of the India-China Boundary Question, the two countries have committed to clarifications and confirmation of the LAC to reach a common understanding on its alignment.

In fact, the two sides had engaged in an exercise to clarify and confirm the LAC up to 2003 but this process could not proceed further as the Chinese side did not show a willingness to pursue it, it added. Srivastava said the Indian side has always respected and abided by the LAC and referred to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent statement in Parliament that it was the Chinese side which by its attempts to transgress the LAC in various parts of the Western Sector, has tried to unilaterally alter the status quo.

He noted that in the last few months, the Chinese side has repeatedly affirmed that the current situation in the border areas should be resolved in accordance with the agreements signed between the two countries.

In the agreement reached between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on 10 September, the Chinese side has reiterated its commitment to abide by all the existing agreements.

We therefore expect that the Chinese side will sincerely and faithfully abide by all agreements and understandings in their entirety and refrain from advancing an untenable unilateral interpretation of the LAC," he added.

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In fact, the two sides had engaged in an exercise to clarify and confirm the LAC up to 2003 but this process could not proceed

enabler in our victory in any future conflict. It is, therefore, imperative that IAF obtains and maintains a technological edge over our adversaries," he said at the conference on energising the Indian aerospace industry.

Five French-made multi-role Rafale fighter jets were inducted into the IAF on September 10. The fleet has been carrying out sorties in eastern Ladakh in the last couple of weeks.

The IAF chief also said that the raising of two squadrons of light combat aircraft Tejas and integration of some indigenous weapons on Su-30 MKI combat jets in a very reduced time frame has been the "most promising" development, reflecting the country's capabilities to develop indigenous military hardware.

"Air power will be a crucial

Security scenario in eastern Ladakh at an uneasy 'no war no peace' status: IAF chief

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

The present security scenario along our northern frontiers is at an uneasy "no war no peace" status, Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria said on Tuesday, referring to the prolonged border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

In an address at a conference, Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria said the Indian Air Force has responded to the situation with rapidity and is fully resolved to counter any "misadventure" in the region.

"The present security scenario along our northern frontiers is at an uneasy no war no peace status. Our defence forces are prepared for any eventuality as you are aware," the Chief of Air Staff said.

Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria



said the recent induction of Rafale jets along with previous acquisitions of C-17 Globemaster aircraft as well as Chinook and Apache helicopters have provided the IAF with substantial tactical and strategic capability enhancement.

"Air power will be a crucial

## India's recovery rate past 83%; recoveries outnumber active cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

list with nearly 20,000 recoveries, while Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh contributed more than 7,000 to the single-day recoveries, the ministry said.</



Union Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan addresses the Energy Security Conference 2020 organised by Global Counter Terrorism Council, through video conferencing in New Delhi on Tuesday.

**1 more patient dies of Covid in Noida; toll 52:** Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar recorded one more COVID-19 fatality on Tuesday, pushing the district's death toll due to the pandemic to 52, official data showed. Also, 89 more people tested positive for the disease, taking the tally of cases in the district to 12,842, the data released by the UP Health Department for a 24-hour period showed. The number of active cases came down to 1,542 from 1,599 on Monday and 1,570 on Sunday, it stated. On the brighter side, 141 more patients got discharged during the period and the total number of recoveries reached 11,248, it showed. The district, adjoining Delhi, has so far recorded 52 deaths linked to the pandemic with a mortality rate of 0.40 per cent, the data showed. The recovery rate of patients rose slightly to 87.58 per cent from 87.06 per cent a day ago, as per the statistics.

PTI

## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF  
SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL  
ACJ/CCJ/ARC  
Room No. 03, Ground Floor  
Patiala House Courts,  
New Delhi  
Petition No. SC-35/2020  
Mr. Pratap Singh  
Versus  
State  
(Petitioner)  
FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFI-  
CATE UNDER INDIAN  
SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

To,  
All concerned,  
Whereas in the abovenoted 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 Mrs. Amarjeet Kaur, w/o Sandar Daljeet Singh died on Dt. 21-05-2020 at G 4 & 75, Sujan Singh Park, New Delhi-110003 and Late Sh. Daljeet Singh died on Dt. 26-02-1998 at Apollo Hospital, New Delhi. Are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undermentioned Court, to be standing in the name of deceased.

Whereas the 25-11-2020 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  
21-09-2020.

ACJ/CCJ/ARC  
Patiala House Courts,  
New Delhi.  
Seal of the Court

### SALE BY AUCTION

E-AUCTION, ICT Hardware,  
Studio equipments and UPS,  
Misc. 22-10-2020 at 11:30  
Inspection 19 to 21-10-2020,  
at TCL Bhawan, Greater  
Kailash-I, Delhi, Security  
25,000/- Details Accurate,  
968215515.

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Details can be obtained

from: www.neida.org.in

For more information

contact-9378124909

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</



*Education is not about memorizing. We all memorize before the examination and go to the examination hall and write. I would like to tell all of you that those days are gone. Now, it is the time for application and concept.*

JP NADDIA  
BJP PRESIDENT NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

03

# Pb may amend its legislations to fight Centre's farm laws: CM

The 'battle' against the Modi govt's 'anti-farmers' legislations will be 'fought on all fronts', says Capt Amarinder, extending the Congress-led govt's full support to agitating farmers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 29 SEPTEMBER

Continuing his tirade against the Narendra Modi government's controversial farm sector legislations passed recently by Parliament, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said that his government, if required, will not hesitate from amending the state laws to counter these central laws.

While maintaining that the Centre had no right to enact these laws as it allegedly amounted to violation of the Constitution and an assault on the country's federal structure, Capt Amarinder said a special session of the Punjab Assembly will be immediately called if legal experts advise making amendment to the state laws to "fight" the central laws.

Extending his government's full support to the



agitating farmers in these "dark and difficult times", the CM said he will be discussing the issue with his legal team to finalise the next steps, including challenging the Centre's contentious agriculture laws in the Supreme Court.

"We will take all possible steps to counter the Union government's assault on the state's federal and constitu-

tional rights, and fight for the interests of the farmers," Capt Amarinder said while chairing a meeting with representatives of 31 farmer unions to take their views on the matter.

He said the Congress-led Punjab government would not have any qualms about convening an Assembly session if that is the best course under the circumstances.

The battle will be fought on all fronts, the CM asserted, adding that besides the Congress signature campaign announced yesterday, all panchayats in the state would be requested to pass resolutions against the Centre's agriculture Acts, which would be sent to the Union government.

Declaring that his government and the Punjab Congress are with the farmers in this "aukhi gharhi (difficult time)", Capt Amarinder said he would take the suggestions of the farmers' unions to legal experts to finalise the next course of action.

If the new central laws are implemented, it will spell the end of agriculture in the country, the CM charged, warning that "in times ahead, the Union government will follow up these legislations with elimination of minimum support price (MSP) and Food Corporation of India, bringing an end to the time-test-

ed farming procurement and marketing system as we know it".

"The Mandis (grain markets) that have existed and worked well for more than 60 years will be wiped out, and with MSP also ending, wheat will be sold the same way as maize currently is, at much lower prices than dictated by the MSP," Capt Amarinder said. The farmers not just in Punjab but across the country will be "ruined", the Chief Minister added, underlining the need to "fight these draconian BJP-led government's laws tooth and nail to save agriculture".

Capt Amarinder said he had written to Prime Minister Modi thrice before the farm Bills were passed by Parliament, urging him to not go ahead with the move as it would create immense problems for the whole nation.

The CM said he did not get any response from the PM.

## Opp getting irrelevant by protesting PM's every reform move: Anurag

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 29 SEPTEMBER

Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur on Tuesday said the Opposition parties' protests on every reform decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi were making them "irrelevant" in the current political scenario.

Anurag Thakur said in the last 6 years, the Modi government had taken many tough decisions to usher in reforms for betterment of the people of the country.

"The welfare of poor, farmers and labourers is on top priority of the Bharatiya Janata Party led NDA government at Centre and with this objective, the government has brought new farm bills.

These bills aim at doubling farmers' income, providing better remunerative prices for their crops and linking agriculture with modern techniques. But the Congress party has made it a daily routine to raise questions and protest against each and every decision taken for the welfare of the people of the



he said.  
It is not the first time that Congress along with other political parties have protested against legislations that are aimed at welfare of the common man and usher in reforms for their petty political gains.

Earlier, they had protested against abolition of Article 370 and 35 A, CAA, Digital Bharat, Jan Dhan Scheme, Rafale fighter planes, surgical strikes, 10 percent reservation to the poor from upper caste etc. But the people of the country on every occasion have shown them as to with whom they stand and support on these issues," he added.

Thakur further stated that now when the PM Modi government was restoring the rights of farmers and giving them freedom to sell their crops in open markets, they had once again stood against such pro-farmer decisions.

"The political parties are neither with farmers nor with youth of the country and they just want to pursue their political agenda by keeping national and public interests aside," he added.

## Delhi court dismisses journalist's bail plea

ARCHANA PHULL  
SHIMLA, 29 SEPTEMBER

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

A Delhi court has dismissed the bail of freelance journalist Rajeev Sharma arrested in an espionage case under the Official Secrets Act, saying if released on bail, he may attempt to hamper the investigation.

Delhi Police Special Cell had said that Sharma, arrested on September 14, was "found to be in possession of some defence-related classified documents".

It said that the other two accused -- a Chinese

woman and a Nepalese man - were paying Sharma large amounts of money routed through shell companies.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pawan Singh Rajawat, passed the order on Monday.

He observed if a journalist who is an important brick in the Fourth pillar of democracy decides to act with the intention to destabilize and negatively impact the sustainability and survival of democracy, that would be a darkest day in the Free Press Movement.

The tunnel through the tough terrain will connect the people of Lahaul valley in tribal Lahaul Spiti district to the rest of the state all through the year and is being inaugurated

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3 October. The people of Lahaul Spiti were otherwise cut off from the rest of the state due to snow on Rohtang Pass for five to six months.

The retired Brigadier from Mandi district had spearheaded the counter-attack at Tololing and Tiger Hills as Commanding Officer of 18 Grenadiers in Indian Army that dislodged the intruding Pakistani forces from formidable heights during Kargil war 21 years back.

He was later associated with implementation of Rohtang tunnel project (with Strabag AG-Afcon Joint Venture) from 2010-2013 after he

retired from Indian Army.

"While on this project, I realised that on 20 May 1999, my unit (18 GRENADIERS) along with 2 RAJGURU was tasked to recapture Tololing which is one of the most dominating height along the National Highway, our main line of com-

munication. During this operation half of my unit was employed to carry ammunition and food for the troops fighting on the icy peaks. This situation was even more challenging due to lack of high altitude clothing and shoes. We did overcome the enemy due to the grit and determination of the troops but at a heavy cost," he shared with The Statesman. He said the operational actions and the logistic support go hand in hand to achieve victory economically in terms of blood, time and resources.

"Today, after 21 years of the Kargil conflict, things might have changed. But the war did highlight the imperative of having all weather lines of communica-

tion till the last man at the last post," he said.

Thakur said in the present face off between India and China, the importance of this tunnel is unlike any other.

"This tunnel lies along one of the only two routes into Ladakh, the other being the Zoji-La Pass, which connects the Kashmir Valley to Drass. Thus it is essential to provide all weather connectivity with the forces in Ladakh at this critical juncture when the onset of winters is imminent," he said.

The Kargil hero said this is the first big step towards building all weather capability along this Manali-Leh axis, which India had been feeling the absence of in the past.

"This tunnel has placed us in a better position in a conflict scenario if ever that happens. But this is only the beginning of a rocky road which lies ahead. Additional tunnels will have to be built along the Manali-Leh route at Baralacha La (16800 feet), Tangla and Naakee La to ensure all weather connectivity till the forward lines of defence," he said. Thakur said in addition, a third route Darcha-Padam-Nimu, which requires only building a 4.5 Km tunnel under Shingo La can be faster alternative till all the four tunnels on the Manali-Leh Highway are put into operation for achieving almost perennial connectivity.

## 'Atal tunnel holds public, military and strategic importance'

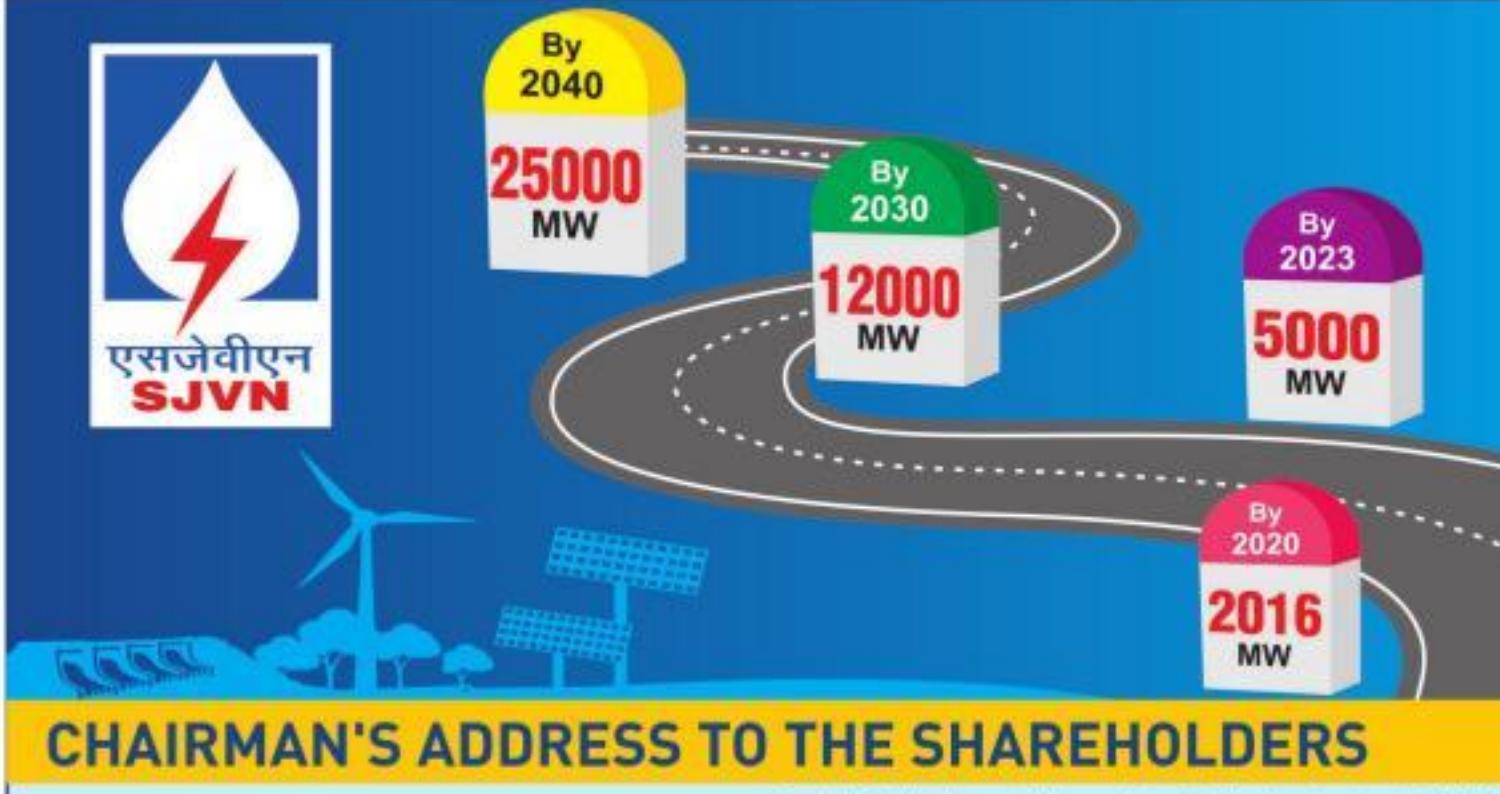
BRIGADIER (RETIRED) KHUSHAL THAKUR



## Growth with a vision for a POWERful nation



NAND LAL SHARMA  
CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR



### CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS

#### Dear Shareholders,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the 32nd Annual General Meeting and to present the Annual Report of your Company for the financial year 2019-20. Your continued interest and support for SJVN is one of our greatest motivations to rise to high standards you expect from us. I consider it my privilege to be associated with this esteemed organization for over 12 Years in different capacities.

The Audited Financial Statements of the Company along with the Reports of the Auditors and Directors for the year 2019-20 are presented for your approval and I take this opportunity to share your Company's performance, position and prospects with you.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2019-20

As head of Team SJVN, my heart is filled with pride, to see the growth of our organization with a rich legacy of hard work & dedication.

It is of immense pride for all of us that living up to its promise of 24 x 7 power supply to the Nation in these testing times, SJVN has achieved the Highest ever cumulative generation of 9678 Million Units in the financial year 2019-20 against the MoU Target of 9100 Million Units, beating its own past record of generating 9346 Million Units. The achievement bears testimony to the competence and unrelenting efforts of all our employees.

The Financial position and performance of the Company during FY 2019-20 has been one of the best. Revenue from operations stand at ₹2701.52 crores and Profit After Tax at ₹1651.89 crores. An interim dividend of ₹1.70 per share was paid in the month of February 2020. In addition, your Board has recommended a final dividend of ₹0.50 per share. Thus, subject to your approval, a total dividend of ₹2.20 per share (₹64.55 crores) is proposed to be paid for FY 2019-20.

Presently, our Company is poised at very crucial juncture of its journey, as it enters the threshold of a new wave of expansion and growth. Marching ahead towards the Shared vision of 5000 MW by 2023, 12000 MW by 2030 & 25000 MW by 2040, the Company is propelling forward by energetic aura reflecting flurry of activities at all the projects that are under various stages of development.

The year under review would be remembered in the history as an year in which your Company not only laid the foundations for its own long term growth prospects but also pioneered innovative solutions which have the potential of reviving and revolutionizing the entire Hydro Power landscape of our Country.

Dear Shareholders, over the past many years Hydro Power Industry has been struggling to a great extent due to high costs of generation, high hurdles in reaching execution and increasing costs and ultimately render the Hydro Projects economically unviable. The problem is compounded by the rock bottom costs of power from renewable energy sources like wind and solar, coupled with stringent environmental laws and high tandoor costs. The entire Hydro Power Industry has been paralyzed by these systemic impediments, so much so that only a few projects have seen the light of day in the past decade or so.

When confronted with similar problem for our projects in the State of Himachal Pradesh, your Company's Management was absolutely resolve that, it will neither abandon the unavoidable projects nor push them on backburner. Founded on this sentiment of firm determination and reinforced by innovative thinking and proactive action, we have found a way out of this impasse. The execution of the hydro power projects in the State has been a major success story. SJVN took the initiative and after numerous rounds of deliberations, it succeeded to convince the Himachal Pradesh Government to provide concessions like deferment of free power, reimbursement of 50% of State GST and booking of 1.5% LAPD to any project that cost ₹600/- GIGW or less, for a period of 20 years etc, with the aim to bring down hydro tariff around ₹4.5 per unit. We were able to convince and establish for our organization a unique position in the market.

It is of great satisfaction to note that the hydro power projects in the State of Himachal Pradesh are now generating power at a rate of 100% of their installed capacity. SJVN has also started to explore opportunities in the field of wind power generation.

Our expansion in Himachal Pradesh has been a major success story. SJVN has started to explore opportunities in the field of wind power generation.

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With the support of the Government of India, SJ



*The political parties are neither with farmers nor with youth. They just want to pursue their political agenda...*

UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS ANURAG THAKUR  
TERMING OPPosition's PROTEST OF PM NARENDRA MODI'S REFORMS AS IRRELEVANT

## THUMBNAILS



A man, who recovered from Covid-19, prepares to go home, in Chennai on Tuesday.

PTI

**Feluda Covid-19 test:** India's CRISPR Feluda Covid-19 test that changes colour on virus detection could be a cheaper, faster and simpler alternative to RT-PCR diagnosis.

PTI

**Jheeram Maoist attack:** SC dismissed Chhattisgarh's plea against Judicial Commission's refusal to examine additional witnesses in the 2013 Jheeram Ghati Maoist attack that killed 29 people.

PTI

**Installation of Chinese power looms sparks protests:** Administrator of Chapdany civic body, Suresh Mishra has objected the ongoing installation of Chinese power looms in jute mills in Hooghly district. The CITU leaders too joined the protest in Bhadrakar-Chapdany area. There are three jute mills employing nearly 14,000 jute mill labours.

SNS

# Special court set to pronounce verdict in Babri case today

BJP veterans L K Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti are among the eight accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW, 29 SEPTEMBER

**A** special court here will deliver the much-awaited judgment today in the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition case in which BJP veterans L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi are among the accused.

CBI judge SK Yadav on 16 September directed all the 32 surviving accused to remain present in the court on the day of the judgment.

The accused include former deputy prime minister Advani, former Union ministers Joshi and Uma Bharti, former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh, besides Vinay Katiyar and Sadhu Rithampura.

With both Bharti and Singh convalescing in separate hospitals after coronavirus infection, it was not immediately known if they would be present in the court at the time of pronouncement of order.

Singh, during whose tenure as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh the disputed structure was demolished, was put on trial in September last year after his tenure as governor (of Rajasthan) came to an end. Champat Rai, the general secretary of the trust



in charge of constructing the Ram temple, is also among those accused.

With the Supreme Court setting 31 August as the deadline and later extending it by a month for the CBI court to give its verdict, the trial court started day-to-day hearing to complete the task in time.

The central agency produced 351 witnesses and 600 documents as evidence before the court. Charges were framed against 48 people, but 17

have died during the course of trial. The trial under the serious criminal conspiracy charges commenced against them after having been dropped by the trial court in 2001.

The verdict was upheld by the Allahabad High Court in 2010, but the apex court ordered restoration of the conspiracy charge against them on 19 April, 2017.

The charge of conspiracy is in addition to the existing

charges against them for promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion for which they are already facing trial.

The accused are also facing charges of having made assertions "prejudicial to national integration and injuring or defiling a place of worship". The other charges against them include indulging in "deliberate and malicious" acts intended to outrage religious feelings, uttering state-

ments leading to public mischief, rioting and unlawful assembly.

The CBI argued that the accused conspired and instigated "kar sevaks" to demolish the 16th century mosque. But the accused pleaded innocence maintaining that there is no evidence to prove their guilt and claimed they were implicated by the then Congress government at the Centre as a political vendetta.

The Babri Masjid was demolished in December 1992 by "kar sevaks" who claimed that the mosque in Ayodhya was built on the site of an ancient Ram temple.

Last year, the Supreme Court allowed the disputed site in Ayodhya for construction of a Ram temple, while calling the demolition of the mosque a violation of the rule of law. An alternative five-acre site was marked for building a mosque.

Before the 2017 verdict of the apex court, two sets of cases were being heard in Lucknow and Raebareli. The trial of the first case involving unnamed "kar sevaks" was going on in a Lucknow court, while the second set of cases relating to the eight VIPs, including Advani, were going on in a Raebareli court.

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## Panneerselvam goes into huddle, skips CM-led meet on Covid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHENNAI, 29 SEPTEMBER



candidate on 7 October.

Vaithilingam on Tuesday said he supported both Panneerselvam and Palaniswami considering the party interests. He said his goal "is to see the party retain power next year" by further strengthening AIADMK. Munusamy too said not much should be read into the consultations which were only about routine "party work". During the split in the AIADMK, Vaithilingam and Munusamy were with the factions led by Palaniswami and Panneerselvam respectively. The two factions merged in 2017 following which Panneerselvam was made deputy chief minister.

Panneerselvam's impromptu meet with party senior office-bearers and his absence at a meeting of district collectors on Covid chaired by Palaniswami at the secretariat set off further speculations.

## TENDER

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Dated: 29.09.2020  
Online Item rate bids are invited on behalf of Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi through e-tendering only from eligible Contractors/Firms for the following works of Surgical Block and its Operation and Maintenance during Defect Liability Period within AIIMS campus, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi:  
(1.) Construction of Left out building works including Civil, Plumbing, Fire-Fighting & finishing works of Surgical Block (Estimated Cost: Rs. 4.17 Cr.), (2.) Execution of Left out Electrical works of Surgical Block (Estimated Cost: Rs. 3.53 Cr.), (3.) Execution of Left out HVAC of Surgical Block (Estimated Cost: Rs. 3.51 Cr.). Completion period: 04 Months for each work and other details are available on detailed NIT. Tender available online from 05.10.2020 and Last Date of submission of Bids is 20.10.2020.  
The detailed NIT will be available on e-tender portal [www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC), HSCC website [www.hscctd.co.in](http://www.hscctd.co.in) and CPP portal. Corrigendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on said websites and not be published.  
DGM (Civil), HSCC (India) Ltd.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION  
CONST. DIVISION, KRISHNA NAGAR, JAMMU  
Phone : 01912573370, e-mail : [xenniccdjm@gmail.com](mailto:xenniccdjm@gmail.com)  
**ABSTRACT OF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
E-NIT No. MICD/J/13 of 2020-21 Dtd:- 22-09-2020 Due on:- 10-10-2020  
Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division Krishna Nagar, Jammu on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K U.T. invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms/ reputed workshop owners doing similar nature of works having valid PAN No. and GST No. For Upgradation/Design manufacturing, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 2 Ton capacity Gantry with chain pulley block along with allied works at LIS Bindola Mang Distt Rajouri. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz Cover 'I' Tender fee and Earnest Money details, fulfillment of pre qualification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover 'II' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ. S. No. 1. Name of work: Upgradation/Design manufacturing, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 2 Ton capacity Gantry with chain pulley block along with allied works at LIS Bindola Mang Distt Rajouri.  
Earnest Money :- Rs. 4000.00, Cost of tender document :- Rs. 300.00, Period of completion :- 180 days, Validity of Rates :- 180 days, Name of Division :- Mech. Irrigation Construction Division, Jammu  
Key points of the tender  
1. Bidding documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://www.tenders.gov.in> from 22-09-2020(04:00PM).  
2. The Bid shall be deposited on the web site <http://www.tenders.gov.in> from 26-09-2020 (01:00 PM) to 12-10-2020 (03:00PM). No: MICD/J/751-53 Dated:- 22-09-2020  
Signed for on behalf of the  
Lt. Governor of J & K  
Sdr/- Executive Engineer  
Mech. Irrl. Construction Division Jammu  
No. DIP/J- 5014/20  
Dated:- 25.09.2020

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"  
Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25000 Volt 50 Hz. AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all the times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead lines.

Section	Date
Adani Logistics Limited PFT siding at Patli station	05.10.2020

**INTRODUCTION OF AC 25 KV TRACTION  
"WARNING TO ROAD USERS"**  
It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 25 KV AC electric traction on Adani Logistics Limited PFT siding at Patli station of Northern Railway. Height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire (contact wire), which shall be at a height of minimum 5.5m above the rail level at level crossings.  
Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.  
The danger of a load of excessive height are as follows:-  
i) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway line.  
ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself.  
iii) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Northern Railway, New Delhi  
No. 230-Elect./TRD/14/1/4(EIG) Date: 29.09.2020 2096/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## India, B'desh pledge to bring down border incidents to zero

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER



**Both ministers tasked their officials to work closely to avoid disruption of supply chains, particularly in the post-Covid period**

At the 6th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) held in the virtual mode, the two countries agreed that the loss of civilian lives at the border was a matter of concern. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Bangladesh counterpart A K Abdul Momen co-chaired the meeting.

"Importance of educating the border population about the sanctity of the international border was stressed upon. The Indian side also requested for an expeditious approval to erecting the single row fencing in vulnerable patches along the border, within 150 yards, that will help contain border crimes," a joint statement issued at the end of the meeting said.

Reiterating the commitment of India to priorities the supply of Covid-19 vaccines, Jaishankar emphasised the importance of Bangladesh in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. In this context, the two ministers directed their officials to expedite exchange of required information regarding Phase-III testing, vaccine distribution, co-production and delivery in Bangladesh.

The two sides noted that India and Bangladesh were currently the top two economies in South Asia and greater measures could be taken for mutually beneficial enhancement of trade and investment between the two countries, including

removal of all forms of barriers to trade.

Both ministers tasked their officials to work closely to avoid disruption of supply chains, particularly in the post-Covid period

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*Opposition parties taking up 'imaginary issues' creating fear among farmers over new farm laws*

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL JITENDRA SINGH

ACCUSING OPPPOSITION OF TRYING TO 'MISLEAD' FARMERS OVER NEW REFORM LAWS

The Statesman

05

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Jaishankar to visit Japan for Quad FM's meet on 6-7 Oct

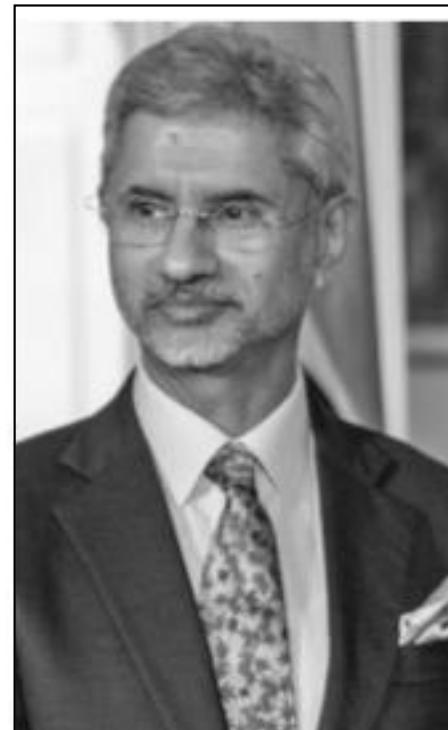
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

In the midst of ongoing tensions with China, external affairs minister S Jaishankar will visit Japan on 6-7 October to participate in the 2nd ministerial meeting of the 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue' that brings India, Japan, Australia and the US on a common platform.

Jaishankar is visiting Tokyo for bilateral consultations with his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi and the two ministers are expected to discuss bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest, the External Affairs Ministry said today.

The foreign ministers of the Quad, which was upgraded to the ministerial level in September last year, will discuss the "post-Covid-19 international order and the need for a coordinated response to the various challenges emerging from the pandemic", the foreign office said.

The ministers will also discuss regional issues and "collectively affirm the importance of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-



Pacific".  
Jaishankar will also hold bilateral consultations with Australian foreign minister Marise Payne and US secretary of state Mike Pompeo during the visit.

The Quad meet assumes significance against the backdrop of China's aggressive actions against its neighbours, including India and Japan.

Both Australia and the US also have serious differences with China over trade and other major issues.

## SC seeks Centre's reply on Mehbooba detention

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that detention cannot be forever and asked the Centre whether former JK chief minister Mehbooba Mufti's detention be extended beyond a year.

During the hearing of Iltija Mufti's plea challenging her mother's and People's Demo-

catic Party (PDP) leader's detention order under Public Safety Act (PSA) and its subsequent extensions, a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, "How long Mufti has been in detention and what were the grounds? . Can it be prolonged for so long?" It asked.

**SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN UDAIPUR CITY AND HARIDWAR**  
For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run a Special Train between Udaipur City and Haridwar w.e.f. from 01.10.2020 as per schedule given below:-  
**09609/09610 Udaipur City - Haridwar Jn. - Udaipur City Special Train (Tri - Weekly)**

Train No. 09609	STATIONS		Train No. 09610
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
--	13:05	Udaipur City	16:55 --
13:12	13:14	Ranapratapnagar	16:35 16:37
13:45	13:47	Mavli Jn.	15:50 15:53
13:56	13:58	Fatehnagar	15:36 15:38
14:10	14:11	Bhupalsagar	15:25 15:26
14:21	14:23	Kapanas	15:15 15:16
--	15:30	Berach Jn.	-- 14:55
15:40	16:05	Chittaurgarh Jn.	14:00 14:25
--	16:30	Chanderiya	-- 13:40
17:10	17:12	Bhilwara	12:10 12:15
17:22	17:23	Mandal	11:49 11:50
18:11	18:13	Bijainagar	11:03 11:05
18:46	18:48	Nasirabad	10:17 10:19
19:25	19:45	Ajmer Jn.	9:45 9:55
--	20:02	Madar Jn.	-- 9:29
20:13	20:15	Kishangarh	8:39 8:41
20:58	21:00	Phulera Jn.	8:00 8:02
21:50	22:00	Jaipur Jn.	7:00 7:15
22:10	22:13	Gandhinagar Jaipur	6:12 6:15
22:49	22:51	Dausa	5:24 5:26
23:15	23:17	Bandikui Jn.	5:03 5:05
23:33	23:35	Rajgarh	4:40 4:42
0:10	0:13	Alwar Jn.	4:12 4:15
1:43	1:45	Rewari Jn.	3:17 3:20
2:34	2:36	Delhi Cantt	2:08 2:10
3:30	3:45	Delhi	1:25 1:40
3:59	4:01	Delhi Shahdara	0:54 0:56
5:10	5:12	Buraut	23:45 23:47
--	5:56	Kandhla	23:17 23:19
6:22	6:27	Shamli	22:55 23:05
7:18	7:20	Rampur Maniharan	21:34 21:36
8:13	8:15	Tapri Jn.	21:10 21:12
9:24	9:26	Roorkee	20:23 20:28
10:30	--	Haridwar Jn.	-- 19:40

Days of Run : 09609 Ex. Udaipur City on Every Monday, Thursday & Saturday from 01.10.2020 & 09610 Ex. Haridwar on Every Tuesday, Friday & Sunday from 02.10.2020.  
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating.  
• This special train shall run fully reserved.

The passengers shall adhere to the COVID-19 related safety norms & guidelines issued by Government of India from time to time.

Beware of Touts Always buy Train Tickets from Railway Counters/Authorized Railway Travel Agents only

Note : For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Please join us on   
Security Helpline No. 182  
Integrated Helpline No. 139  
**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in  
Serving Customers with a Smile

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## Not so patriotic

The sudden spurt in the strident demand that school curricula go in for increased syncing with a sense of nationalism, so bizarrely encapsulated by US President Donald Trump in the phrase "patriotic education", is in conformity with democracies yielding space to fascist proclivities. The need to educate, as even Indian shastras teach, is more about self realization and helping mankind to realize its potential, by developing the intellect and knowledge to contribute to one's natural and socio-economic environment and, regrettably, in the more recent rat-race driven world, to do well in life. This, more often than not, means earning material wealth. Educationist Arthur Foshay's most perceptive thoughts on distorting the purpose of education to ends that are "undesirably limited in scope" or even conflict with the loftier purpose of equipping the taught to "encompass all the dimensions of human experience", becomes critically relevant today. This is especially so because the call for such distortion comes from some of the highest temples of democracy. Mr Trump's call for patriotic education that "celebrates the truth about our nation's great history" seems to resonate with leading political leaders across the globe, many of whom should be far removed from education, having received it only in limited doses.

Truth to tell, there was little to mend in the overall approach to the curricula followed in Indian schools as it was designed post Independence, save to add new knowledge that was being generated over the progress of civilization. Going to school meant acquiring a thirst for knowledge and getting it from sources, essentially by reading, which meant going beyond one's school books. Not all were equally impacted, of course, because schools can hardly cater to customized delivery of knowledge such that each is individually served. However, suggestions that schools introduce change that encompass imparting military lessons, for instance, in a bid to make students more patriotic than they are, as a group of ministers in India suggested last year to its education policy-making body, to engender a "ecosystem of morals, ethics and patriotism", will probably end up endangering all of these independently valuable virtues. It is the nature of the individual's value system that will be of the essence: whether or not morals and ethics lead one to question the resident oppression and the unfairness in society, whether or not the student's heart beats for the dispossessed tribal, the tormented woman, the neglected aged and the many others excluded from a country that aspires to win the 21st century. Flying the Tricolour from tall flagposts in central universities for the express purpose of evoking "nationalistic sentiments on campuses" otherwise troubled by bruised student sentiments, makes a mockery of the purportedly noble intent. True patriotism is about supporting the right and opposing the wrong even if the latter hurts one's vested interests or goes against the ruler's espoused political position. It is based on the understanding that the country may not always be right, nor those in command, even if one put them there in a democracy.

## Crucial debate

By the time this comment is read, initial impressions on the first of three debates between President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden will already have been formed. The 90-minute debate, slated to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, early on Wednesday Indian time will bring to the surface the acrimony that has marked exchanges between the two candidates, and will be keenly watched especially by those who believe Mr Biden's bid for the Presidency has been marked by reticence, weakness and a comparative lack of visibility. His supporters will also wonder how well he fares in dealing with the no-holds barred attacks. Mr Trump is capable of launching, oftentimes without bothering which side of the belt he targets. While the incumbent has the Presidency to lose, the stakes for Mr Biden in the context of the race are perhaps higher in that he has been leading consistently in polls, a position that might change if his performance is not up to scratch. Having said that, it must also be conceded that expectations from him are relatively low. The topics slated to be reviewed at the debate, with about 15 minutes devoted to each segment, are the respective records of the two candidates, the nomination of a judge to the Supreme Court after the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, America's record in handling the Covid-19 epidemic, the economy, race relations and the integrity of the election which has been assailed by the President. But it is likely that personal issues will also feature. Mr Trump is likely to target his opponent on favours his son, Hunter Biden, allegedly received from the former Vice-President. For his part, Mr Biden may well pick on damaging revelations contained in a New York Times article relating to the abysmally low taxes the President has paid on his family businesses.

It seems evident that the challenger is prepared to be exposed to the sneering manner that Mr Trump often displays at hostile interactions, such as with the Press. Earlier this month, Mr Biden had commented, "I hope I don't get baited into getting into a brawl with this guy." That may seem a forlorn hope, because while Mr. Trump may be economical with facts in defending both his foreign and domestic policy, he is capable of shouting down opponents with a mixture of fact, innuendo and even versions of events that only he deems truthful. But there are subjects on which he can be cornered, and climate change is clearly one of them. While the President, like a section of his supporters, believes this is a myth, the facts in the public domain are enough to puncture his bluster, provided they are marshalled competently. The person who comes off second best will have two more chances to repair the loss, on October 15 and 22.

# The Modi I know

Once Vaghela had been eased out from the BJP, Modi ceased to be Keshubhai's favourite. Modi had outlived his utility for Patel. Keshubhai wasn't content with merely sidelining Modi, though; he had him transferred to Delhi as organizing General Secretary of the BJP. This was no ordinary political transfer. Keshubhai had enforced a stipulation that if ever Modi visited his home state, he would not meet any politician or journalist and would confine himself only to personal matters

The enigma that is Prime Minister Narendra Modi is impossible to understand unless of course, one has the time, energy and imagination to do so. Look at him as a politician, one would not find one similar either now or in the past. As a person, by standards anyone has come across, one would be hard pressed to escape confusion. I doubt if the best of psychologists can help one to find an answer. If one has known him from close and never reacted to his unusual reactions but dispassionately only looked for why every time, perhaps one might begin to know.

As is obvious to most, Modi believes in worship and his faith in the Paramatma is total. Yet he is by no means given to fatalism. Whatever will be will be, que sera sera is not for Modi. His dharma is that of a karmayogi. His karma-bhoomi is the country. His one love is the country and that is the supreme one. Nothing else matters even when he has the opportunity to wander. In fact, he has no lasting attachment except to the country which, to restate, is also his only love.

It was not customary to say thank you in Gujarat. As a result, Modi did not acknowledge good work done with a formal thank you. His reasoning must be: if I live and work for the country and you happen to help, what great obligation are you creating and for whom? The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh encourage their pracharaks and vistarkars to make contacts and keep in touch with people. If any family invites him to lunch, it is a welcome sign; the person has been liked. This builds up a relationship. Reciprocation is not necessary nor practical for a bachelor living in a hostel. And saying thanks is not an Indian custom.

Once at Savarkundla in Saurashtra, Gujarat, I happened to be invited for lunch by a party worker. The little gathering was enjoyable; at the end I happened to say many thanks, as the Delhi habit generally is. The hosts' face fell, and I being disturbed at the sight asked him why. His reply was your saying thanks means that when I come to Delhi I feel there is no need for you to ask me to your home for a meal. I felt sorry and embarrassed at what I did. After all I hail from that part of the country and should have known better.

On a bright morning in early 2001, we happened to be chatting briefly at the rear of the main building of the BJP office. I happened to mention to Narendrabhai that in my opinion, it was



high time that he took the plunge into electoral politics. To which his reply was that I have been told to do so by the Sangh. I cannot ask for a ticket; that is the tradition. This statement drew my admiration to his sense of discipline as well his restraint in respecting the dastoor. When he did go to Gujarat to take over the chief ministership, it was on Advani's instructions. It was evident even in those early days that Modi had enormous leadership potential. That, however, lent him no early advantage and his ride in politics was far from smooth. While his organizational capabilities and grasp of the nitty-gritty of political work was much in demand, his persona and spontaneous influence over the rank and file of the party was a niggling worry to the entrenched satrapies. Former chief minister of Gujarat, Keshubhai Patel made good use of Modi, though, to keep his arch-rival in state poli-

tics Shankersinh Vaghela down. Once Vaghela had been eased out from the BJP, Modi ceased to be Keshubhai's favourite. Modi had outlived his utility for Patel. Keshubhai wasn't content with merely sidelining Modi, though; he had him transferred to Delhi as organizing General Secretary of the BJP. This was no ordinary political transfer. Keshubhai had enforced a stipulation that if ever Modi visited his home state, he would not meet any politician or journalist and would confine himself only to personal matters. It was thus a veritable political vanvaas or exile for Modi. This was indeed a tough and unpleasant phase of Modi's political life.

When I happened to be in the BJP office at Ahmedabad a couple of weeks later, I was escorted by Anandiben Patel - currently Governor of Uttar Pradesh - Dr Mayaben Kondani and five other ladies. They protested to

me about Narendrabhai's unfortunate situation and the grave injustice done to him in the form of exile from Gujarat. I conceded their point that Keshubhai's move was unjust, but asked them whether they considered Ramchandra, the avatar of Vishnu, to be great, to which they replied in the affirmative. My next question was: would Ram have been so great if he had not been sent on his vanvaas or exile to the forest? No, was their answer. I then told them that Narendrabhai was undergoing a similar vanvaas! When Modi became the Chief Minister of Gujarat at the fag end of 2001, Anandiben Patel affirmed that she hadn't forgotten my prediction about NaMo, as he had been popularly known.

Overall, what was noteworthy was that he did not arrive in Delhi when he knew that the Sangh Parivar was apprehensive if the Congress would be elected for a third time in 2014. Instead, he stuck to discipline and did not come until he was asked to do so by the Sarsanghchalak of the RSS after it was decided at the baithak in Goa that Modi would lead the campaign for 2014 general elections. This was the implicit signal that he would be the prime ministerial candidate.

The same ingrained discipline that was demonstrated when he bowed his head to the ground before climbing the steps to the parliament house. This was also his signal that he is not flattened by his victory, but that he was grateful to the Almighty at being given an opportunity to serve his first and only love, as its pradhan sevak. No wonder that he has ruled since for the sake of its people and the country and not for himself or his family. This is what Krishna taught in the course of the Mahabharata. Uncannily, he enabled the Pandavas and Yudhishtira to sit on the throne of Hastinapura, but never ever did he sit on any throne himself, nor did he promote his own community to do the same.

This selfless dedication must have helped Modi to achieve not only national acclaim but international fame too. We cannot forget that no Indian leader before him has addressed the British parliament. Nor has any leader been ever honoured by the British monarch by hosting an exclusive lunch for him.

Incidentally, the Prime Minister has also addressed the Australian Parliament as well as the US Congress, not to speak of the many world leaders he has made friends with. All this and more has helped India to attain heights unknown before.



PRAFULL GORADIA  
The writer is an author, thinker and former Member of Parliament



## School transition

Children have reacted to the news of reopening of schools with paradoxical trepidation and excitement. Whilst they clearly welcome the opportunity to leave behind the physical shackles of lockdown, this return to school will be entirely new. For the majority of children, going back to school after summer break is hard enough - some lose friends who have moved away, many go through physical and emotional changes that require an adjustment, while most children find themselves reinventing peer relationships or having to acquaint themselves with new teachers and classmates.

The post-pandemic return, however, is an unprecedented adjustment. Schools have received government directives on SOPs to follow. However, how big a gap there will be between the planned process and its implementation is anyone's guess. It is not like a fire or riot drill that we have all practised for years. Aside from directives such as staggered timings for different age groups, multiple shifts, social distancing in class and outside, safe handling of school supplies and lunch boxes, mandatory masks and sanitisation, there are many other aspects of the transition that beg our attention and planning.

Children returning to school are likely to carry back some emotional baggage of anxiety and paranoia. Most of our schools do not have in-house counsellors that may be able to help with the daily well-being of children through this transition. In fact, it is not just children but teachers who may need counselling and support as they learn to equip themselves to take care of children who might be emotionally distraught. Not all children have had a safe and easy time with caretakers who cater to their physical and emotional well-being. Many will return with

**DAWN**  
experiences of grief and loss within the family - loss of life or a parent's job — or other destabilising factors. Chances are that everyone will have a story. These narratives are not only important, they are critical in helping children make sense of life experiences and learn the survival tools to keep themselves afloat. Teachers and other staff members will also come back with a narrative of their own. Curriculum demands aside, if we can collectively give shape to a system that addresses these stories and helps develop the tools needed to manage emotions, children and adults might both come out stronger together. At such a crossroads, our capacity for teamwork, empathy and compassion, gets tested like never before and we need to make tough choices - between chasing an academic goal or keeping a child comfortable and happy through the day, between teaching discipline or relaxing the rules to help children adapt back to the structured school day. Children may be looking for a safe space to share their stories, and perhaps to make sense of the dizzying amount of information regarding the coronavirus, pouring in their direction every day.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

### Douglass and women's rights

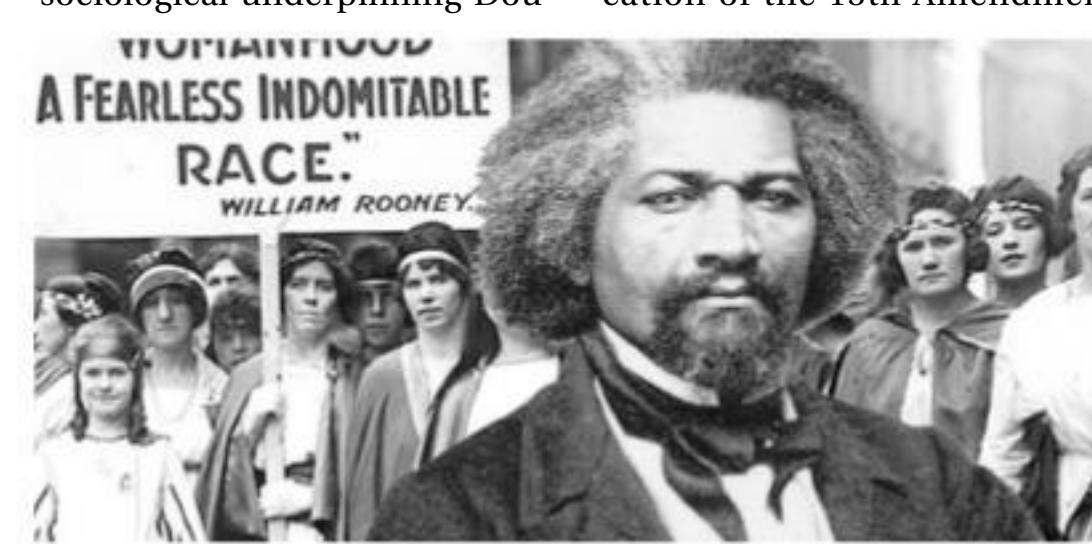
**SIR,** Abhik Roy (*The Statesman* 26 September) rightly points out that "throughout his life, Douglass not only fought for full civil rights for freed slaves but he also vigorously supported the women's rights movement". However, he does not elaborate on Douglass' pioneering role in the women's movement in the US.

Frederick Douglass (1818-95) was the only African-American along with 40 other white men to attend the historic Seneca Falls Convention for Women's rights in 1848. He admitted that he never felt ashamed to be designated as 'woman's rights man'. He considered moral intelligence and the ability to discern right from wrong, good from evil, and the power to choose between them rather than sex nor physical strength as the true basis of republican government. He pointed out that women's exclusion had no foundation in reason or justice.

Douglass became close to both Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) and Susan Brownell Anthony (1820-1906), two key figures in the women's movement in the US. The women's struggle for rights including suffrage came out of the Abolitionist movement that began in the 1820s. Women actively participated in the Abolitionist movement enabling them to acquire skills in petitioning, public speaking, writing editorials, campaigning and the like. For the first time, they stepped out

side their homes. A parallel between their subjugation and that of the enslavement of blacks became evident. Expectedly, the men who opposed women's rights also opposed Abolitionism. The aforesaid Seneca Falls convention was the result of barring women activists, Lucretia Mott (1793-1880), Mary M'Clintock (1800-84), Martha Coffin Wright (1806-75), Jane Hunt (1812-89) and Stanton from attending the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London in 1840. Except for Stanton all the other four were seasoned veterans of the Female Anti-Slavery Society activism.

Douglass' friendship with Stanton and Anthony came under tremendous strain due to the deep schisms that surfaced after the 15th Amendment in 1870 which granted citizenship and suffrage to African-American men. Stanton argued for inclusion of women's right to vote. With a sociological underpinning Douglass admitted that the white women though disenfranchised were politically more aware because the males in their families could participate in the political process which was denied to the African-American men. He, along with Lucy Stone (1818-93), Antionette Brown Blackwell (1825-1921) and Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910) argued that this was "the Negro's hour" and that woman suffrage could wait. In response, Stanton and Anthony split the American Equal Rights Association (AERA) which was established in 1866 to fight for equality for all African-Americans and women and founded the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) in 1869 restricting membership to women exclusively. They feared indefinite postponement of women's suffrage if the African-American men secured the right to vote. Hence, they refused to work for the ratification of the 15th Amendment



and began to advocate for a 16th Amendment that would grant universal suffrage. Douglass actively participated in promoting women's right to vote and announced his commitment to the cause by including 'Right is of no sex' in the motto of his newspaper, the North Star.

Douglass pioneered the argument that participation in the political process was important irrespective of race and sex as it was essential for responsible citizenship. Feminism, a product of Eighteenth-century Enlightenment liberalism in Western Europe emerged to highlight the male centred nature of political discourse as women were denied their rightful place as free and equal persons. However, in course of its evolution, the contradictions between genders, between gender and class, and between gender and race emerged by the last quarter of the nineteenth century. One person one vote was achieved after years of protracted and arduous struggle by women and also because of women's efforts to the war efforts in the First World War. In the US women secured the right to vote in 1920 by the 19th Amendment. The British women had secured theirs in 1919. What Douglass had realized since the mid-nineteenth century became the guiding force of liberal democracies throughout the world since the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Yours, etc., Dr Sushila Ramaswamy, New Delhi, 27 September.

## UNREALISTIC PLANNING

**SIR,** This refers to the news report, "State issues guidelines for Puja amid pandemic" published in your paper today.

The set of guidelines issued by the state government to Durga Puja committees for the upcoming festival amid the Covid-19 pandemic seems to be nothing more than mere advice. It states that Anjali, Prasad Bitaran and Sindoor Khela should be organised in a planned and staggered manner with smaller groups. There are about 28,000 community pujas in West Bengal, while Kolkata alone has almost 3,000 Durga Pujas. Who will monitor whether these norms are being adhered to in these mandaps? Then, it states that inaugurations and immersions should be low-key and minimalist without much pomp and grandeur. While everyone has a fair idea of the scale of these events that take place every year, it will obviously be a mammoth task for the administration to make things materialise the way it wants.

Ideally, the number of pujas should have been curtailed substantially. Stricter guidelines should have been put in place so as to enable officials to monitor the pujas efficiently and effectively. We surely do not want a catastrophe here, knowing very well the unprecedented situation that exists today.

Yours, etc. Anupam Neogi, Kolkata, 29 September.

# Role of mining in India's environmental future

TARINI MEHTA AND ABHIROOP CHOWDHURY

**T**he Covid pandemic has slowed down economies across the world. Several industrial sectors have suffered owing to the lockdown. Industries and commercial establishments across India have been shut down, apart from essential commodities. Mining operations, however, are getting a boost through reforms that have been put in place to "open a new era in Indian coal and mining sectors specially to promote Ease of Doing Business" (Ministry of Coal Press Release, 12 March).

The recently passed Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020 allows companies that do not possess any prior coal mining experience to engage in mining projects, as well as those that are not engaged in specified end-use. This expands the mining industry exponentially, permitting mining for several purposes including sale, own-consumption or any other purpose that may be specified by the Central Government.

In line with the objective of promoting industrial development at all costs, the Draft EIA Notification also aims to dilute norms related to Environmental Impact Assessments and Environmental Clearances. Coal and non-coal mineral prospecting is one of the many types of activities that have been exempted from requiring a prior environmental clearance.

A couple of months later, on June 18, the Central Government initiated the auction of 41 coal blocks, in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. Thousands will be displaced owing to these mining projects. The mining will also cause serious environmental degradation.

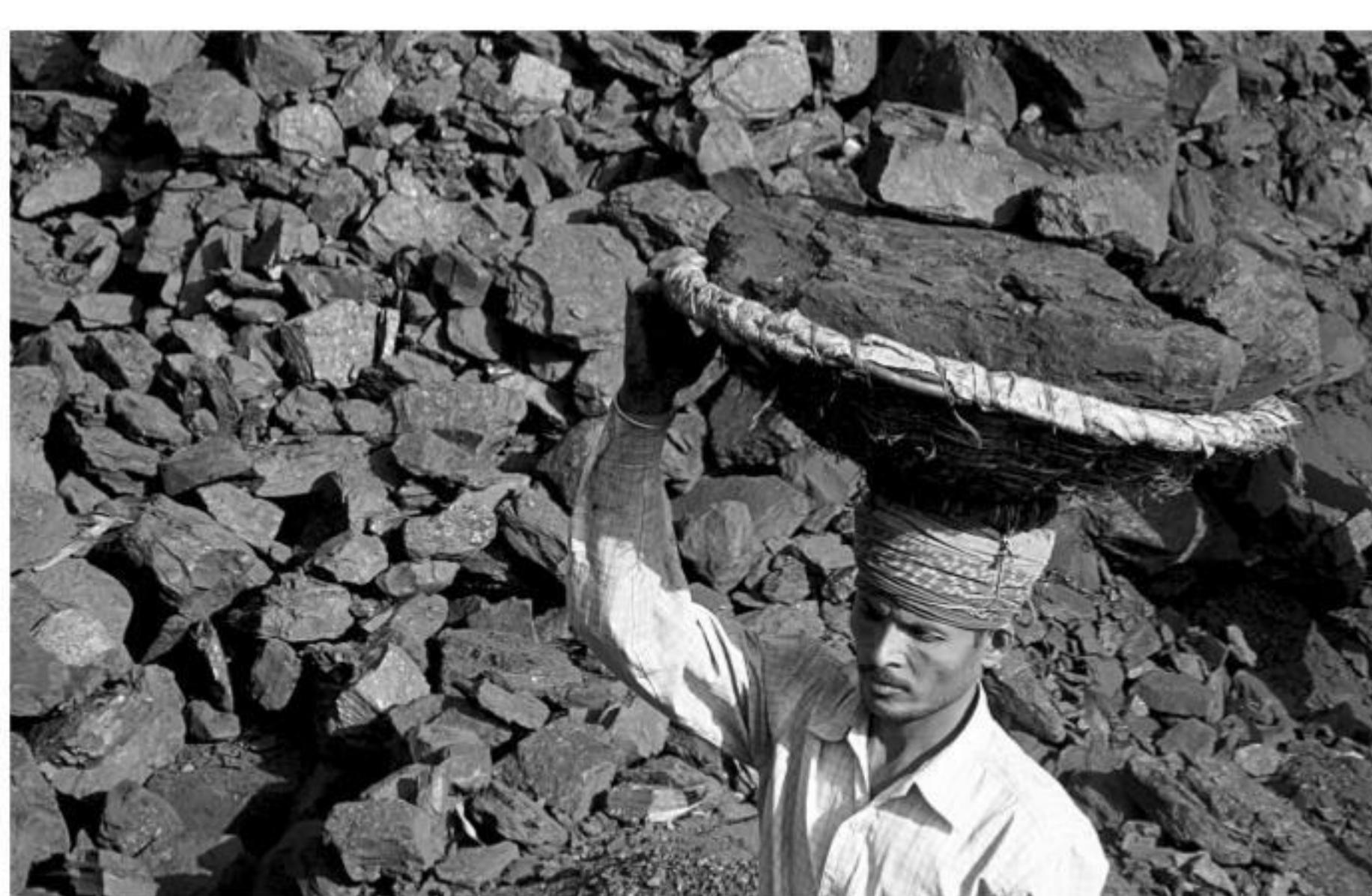
Mining contributes heavily to pollution. This has been proved by a number of scientific studies. Sukinda valley in the state of Odisha has 97 per cent of India's Chromium reserves. It is also one of the top ten most polluted regions of the world. Water, soil and even plants in the area are laced with carcinogenic hexavalent chromium. Orissa Voluntary Health Association

(OVHA) revealed that Chromium extraction is responsible for 84 per cent of deaths in the mining areas of Sukinda and 86 per cent of deaths in the nearby industrial villages.

In the Jharia coal fields of Jharkhand, responsible for supplying the nation with the finest coking coal, mine fires are burning unchecked, poisoning the environment and devastating the lives of more than five lakh people. Independent studies have revealed that the PM10 level, a highly dangerous respirable particulate matter, in Jharia is above 290 micrograms per cubic meter, which is almost three times the permissible concentration. The state of Jharkhand is a perfect example of 'resource curse.' Thirty-nine per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, even though the state has about 32 per cent of the nation's coal reserve, 25.07 per cent of iron ore, 18.48 per cent copper ore, and is the only producer of coking coal.

In view of the adverse environmental and social impacts of mining, the Supreme Court of India has pointed out the importance of Environmental Impact Assessments (Goa Foundation Case, April 2014). It noted that there are adverse consequences when "the macro effect of such wide-scale land and environmental degradation caused by the absence of remedial measures (including a rehabilitation plan)" is not taken into account (Karnataka mining case, Supreme Court of India, April 2013). To regulate the environmental consequences of this sector, the Apex Court has also stated that mining operations must be conducted within the parameters of the requirements of Article 21 of the Constitution, i.e. the right to a clean environment and pollution-free air, the precautionary principle and the principles of sustainable development and intergenerational equity.

Global standards of good practice have also been evolved to ensure that mining be conducted in a sustainable manner with environmental and human rights standards embedded in the regulatory fabric of this sector. India is a member of the Inter-



governmental Forum on Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (IGF), a global policy forum on mining and sustainable development. The IGF has produced a Guidance Document for Governments on Environmental and Social Impact Assessments related to the mining sector.

The Guidance Document stresses the importance of effective environmental and social impact assessment and management plans to "minimize the negative impacts [of the mining industry] and to optimize the positive contributions of the mining sector."

It goes on that, "the legal framework should provide a clear roadmap for the environmental and social impact assessment and management process" so that the government may be able to meet "all aspects of its sustainable development objectives." The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights also require the adoption of effective legal and

policy frameworks to prevent and redress human rights abuses occurring as a result of business operations.

Furthermore, India's commitments under international environmental agreements, such as the Stockholm and Rio Declarations, Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFCCC, also require it to adopt a sustainable development framework, which requires that environmental, social and economic interests be balanced. Effective EIAs and Environmental Management Plans are a key aspect of this.

Protecting the environment makes economic sense. Degradation of natural resources puts a heavy burden on the economy. The World Bank reveals that the total annual cost of environmental degradation in India is at about Rs. 3.75 trillion (US\$80 billion), amounting to 5.7 per cent of the GDP in 2009, the reference year for most of the damage estimates (World Bank,

2013). This is based on the cumulative cost of air and water pollution, as well as crop land, pasture land and forest degradation. A recent report by Greenpeace (February, 2020) corroborates this, pointing out that the annual cost of air pollution alone in India is US\$ 150 billion. The report adds that India bears the third highest cost of fossil fuel air pollution worldwide, after China and the United States.

The Covid pandemic, together with the growing challenges of climate change, increasing pollution and biodiversity loss, have led to a realisation that we need to work towards a 'new normal' that embraces a more sustainable pathway and a low carbon, green economy. Which direction is India taking?

The writers are, respectively, Assistant Professors of Environmental Law and Environmental Science at the Jindal School of Environment and Sustainability, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat.

100 YEARS AGO

## Occasional Note

Reuter's message in reference to the apprehended postponement of the Prince of Wales' visit to India indicates that the matter is not yet decided, and that only a brief postponement is contemplated. It appears that advices from Australia have indicated that the severe strain of his protracted tour has told upon the Prince's health and rendered it necessary to consider whether it will be desirable to postpone for a short period His Royal Highness's projected visit to this country. This announcement leaves room for hope that a postponement may be found unnecessary. It goes without saying that the health of the Prince must be the first consideration, and the fact that it has suffered is a matter of universal regret. A rest may go far towards removing the effects of the strain which he has undergone, and it can only be hoped most earnestly that His Royal Highness will be restored to his full vigour in time to allow the present arrangements for the coming eagerly expected visit to India to be fulfilled. Whether, in the event of a postponement, it is still hoped that the visit may take place during the coming cold weather season will no doubt be made clear as soon as possible.

## News Items

### The Floods

The latest news concerning abnormal floods in Cuttack appears to show that the situation, serious as it is, is not so bad as some at first feared, and that the Government is taking prompt measures for the relief of those affected. The rapid rising of the Baitarni and Brahmani rivers has chiefly injured the Jenapur area. Floods from the river Mahanadi have done most damage in Sambalpur and other villages in Sambalpur. Communication by rail with Jarsaguda has been stopped, and it has been impossible to get into touch with large areas cut off by the floods. Sixteen boats have been sent by rail from Calcutta and the Port Commissioners have despatched four more from Cuttack for the purpose of quickly getting into touch with the people in the flooded districts.

### Shipbuilding at Chittagong

The Engineer and Ship Surveyor, Chittagong, Engineer Lieut. Commander W.A. Williams recently gave a lecture on wooden shipbuilding to an audience of ship owners, merchants and master workmen. Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal Roy presided, the lecture being given in his yard beside a wooden ship now being built by him. The lecturer shewed a model which he has built at the orders and cost of the Local Government to encourage local shipbuilding and showed how absolutely important each detail is. He gave the various tonnage but spoke in terms of bags of rice as being more suitable for a merchant audience. The lecturer claimed that if a vessel was built to his model it would cost not much more than half as much as the present type, it would be built in half the time.

### No Extreme Measures

A lengthy appeal against non-cooperation addressed to their countrymen has been issued under the signatures of Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, Hon. Goculdas K. Parekh, K. Natarajan, H.P. Mody and others. The signatories, convinced that the present situation in India is one which demands sagacious insight into India's future and a broad outlook rising above the irritating and narrow expediences of the present, address this appeal pointing out the danger of the principle and practice of non-cooperation which Mr. Gandhi has made it his mission to preach as a solvent of India's political wrongs. It is their firm conviction that non-cooperation will not be that solvent. They say the danger is that while non-cooperation is sure to prove a failure, some persons influenced by the great personality of Gandhi for a time, and for a time only, may be carried away by the doctrine.

### Variety Entertainments at Simla

A most successful series of variety entertainments was held in the Grand Hotel under the distinguished patronage of Their Excellencies the Commander-in-Chief and Lady Monro in aid of the Soldiers' Entertainment Committee. The entertainments were held in the dining room of the hotel, lent by Mr. F. Peliti, who also afforded every assistance. Lady Monro was present at the entertainment and the room was filled to overflowing. The attendance at the other two performances also was most gratifying to the organisers, and as a result of these entertainments a sum of over Rs 1,000 will be handed over to the Committee for the entertainment of soldiers. The programmes presented varied somewhat on each occasion, but the general standard of excellence was maintained throughout.

# A powerful India needs a fit India

RAJA MURTHY



A strong India needs strong individual citizens. Peace and prosperity in the country requires mind-body fitness at all levels, to increase productivity and reduce corruption. The country's progress to being a benevolent world power needs great focus on fitness.

So I was happy to be among hopefully millions who joined the 'Fit India Movement' online meeting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted on 25 September.

Mr Modi last Thursday interacted with fitness experts and athletes including India's cricket captain Virat Kohli who revolutionized fitness levels of the national cricket team.

Kohli serves as prime example of better fitness improving life. From a flabby youngster with bad eating habits, Kohli became a fitness icon with ascetic-like dietary discipline.

Kohli's fitness levels helped him currently be the world's most successful batsman. With strong-willed discipline, he avoids temptations – so many for a young multi-millionaire living in the glamorous world of high stakes, high tension sport.

Everyone needs physical and mental fitness. But most of us forget it. We dangerously neglect exercise and sensible diet. Then we pay high price as the body succumbs. Life and career are ruined.

The mind-body needs strength to guard against inner enemies, just as the country needs a strong army to guard against external enemies.

Even as you read this, India owes

an infinite debt of gratitude to our brave soldiers struggling every minute 24/7 with extreme discomfort in harsh conditions as they defend the country's frontiers.

Supreme mind-body fitness empowers the Indian Army's hardy warriors of the Northern Command 14 Corps, the 'Fire and Fury' Corps, in eastern Ladakh. These young people face minus-30 degrees Celsius temperatures. They face frostbite and high-altitude pulmonary oedema – the fatal conditions in altitudes almost as high as the cruising altitude of a commercial jet airliner.

I have experienced the Himalayan winter where the body uncontrollably shivers in bone-chilling cold and so I have some idea of the incredible courage and fitness of our armed forces on duty in snowy mountains. Many go on daily patrols amid six or seven feet of snowfall, as an Indo-Tibetan Border Police officer

told me near Badrinath in upper Uttarakhand. No excuse for civilians to lazily ignore physical fitness when thousands of young people in uniform are ready to sacrifice their lives so we can stay safe at home.

The 'Fit India Dialogue' last Thursday should propel the year-old 'Fit India Movement' to be the most significant initiative in the country, alongside the 'Swachh Bharat' or Clean India mission.

Alongside Kohli, other participants in the one-hour online conference included Jammu and Kashmir's woman footballer Afshan Ashiq, actor and marathon runner Milind Soman, Paralympian gold medalist Devendra Jhajharia, nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar, Indian Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology alumni Swami Shivadhyana Saraswati.

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal's

Mukul Kanitkar participated in the 'Fit India' event that should launch a fitness revolution in the country.

The Fit India Movement must reach every student in India. Every parent has the responsibility of inculcating fitness habits in children.

Daily exercise and healthy eating need to be given as much importance as education and career training.

The best education and high-paid job become meaningless if the body succumbs to poor health and mental tensions. Demands are more with increasing competition and challenges in an interconnected world.

The Fit India meeting participants shared simple fitness tips. Virat Kohli mentioned the need for a time gap between eating for the body "to process a meal". Too many snacks between meals can cause health problems. Overeating is a primary cause of disease and premature ageing, with undigested food clogging the bodyworks.

Milind Soman mentioned how fitness is for all ages. His mother, more than 80 years old, exercises daily. Fitness needs no elaborate facilities or equipment. Just 30 minutes daily in simple exercises to reduce risk of disease.

Push-ups, sit-ups can be done anywhere. Use a chair for simple weight lifting. A classmate Ravindra Narayan in Don Bosco, Egmore, used a school bag filled with books to exercise and develop broad, muscular shoulders.

A daily walk (compulsorily wear a mask during these pandemic days for your and others' safety), doing simple

exercises when watching TV, healthy food and not overeating – these can ensure lifelong health.

Fitness is the best health insurance policy. India cannot afford hospital beds and quality medical facilities for a 1.2 billion population that will have longer lifespans. No point increasing risk of ending up in a hospital. Hospital bills have swallowed life savings and ruined families.

"The reason you are healthy is you have turmeric daily," retired general manager of The Statesman Ralph Pais told me a decade ago. Turmeric and ginger are immunity-boosting treasures. Coriander, pudina (mint) - India produces 80 per cent of the world's supply - cumin and pepper are part of India's cooking arsenal for good health since ancient times.

India's ancient mind purifying exercise Vipassana ([www.dhamma.org](http://www.dhamma.org)) taught free of cost through residential 10-day courses keeps the mind healthy at root level of the mind. We need a strong mind to face life's ups and downs with equanimity, to take wise decisions.

As by-product, a purer mind heals psychosomatic ailments. Meditators gain strength to bravely face diseases such as terminal stage cancer until the last moment.

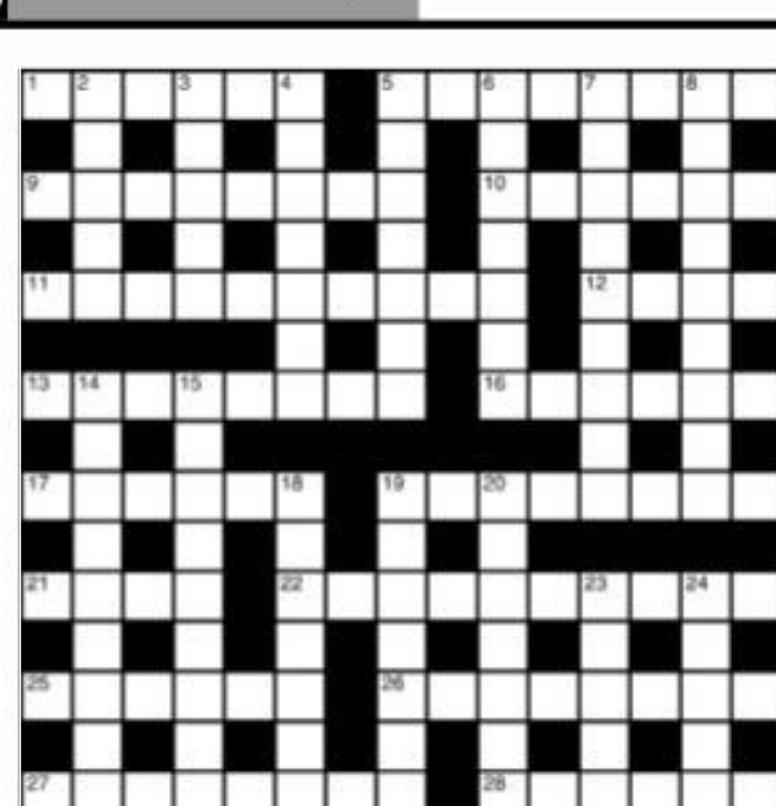
In the interconnected mind-matter phenomenon called "I", a healthy body helps keep the mind strong and a strong mind helps physical health.

For India to become a significant power in the world as destined to be, Fit India and Clean India Movement must be taken to every family, household, organization and individual.

The writer is a senior, Mumbai-based journalist.

NO 28039

## Crossword



### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

#### ACROSS

- 1 Bewilder Truss about folios (6)
- 5 Perhaps Trump briefly drinks and exercises (5-3)
- 9 Lackey Follows party in government (8)
- 10 Dreams of ladies' pants (6)
- 11 Supporter of optimistic coin tosser? (4-6)
- 12 Dirty Den's rapid descent (4)
- 13 Wife struck Frenchman over fake cream in coffee (8)
- 16 A place where people gather in line (6)
- 17 Pre-recorded John Kelly? (6)
- 19 Upset, as return of Milliband extremely overdue (8)
- 21 Worst year to catch infection (4)
- 22 Unfortunately, some gaffes are

#### DOWN

- 2 Article on literary work that attracts negative types (5)
- 3 Gathering for sickly Oscar's leaving (5)
- 4 Reflection of sound around large island results in slurring of words (7)
- 5 Gasp at that woman being a cougar? (7)
- 6 Flag up region giving away American land (7)
- 7 Spooner's magical method to remove unwanted plants such as this? (9)
- 8 Surprising plot to accommodate high value sporting event (4,5)
- 14 Understand growth in suffering (9)
- 15 Moroccan entering a ground (9)
- 18 Hybrid rose rapidly suppresses insectivorous plant (7)
- 19 Rebellious pervert receives fine for verse (7)
- 20 The discontented dons curse warm clothing (7)
- 23 Spread goodness, except Thursday (5)
- 24 Good weather for cereal crops (5)

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

## THUMBNAILS

**Bids for coal blocks:** The Centre on Tuesday said it has received 82 bids from 46 companies for 23 coal blocks that were auctioned for commercial mining. In a statement, the coal ministry said two or more bids have been received for 20 coal mines. "A total number of 82 bids from 46 companies have been received offline/ physically in the office of the nominated authority for 23 coal mines/ blocks. Two or more bids have been received for 20 coal mines/ blocks," the ministry said. The deadline for submission of bids was Tuesday till 2 pm, the ministry said. PTI

**Keventer facility:** Keventer Agro has announced the launch of its ninth bulk milk collection centre in West Bengal. The company, which operates two dairy brands - Metro Dairy and Keventer Milk - has achieved own milk procurement capacity of 150,000 litres per day (lpd) with the addition of the new bulk milk collection centre in Kharagpur, according to a statement. SNS

**I2Pure launches 'I2Cure':** In the wake of global pandemic due to coronavirus, I2Pure, a biotechnology company that has harnessed the biocidal properties of molecular iodine launched 'I2Cure' in India on Tuesday. It is a bio-shield antiseptic lotion and an easy, single-use broad-spectrum antimicrobial that provides the protection of iodine against Covid. Unlike the alcohol-based sanitizers, I2Cure provides 12-hour protection against viral, bacterial and fungal threats, according to a Press release statement. SNS

**VingaJoy launches new wireless speaker:** VingaJoy launched a new wireless speaker priced at Rs 1,599 in India. It is a lightweight metal wireless speaker which can be connected to Bluetooth devices within 11 meters of range. With 400 mAh battery, the speaker can easily be paired with iPhone, android devices, and laptops, says a Press release statement. SNS

# Cairn Energy seeks \$1.4 billion in losses from retro tax demand

It expects an international arbitral tribunal to shortly give a decree on its challenge to Indian govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

**B**ritish oil explorer Cairn Energy Plc today said it is seeking from the Indian government \$1.4 billion (about Rs 10,300 crore) in losses arising from the expropriation of its investments to enforce a retrospective tax demand.

In its half-yearly earnings statement, the company said it expects an international arbitral tribunal to shortly give a decree on its challenge to the Indian government seeking Rs 10,247 crore in retrospective taxes.

The main evidentiary hearing of Cairn's claim under the (UK-India bilateral investment) treaty took place in August 2018 in The Hague with a final hearing in December 2018. All formal hearings and submissions have now been made and the tribunal is in the process of drafting its award," the firm said.

The tribunal, it said, has indicated that "it expects to be in a position to issue the award after the end of the summer

## TAX LITIGATION



► Cairn said it is seeking "full restitution for losses of more than \$1.4 billion resulting from the expropriation of its investments in India in 2014; continued attempts to enforce retrospective tax measures; and the failure to treat the company and its investments fairly and equitably."

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of 2020, with no significant delay expected as a result of Covid-19."

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pany and its investments fairly and equitably."

This is the second most high-profile retrospective tax litigation. Last week, an international arbitration tribunal ruled that India's efforts to claim Rs 22,100 crore in past taxes from Vodafone Group were in breach of fair treatment under the bilateral investment protection pact between the south Asian nation and the Netherlands.

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Cairn, which gave the country its biggest oil discovery, received a notice from the income tax department in January 2014, raising a preliminary assessment of Rs 10,247 crore tax liability relating to the group reorganisation done in 2006.

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# Stimulus inadequate to tackle problem, says Abhijit Banerjee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER



ulus was limited. It was a bank bailout. I think we could have done more," he said.

The stimulus measures did not increase consumption spending of lower income people as the government was not willing to put money in the hands of the low-income population," he noted.

Talking about inflation, Banerjee said India's growth strategy was closed economy with the government creating lots of demand, which resulted in high growth and inflation.

"India had 20 years of high inflation and high growth. The country benefited a lot from stable high inflation in the last 20 years," he opined. The eminent economist noted that India needs to be globally more competitive.

# Amazon infuses ₹1,125 cr fresh capital into India unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

US-based e-commerce giant Amazon has infused fresh capital to the tune of Rs 1,125 crore into one of its India units, Amazon Seller Services, according to regulatory documents.

The fresh infusion will provide more ammunition to Amazon to compete aggressively against Walmart-owned Flipkart and billionaire Mukesh Ambani-run Reliance Industries' JioMart in the upcoming festive season.

Amazon Corporate Holdings Private Limited, Singapore and Amazon.com Inc Limited, Mauritius have pumped in Rs 1,125 crore into Amazon Seller Services, regulatory documents sourced by business intelligence plat-

form Tofler showed.

Amazon Seller Services allotted equity shares to these entities for the said transaction on 17 September 2020. Amazon did not respond to queries.

In June this year, Amazon had pumped in fresh capital to the tune of Rs 2,110 crore into Amazon Seller Services. In January this year, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos had announced \$1 billion (over Rs 7,000 crore) investment in India to help bring small and medium businesses online. Previously, the online retail giant had committed \$5.5 billion investments in India, one of Amazon's most important markets outside of the US and a key growth driver.

Amazon rival Flipkart had announced raising \$1.2 billion funding led by parent Wal-

mart in July - which valued the e-commerce company at \$24.9 billion.

Interestingly, Reliance Industries, which had announced the acquisition of Future's retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing units for Rs 24,713 crore last month, is also bolstering its operations ahead of the festive season.

Earlier this month, RIL's retail arm - Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd - had said US private equity firm Silver Lake Partners will buy 1.75 per cent stake for Rs 7,500 crore.

Reliance Retail's network includes supermarkets, consumer electronics chain stores, cash and carry wholesale business, fast-fashion outlets, and online grocery store JioMart - spanning almost 12,000 stores in nearly 7,000 towns.

# Union seeks RBI's intervention in Dhanlaxmi Bank affairs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

Bank officers' union AIBOC today said a few developments in Dhanlaxmi Bank warrant immediate corrective measures by the RBI and requested the regulator to take appropriate steps to save the bank. In a letter written to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) said it is a well-known fact in the banking industry that misplaced priorities and supervisory laxities had wreaked havoc on Dhanlaxmi Bank a decade ago.

The letter comes days after shareholders ousted seven directors of debt-ridden Lakshmi Vilas Bank. The bank was put under prompt corrective

action (PCA) framework by the RBI in September 2019.

Dhanlaxmi Bank, a 92-year-old private sector lender, has been playing a stellar role in the economic development, especially in the southern part of the country and has created a legacy in niche banking since the pre-independence era, it said.

"In the above backdrop, we wish to draw your kind attention to the following few areas, which need your immediate intervention for redressal of the issues in the best interest of the bank, millions of customers, the employees and other stakeholders," it said.

Dhanlaxmi Bank was put under PCA framework in November 2015 due to deteriorating financial health and only last year the restrictions

on the lender were eased. Since then it has posted profit quarter after quarter.

Pointing out some of the issues, it said Dhanlaxmi Bank was forced to go through a new generation experiment from the third quarter of 2008-09 till the fourth quarter of 2010-11 resulting in the increase in operation cost and indiscriminate lending. "When things look like turning around, unfortunately we hear that there seems to be a visible shift in the policies bringing back the dreadful memories of the 'experimental years'.

There is again a renewed focus on the "high-end variants" of CASA accounts where the minimum balance requirements are huge and the employees are told that opening of normal accounts would

not qualify for internal business promotion campaigns," it said. AIBOC alleged that the targets allocated to the members of sales team are made exclusive of the branch targets, thereby triggering an unwanted race among the employees.

Last week, another bank union AIBEA urged the RBI Governor to intervene into the affairs of Dhanlaxmi Bank which it alleged is "heading into the wrong direction".

Meanwhile, Dhanlaxmi Bank today said the Reserve Bank of India has appointed its general manager D K Kashyap on the board of the bank for two years. However, the bank did not disclose the reason for appointment of the RBI's nominee of its board.

# Automobile sales may fall 20-25% in FY21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 29 SEPTEMBER

Rating agency Ind-Ra expects automobile sales to decline by 20-25 per cent this fiscal against its earlier forecast of 22-25 per cent on account of increasing preference for personal mobility and an expected demand rebound from rural and semi-urban markets.

At the same time, the rating agency has maintained a negative outlook for the auto sector for the second half of the fiscal, owing to continued weak consumer sentiments and macroeconomic headwinds amid the disruptions caused by the pandemic, Ind-Ra said in a release.

The latest forecast is marginally better than the earlier forecast of 22-25 per cent year-on-year decline in sales volume in FY2021, released in June this year, Ind-Ra said.

According to the ratings agency, lower affordability due to job losses/ loss of

## IND-RA FORECASTS

► Both passenger vehicles (PVs) and two-wheelers (TWs) sales could fall 18-21 per cent year-on-year in this fiscal

► The decline in the commercial vehicles (CVs) sales would be 30-35 per cent year-on-year in

any demand revival, therefore, is unlikely before the fourth quarter of 2021-22.

Light commercial vehicles are likely to benefit from increased e-commerce, and last-mile transportation particularly for essential commodities, it said in the release.

Ind-Ra also said it expects limited rating movements in the sector in H2FY21 and therefore has maintained a stable rating outlook. The ratings agency said it

expects revenues to decline 16-20 per cent year-on-year during the year with EBITDA margin contracting 100-150 basis points on lower operating leverage, leading to moderated credit metrics in FY21.

However, lower leverage and robust liquidity are likely to continue to provide strong financial flexibility, it said, adding original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) with greater presence in agriculture-based markets are likely to benefit.

The supply-side risks continue to persist, despite unlocking, given the swift spread of Covid-19 in tier-I/tier-II cities where several plants of OEMs and auto ancillaries are located, as per the release. Further, as capacity utilisation picks up, the issues related to lack of trained manpower, due to reverse migration, could emanate, it added.

# Code of conduct for mutual fund managers

NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

Markets regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India today decided to introduce a code of conduct for mutual fund managers, including chief investment officer of asset management companies (AMCs). In addition, AMCs have been allowed to become self-clearing member, the Sebi said in a statement after its board meeting.

The board after deliberation, approved the amendment of MF regulations to introduce a code of conduct for fund managers, including chief investment officers and dealers of AMC. The chief executive officer (CEO) will be responsible to ensure that the code of conduct is followed by all such officers.

Meanwhile, in order to address the gaps in availability of information, Sebi's board today decided that listed entities will have to make disclosures about initiation of forensic audit.

To boost repo trading in corporate bonds, the board also approved the proposal to facilitate setting up of a limited purpose repo clearing corporation.

The listed entities will make disclosures about the fact of initiation of forensic audit along-with name of entity initiating such audit and reasons for the same if available to stock exchanges, the Sebi said in a statement after the board meeting.

Further, the companies will be required to disclose about final forensic audit report, other than for forensic audit initiated by regulatory or enforcement agencies, on receipt by the listed entity, along with comments of the management, if any.

The disclosure need to be made without any application of materiality, the Sebi said.

# BPCL's Mozambique block purchase under scanner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 29 SEPTEMBER

bought a 10 per cent stake in Area-1 Offshore of the Rovuma Block from the US energy major Anadarko Petroleum Corp for \$75 million. That same month Videocon through its subsidiary acquired a 10 per cent stake in the same block for an equivalent sum.

Sources said Anadarko had originally offered a 20 per cent stake in Area-1 to BPCL but the state-owned firm bought only half of it and the rest was picked up by Videocon.

Videocon in 2013 sold the same stake to ONGC Videsh Ltd for \$2,475 billion.

Sources said the government is looking into reasons why BPCL did not buy the entire 20 per cent stake offered

The BJP-led NDA government since first coming to power in 2014 has been critical of the nearly \$6 billion spent by the Indian public sector firms to take 30 per cent stake in the Rovuma Offshore Area-1 in Mozambique during the Congress-led UPA regime, as falling oil and gas prices did not justify such huge investments.

to it by Anadarko. Also, why did it not get other state-owned firms like ONGC Videsh Ltd involved if wanted the exploration risk to be shared by splitting the 20 per cent stake.

Around the same time, BPCL also chose the consumer durable company as a partner to buy Canadian firm EnCana's Brazilian oil block

Videocon group chairman Venugopal Dhoot for alleged corruption in the financing of the Mozambique asset.

The agency registered the FIR after a preliminary inquiry on a complaint from the oil ministry.

The BJP-led NDA government since first coming to power in 2014 has been critical of the nearly \$6 billion spent by the Indian public sector firms to take 30 per cent stake in the Rovuma Offshore Area-1 in Mozambique during the Congress-led UPA regime, as falling oil and gas prices



Lanka govt will introduce multiple amendments to the proposed 20th Amendment to the Constitution that aims to bolster the powers of the president

SRI LANKAN ATTORNEY GENERAL DAPPULA DE LIVERA  
IN AN INTERVIEW

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

09

# 'Pak-Af should shun suspicion to build new relationship'

Afghan peace official highlighted the role played by Pak in facilitating the Afghan peace process

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, 29 SEPTEMBER

**P**akistan and Afghanistan should shun the suspicion and go beyond the usual "stale rhetoric" and "shadowy conspiracy theories" that have held them back, senior Afghan peace official Dr Abdullah Abdullah said on Tuesday.

Abdullah, who arrived in Pakistan on Monday on a three-day visit, also said that the time has come to put the past behind and build a new relationship.

"I am a firm believer that after many troubling years, we now need to go beyond the usual stale rhetoric and shadowy conspiracy theories that have held us back, Abdullah, who heads the High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan, said at an event organised by the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Abdullah highlighted the role played by Pakistan in facilitating the Afghan peace



Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan Abdullah Abdullah (C) and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi (2L) attend an event at the Institute of Strategic Studies, in Islamabad on Tuesday. ■ AFP

process and said that terror groups were still acting as "spoilers".

"We cannot afford to pursue business as usual. We need fresh approaches and our people demand it. It is more urgent than ever to look to our region as one region," he said.

He also said that Afghanistan would not allow any other entity to pose a threat to any other nation.

Pakistan has come under international criticism for its support for some militant

groups and opposition to others. While Pakistan's military and politicians say that policy has been relegated to the past, Islamabad's neighbours remain suspicious.

Afghanistan and the US have in the past blamed Pakistan for providing safe havens to elements of the terror network, a charge Islamabad denies. In its 26th report, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning ISIS, al-Qaeda and associated individuals and

entities earlier this year said that an estimated 6,000-6,500 Pakistani terrorists are in Afghanistan, most of them with the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, posing a threat to both the countries.

Talking about the peace process, Abdullah said that it was an important opportunity to bring peace and rebuild the war-torn Afghanistan and his team of negotiators would be patient in talks with the Taliban. Abdullah talked about common threats and challenges, including terrorism, extremism, intolerance and COVID-19 and urged to tap untapped potential for cooperation between his country and Pakistan. He also thanked Pakistan for hosting millions of Afghan refugees.

Addressing the gathering, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi assured Afghanistan that his country had no "favourites" in the peace process as Islamabad followed the policy of "friends not masters".

"I want to give a clear message: We have no favourites

[and] do not want to meddle in your internal affairs. We respect and want to respect your sovereignty, your independence and your territorial integrity," he said.

The foreign minister said that peace and security in Pakistan was linked with the stability in Afghanistan.

He said that the Afghan leaders should create a consensus through talks about the future of their country and "whatever consensus evolves through your dialogue and negotiations, we will accept it."

"There will always be spoilers but the overwhelming majority feels that this is the right way forward and that is a positive development, he said. He also warned of looming hurdles on the way to peace but said that it was the only way and would open avenues for trade and investment between the two countries. It was Abdullah's first visit in 12 years. He will meet the president, prime minister and the army chief during his three-day stay in Pakistan.

## GROUNDED



Employees walk in front of parked underground trains in a underground depot station near Munich, Germany, during a transport strike of Verdi Union on Tuesday. ■ AFP

## Turbulence: Dark days ahead for Lebanon as crisis bites

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIRUT, 29 SEPTEMBER

Carlos Ghosn launches initiative to help Lebanon



Former Nissan Motor Co. Chairman Carlos Ghosn in Jounieh on Tuesday. ■ AFP

BEIRUT, 29 SEPTEMBER

The past year has been nothing short of an earthquake for Lebanon, hit by an economic meltdown, mass protests, financial collapse, a virus outbreak and a catastrophic explosion that virtually wiped out the country's main port.

Yet Lebanese fear even darker days are ahead.

The country's foreign reserves are drying up, the local currency is expected to spiral further out of control, and incidents of armed clashes between rival groups are escalating. Bickering politicians have been unable to form a government, putting an international bailout out of reach.

Last week, a French initiative to form a rescue government of specialists fell apart when the political factions split along familiar fault lines, deepened by the US-Iran rivalry.

The country risks slipping into chaos.

Absent a major change in either side's political calculations, the coming weeks will see continued stalemate, a caretaker government that lacks the capability to implement any serious reforms, and an acceleration of the economic collapse, said Mike Azar, a former Johns Hopkins SAIS professor of finance.

French President Emmanuel Macron's plan was widely seen as a last opportunity to chart a way out of Lebanon's gravest crisis since the 1975-90 civil war. It included a six-month timeline for a small government made up of non-partisan experts to deliver reforms. Mistrustful of Lebanon's famously corrupt leaders, the West has made billions of dollars in aid contingent on those reforms.

Lebanon's politicians initially committed to the plan

and named a new prime minister-designate, Moustapha Adib, who promised to deliver a Cabinet within two weeks. To avert the usual horse-trading among factions over ministries, Adib tried to pick his own names to form the government.

But the two main Shiite parties, Hezbollah and Amal, accused him of acting on behalf of their local political rivals. They insisted on naming Shiite members of the Cabinet and on keeping the Finance Ministry for their sect. Adib refused and stepped down on Saturday.

For all the pressure on the factions to put aside their usual self-serving interest and jockeying, another force is in part making them dig in: escalating US-Iran tensions.

The Trump administration has stepped up its maximum pressure campaign on Iran and its proxy militias, including Hezbollah, ahead of the November 3 US elections.

It slapped sanctions on two senior pro-Hezbollah politicians, including the former finance minister, in the middle of efforts to form the Cabinet. That fuelled suspicions Washington was seeking to isolate Hezbollah and diminish its role in any new government.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo openly berated Macron for meeting with Hezbollah officials during his visit to Lebanon and promised a wider array of sanctions targeting the group and its local allies. Hazem al-Amin, an anti-Hezbollah Lebanese journalist and columnist, wrote that the militant group has effectively put the Lebanese public in the middle of an open confrontation with the United States.

## Pompeo voices support for talks between Greece, Turkey

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ATHENS, 29 SEPTEMBER

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed support Tuesday for talks between Greece and Turkey, NATO allies whose relations have deteriorated sharply to the point where both had warships facing off in the Mediterranean.

Speaking from the Souda Bay military base on the island of Crete, on the second day of a five-day regional tour, Pompeo said relations between the United States and Greece are at an all-time high and getting stronger. Today I'm in Crete to showcase one of America's

strongest military relationships throughout all of Europe, Pompeo said. We, the Americans, look to Greece as a true pillar for stability and prosperity in the eastern Mediterranean, and we're incredibly proud to support its leadership. Greece has been look-

ing to the U.S. and the European Union for support in its dispute with neighbouring Turkey, which it accuses of encroaching on its sovereign rights in the eastern Mediterranean.

Last month Turkey sent a research vessel, accompanied by warships, to prospect for energy resources in an area Greece claims is its own continental shelf and where it claims exclusive economic rights. The dispute has led to fears of open conflict. EU leaders are to discuss potentially imposing sanctions on Turkey for its actions later this week. But tension has eased somewhat recently,

We strongly support dialogue between NATO allies Greece and Turkey and encourage them to resume discussion of these issues as soon as possible, Pompeo said after meeting with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

## Kuwaiti ruler Sheikh Sabah has died at 91

DUBAI, 29 SEPTEMBER

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the ruler of Kuwait who drew on his decades as the oil-rich nation's top diplomat to push for closer ties to Iraq after the 1990 Gulf War and solutions to other regional crises, died Tuesday. He was 91.

In a Middle East replete with elderly rulers, Sheikh Sabah stood out for his efforts at pushing for diplomacy to resolve a bitter dispute between Qatar and other Arab nations that continues to this day. AP

A whole generation of children are facing the risk of malnutrition because their families simply can no longer afford to put a meal on the table, said Save the Children's Syria Response Director, Sonia Khush.

The Syrian government has registered more than 4,100 cases of virus in areas under its control while there are scores of cases in the last rebel stronghold in the country's northwest and eastern Syria that is controlled by US-backed Kurdish-led fighters.

Three months. In northeast Syria, an area controlled by the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, almost a quarter of children said they had not eaten those fruits in at least nine months, according to Save the Children.

It said parents have little

choice but to cut out fresh food such as meat, fruit, and vegetables, relying instead on rice or grains for weeks.

The aid group said at least

one in eight children in Syria currently suffer lifelong risks for children, including stunting

or chronic malnutrition.

## Aid group warns that 700,000 kids in Syria risk hunger

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIRUT, 29 SEPTEMBER



An additional 700,000 children in Syria face hunger because of the country's badly damaged economy and the impact of coronavirus restrictions, an international aid group warned on Tuesday.

Save the Children said the new figures mean that in the last six months, the total number of food-insecure children across the country has risen to more than 4.6 million.

After nearly a 10-year conflict that killed some 400,000

sanctions and a severe economic and financial crisis in neighbouring Lebanon.

The local currency crashed in recent months making it more difficult for many Syrians to buy food. The spread of coronavirus in the war-torn country has worsened the situation. Save the Children said an unprecedented number of children in Syria are now battling soaring malnutrition rates.

A recent survey conducted by Save the Children found that 65% of children have not had an apple, an orange, or a banana for at least three months. In northeast Syria, an area controlled by the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, almost a quarter of children said they had not eaten those fruits in at least nine months, according to Save the Children.

It said parents have little

choice but to cut out fresh food such as meat, fruit, and vegetables, relying instead on rice or grains for weeks.

The aid group said at least

one in eight children in Syria currently suffer lifelong risks for children, including stunting

or chronic malnutrition.

and displaced half the country's population, Syria's economy has been badly harmed by the war as well as by widespread corruption, Western

and international aid groups

warned.

AP



I hope to develop Japan-Russia relations holistically. We should not leave the territorial problem to the next generations & put an end to it ourselves

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER YOSHIHIDE SUGA

URGES RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN TO RESOLVE ISLAND DISPUTE

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	16°C	12°C
LONDON	18°C	9°C
DUBAI	34°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	9°C
NEW YORK	23°C	17°C
MOSCOW	15°C	9°C

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

## THUMBNAILS



Activists demanding the legalisation of abortion outside the Argentinian Congress building in Buenos Aires, on Tuesday.

AP

**California fire:** Northern California's wine country was on fire again on Monday as strong winds fanned flames in the already scorched region, destroying homes and prompting orders for nearly 70,000 people to evacuate. Meanwhile, three people died in a separate fire further north in the state. AP

**Lanka bans cattle slaughter:** The Sri Lankan government has approved a proposal to ban cattle slaughter in the island nation. However, it decided to import beef for the benefit of those who consume it. A programme will also be launched for ageing cattle which cannot be used effectively for agricultural purposes. AP

**Blast at scrap junkyard:** A blast at a junkyard of an iron scrap dealer killed five people and wounded another in northwest Pakistan on Tuesday, police said. The incident took place when an employee was trying to dismantle a mortar shell, according to Najmul Hassan, a district police officer. AP

**UAE to launch spacecraft:** The United Arab Emirates plans to send an unmanned spacecraft to the moon in 2024, a top Emirati official said on Tuesday. Already, an Emirati space probe is hurtling through space on its way to Mars while last year it sent its first astronaut to the International Space Station. AP

**No more UK soldiers to be charged over Bloody Sunday:**

LONDON, 29 SEPTEMBER

No more British Army veterans will be charged over the 1972 Bloody Sunday killings of 13 civil rights protesters in Londonderry, prosecutors in Northern Ireland said Tuesday.

Northern Ireland's Public Prosecution Service upheld an earlier decision not to prosecute 15 soldiers investigated over Bloody Sunday, one of the deadliest days in Northern Ireland's decades of violence. Thirteen people died and 15 were injured when British paratroopers opened fire in the city, also known as Derry. One former British soldier was charged last year in the killing of two of the protesters and the injury of four others.

Marianne O'Kane, the service's senior assistant director, said she had reviewed the cases and concluded that the available evidence is insufficient to provide a reasonable prospect of conviction of any of the 15 soldiers who were the subjects of the reviews.

The relatives of some victims said they would launch a legal appeal.

A 12-year inquiry into Bloody Sunday found in 2010 that the British soldiers had opened fire without justification at unarmed, fleeing civilians and then lied about it for decades. AP

# Global Covid-19 death toll passes 1 million

Experts caution that the true figure is probably much higher. UN Secy-General António Guterres called it a mind-numbing figure & an agonising milestone

## AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, 29 SEPTEMBER

The number of people worldwide who have died with Covid-19 has passed one million, researchers say, with many regions still reporting surging numbers of new infections.

The tally by Johns Hopkins University shows that deaths in the US, Brazil and India make up nearly half that total.

Experts caution that the true figure is probably much higher. UN Secretary-General António Guterres called it a "mind-numbing" figure and "an agonising milestone".

"Yet we must never lose sight of each and every individual life," he said in a video message. "They were fathers and mothers, wives and husbands, brothers and sisters, friends and colleagues. The pain has been multiplied by the savagery of this disease."

The development comes nearly 10 months after news of the coronavirus began to emerge from Wuhan, China. The pandemic has since spread to 188 countries with more than 32 million confirmed cases. Lockdowns and other measures to try to stop



A gravedigger rests at the burial grounds for Covid victims at the Pondok Ranggon cemetery in Jakarta on Tuesday. AP

the virus spreading have thrown many economies into recession.

Meanwhile, efforts to develop an effective vaccine are continuing - although the World Health Organization (WHO)

has warned that the death toll could hit two million before one is widely available. The US has the world's highest death toll with about 205,000 fatalities followed by Brazil on 141,700 and India with 95,500 deaths. The US has recorded more than seven million cases

- more than a fifth of the world's total. After a second wave of cases in July, numbers dropped in August but appear to be on the rise again now.

The coronavirus has been spreading fast in India, with the country recording about 90,000 cases a day earlier in September. Confirmed infections in India have reached six million - the second-highest after the US. However, given the size of its population India has seen a relatively low death rate. Brazil has the highest

number of deaths in Latin America and has recorded more than 4.7 million cases, the third highest in the world.

Elsewhere in the region, newly confirmed infections are also rising quickly in Argentina, which now has more than 700,000 cases. Latest tallies show that nearly 1.5 million people in Africa have been confirmed as contracting coronavirus, with around 35,000 deaths. Younger, less dense populations and hot, humid climates are being cited as key

reasons why the continent has been spared a higher number of cases. The WHO has also praised the "decisive" action by African nations. Because of differences in how countries record cases and deaths - and the sporadic rates of testing in some regions - the true numbers of coronavirus cases and deaths is believed to be higher than reported, experts say.

Globally there are about 240 potential vaccines in early development, with 40 in clinical trials and nine in the final stage of testing on thousands of people. Vaccine development normally takes years but because of the global emergency, scientists are working at breakneck speed.

Meanwhile in Russia, scientists say early tests on a vaccine called Sputnik-V show signs of an immune response.

In a report earlier this month, they said that every participant in trials developed antibodies to fight the virus and suffered no serious side effects. Russia licensed the vaccine for local use in August - the first country to do so. Again, there was concern at the speed of the process and some experts said the early trials had been too small to prove effectiveness and safe-

ty. In the US, President Donald Trump has said Americans should be able to access a vaccine as early as October although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says a vaccine is unlikely to be widely available before mid-2021. The WHO has said it does not expect to see widespread vaccinations against Covid-19 until the middle of 2021.

**China ropes in more countries for vaccine trials:** China has roped in more than a dozen countries to conduct the final phase trials of its experimental Covid vaccines, as it looks to stay ahead in the international race to immunise global population as part of its charm offensive to gain goodwill.

Across the world, in many countries, including Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Bahrain, the UAE, Egypt, Pakistan, Turkey, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Russia, thousands of people have been injected with experimental vaccines made by China's three front-running vaccine makers or soon will be, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Tuesday quoting company, government statements and media reports.

## Child poverty likely to increase in EU

BRUSSELS, 29 SEPTEMBER

The European Union's external auditor said Tuesday that child poverty has reached an "unacceptable" level across the world's largest economy, a situation likely to worsen during the pandemic.

According to EU data, almost 23 million people under 18 approximately one in four children are at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the 27-nation bloc.

In a report published Tuesday, the European Court of Auditors said member states should urgently coordinate their efforts in the face of Covid as the euro area unemployment rate is expected to increase from 7.5 per cent in 2019 to about 9.5 per cent this year, with devastating consequences on people's livelihoods.

Child poverty is a serious issue in the EU," said Tony Murphy, the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible for the report, during a video conference Tuesday.

AP

## Trump, Biden to debate at a time of mounting crises



ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND, 29 SEPTEMBER

for the malfeasance he has shown leading the country," said Steve Schmidt, senior campaign aide for John McCain's 2008 Republican presidential bid and a frequent Trump critic. "If Biden is unable to indict Trump for all that he has done, (that) would be profound failure. There is no spinning that away."

The president's handling of the coronavirus will likely dominate much of the discussion. The pandemic's force will be tangible as the candidates' podiums will be spaced far apart and the traditional opening handshake scrapped.

And the debate could be shaped by an extraordinary confluence of other recent moments: the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, allowing Trump to nominate a conservative jurist to replace a liberal voice and reshape the high court for generations, and the blockbuster revelations about Trump's long-hidden tax history, including that he paid only \$750 a year in federal income taxes in 2016 and 2017 and nothing in many other years. But the impact of the debate — or the two that follow in the weeks ahead — remains unclear.

The tumult of 2020 is difficult to overstate: Covid has rewritten the rules of everyday life; schools and businesses are shuttered; and racial justice protests have swept the nation after a series of high-profile killings of Black people by police.

Despite the upheaval, the presidential race has remained largely unchanged since Biden seized control of the Democratic field in March. The nation has soured on Trump's handling of the pandemic, and while his base of support has remained largely unchanged, he has seen defections among older and female voters, particularly in the suburbs, and his path to 270 Electoral College votes, while still viable, has shrunk.

Polls suggest fewer undecided voters remain than at this point in the 2016 campaign. And several high-profile debates in past elections

### Trump went even further than other uber-rich to shrink taxes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 29 SEPTEMBER

The tax-avoidance strategies that President Donald Trump capitalised on to shrink his tax bill to essentially zero are surprisingly common among major real estate developers and other ultra-wealthy Americans.

Yet Trump characteristically pushed those strategies to the limit, perhaps to the breaking point.

So say tax experts in the wake of a New York Times report Sunday that found that Trump paid only USD 750 in taxes in both 2016 and 2017 and none at all in 11 of the 18 years that the newspaper examined.

The things that Trump did are typical of wealthy businesspeople and particularly wealthy real estate developers," said Steve Wamhoff,

director of federal tax policy at the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

Still, Wamhoff noted, Trump claims the special breaks and loopholes that are available in the tax code and sometimes just takes them to a whole new level." U.S. tax law has long been kind to big real estate developers. It allows them myriad legal loopholes and breaks that can significantly shrink their tax bills.

The law became even kinder to them after Trump's Republican allies in Congress pushed through his USD 1.5 trillion tax overhaul, which took effect in 2018. The Times reviewed Trump's tax returns for 2000 through 2017, so its report didn't capture the impact of the 2018 law. But Martin Sullivan, chief economist at Tax Analysts, said: It is much

easier now for a real estate developer to avoid taxes that it was five years ago."

Even before the 2018 law,

developers could claim losses more quickly and easily than other businesses and more easily delay or avoid reporting profits to the Internal Revenue Service. Even if they fall behind on their debts, if their creditors forgive their debts, they face fewer tax penalties than other investors do.

Trump took full advantage of those tax breaks when he was unable to handle his debts on his failing Atlantic City casinos in the 1990s and early 2000s. Even so, experts say it's unclear whether all his actions were permissible.

There are a lot of things that Trump has done that may exceed what is allowed by the law," Wamhoff said.

### Voter purge case before Wisconsin SC

MADISON (US), 29 SEPTEMBER

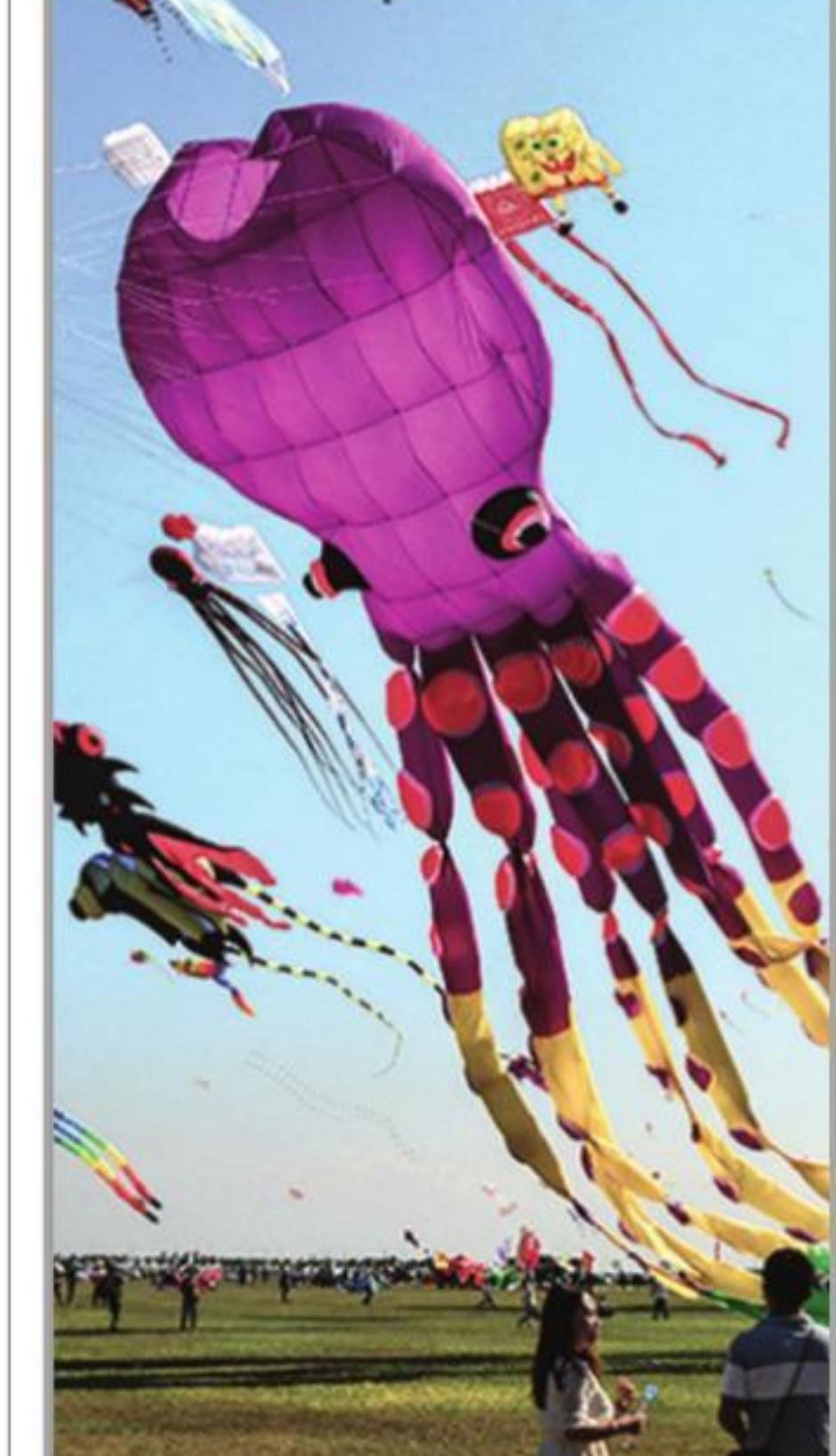
The Wisconsin Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments Tuesday in a case that could result in the purging of about 130,000 people from voter rolls in the hotly contested battleground state.

Trump had told advisers that he is preparing an all-out assault on Biden, claiming that the former senator's 47 years in Washington have left him out of touch and that his family, namely his son Hunter, has benefited from corruption. Meanwhile, asserting that Sikhs are safe under the Trump administration, a group of prominent Sikh-American leaders have alleged that the Biden campaign is trying to "demoralise and demotivate" the community.

It is because of President's initiatives to ensure religious freedom and liberty that so many Sikhs youths are serving in the US military today with their turbans and beard intact, said Harmeet Dhillon, a Sikh-American attorney and co-chair of Lawyers for Trump.

The arguments come in one of several closely watched lawsuits in Wisconsin. On Sunday, a federal appeals court temporarily put on hold a ruling that absentee ballots can be counted. Absentee voting is underway with at least 238,000 ballots returned already.

### INNOVATIVE



People flying their kites in Weifang in China's eastern Shandong province on Tuesday.

## UK, Canada impose sanctions on Belarus President

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, 29 SEPTEMBER

Britain has imposed sanctions on Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, his son and six other senior government officials following the disputed presidential election and a crackdown on protesters in Belarus.

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said Tuesday that the sanctions were introduced as part of a coordinated approach with Canada in a bid to uphold democratic values and put pressure on those responsible for repression.

The measures include a travel ban and asset freeze on eight individuals from the Belarusian government, including Lukashenko, son Victor Lukashenko and Igor Sergeenko, the head of the presidential administration. Similar sanctions were imposed by Canada.

Today, the U.K. and Canada have sent a clear message by imposing sanctions against Alexander Lukashenko's violent and fraudulent regime. We don't accept the results of this rigged election, Raab

said in a statement.

We will hold those responsible for the thuggery deployed against the Belarusian people to account, and we will stand up for our values of democracy and human rights.

Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron pushed for European mediation in the Belarus political crisis after a meeting with the country's opposition leader Tuesday.

During a visit to Lithuania, Macron met with Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya, the main opponent of Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko. Tsikhanouskaya went into exile in that country after the election.

We had a very good discussion. Now we need to be pragmatic and to support Belarus people and we will do all that, Macron told reporters.

Macron had praised Tsikhanouskaya's courage during a news conference in Vilnius on Monday. We do not recognise the election of Lukashenko and so we don't recognise his status as president, he said.

## Assange may end up at Colorado Supermax jail: UK court

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, 29 SEPTEMBER



Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei stages a silent protest in support of Julian Assange outside the Old Bailey court in London.

Ecuador has indicted Assange on 17 espionage charges and one charge of computer misuse over WikiLeaks' publication of secret American military documents a decade ago. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison. Assange's defense team says he is entitled to First Amendment protections for the publication of leaked doc-

# Steel making down the ages

**Chromium steel – like the tool steel we know today – was made in Persia a millennium ago**

S ANANTHANARAYANAN

Just as the Bronze Age and Iron Age marked stages of development since ancient times, widespread use of steel is the mark of the modern age. And yet, the material has been known for a long time.

What has been known for long, however, is iron in a crude form. Its refinement into steel, with the addition of different substances to improve its properties, is a modern development. Yet, Rahil Alipour, Thilo Rehren and Marcos Martín-Torres, from University College, London, The Cyprus Institute, Nicosia and the University of Cambridge, UK, write in the *Journal of Archeological Science*, that over 10 centuries ago, the Persians could make chromium steel, a sophisticated material we have believed to be of recent origin.

In the ancient world, the discovery of fire led to baking, pottery and extracting metal from ores. As the fires were wood fires, only metals that have low melting points could be extracted. Typically, these are copper and tin, and the alloy, which is bronze. There was also silver and gold, but these were rare and not sturdy or useful. It was only after the discovery of coal, and higher temperatures became possible, that iron could be extracted. The discovery of iron expanded the scope of agriculture, hunting, attack and defence, and the Iron Age (1200 to 600 BCE) is another phase of civilisation.

Iron occurs in the ore in combination with oxygen, in the form of its oxides. The process of extracting the metal is to heat the ore with carbon, so that the oxygen atoms change partners and become carbon dioxide, leaving behind the metallic iron. As we can expect, there is much carbon left in the material created -- in fact, there is 3.8-4.7 per cent of carbon, and the carbon is dissolved in the iron. This crude form of iron, just extracted from the ore, is called *pig iron* and is the starting point for a purer form of iron, which is called *wrought iron*.

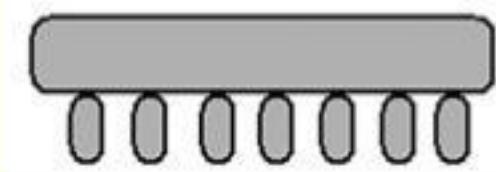
Thanks to the high carbon content, *pig iron* is brittle and of limited utility. It is purified by melting and exposure to a strong current of air, while it is stirred and agitated, when

impurities are oxidised and can be removed. Ironically, pure iron is ductile, or easily bends and changes shape. The solution is to add carbon, but less than what there is in pig iron, to give it strength.

The crystalline structure of iron is "cubic", either with atoms at the corners of cubes or in the middle of the faces of the cubes. The result is that the cubes slide over one another. Adding other substances, mainly carbon, helps hold the cubes together and improves the strength of iron. Iron with up to 2.4 per cent of carbon is steel, the wonder material of the modern world. Not that steel was not made earlier, but working with iron, in coal furnaces, was tiresome, and

## Pig iron

The first, crude melt, when iron is made, used to be poured into sand moulds that were shaped like a stem with branches – it looked like a sow sucking piglets. The branches, which were broken off for purification or working on, were called "pigs".



steel was made only for special purposes, like swords or suits of armour. This changed with coking coal and plentiful coal, when mining methods improved. Better grades of furnaces led to more production of steel, and there was expansion in many fields, of construction and manufacture, when steel was freely available.

There was, nevertheless, the industry of steel making in the ancient world. The method used was to mix *pig iron* and *wrought iron* in the melt, to reduce the carbon content by dilution. As the process was in a crucible, the product is called *crucible steel*.

The paper in the *Journal of Archeological Science* says there is evidence for two *crucible steel* making traditions – the wootz steel made in south India and Sri Lanka, since the



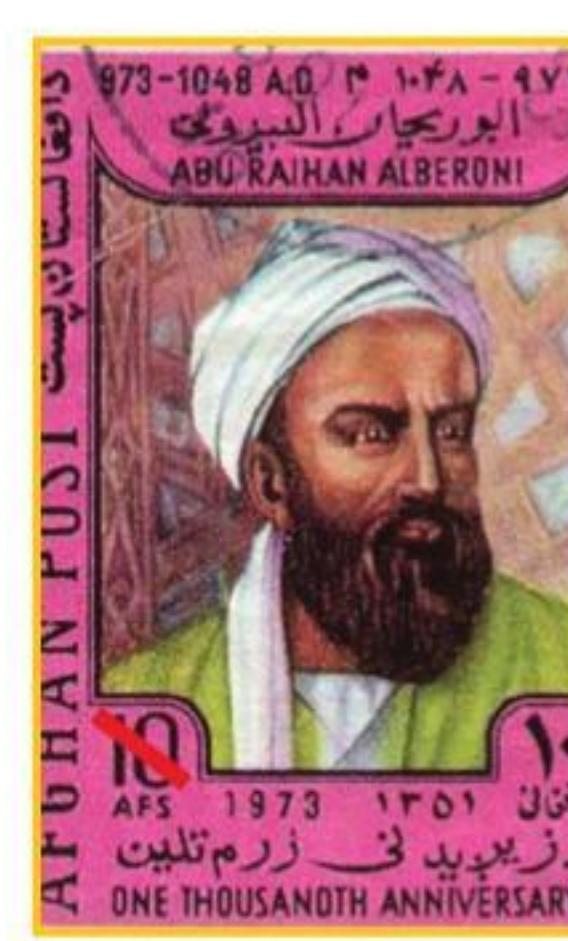
Chromium steel from the site in Iran

third century BCE, and in later centuries, in Central Asia (the Persian *pulad*).

Wootz steel from India became famous for its strength and hardness and was in demand in the West for the manufacture of Damascus steel and swords for the Crusades. The Indian method used ores from particular sources, with a number of ingredients with the ore during smelting, followed by reducing the carbon content by dilution with purer materials. The reason for the strength, and very high corrosion resistance (the Iron Pillar near Delhi, of the fourth and fifth century AD, for example) is understood to be partly the organic materials added during smelting, but largely the trace impurities present in skeins of ore that were used. When those sources depleted, the supply of this steel also came to a stop.

As for the industry in Central Asia, the paper discusses archeological finds in a site, Chahak, in southern Iran, which is described in historical reports as a centre of steel production. A specific report is the work, *al-Jamahir fi Marifah al-Jawahir (A Compendium to Know the Gems)*, by Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, the famous scientist, scholar, historian, theologian, traveller and linguist, around the turn of the first millennium. While other reports speak of steel being made in Chahak, Al Biruni describes the process used and the materials, some of which are not identified, as additives.

The paper says that most crucible steels found at historical sites have greater carbon content than ideal, some phosphorus, which adds some properties, but scant traces of other metals like manganese, vanadium or chromium, which we find in modern steels. In the samples of steel, as in suits of armour, swords, blades



ABU RAIHAN ALBERONI  
AFS 1973 ONE THOUSAND ANNIVERSARY

and daggers, where we do find traces of such materials, we cannot be sure of their place or time of origin, the paper says. And the sole plausible instance of an object with chromium content greater than one per cent has not been matched with evidence that the chromium was added during steel production. It is in this context that the authors of the paper report physical evidence of production of low chromium *crucible steel*, with conscious addition of a chromium mineral, in Chahak, the only known archaeological site in present day Iran. While the site has been mentioned in manuscripts, no excavation was conducted until the present work. The current study has discovered and analysed *crucible steel* making waste, rubble of broken crucibles, with the slag that is left after smelting, and evidence of smelting workshop and furnaces.

## How did it disappear?

We can understand that the quality of wootz steel was not the result of process design and hence died out. But this is not true of chromium steel of ancient Persia, where there was deliberate addition of a chromium mineral. A reason its use declined could be the dark years and breaking of communications that followed the sacking of Constantinople, the rise of the Ottomans and the Black Death, in the 12th and 13th centuries.

Analysis of bits of steel that were found indicated positive chromium content at levels that affect the performance of steel. Again, there was high content of chromium oxide in the slag, which separates from the metal during smelting. However, there was no chromite in the material of the crucibles or in the smithing workshop. The presence of chromium in the products must hence arise from deliberate addition, the paper says.

Modern stainless steel is an alloy of steel with chromium as an important component. The chromium adds to strength, raises heat resistance and creates a surface film that prevents the formation of iron oxide, and hence corrosion. Modern steel is the result of metallurgy and scientific advances of recent times. It seems some method of product development in Persia had reached the same place a thousand years ago.

The writer can be contacted at response@simplescience.in

## PLUS POINTS

### 3D-printed neural implants



Linking the human brain to a computer is usually only seen in science fiction, but now an international team of engineers and neuroscientists at the University of Sheffield (UK), St Petersburg State University (Russia) and Technische Universität Dresden (Germany) have harnessed the power of 3D printing to bring the technology one step closer to reality.

In a new study published in *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, the team led by Professor Ivan Minev (department of automatic control and systems engineering, Sheffield University) and Professor Pavel Musienko (St Petersburg State University), have developed a prototype neural implant that could be used to develop treatments for problems in the nervous system.

The neural implant has been used to stimulate the spinal cord of animal models with spinal cord injuries and now could be used to develop new treatments for human patients with paralysis. The proof of concept technology has been shown in the study to also fit well on the surface of a brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves and muscles, hence opening possibilities in other neurological conditions.

Linking the human brain to a computer via a neural interface is an ambition for many researchers throughout the worlds of science, technology and medicine, with recent stories in the media highlighting efforts to develop the technology. However, innovation in the field is hampered by the huge costs and long development time it takes to produce prototypes – which are needed for exploring new treatments.



The technology promises great potential to bring new medical treatments for injuries to the nervous system based on a fusion of biology and electronics. The vision relies on implants that can sense and supply tiny electrical impulses in the brain and nervous system.

The team has shown how 3D printing can be used to make prototype implants much quicker and in a more cost effective way in order to speed up research and development in the area. The implants can be easily adapted to target specific areas or problems within the nervous system.

Using the new technique, a neuroscientist can order a design which the engineering team can transform into a computer model which feeds instructions to the printer. The printer then applies a palette of biocompatible, mechanically soft materials to realise the design. The implant can be quickly amended if changes are required, giving neuroscientists a quicker and cheaper way to test their ideas for potential treatments.

Ivan Minev, professor of intelligent healthcare technologies at the University of Sheffield's department of automatic control and systems engineering, said, "The research we have started at TU Dresden and continuing here at Sheffield has demonstrated how 3D printing can be harnessed to produce prototype implants at a speed and cost that hasn't been done before, all whilst maintaining the standards needed to develop a useful device. The power of 3D printing means the prototype implants can be quickly changed and reproduced again as needed to help drive forward research and innovation in neural interfaces."

The researchers have shown that 3D printers can produce implants that can communicate with brains and nerves. Following this early work, the team aims to demonstrate how the devices are robust when implanted for long periods of time.

The team's ambition, however, is to go to the clinic and open up the possibilities of personalised medicine to neurosurgeons. Minev said, "Patients have different anatomies and the implant has to be adapted to this and their particular clinical need. Maybe in the future the implant will be printed directly in the operating theatre while the patient is being prepared for surgery."

## TOMORROW'S BODY ART

**According to exciting new research, dynamic tattoos could soon become reality and warn wearers of health threats**

CARSON J BRUNS

In the sci-fi novel *The Diamond Age* by Neal Stephenson, body art has evolved into "constantly shifting mediabiotic tattoos" – in-skin displays powered by nanotech biopigments. In the 25 years since the novel was published, nanotechnology has had time to catch up, and the sci-fi vision of dynamic tattoos is starting to become a reality.

The first examples of colour-changing nanotech tattoos have been developed over the last few years, and they're not just for body art. They have a biomedical purpose. Imagine a tattoo that alerts you to a health problem signalled by a change in your biochemistry, or to radiation exposure that could be dangerous to your health.

You can't walk into a doctor's office and get a dynamic tattoo yet, but they are on the way. Early proof-of-concept studies provide convincing evidence that tattoos can be engineered, not only to change colour, but to sense and convey biomedical information, including the onset of cancer.

### Signalling biochemical changes

In 2017, researchers tattooed pigs' skin, which had been removed from the pig, with molecular biosensors that use colour to indicate sodium, glucose or pH levels in the skin's fluids.

In 2019, a team of researchers expanded on that study to include protein sensing and developed smartphone readouts for the tattoos. This year, they also showed that electrolyte levels could be detected with fluorescent tattoo sensors.

In 2018, a team of biologists developed a tattoo made of engineered skin cells that darken when they sense an imbalance of calcium caused by certain cancers. They demonstrated the cancer-detecting tattoo in living mice.

**Temporary high-tech tattoos**

Temporary transfer tattoos are also undergoing a high-tech revolution. Wearable elec-



tronic tattoos that can sense electrophysiological signals like heart rate and brain activity or monitor hydration and glucose levels from sweat are under development. They can even be used for controlling mobile devices, for example shuffling a music playlist at the touch of a tattoo, or for luminescent body art that lights up the skin.

The advantage of these wearable tattoos is that they can use battery-powered electronics. The disadvantage is that they are much less permanent and comfortable than traditional tattoos. Likewise, electronic devices that go underneath the skin are being developed by scientists, designers and biohackers alike, but they require invasive surgical procedures for implantation.

Tattoos injected into the skin offer the best of both worlds: minimally invasive, yet permanent and comfortable. New needle-free tattooing methods that fire microscopic ink droplets into the skin are now in development. Once perfected they will make tattooing quicker and less painful.

### Ready for everyday use?

The colour-changing tattoos in development are also going to open the door to a new kind of dynamic body art. Now that tattoo colours can be changed by an electromagnetic signal, you'll soon be able to "programme" your tattoo's design, or switch it on and off. You can proudly display your neck tattoo at the motorcycle rally and still have clear skin in the courtroom.

As researchers develop dynamic tattoos, they'll need to study the safety of the high-tech inks. As it is, little is known about the safety of the more than 100 different pigments used in normal tattoo inks. The US Food and Drug Administration has not exercised regulatory authority over tattoo pigments, citing other competing public health priorities and a lack of evidence of safety problems with the pigments. So US manufacturers can put whatever they want in tattoo inks and sell them without FDA approval.

So far, there is no evidence that tattoos cause cancer, and one study even found that black tattoos protect against UV-induced skin cancer. Still, many tattoo inks contain or degrade into substances that are known to be hazardous, and health complications including infection, allergy and granuloma have been found in about two per cent of tattoos. More research is needed to understand the long-term effects of nano and microimplants in the skin in general.

A wave of high-tech tattoos is slowly upwelling, and it will probably keep rising for the foreseeable future. When it arrives, you can decide to surf or watch from the beach. If you do climb on board, you'll be able to check your body temperature or UV exposure by simply glancing at one of your tattoos.

The writer is assistant professor, University of Colorado Boulder, US. This article first appeared on www.theconversation.com





## 'SELFISH' GIANT

Andy Murray (in photo, left) has been urged to reconsider accepting wild cards for major tournaments at the expense of emerging young players. Seven-time Grand Slam champion Mats Wilander made the remark after the Briton had crashed out of the French Open in the first round.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

## THUMBNAILS

**Virus victims:** Ten Premier League players or staff tested positive for the coronavirus over the past week, the highest number of infections since the English top-flight returned from a three-month layoff in June. Those who have tested positive will self-isolate for 10 days.

**Voice matters:** Roma legend Francesco Totti on Monday visited a teenage girl in hospital who emerged from a nine-month coma after hearing a recording of the former Italian football star's voice. Ilenia Matilli was left in a coma last December after a car accident.

**Kingly duo:** Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul and his team-mate Mohammad Shami continue to hold the Purple and Orange Caps, respectively, following the conclusion of Monday's Indian Premier League 2020 match between Bangalore and Mumbai.

**Big boost:** The super over win over reigning champions Mumbai Indians on Monday should give us a big boost, going forward in the Indian Premier League, said Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli after the edge-of-the-seat thriller in West Asia on Monday.

**Pathan's tip:** Irfan Pathan believes Royal Challengers Bangalore should avoid bowling Shivam Dube at the death in the Indian Premier League. RCB have so far played two matches in the event. In the first match, they registered a 10-run win against Hyderabad.

**Easy job:** Premier League champions Liverpool maintained their 100 per cent start to the season with a 3-1 win against Arsenal at Anfield on Monday, leaving them level on nine points with pace-setters Everton and Leicester City. The visitors took the lead, though.

**Barca snubbed:** Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has revealed he turned down an offer from Barcelona before signing a new contract with Arsenal. The Gunners captain extended his stay at the Emirates Stadium earlier this month, signing a new three-year deal.

**New star:** Peter Crouch has spoken of his admiration for new Liverpool signing Thiago Alcantara and says that regardless of them already knowing about him as a star for Bayern Munich, it's clear the Reds have quickly been impressed by the playmaker in training.

**Arabian initiative:** Saudi Arabia will host professional golf tournaments for women for the first time in November at the Royal Greens Golf & Country Club in Jeddah. The Saudi Ladies International will be the first Ladies European Tour event in the country.

**PCB's no:** The Pakistan Cricket Board has informed its counterparts in Bangladesh that it will not be able to play in the near future the World Championship Test that was postponed in April owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**'Learning new skill':** Asian Games gold medalist Vikas Krishan said that he is looking to inculcate some new skills from professional boxing before he returns to the amateur arena in time for the Tokyo Olympics. "I am focusing on learning a new skill-set from professional boxing that will help me at the Olympics. Only four-five months ahead of the Olympics, I will return to amateur boxing and shape myself and play two-three tournaments to get in the groove," Vikas said in an interaction with Indian paddler Mudit Dani on the latter's online chat show 'In The Sportlight'.

## KKR face stern test against RR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI, 29 SEPTEMBER

Kolkata Knight Riders will have to bat out of their skin to stop a marauding Rajasthan Royals when the two teams clash in an IPL match at the Dubai International Stadium here on Wednesday.

Having started off as underdogs, the Royals have taken the IPL by storm, chasing down the highest tournament total 224 against Kings XI Punjab in their last match.

In two wins from two matches, the Royals have got past the 200-mark with ease. In their success, they have found two stars in Sanju Samson and Rahul Tewatia, who have outshone marquee players. In his second coming at the Royals, little known Haryana all-rounder Tewatia has got instant stardom for his 31-ball 53 against KXIP, which

**KKR vs RR: Match begins at 7.30 pm IST.**

helped the side chase down a record 224 with three balls to spare against KXIP.

Struggling to get off the blocks quickly, Tewatia, who was on 17 from 23 deliveries with the team needing 51 from the last three overs, suddenly woke up from the slum-

ber, smacking left-arm quick Sheldon Cottrell for five sixes in an over to turn the tables for RR. But the season so far belongs to Samson -- the wicketkeeper from Kerala.

Boasting of the season's highest strike-rate of 214.86, Samson has two successive half-centuries that has once again put him in contention for a longer rope in the Indian team as a keeper-batsman.

Skipper Steve Smith has been ever reliable, striking two

half-centuries, while opener Jos Buttler will be waiting to explode.

To match or even surpass the Royals, KKR have the biggest stars in Andre Russell to go along with reigning World Cup winning English skipper Eoin Morgan, one of the best in limited-overs cricket. But both Morgan and Russell have got limited opportunities so far, having dropped down to No 5 and 6 respectively.

The fixture might just final-

ly see them bat higher up, especially the star Jamaican, who was their highest run-getter last season with 510 runs at a astonishing strike rate of 204.81.

Having started off with a familiar defeat to Mumbai Indians in their opener, Kolkata Knight Riders put up a determined show to bounce back against a sloppy Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Talented opener Shubman Gill's unbeaten half-century, aided by Morgan's slate

firepower overtook SRH's below-par 145 with two overs to spare.

Come Wednesday, it may well be a run feast with no target 'safe' against the Royals.

Dubai has been host to both the Super-Overs this season. The venue will be an uncharted territory for both the teams who will be playing here for the first time this season.

For the record, the teams batting first have won all the five matches here so far.

Teams (from) Kolkata Knight Riders: Dinesh Karthik (C and WK), Andre Russell, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Nitish Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Rinku Singh, Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Mavi, Shubman Gill, Siddhesh Lad, Sunil Narine, Pat Cummins, Eoin Morgan, Varun Chakravarthy, Tom Banton, Rahul Tripathi, Chris Green, M Siddharth, Nikhil Naik, Ali Khan.

Rajasthan Royals: Steve Smith (captain), Jos Buttler, Robin Uthappa, Sanju Samson, Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Manan Vohra, Kartik Tyagi, Akash Singh, Oshane Thomas, Andrew Tye, David Miller, Tom Curran, Aniruddha Joshi, Shreyas Gopal, Riyan Parag, Varun Aaron, Shashank Singh, Anuj Rawat, Mahipal Lomror, Mayank Markande.

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## Bangladesh not going on Sri Lanka tour, says Dhaka board chief

THE DAILY STAR/ANN  
DHAKA, 29 SEPTEMBER

overnment makes the rules and that is the protocol in their country," Hassan added.

"They let us know about the situation yesterday and we've also informed them that the tour should be rescheduled. When the conditions will not be as they are right now, we will go," the BCB president reiterated.

BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury said the decision to defer the tour had become necessary as the current Covid-19 health guidelines for visitors to Sri Lanka would not have allowed the Bangladesh team adequate time to prepare for a Test series:

"We have always maintained that preparations were a priority as the players are coming off a six-month gap from any cricket owing to the COVID-19 situation in the country. We never considered fielding an unprepared side in international cricket."

"Going by the guidelines that they had given, it's not possible to play Test Championship under those conditions. Their cricket board and sports ministry tried their best and they agreed to all but one of our requests. But the one they denied us was the most important thing, the 14-day quarantine period. What we understand by quarantine and isolation is different. When one isolates with Covid-19, they can't get out of the room so what they are calling a quarantine for 14 days is full isolation," Hassan told the media yesterday.

"So under those conditions, a player's mental and physical conditions will take a lot of time to recover. So we had let them know that it wasn't possible to play under such conditions. However, they couldn't do anything about that protocol since the gov-