



EX-UNION MINISTER
DILIP RAY GIVEN
3-YEAR JAIL TERM

P2



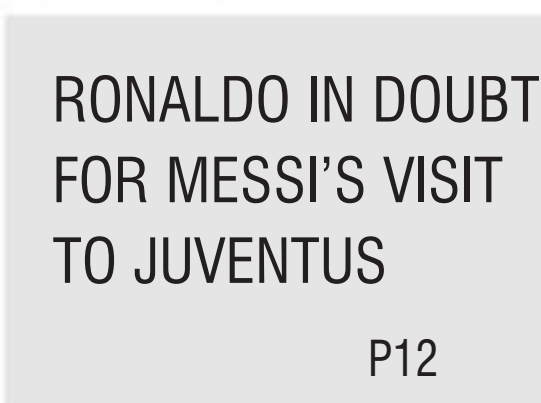
INDIA WILL DRIVE
GLOBAL ENERGY
DEMAND: PM

P8



WAIT FOR US
POLL RESULT
MIGHT BE LONG

P10



RONALDO IN DOUBT
FOR MESSI'S VISIT
TO JUVENTUS

P12



WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 33 and 14 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 96% Min: 36%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 32.8°C (+1) Min: 15.0°C (-2)

SUN RISES

06:30 hrs SUN SETS

17:40 hrs

MOON RISES

15:44 hrs MOON SETS

03:27 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Devotees wearing face shields during the last day of the Durga Puja festival, in the Capital on Monday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

Kerala gold smuggling case: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday arrested a man wanted in connection with the Kerala gold smuggling case as soon as he arrived from the UAE to Kochi, an official spokesperson said. Rabins K Hameed, a resident of Muvattupuzha in Kerala's Ernakulam district, will be produced before a designated court on Tuesday for his remand by the agency, NIA DIG Sonia Narang said.

Sharif attacks Pak Army, ISI chiefs: Pakistan's deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif has blamed Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed for the current political situation in the country, as the Opposition parties held their third massive joint rally against Prime Minister Imran Khan-led government. The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), a coalition of 11 Opposition parties, was formed to oust Khan from power on 20 September.

P9

Defence pacts, China on agenda at India-US '2+2' dialogue today

ASHOK TUTEJA

NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

Amid the deepening chill in Sino-Indian ties over the eastern Ladakh military stand-off, India and the US are set to hold a high-level "2+2" ministerial dialogue here tomorrow at which the two countries will not only discuss a range of bilateral issues and global developments but also consider ways to meet the challenge posed by China by indulging in aggressive behaviour on territorial and maritime issues.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will co-chair the meeting from the Indian side while Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark Esper will represent the American side. Shortly after their arrival in New Delhi, Pompeo and Esper today held separate bilateral meetings with their respective Indian counterparts.

The "2+2" ministerial dialogue is the last major event on the diplomatic calendar of New Delhi as well as Washington before the 3 November US presidential polls. The issues expected to be on the agenda at the talks include regional security cooperation, defence information sharing, military-to-military interactions and defence trade. The first "2+2" ministerial dialogue was held



in New Delhi in 2018 while the second round took place in the US in December last year.

"Wheels up for my trip to India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Indonesia. Grateful for the opportunity to connect with our partners to promote a shared vision for a free and open #IndoPacific composed of independent, strong, and prosperous nations," Pompeo said in a Twitter post as he departed on his four-nation Asia tour.

The crowning feature of the visit by the two top American ministers is expected to be the signing of the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) agreement between the two sides to further boost bilateral defence ties. The pact is expected to allow India and the US to share in real time precision satellite and topographical data from the American array of military satellites. This is likely to prove useful for a variety of reasons, including the precision delivery or targeting of hostile positions.

"We have made significant progress towards concluding the last foundational defence enabling



agreement - the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement or BECA," senior officials of the Trump administration told reporters last week during a press briefing.

"This agreement will allow for expanded geospatial information sharing between our armed forces. We are also seeking to expand secure communication capabilities between our respective militaries as well as between our foreign defence ministries and that figures prominently in what we are trying to accomplish in the information-sharing space," an official said.

China's aggressive posturing, particularly against India, will be high on the agenda of the two sides though India wants to settle its border row with Beijing on a bilateral basis. The US has already indicated that the situation at the LAC would figure at the ministerial dialogue.

The US has its own set of problems with China over trade related issues and the origins of Covid-19 which has hit the American economy badly apart from causing huge fatalities in the country.

Farm fires: SC puts on hold order on panel

A CJ-1 headed bench suspends its 16 Oct order appointing Lokur panel as the Centre proposes a legislation on Delhi-NCR air pollution

PTI

NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

The Supreme Court Monday kept in abeyance its October 16 order appointing one-man panel of retired apex court judge Justice Madan B Lokur to monitor the steps taken by neighbouring states to prevent stubble burning which is a major cause of pollution in the Delhi-national capital region (NCR).

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde passed the order while considering the Centre's stand that it is coming out with a comprehensive legislation to deal with air pollution, including the aspect of stubble burning.

"The only issue is people are choking because of pollution and it is something which must be curbed," said the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that the Centre has taken a holistic view of the matter and the draft of the proposed law on curbing pollution would be submitted in the apex court within four days.

Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India states that the Union of India has proposed a legislation to tackle the problem which is highlighted in the public interest litigation and that it will be placed before the court within three to four days," the bench noted in its order. "Having regard to



A farmer burns straw stubble after harvesting a paddy crop in a field near the India-Pakistan Wagah border, some 35-km from Amritsar.

AFP FILE PHOTO

the statement, we consider it appropriate that the measures adopted by this court vide order dated October 16, 2020 be kept in abeyance until further orders," the bench said.

In that order, the top court had directed deployment of National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme and Bharat Scouts and Guides for assisting in the monitoring of stubble burning in the agricultural fields of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-NCR, saying all it wants is that people of Delhi-NCR can breathe fresh air without any pollution.

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing on Monday, Mehta told the apex court that coming out with a proper legislation to deal with the issue is a welcome step. We will come out

with a legislation on this issue and please keep the last order at abeyance now, Mehta said, adding that pollution must be curbed on war footing.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioner who has raised the issue of pollution caused due to stubble burning, said that the legislation would come only by next year.

To this, Mehta said, This government acts fast.

The bench observed during the hearing that the SG has informed the court that the Centre is contemplating a comprehensive legislation and if that is so then why we should pass the order which we have passed.

"We don't know what the committee is going to do and we don't know what the Government is

going to do," the bench said. Singh, who said that the Centre is opposing the panel like it had done on October 16, argued that Lokur committee would be filing its report in the meantime.

Mehta, however, urged the bench that October 16 order be kept in abeyance.

The bench, while keeping its earlier order in abeyance, posted the matter for hearing on October 29 when another pending matter related to pollution is listed.

The bench noted Mehta's submission that the Centre has proposed a legislation to deal with the issues which are highlighted in the PIL.

Having regard to the statement, we keep the order passed on October 16 in abeyance, it said.

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New Covid cases dip below 50K

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

The fresh coronavirus (Covid-19) cases reported in India in a span of 24 hours dipped below 50,000 for the second time this month, while the new fatalities registered during the same period fell under 500 after 108 days, according to the Union health ministry data updated this morning.

The country's Covid case-load mounted to 79,09,959 with 45,148 new infections being reported today. The death toll climbed to 1,19,014 with 480 new fatalities.

A total of 71,37,228 people have recuperated from Covid so far pushing the national recovery rate to 90.23 per cent.

The active cases of coronavirus infections remained below 7 lakh for four days in a

row. There were 6,53,717 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country as on date which accounted for 8.26 per cent of the total case load.

India's Covid fatality rate has dropped to 1.50 per cent, the lowest since 22 March, the health ministry said crediting the focused efforts of the Centre, states and UTs on effective clinical management of hospitalised cases.

There are 14 states and Union Territories including Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Odisha, Assam and Kerala where the Case Fatality Ratio (CFR) is lower than 1 per cent, the ministry said.

With an effective containment strategy, aggressive testing and standardised clinical management protocols based on holistic standard of care pro-

TOCOL across government and private hospitals, the number of new deaths has significantly dropped, it said.

"India has one of the lowest fatality rates in the world. The case fatality rate is lowest since March 22 and is continuously declining," the ministry said as it underlined that the case fatality rate was 3.23 per cent on May 4.

As part of the Covid management and response policy, the Centre has had a sharp focus on not only containing the spread of the disease but to reduce deaths and save lives by providing quality clinical care to critical and severe patients, the ministry said.

The collaborative efforts of the Centre, states, and UTs have resulted in strengthening of the health facilities across the country. Currently, 2,218

dedicated Covid hospitals were providing "quality medical care", it said.

Delhi logs 54 deaths, highest in over 3 months: The national capital however today recorded 54 Covid fatalities, highest in over three months, while the total infection count rose to 3.59 lakh, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. Delhi reported 2,832 fresh coronavirus infections.

The number of new cases in the city was 4,136 yesterday, 4,116 on Saturday and 4,086 on Friday.

According to the health bulletin, 54 fatalities took the total number of Covid deaths in the city to 6,312. The last time the city had recorded such a high number of deaths was on 16 July when 58 deaths were logged.



'UK hospital asked to prepare for vaccine rollout next month'

PTI

LONDON, 26 OCTOBER

A major London hospital trust has been told to be ready to receive the first batches of the COVID-19 vaccine being trialled by Oxford University and AstraZeneca by early next month, according to a UK media report on Monday.

The Sun newspaper claims that the country's state-funded National Health Service (NHS) is preparing for an initial rollout of the vaccine from the week commencing November 2.

The vaccine is still in testing, but a major effort has been ordered to have the world-leading hospital in London

ready to go as soon as it is given the green light, the newspaper reports.

The report claims that all other clinical trials at the unnamed famous hospital in the UK capital have been paused as all resources go toward preparing to vaccinate thousands of doctors, nurses and other frontline staff with the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine as soon as it is ready.

The NHS has a tried and tested track record for delivering vaccination programmes and will work with existing partners across the healthcare system to ensure a COVID-19 vaccine can be deployed safely and effectively, a Department of Health and Social Care statement said,

without confirming or denying the latest reports.

A COVID-19 vaccine will only be deployed once it has been proven to be safe and effective through robust clinical trials and approved for use by the independent regulator, it said.

Last week, it had emerged that an independent analysis of the Oxford vaccine trials had found that it was doing everything expected, raising hopes for its ability to combat the deadly virus.

The vaccine, ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 and also known as AZD1222, is considered among the most advanced in the worldwide hunt for a viable vaccine against the novel coronavirus.

SC stays MP HC order asking parties to conduct virtual poll campaign

PTI

NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

The Supreme Court Monday stayed the Madhya Pradesh High Court order asking political parties to conduct their campaign for the November 3 Assembly bypolls virtually instead of holding physical rallies due to COVID-19.

A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to take an appropriate decision with regard to political rallies keeping in mind COVID-19 guidelines.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna, said the high court must have felt that situation on ground was not changing.



Taking overall view of the subject matter, we stay the operation of the impugned judgment and order dated October 20 and dated October 23, 2020 respectively, but direct the Election Commission of India to consider the issues referred to in the impugned order(s) and proceed in the matter in that regard in accordance with law appropriately, the

bench said. It is not expressing any opinion either way on the merits of the process to be adopted or about the decision to be reached by the ECI, the bench said in its order.

The top court said all contentions available to the parties are left open as also to approach the ECI in respect of any other issue concerning the ensuing elections, to ensure

free and fair election.

The bench issued notice and sought response within six weeks from the PIL petitioner before the High Court on the plea. Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for ECI, said it is following all the directions issued by the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and its own norms for conduct of polls amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bench told Dwivedi that ECI must ensure that elections are held as per the laws and it may stay the high court order but the poll panel will have to act as per the law, so that the situation on the ground changes. We will stay the high court order and will leave the issue to the ECI to ensure that everything is done as per the

law, the bench observed.

The top court also asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Madhya Pradesh Energy minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar, to make a representation to the ECI for loss of time in electioneering due to the high court order.

He said that for electioneering two-three more hours a day be allowed as seven days' time have been lost because of the high court order. The bench said, We will clarify that whatever contention is raised by the parties to the ECI, shall be taken note by it. The bench, hearing the pleas of ECI and Tomar challenging the high court's October 20 order, posted the matter for further hearing after six

weeks and permitted the ECI to take decisions as per law to ensure free and fair election.

It said political leaders may give representation to the ECI on loss of time for electioneering due to the high court order. The bye-elections to 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh will decide the fate of the seven-month-old Shivraj Singh Chouhan government. Twenty-five seats had fallen vacant after the defection of 22 Congress MLAs -- 19 of whom backed Jyotiraditya Scindia -- and three others later. Three other seats have fallen vacant after the deaths of sitting legislators.

The poll panel has assailed the HC order, saying the conduct and management of elections are overseen by it under the Constitution and Article 329

of the Constitution puts an express bar on judicial interference in midst of electoral process. The plea said the poll panel's COVID-19 guidelines on election rallies or meetings were formulated on September 25 in exercise of its powers. As per guidelines and the SOP of the state government, political gatherings of over 100 people with safety measures can be allowed, it said.

Tomar, who is contesting as a BJP candidate from Gwalior constituency for the bypoll in Madhya Pradesh, submitted in his plea that the high court has erred in its finding as the ECI under Article 324 of Constitution has issued its COVID-19 guidelines dated September 29, permitting physical gatherings for election cam-

paigns subject to specified restrictions. The impugned interim order has violated the Petitioner's right to conduct election campaign through physical gatherings as permitted by the Election Commission, Central Government and State of Madhya Pradesh, he said in his plea.

He said that various interim directions passed by the High Court on October 20 are in violation of COVID-19 guidelines dated September 29 issued by ECI and guidelines issued by the central government on October 8 and state government respectively. Tomar sought stay of the operation of impugned interim order dated October 20, and further proceedings on the PIL before the High Court.



Our new industrial development policy for 2020-23 launched recently is centred on balancing growth across regions and communities. I firmly believe that this new policy is a vital step towards promoting entrepreneurship amongst the marginalised for inclusive growth and development

Y S JAGAN MOHAN REDDY
ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

Coal scam: Ex-Union minister Dilip Ray given 3-yr jail term

Besides Ray, a minister in Vajpayee govt, 2 senior officials of then coal ministry were also awarded 3-year jail by a Delhi court over irregularities in 1999 allocation of a Jharkhand coal block

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

A Delhi court Monday awarded 3-year jail term to former Union minister Dilip Ray in a coal scam case pertaining to irregularities in the allocation of a Jharkhand block in 1999, saying white collar crimes are "more dangerous" than ordinary ones because of the "damages inflicted on public morale".

Besides Ray, the 68-year old former minister of state (coal) in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, Special Judge Bharat Parashar also awarded 3-year jail term each to two senior officials of the ministry at that time -- Pradip Kumar Banerjee and Nitya Nand Gautam, both about 80-year-old.

The court also awarded 3-year jail term to Castron Technologies Ltd (CTL) director Mahendra Kumar Agarwalla (75).

The court, however, granted bail to the convict persons to enable them to approach the high court against the verdict.



It also imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Ray, Rs 2 lakh on Banerjee and Gautam, while Agarwalla was asked to pay a fine of Rs 60 lakh.

It imposed Rs 60 lakh on CTL and Rs 10 lakh on Castron Mining Ltd (CML), also held guilty in the case.

In response to the convicts' argument that no loss was caused to anyone in the matter since almost the entire amount of extracted coal was surrendered to the govern-

ment, the court said, non-availability of sufficient raw material such as coal has in fact resulted in the lack of infrastructural/ industrial development of the country.

Had coal block been allocated to a deserving applicant company after following the due process of law and the company would have proceeded to extract coal so as to use it captively in its end use project then it would have certainly added to the

infrastructural/ industrial development of the country.

...arbitrary allocation of coal blocks as has been seen in the present matter to unscrupulous persons who never intended to establish any end use project in itself has caused huge loss to the nation which is difficult to be computable in monetary terms, the court said.

The court said the case involved commission of white collar crimes and that too by

people occupying high places in the society.

Such 'white collar crimes' are in fact more dangerous to the society than ordinary crimes, firstly, because the financial losses are much higher, and, secondly because of the damages inflicted on public morale...

In fact white collar crimes are a peculiar feature of an acquisitive and affluent society and even though our society can not be strictly termed as an affluent society but it is certainly becoming acquisitive, the judge said.

While refusing to release the convicts on probation, the judge said, keeping in view the peculiar nature of facts and circumstances of the present case coupled with the gravity of offence, though none of the convict persons deserve to be extended the benefit of probation but even otherwise as the offence under section 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent) of IPC is punishable with imprisonment up to life, so the provisions of Probation of Offenders Act do not apply.

The convicts had urged the court to take a lenient view considering their old age and that they were never convicted earlier.

The CBI, represented by public prosecutors V K Sharma and A P Singh, however, had sought maximum punishment for the convicts.

The court had convicted all the five accused persons for various offences including criminal conspiracy (120-B of IPC), criminal breach of trust by public servant (409 of IPC), cheating (420 of IPC) and corruption (PC Act).

It had convicted sixth accused - CML - for theft (379 of IPC).

Regarding Ray, the judge had said that he dishonestly facilitated allocation of the abandoned non-nationalised coal mining area in favour of CTL and that too in violation of the direction of law.

He thus dishonestly allowed misappropriation of the said coal mining area by company CTL, he said.

The case pertains to allocation of Brahmadia coal block in Giridih in Jharkhand to CTL in 1999.

Pollution is not AAP's problem alone: Rai



PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said air pollution was not a problem of just the Aam Aadmi Party or the Delhi government and everyone, irrespective of their party affiliations, should join efforts to tackle it.

The minister also said the 'Red light on, Gaadi off' campaign will cover all the 70 assembly constituencies in the national capital starting Monday. By November 2, the campaign to curb vehicular pollution will cover all the 272 wards in the city, he said.

The minister said he had invited opposition MLAs and MPs to join the campaign but "there has been no positive response from them so far".

"But I hope that they will take steps at their own level. Air pollution is not a problem of just the AAP or the Delhi government," he said.

"It is the responsibility of all governments and citizens of Delhi to contribute in reducing pollution. The problem is not of the AAP alone. I want to appeal to everybody to participate in this campaign, keeping their party affiliations aside," Rai said. Asked if Delhi BJP MLAs should join the campaign, he said, "Yes, everyone should. We have appealed to everyone. They also have to breathe in the same air."

Rai said that switching vehicles off at red light can reduce vehicular pollution by 15-20 per cent.

In the coming days, the Delhi Assembly Speaker, Cabinet Ministers and MLAs will be participating in the campaign, the minister said.

"The government, Supreme Court, EPCA, DPCC and all departments concerned are monitoring the pollution situation in Delhi. We will take action wherever needed," he added.

Man held for killing contractor over payment dispute

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

A 25-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing a labour contractor following a dispute over payment in north Delhi's Burari area, police said on Monday.

The accused was identified as Salman, a resident of Naya Gaon, Moradabad in UP, they said.

Salman claimed that Sameer Malik (27), the deceased, had not paid him for his labour from the last two months and they had a dispute over the issue, police said.

On Saturday around 5 pm, police received information about a body found in a bed at Sant Nagar, Burari. The body had injury marks from knife and bricks, a senior police officer said.

Malik who lived in the rented room used to work as a labour contractor.

When the owner of the house came there, he found the room locked from outside. He called Malik's family in Moradabad and the

deceased's brother came to Delhi, police said.

After breaking the lock of the room they found Malik's body inside a bed.

A search was started for Salman who, from the last three months, was living with Malik while working as a mason, the officer said, adding the two were from the same village.

"A joint police team conducted raids at the hideouts of Salman and arrested him from Aghwanpur, Moradabad in UP. A knife used in the crime was recovered from him," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Anto Alphonse said.

During interrogation, Salman disclosed that on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, he and Malik consumed liquor. Meanwhile, an argument took place between them over the payment of dues, the DCP said.

The argument escalated and Salman killed Malik with knife and brick. He hid the body in the bed and fled from the spot, police added.

Delhi Police SI arrested for molesting 4 women

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

A 35-year-old Delhi Police sub-inspector was arrested for allegedly molesting four women in west Delhi's Dwarka area, police said on Monday.

According to a senior police officer, the women lodged four separate FIRs regarding molestation in Dwarka area against sub-inspector Puneet Grewal, a resident of Janakpuri area.

The incidents took place between October 17 to 20.

On October 19, one of the women posted a video on social media in which she described her ordeal. She said that on October 17 morning, she was cycling in Dwarka near Dussehra ground when she saw a man inside a grey Baleno car.

In the video, she alleged that he asked her for directions to Sector-14 and when she was about to tell him, he immediately opened the zip of his pants and started

According to a senior police officer, the women lodged four separate FIRs regarding molestation in Dwarka area against sub-inspector Puneet Grewal, a resident of Janakpuri area.

touching his private parts. The woman then started screaming, following which he fled.

The other three women were also allegedly molested by him, police said.

During investigation, police traced the accused through his car which he used during the incident, they said, adding that the sub-inspector, who is married, was arrested on Saturday from his house in Janakpuri area in west Delhi.

He was posted at Special Cell unit of Delhi Police and is currently under judicial custody, police said.

IMA demands immediate payment of Hindu Rao doctors' pending salaries

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Monday demanded that the North Delhi Municipal Corporation immediately pays the doctors of Hindu Rao Hospital their pending wages while terming non-payment of salaries for the last three months an "unfortunate situation" and a "new low in governance".

Senior doctors of NDMC-run hospitals went on a day-long casual leave en masse on Monday as the crisis over pending salaries of medics of civic-run facilities deepened with no resolution in sight.

In a statement on the issue titled 'Banana Republic', the IMA said healthcare workers, especially doctors, are a national asset and their "humiliation by denying" legitimate salaries is nothing but "state-sponsored violence".

It demoralises the entire doctor community. If their services are so dispensable during



Hindu Rao Hospital doctors hold a protest against their pending salaries, at the hospital gate in the Capital on Monday.

DEEPAK

"The IMA takes serious exception to the unfortunate situation in Hindu Rao Hospital which is under the management of Delhi Municipal Corporation. It sends a wrong message to the profession and the nation.

"It demoralises the entire doctor community. If their services are so dispensable during

a pandemic, something is certainly rotten in the way we are governed. It is a new low in governance," alleged the doctors' body which represents around 3.5 lakh medics across the country.

The Supreme Court had specifically directed that salaries of doctors and healthcare workers should be paid

in time. It seems the writ of the highest court of the land does not bind these officials who administer these hospitals, the IMA said in the statement.

"The IMA and the medical profession trust that there is adequate reason for the court to initiate suo motu contempt proceedings against the administration of Hindu Rao Hospital. Only such a strong response could restore faith in our institutions. The IMA demands that the authorities should pay the salaries of the doctors along with the dues immediately," it said.

The crisis over the pending salaries has deepened as five of the resident doctors of the 900-bed Hindu Rao Hospital are sitting on a hunger strike since Friday with the Resident Doctors Association (RDA) saying the step was taken as no one is resolving the issue of their pending salaries.

HC dismisses students' plea against NIFT fee hike

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

The Delhi High Court has dismissed a plea by some students of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) challenging fee hike, saying it cannot be termed arbitrary or oppressive.

The high court said it was of the opinion that the plea raised by 4th year students challenging the fees hike is vague and cannot be accepted.

"The fee hike cannot be termed arbitrary or oppres-

sive. There are no grounds to warrant any interference by this court. There is no merit in the present petition and the same is dismissed, Justice Jayant Nath said.

The court passed the order on a plea by the students raising grievance that the fees have been hiked by 10 per cent for NRI quota students and 5 per cent for non-NRI quota students.

The students have challenged the circular issued by the institute containing the fee structure of the students for the academic year 2020-21.

After going through the institute's circular, the high court said the fee hike for non-NRI quota students was reduced by 5 per cent for the semester of July-December, 2020 and also for January-June, 2021 keeping in view the present COVID-19 pandemic.

Petitioners Moubani Poddar, Ananya Narayanan, Sanskriti Priyambda and Iwisha Gupta, represented through advocate Abhik Chinnai, urged that the system of fees hike is completely erroneous and there is no transparency. He contended that it is

not clear as to whether the procedure laid down under the NIFT Academic Programmes Ordinances 2012 has been complied with by the institute.

The petitioners urged that the fees hike for NRI quota students is excessive and now they have to pay more than nine lakh annually.

"...this fee-structure incorporated a fee-hike of 10 per cent despite the current situation of COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the financial stability of the citizens of the country," the plea said.

Delhi air 'very poor', likely to remain so till 31 Oct

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

A layer of toxic haze lingered over the national capital on Monday as the city recorded its air quality in the 'very poor' category for the fourth consecutive day.

A central government air quality monitoring agency said the air quality was likely to remain 'very poor' till October 31.

The city recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 353 on Monday. It was 349 on Sunday, 345 on Saturday and 366 on Friday.

Most of the air quality monitoring stations in the city recorded the air quality in the 'very poor' category, while pollution levels rose to 'severe' levels at Vivek Vihar (AQI

414), Wazirpur (404) and Anand Vihar (418).

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, the wind direction and wind speed were favourable for the transport of pollutants from the farm fires in Punjab, Haryana and neighbouring regions.

The share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 concentration was 16 per cent on Monday. It was 19 per cent on Sunday and nine per cent on Saturday.

NASA's satellite imagery also showed a very dense cluster of fires in Punjab,

Haryana and nearby regions.

SAFAR said the farm fire count was 1,275 on Sunday.

According to Punjab Pollution Control Board, the state has recorded 14,461 incidents of stubble burning between September 21 and October 25 as compared to 9,796 during the corresponding period last year.

Haryana has recorded around 4,284 incidents of stubble burning this season so far.

The central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said the predominant surface wind direction is northwesterly with wind speed up to 12 kmph, favourable for transport of pollutants from farm fires.

A large number of farm fires

were observed over Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, which is likely to impact Delhi-NCR's air quality, it said. "The very poor air quality is likely to persist till October 31," it said.

The air quality warning system said the ventilation index a product of mixing depth and average wind speed was around 12,500 meter square per second on Monday favourable for dispersion of pollutants.

Mixing depth is the vertical height in which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed.

A ventilation index lower than 6,000 sqm/second, with average wind speed less than 10 kmph, is unfavourable for dispersal of pollutants.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

signed within 15 days.
For Entrepreneurs CGHS Ltd.
P C Chaudhary
President

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large, that M/S Indraprastha Ice & Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. is the owner of property being PLOT NO. 17-18 IN THE LAYOUT PLAN OF NEW SABZI MANDI AZADPUR AND MEASURING 2148 SQ. YARDS (Bank Charge on 6787 SQ. FT. area which is presently occupied by Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank & SBI out of total built up covered area 61985 SQ. FTs of the building 17-18, Indraprastha Bhawan, New Subji Mandi was released in favour of M/S. INDRAPRASTHA ICE & COLD STORAGE PVT. LTD.), which stands mortgaged with Bank of Baroda at its Azadpur Branch. Delhi as a security to the financial facilities granted to M/s Indraprastha Ice & Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. & M/s Dev Bhumi Cold Chain Pvt. Ltd. If any individual, firm, or company or anyone has any claim, interest, title, rights or objection against such ownership and mortgage may be informed to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this notice and after expiry of 7 days, nothing will be entertained.

Bank of Baroda
New Subji Mandi, Azadpur, Delhi-33
011-27875917

NOTICE

Public is informed that Entrepreneurs CGHS Ltd. Plot No. 9, Sector-22, Dwarka, Delhi-77 has submitted a proposal in Registrar of Co-operative Societies for clearance of name of its member Sandeep Saxena, s/o S.C. Saxena (Membership No.-334) for allotment of Flat whose enrolment was verified by Court of Financial Commissioner vide order dated 27-08-2015 and approved by RCS vide Letter dated 04-12-2015. Objection if any, with concrete evidence may be submitted to under-

LEGAL NOTICES

COURT NOTICE
(U/O S Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF
Ms. Sumitra Kadian
Civil Judge (Junior Division),

Gurugram
Meera Shamsher Singh
Versus
General Public
CNR No. HRGR02-002112-2020

Next Date: 02-12-2020
Publication Issued to:
General Public :- Gurugram.
In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that

defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 02-12-2020 at 10-00 a.m.
For details logon to https://highcourtcd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=gurugram.
Dated, this day of 22-10-2020.
Civil Judge (Junior Division), Gurugram
Seal of the Court

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sidharth Matta s/o Sh. Charanjeet Singh, r/o Flat No.127, Ground Floor Woodstock Floors nirvana country Sector -50, Gurugram 122018, have changed my name from Sidharth Matta to Sidharth Matta for all purpose.

The Statesman

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





Captain seeks restoration of freight movement

Punjab CM has urged railways minister to ensure immediate restoration of freight movement which remains suspended in the state even after agitating farmers' decision to partially lift their blockade



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 26 OCT.

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has sought the personal intervention of Union railways minister Piyush Goyal for immediate restoration of freight movement, which remains suspended in the state even after the farmers' decision to partially lift their blockade.

The CM spoke to the Union minister on Monday in the light of the decision of the Railways to extend the ban on movement of goods trains, initially imposed

for two days (on October 24 and 25), for another four days. The decision of the Railways to discontinue freight movement in Punjab subsequent to the partial success of negotiations with the farmers had negated the efforts of the state so far, said the CM, warning that the move may, in fact, further provoke the agitated farmers protesting against the Centre's farm laws.

Citing the grave impact of the non-restoration of freight traffic by the Railways, the CM also wrote to Goyal expressing serious concern that if the freight movement is not start-



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 26 OCT.

ed immediately, "not only Punjab will face serious disruption in economic activities and shortage of essential supplies, but Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Leh and Ladakh will also face serious economic crisis."

He cited various requests received by the state government from different quarters, including Central ministries and departments, for immediate resumption of freight movement through Punjab.

Earlier, the state government, through constant engagement in negotiations

with the farmers' unions, had succeeded in convincing them to allow partial resumption of services with withdrawal of their blockade from 22 October. However, after restoration of movement of freight trains on 23 October, the Railways had unilaterally stopped movement of all freight trains in Punjab, Amarinder pointed out in his letter to Goyal.

Incidentally, pointed out the CM, freight trains had continued almost uninterruptedly throughout the lockdown period even when the passenger trains operations were completely stopped. "There is

now no plausible reason to stop freight operations in and through Punjab," he said, adding that his government was also continuing with its efforts to persuade the protesting farmers to restore the passenger railway traffic also.

Later, on the CM's directives, chief secretary Vini Mahajan also spoke to the Chairman, Railway Board, and noted that the CM had set up a committee of three ministers to discuss complete lifting of their 'Rail Roko' blockade to allow even passenger trains.

However, as far as goods trains are concerned, no main line is blocked for goods trains as of date and only a single track that goes and ends at the private thermal plant Talwandi Sabo is currently blocked, she pointed out, adding that there was no justification for the continued ban by the Railways on movement of goods trains in Punjab, thus depriving the state of critical supplies, including coal, urea etc.

Besides shortage of the essential commodities, the state also needs to urgently lift food stocks from godowns to make way for more grains.

HPCM calls for ensuring regular check-up of Covid patients under home isolation



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 26 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Monday directed health officials to ensure regular medical check-ups of Covid patients who have opted for home isolation.

While presiding over the video conferencing with Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, Chief Medical Officers, Principals of Medical Colleges and Senior Medical Superintendents from Shimla, Jai Ram Thakur said it has been felt that they rush to hospitals only after their condition worsens.

He said that special thrust must be laid on Education, Information and Communication (IEC) so that the person with any kind of symptoms immediately visits the hospital for Covid-19 tests. He said that focus must be laid on making the 'Mask Up Campaign' of the Government of India a success. He said that doctors must ensure proper communication with the Covid patients as it goes a long way in recovery of the patients.

He said that this would ensure timely treatment of patients, as it has been found that about 90 per cent of deaths reported due to Covid took place within 24 hours of patients being admitted in health institutions.

The Chief Minister said that senior doctors must visit the Covid patients admitted

in the hospitals so that patients get a sense of security. He urged the doctors to adopt humane approaches in the treatment of patients.

He said the aged people and patients with co-morbidity must be paid special attention as their condition could deteriorate rapidly. He also felt the need for evolving effective mechanisms for medical check-up of Covid patients under home isolation.

Thakur said that keeping in view the festive season, the people must be persuaded to maintain social distancing, use face masks and hand sanitizers as prevention was the only cure of this virus.

He said that people must also be persuaded to avoid unnecessary gathering in social functions. He said that for this help of NGOs and local opinion leaders could also be taken.

The Chief Minister said that since the winter season is nearing, the people must be motivated to take more preventive measures. He said that the patients in Covid Care Centers must be provided with hot water and warm meals. He said that these centres should procure food warmers. He said that proper arrangements must also be made for heaters and mode of entertainment such as music and Television etc.

Thakur said that greater stress must also be laid on increasing the testing facilities in the State. He said that

the HLL has been urged to provide adequate machinery in the makeshift hospitals, besides providing staff on an outsource basis. He said that this would lessen the burden on the existing Covid Hospitals and Covid Care Centres.

Health Minister Dr Rajiv Saizal felt the need for ensuring that the pandemic does not spread due to overcrowding in social functions.

Chief Secretary, Anil Khachi said that the state must now aim at zero fatality and for this, all possible steps must be taken. He said that home isolation protocol must be strictly reinforced.

Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu said the police were taking all possible steps to persuade the people to maintain social distancing in public places.

Secretary Health Amitabh Awasthi said the department was ensuring to achieve the target of about four thousand tests per day. He said that people need to be more cautious as the second spikes of the virus may take place during the winter season.

Project Director National Health Mission Dr Nipun Jindal made a presentation on 'Guidelines for creation of health care workers database for Covid-19 vaccination'.

Additional Chief Secretary Home Manoj Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary Revenue R.D. Dhiman, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister J.C. Sharma and other officers attended the meeting.

FOREST BLAZE



Smoke rising from a forest after a fire broke out there at Kachi ghati near Shimla on Monday.

HP minister hits out at ex-MP for announcing new party

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 26 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Industries, Transport, Labour and Employment Minister Bikram Singh on Monday said the announcement of a new political party by former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP, Rajan Sushant in Himachal Pradesh was just a "stunt".

The Industries Minister said that Rajan Sushant is an ambitious and opportunist politician. "Whichever party he stayed in, he never had contentment and was never loyal to his party. He considers himself superior and is always making unrestrained rhetoric," he said.

Singh said that Sushant has always given preference to his personal interests and benefits. He has never hesitated to put public interest on the

stake for power and now he has been completely exposed. Those who supported Rajan Sushant never stood by him.

The minister said Sushant keeps searching for new excuses to garner headlines. His announcement of a new party is just a stunt. Before questioning the functioning of the state government, he should clarify what was his contribution for the state and region.

He said that the situation is that the present state government has become very popular among the people due to pace of development and public welfare schemes.

"Due to the popularity of the government some opportunistic leaders are feeling very insecure, hence making concocted rhetoric through newspapers," he said.

Singh said that Sushant should appreciate the func-

tioning of the state government as several schemes of the government have become popular across the country and other states are considering the state as a model state. In order to provide better financial security to the elderly, the state government has reduced the age limit for getting social security pension from 80 years to 70 years without income limit, this has benefited millions of senior citizens.

"The state government implemented several flagship schemes in the state like Chief Minister Sewa Sankalp helpline, Janmanch, HimCare and Himachal Grihini Suvidha yojana. The government has ensured upliftment of every person of society. Today, the entire state is moving forward towards self-reliance and prosperity," he said.

HC seeks Centre stand on woman's plea for passport to son stuck abroad for 8 yrs

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

The Delhi High Court has sought the Centre's reply on a woman's plea seeking directions to the government to provide a passport to her son, who is stuck abroad for the last eight years as he does not have a valid travel document.

Justice Navin Chawla issued notice to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) seeking its stand on the plea which claims that her son's passport was damaged when he was in Italy and had applied



for a duplicate one in 2012 which has not been issued to him.

He moved to Paris for work as without a valid pass-

port he was finding it tough to get work in Italy, her plea has said.

The Indian consulate in Italy had refused to issue

The woman has said that she, her husband and her son were falsely implicated in a dowry case by her then daughter-in-law in 2009.

him a passport as a dowry case was pending him here, she has said in her plea.

The woman has said that she, her husband and her son were falsely implicated in a dowry case by her then daughter-in-law in 2009.

Her husband passed away

during the pendency of the case and her son was declared a proclaimed offender as he could not come back to India due to lack of a valid passport, the petition has claimed.

She was acquitted in the case in 2016 and meanwhile, her ex-daughter-in-law obtained a divorce in 2011 and got married again, the plea said. It has also claimed that the divorce was granted by way of an ex-parte order as her son could not come to India to defend himself.

The high court has listed the matter for further hearing on December 7.

Dalai Lama hails treaty on nuke weapons prohibition

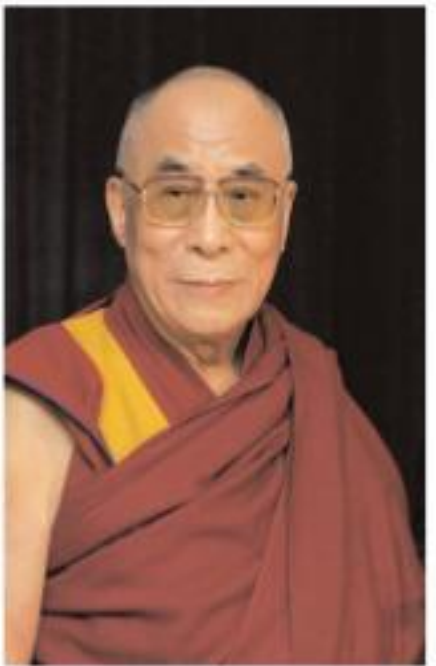
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 26 OCTOBER

Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Monday hailed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons that has now been ratified by fifty countries and will come into force from January next year.

Dalai Lama said as an avowed campaigner for the elimination of all nuclear weapons, he welcome the fact that the treaty will come into force from January next year in 50 countries.

"This is indeed historic and augurs well for the future of humanity. It is a step in the right direction to finding more enlightened and civilized arrangements for resolving conflicts," he said.

He further stated that he had no doubt that this treaty's



coming into force will contribute to even more concerted efforts to do away with these dreadful weapons and secure genuine and lasting peace in our world.

"It is my belief that our generation has arrived at the

threshold of a new era in human history because we are all interdependent, our vast and diverse human family must learn to live together in peace.

I commend the United Nations and the concerned member states that have made this treaty possible. It is an act of universal responsibility that recognises the fundamental oneness of humanity," he added.

He further stated that a nuclear-free world is in everyone's interest and the reality today is we need to rely on mutual understanding and dialogue to resolve conflicts.

Therefore, I take the opportunity to urge all governments to work to implement this treaty, so that the world becomes a safer place for us all, he added.

Air pollution may hinder India's fight against Covid, say scientists

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

The causal link between air pollution and COVID-19 cases is yet to be established conclusively but long-term exposure will certainly make people more vulnerable to lung infections, warn scientists as the skies over large parts of north India, including Delhi, turn smoky and the air quality deteriorates rapidly.

Their concerns come amid several global studies pointing to the possible connection between higher air pollution levels and increased COVID-19 cases and deaths.

A study by researchers at Harvard University in the US in September showed that an increase of only one microgram per cubic metre in PM 2.5 is associated with an 8 per cent increase in the COVID-19 death rate.

Given the current limited literature, the surge of PM2.5 level



in Delhi may be associated with increased COVID-19 cases. Although the literature is relatively sparse at this stage, Xiao Wu, corresponding author of the Harvard study, told PTI.

He said the relationship between long-term air pollution and COVID-19 has been documented in many studies,

which indicate that adverse health impacts of air pollution can make people prone to the infection or exacerbate the severity of COVID-19 symptoms once infected.

This is interesting, especially considering COVID-19 causes viral pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome,

and severe inflammation to the heart and circulatory system, the scientist said.

Another study by the University of Cambridge in April found an association between living in an area of England with high levels of air pollution and the severity of COVID-19, caused by the SARS-CoV-2

virus.

Based on our findings, I would expect to see an association between higher levels of air pollution in India and COVID-19 in the winter, similar with what we found in England, said Marco Travaglio, corresponding author of the Cambridge study.

If the levels of air pollution have been consistently above the legal limits for several months or years before this coming winter, I would expect to see a relationship between those levels and COVID-19 burden across different parts of India in November and thereafter, Travaglio told PTI.

He noted that a key component of PM2.5 toxicity is its composition which may vary considerably between countries.

Nonetheless, the WHO legal limits for PM2.5 are currently set at 10 g/m (microgrammes per cubic metre) annual mean. Levels beyond 500 g/m are extremely high and may have

considerable impact on people's health in relation to COVID-19 but also beyond it, said Travaglio.

The level of small particulate matter (PM2.5) levels in Delhi have averaged around 180-340 g/m in the past few weeks while that of bigger pollution particles (PM10) has hovered between 120 and 450 during the time.

Long-term exposure to chronically high PM2.5 levels weakens the ability of the lungs to fend off infections, therefore making people more susceptible to COVID-19, the scientists said.

In addition, studies from Italy have shown that traces of SARS-CoV-2 RNA, the genetic material of the virus, can be found on pollution particles, meaning that increased air pollution may act as a vehicle to increase COVID-19 transmission in highly polluted places.

The air quality in north India is expected to deteriorate further from November to Febru-

ary due to several factors such as stubble burning, festive fireworks and low wind speed conditions which lead to an uptick in vehicular and industrial pollution being trapped in the lower atmosphere.

"In view of this evidence, high levels of PM2.5 in Delhi may lead to a higher number of COVID-19 cases, Travaglio added.

Studies in humans have shown that toxic air particles can penetrate airways and cause widespread infiltration of lung cells.

This chronic state of inflammation may induce or aggravate health conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, experts said.

Because these conditions have been widely found to be associated with increased risk of contracting COVID-19 or incurring into critical illness, it is likely that air pollution acts

as a risk factor to increase the susceptibility to COVID-19.

India has the world's second-highest caseload of over 7.9 million and the third-highest death toll with more than 115,000 from the novel coronavirus.

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has warned that Delhi is likely to report around 15,000 COVID-19 cases daily in winter because of the prevalence of respiratory illnesses during this season that worsen the symptoms of the disease. On Sunday, the national capital recorded 4,136 fresh COVID-19 cases, the highest single-day spike in 38 days.

DJ Christopher, head of pulmonary medicine at the Christian Medical College in Tamil Nadu, noted that the increased severe form of COVID-19 among patients would lead to an increased ICU hospitalisations, thereby increasing the burden of the healthcare system.



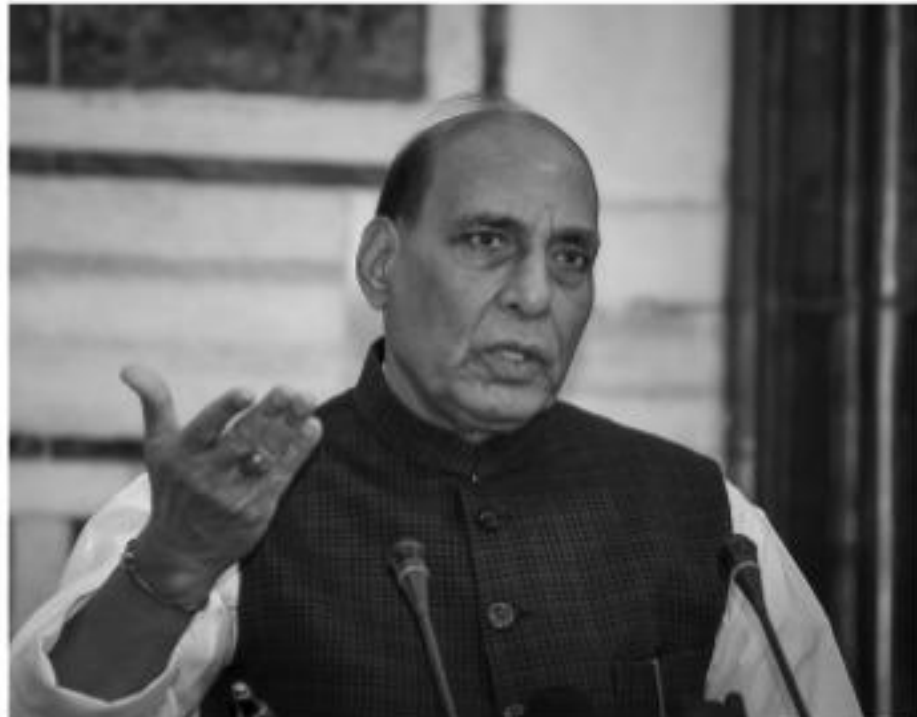


The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is predominantly young in terms of its population with almost 65 per cent of the population under the age of 35 years

MANOJ SINHA
JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

India, US review bilateral defence cooperation

Rajnath and his US counterpart also discuss developments in the Indo-Pacific region



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

Head of the '2+2' ministerial dialogue tomorrow, India and the US today reviewed bilateral defence ties, including military to military cooperation, secure communication systems and information sharing, defence trade and industrial issues. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his US coun-

terpart Mark T Esper also discussed developments in the Indo Pacific region against the backdrop of increasing Chinese assertiveness on maritime issues, sources said.

Both the ministers expressed satisfaction at the close engagements between the respective armed forces. They discussed potential new areas of cooperation, both at Service to Service level and at the joint level.



They called for continuation of existing defence dialogue mechanisms during the pandemic, at all levels, particularly the Military Cooperation Group (MCG). They also discussed requirements of expanding deployments of liaison officers. The two ministers expressed satisfaction that Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) would be signed during the visit. Esper welcomed Aus-

tralia's participation in the Malabar series of naval exercises which were hitherto conducted by India, Japan and the US.

The Indian minister elaborated upon the initiatives under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' to encourage investments in the defence industry in India and invited US companies to avail of the liberalised policies and the favourable defence Industry ecosystem in India.

Army commanders' conference to discuss stand-off with China, ceasefire violations by Pakistan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

The four-day Army commanders' conference began here today with the ongoing military stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh and the continuing ceasefire violations by Pakistan on the Line of Control (LOC) high on the agenda of the meeting.

The event, being attended by senior officers of the Army, is presided over by Chief of the Army Staff, Gen M M Naravane.

"The first day will be spent deliberating on matters related to human resource management. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the conference on 27 October. Prior to the defence minister's address, the conference will be addressed by the Chief of Defence Staff (Gen Bipin Rawat) and all the three service chiefs," the Army said in a release.

The third day will be spent on in-depth discussions on the various agenda points projected by the various

'Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the conference on 27 October. Prior to the defence minister's address, the conference will be addressed by the Chief of Defence Staff (Gen Bipin Rawat) and all the three service chiefs'

Army commanders. This will be followed by brief updates on various issues by the various principal staff officers.

The last day of the conference will include an update by the Director-General of Border Roads (DGBR) on the various infrastructure development projects being undertaken by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and allied formations. Automation initiatives to optimise utilisation of manpower at various levels of the Army will also be discussed.

The Army commanders will also carry out a com-

prehensive assessment of India's combat readiness in eastern Ladakh as well as other sensitive areas along the Line of Actual Control with China, sources said. They will also deliberate on a slew of long-pending reform measures like cutting down on ceremonial practices and non-military activities to ensure a rational distribution of resources.

The situation in eastern Ladakh remains tense as both Indian and Chinese armies have deployed over 50,000 troops each along the LAC following escalation of stand-off that began in early May. Sources noted that Pakistan has continued to violate the 2003 ceasefire agreement in order to send terrorists into India. There have been more than 3800 ceasefire violations till date this year by the Pakistani side.

There will also be a discussion on issues flagged by the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, which is India's only tri-services command.

J-K: 3 senior PDP leaders resign from party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, 26 OCTOBER

Three PDP leaders from the Jammu region resigned from the party following a statement by its president Mehbooba Mufti regarding the national flag, PDP sources said here on Monday.

Senior leaders TS Bajwa, Hassan Ali Waffa and Bed Mahajan have resigned from the PDP, they said. The trio was unhappy with Mehbooba's statement about not holding the tricolour till Jammu and Kashmir's special status, including its separate state flag, is restored, the sources said. BJP leaders have hit out at Mehbooba for her remarks, saying seditious statements will not be tolerated.

Mehbooba on Friday had said she was not interested in contesting elections or holding the tricolour till the constitutional changes enforced on August 5 last year were rolled back.

The PDP leader and former chief minister had also said that she would hold the tricolour only when the separate flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was restored.

The Centre on August 5 last year had abrogated the erstwhile state's special status and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Empowering youth is imperative for future of nation: J-K Lt Guv Manoj Sinha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, 26 OCTOBER

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said empowering the youth is imperative for the future of the nation.

"Youth empowerment is imperative for a better tomorrow. When we empower the youth, we empower the future of the nation," he said at a meeting here.

Bringing socio-economic change through youth empowerment is a much-needed practice that requires concerted efforts on the part of all stakeholders "to reap intended benefits and achieve desired results on ground", the Sinha said.

Those in the meeting discussed modalities for better implementation of the Union Territory administration's upcoming 'Youth Empower-

ment Programme' for youth engagement and employment.

The lieutenant governor observed that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are inherently talented. "The intended programme will prove to be an institutional mechanism for providing the necessary hand-holding and support to the youth to facilitate and nurture their capabilities," he said. He asked officers concerned to adopt global practices for youth engagement.

"Build an atmosphere of trust and positivity amongst the youth in the region. Identify gaps and be sensitive towards the problems and needs of the youth and resolve the same through various technological and knowledge-based interventions," Sinha said.

The lieutenant governor suggested incorporating the establishment of youth cen-

tres in every district.

He laid stress on creating opportunities for youth through skill development, education, sports, employment, tourism, agriculture and allied sectors.

"Youth engagement is about empowering young people and it is important to pave a solid foundation for the development and growth of our younger generation," Sinha said.

"The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is predominantly young in terms of its population with almost 65 per cent of the population under the age of 35 years. The government is aiming to operate youth engagement programmes in the field of sports, livelihood generation, recreation, education, counselling to effectively support and encourage young individuals to shape their future as per their aspirations," he added.

BJP tally dips to 15 seats in LAHDC polls

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 26 OCTOBER

Although the BJP on Monday retained control over Leh's prestigious Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) but in a setback tally came down to 15 seats amidst doubts on the issue of the Modi government granting 6th Schedule to the cold desert region.

The Congress gained by winning 9 seats. This was the first election after Ladakh becoming a Union Territory (UT) after splitting from J&K and also amidst the Coronavirus. Polling for the LAHDC was held last week and counting of votes was done today. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) that had jumped into the fray for the first time did not bag a single seat but damaged the BJP on a couple of seats.

The tally of BJP that was 18

in the 2015 elections surprisingly dropped to 15 this time although the party was expecting a clean sweep. The strength of Congress increased to 9 from the 5 seats it won in 2015. Interestingly, Independents have won 2 seats, Chushul and Nyoma, along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) where Indian and Chinese troops are positioned in an eyeball to eyeball position for the past nearly six months.

The BJP won the Korzok seat along the LAC and the Turtuk along the Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan occupied J&K. Having remained under the control of Pakistan since 1947, Turtuk was captured by the Indian Army during the 1971 war with Pakistan. Congress candidates, Rigzin Tsering and Sonam Thardos won with a thin margin of 20 and 79 over the AAP and BJP respectively in the Sakti and Igoo constituencies.

J-K BJP takes out 'Tiranga' rally on Accession Day, raises slogans outside homes of Abdullah, Mufti

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, 26 OCTOBER

The Kashmir unit of BJP took out a 'Tiranga' rally here to celebrate Accession Day on Monday, with the party saying the participation of people in it was a "tight slap" on those making seditious statements in the valley.

The Jammu and Kashmir government observed a public holiday on account of Accession Day, that marks the anniversary of signing of the Instrument of Accession by the then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, with Union of India on October 26, 1947.

Scores of BJP leaders and workers assembled at the Tagore Hall here where a function was organised to celebrate the occasion. It commenced with garlanding the pictures of Maharaja Hari Singh, Bharat

Mata and Maqbool Sherwani, who delayed the invasion of Pakistan-backed tribesmen in Baramulla, a party spokesperson said.

He said it was followed by a 'Tiranga' rally, led by BJP general secretary and in-charge for Kashmir Vibodh Gupta, which began at the Tagore Hall and concluded at SKICC on the banks of the Dal Lake.

Dozens of vehicles, with the tricolor hoisted on each of them, were part of the rally which passed through Gupkar Road and the activists raised slogans outside the residences of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti there.

Speaking on the occasion, Gupta said the "overwhelming response" from the local people of Kashmir and "massive participation" in the Tiranga rally was "a tight slap on

those so-called leaders of Kashmir who made seditious statements in the last few days".

This massive rally stands as a testimony to the fact that Gupkar Declaration leaders are living in fool's paradise, he said, referring to the Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration the unified group of several mainstream parties including NC and PDP.

Mehbooba Mufti, in her first interaction with the media after her release from detention, had said she will not hoist the tricolor till the flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was restored.

The BJP leader said it was on this day in 1947 when the then ruler of J-K, Maharaja Hari Singh, signed the Instrument of Accession of J-K with the Union of India, and this day was an important landmark in the history.

Actor who accused Kashyap of rape joins RPI(A)

MUMBAI, 26 OCTOBER

Actor Payal Ghosh, who accused filmmaker Anurag Kashyap of raping her, joined the Republican Party of India (Athawale) on Monday. She along with some others joined the party in the presence of its chief and Union minister Ramdas Athawale. Ghosh was appointed vice president of the women's wing of the party. Athawale said the entry of Ghosh and others into the party would strengthen it. He also claimed Kashyap would be arrested soon. The filmmaker has continuously denied the allegations leveled by Ghosh. "I told her RPI(A) is Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's party. It helps all sections of society, be it Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs, villagers, slum dwellers. The RPI will get a good face if you join the party. After I discussed this with her, she was ready to join the party," Athawale said. **PTI**

Abducted trader rescued

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MEERUT, OCTOBER 26.

Iron trader abducted from Baraut area of district Baghpat on Monday morning was set free barely eight hours later by the kidnappers because of the pressure mounted by the police by keeping a vigil on all possible escape routes with the help of drone cameras.

Iron trader Adesh Jain was on way to his godown at 5 am on Monday in Baraut town of Baghpat district when he was abducted. Shortly after the abduction the family members of the trader received a Ransom call of Rs 1 crore from the abductors. Thereafter the family approached police and informed about the abduction. All senior officials and brasses rushed to the spot after the news about this sensational abduction. The kidnapping had put the cops at their toes. IG Range

Praveen Kumar reached Baghpat and monitored the entire operation to rescue the abducted trader.

Addl Director General of Police (ADG) of Meerut zone Rajeev Sabharwal said that teams of cops were constituted immediately after the crime. They started search operation at various possible routes from Baghpat where the abductors could take the trader. They started immediate search and particularly went through the sugar cane fields. Besides drone cameras were also used to get clues about the movement of kidnappers, said Sabharwal adding that the CCTV footage hence obtained confirmed that criminals divided themselves in three different groups and they went in three different directions to mislead the police.

Thereafter the officials in Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, Shamli and neigh-

bouring district of Sonapat in Haryana were put on high alert in view of the movement of kidnappers.

ADG said that they got tip about the movement of a group of persons in the jungle of Rataul area from drone. Thereafter teams of police rushed to the spot where the criminals were present along with abducted trader. Sensing danger the abductors decided to free the trader and fled away from there. "The manhunt to arrest the abductors is still ongoing," said ADG adding that the police however had rescued the abducted trader Adesh Jain safely at 1 pm, eight hours after his abduction from Baraut.

Though police used conventional methods to get hold of the abductors and rescue the abducted trader safely but modern ways like using drone was also adopted and this yielded immediate result for the police.

SC stays contempt proceedings against Pokhriyal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 25 OCTOBER

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the contempt proceedings initiated against Union minister Ramesh Pokhriyal for alleged non-compliance of the Uttarakhand High Court's last year order on payment of rent by former chief ministers of the state for occupying government accommodation.

A bench headed by Justice RF Nariman stayed the contempt proceedings on a plea filed by the Union minister of Education.

The Uttarakhand High Court had on May 3 last year ordered the former chief ministers of the state to pay market rent for the entire period they continued to occupy government accommodation since demitting office.

The high court had declared all government orders from 2001 providing housing and other facilities to former chief ministers in the state as illegal and unconstitutional.

The court had directed that all amount due and payable towards amenities such as electricity, water, petrol, oil and lubricants provided by the state to the former chief ministers shall be computed by the state government within four months from the date of receipt of the copy of the order.

It had also said that the amount shall be intimated to the former chief ministers, who shall within six months from the date of such intimation, pay the said amount to the state government.

The high court had passed the order on a plea by a Dehradun-based NGO.

After the last year's order, the NGO had filed a plea in the high court alleging non-compliance of the order.

History created in terror-hit Kashmir: Football event held under floodlights



Winners celebrate their victory in Bandipora of north Kashmir on Sunday.

SNs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 26 OCTOBER

History was created amid 30 years long militancy in J&K when the first ever football match was played under the floodlights late evening on Sunday in Bandipora of north Kashmir.

Hundreds of people cheered the players of Real Kashmir Football Club and Muhammdan Football Club. The event was organized by the district police.

With this, the month long football tournament concluded in Bandipora that was organized with a view to channelize energy of the youth towards sports. The J&K DGP Dilbag Singh has

taken several steps to channelize the energy of youth by organizing sports events in Jammu and Kashmir.

Huge gatherings of sports enthusiasts witnessed the events that were organized across Kashmir as a part of the police sports festival. Elderly people have appreciated the effort of the J&K Police towards restoring normalcy in Kashmir.

Senior police and civil officers also witnessed the football match in Bandipora. The match began at 7.30 pm in a bid to create a sense of security among the people because the area generally wears a deserted look as people do not venture out in the evening.

A police spokesman said that as a part of Police Sports Festival, 12 matches of volleyball, football and cricket were played at Khushaal Stadium Tulibal and MET ground Sopore, 4 matches of Martyr Altaf Memorial T-20 Police Premier Cricket League were played at Qamaria Stadium Ganderbal and Shal-labugh ground and 7 matches of cricket, volleyball, chess and carrom were played in the District Police Lines, Handwara.

Sports events were also organized in Sopore, which recently witnessed some terrorist attacks. Five matches of volleyball, 4 of Football and 3 of cricket were played there.



Campaign ends for first phase of Bihar assembly election

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, 26 OCTOBER

Curtain came down on Monday over campaign for 71 assembly segments of Bihar which go to polls on October 28, in the first phase of elections.

Leading the NDA charge, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew down to address as many as three rallies where he urged the voters to vote Chief Minister Nitish Kumar back to power.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, whose party is contesting the elections in alliance with Lalu Prasad RJD and three Left parties, also chipped in with two rallies.

The BJP's quest for dominance over the states political scene, evident from a seat-sharing deal as part of which it clinched nearly as many constituencies as the JD(U) its senior partner so far-resonated during the election campaign.

Modi, as also other BJP star campaigners like Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and party president Jagat Ptaksh Nadda repeatedly cited Ram temple at Ayodhya, scrapping of Article 370 and



law against triple talaq as achievements of the government at the Centre and attacked the opposition for opposing these.

The 69 years old Chief Minister, who is also the JD(U) president and is seeking a fourth term in power, carried out a strenuous campaign which began with a series of virtual rallies and has been followed by dozens of election

meetings where he has been physically present, including two where he shared the stage with the Prime Minister.

The normally unflappable Nitish Kumar made news on more than one occasion for losing his cool and snapping at protesters from the opposition camp who turned up at his rallies raising slogans.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav,

who has been named by his party as its Chief Ministerial candidate, also ran an indefinite campaign which comprised rallies, video messages relayed through the social media and press conferences.

Massive turnouts and enthusiastic response from the crowds at his rallies have been a surprise for political observers who have under-

scored that the ambience spoke more of the anti-incumbency than the appeal of the former Deputy CM.

Another huge draw has been Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan who stunned all with his decision to go solo in the assembly polls.

The 37 years old began campaigning actively rather late, only after the customary mourning after the death of his father Ram Vilas Paswan was over on October 20.

The LJP chief has, thereafter, hit the streets with a vengeance canvassing for his candidates, a sizeable chunk of whom happen to be rebels from the BJP and the JD(U) which he has vowed to dislodge from power in the state while proclaiming loyalty towards the saffron party.

Other prominent leaders who have campaigned in the state so far include Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Smriti Irani, Congress leaders Raj Babbar and Shatrughan Sinha, BSP supreme Mayawati and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi. CPI rising star Kanhaiya Kumar also joined the campaign, mainly for candidates of the Left parties.

Besides, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman flew down to release the BJP

manifesto which promised, among other things, free corona vaccination.

Many prominent leaders fell prey to the contagion while campaigning, which saw them among large numbers of people without necessary vaccinations. These included Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and former Union ministers Rajiv Pratap Rudy and Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain.

Altogether 1066 candidates are in the fray for the first phase of elections, 114 of them females.

The voting in the first phase on Wednesday will decide fate of nearly half-a-dozen ministers of Nitish Kumar cabinet-Krishnandan Varma, Prem Kumar, Jay Kumar Singh, Santosh Kumar Nirala, Vijay Sinha and Ram Narayan Mandal.

The 71 constituencies going to vote on October fall in six districts, including naxal-hit Gaya, Rohtas and Aurangabad.

Among the prominent parties while RJD is contesting on 42 of the 71 seats in the first phase, JD(U) candidates are in 41 constituencies, BJP (29), Congress (21) and LJP nominees are in fray at 41 places.

Some trying to make a dent in NDA: Nadda's indirect attack on Chirag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AURANGABAD (BIHAR),
26 OCTOBER



BJP chief J.P. Nadda (*in photo*) Monday said some people are trying to make a dent in the NDA alliance during the ongoing polls in Bihar and "we should remain cautious against them", in remarks seen as an oblique attack on LJP president Chirag Paswan.

Addressing an election rally here, Nadda said, "Some people indulge in conspiracies during elections. They want to make a dent in the NDA. On one hand, they criticise Chief Minister Nitish Kumar but on the other they praise Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

Though he did not name him, Nadda's remarks are seen as a repudiation of Chirag Paswan's political salvoes against the chief minister but praise of Modi.

Earlier in the day, Paswan alleged corruption in Kumar's Saat Nishchay (seven resolves) scheme of good governance and said if voted to power he would get it probed and send to jail those found guilty including the chief minister.

However, the LJP chief has been praising Modi and recently called himself "Hanuman" of the prime minister.

Nadda said, "We have to remember that NDA is one. Only the BJP, JD(U), VIP and

HAM are in the NDA. We have to guard against those trying to make a dent," he said.

Attacking the RJD, Nadda said it had spread "anarchy" all through in the state.

"Hooliganism was at its peak. Kidnapping had become an industry. Bihar was on the path of migration and they are now talking about giving jobs."

What development will they bring to Bihar? he asked.

He said that all sections of the society whether poor, or prosperous and educated kept themselves away from Bihar during the regime of Lalu Prasad.

"The RJD has not changed yet, the BJP president, who has spent early part of his life in Bihar, said."

RJD ruled Bihar for 15 years from 1990 to 2005.

Its founder Lalu Prasad is in jail following his conviction in four cases of multi-crore fodder scam, his younger son Tejashwi Yadav is commanding the party in the present election in his absence.

Kamal Nath, Digvijaya 'biggest gaddars'; BJP will win majority of seats in bypolls: Scindia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

Accusing former chief ministers Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh of being the "biggest traitors" in Madhya Pradesh, BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia (*in photo*) on Monday said they betrayed voters' trust by running a "corrupt" government and he had to leave the Congress after people's issues raised by him were not addressed despite approaching "every port of call".

He also expressed confidence that the BJP will "win a majority", if not all, of the 28 assembly seats where bypolls will be held on November 3.

In an interview with PTI, Scindia said 27 out of the 28 assembly seats which are going to polls were Congress seats, so the BJP has everything to gain, while the Congress has everything to lose.

By-elections were necessitated after 22 rebel Congress MLAs, loyal to Scindia, resigned from the party in March this year leading to fall



of the 15-month-old Kamal Nath government in Madhya Pradesh.

Later, three more MLAs resigned and joined BJP, while further three seats fell vacant due to the death of sitting MLAs.

"The Congress needs to win 28 out of 28 seats to be able to even think of coming close to forming the government and they have just lost another MLA (in Rahul Lodhi) who has joined the BJP. It is very clear that people do not have

any hope in the Congress party, not only at grassroots, but also in sitting MLAs of the Congress," Scindia said.

"I do not think in any other state you would have seen MLAs in such a large number -- almost about 30 per cent -- leaving. It very clearly shows the lack of trust and faith in the state leadership of the Congress party which is Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh, and who are in a partnership," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

Vijayvargiya slams Nath on remarks, calls him 'mentally poor'

BJP General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya on Monday termed Congress veteran Kamal Nath as mentally impoverished for his controversial remarks against Madhya Pradesh Minister Imarti Devi. Addressing a campaign meeting recently for the November 3 byelection in Gwalior's Dabra town, where the BJP has fielded Imarti Devi, Nath said the Congress candidate was a "simple person" unlike his opponent who was an "item".

The comments of Nath, who is the Madhya Pradesh Congress president, against the BJP minister had created a furore and invited a wave of criticism. The former chief minister later expressed regret over the comments. Kamal Nath is a wealthy person. But he is mentally impoverished. When a person is mentally impoverished, his words become the same. Vijayvargiya told reporters here on Monday when asked about Nath's remarks.

Mayawati asks voters to guard against tactics of rival parties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW, 26 OCTOBER

BSP president Mayawati on Monday warned voters in Bihar to guard against "conspiracies" of rival parties as she sought support for her party's alliance in the polls.

Voting for 243 assembly seats in Bihar will be held on October 28, November 3 and November 7.

In a tweet, the former UP chief minister said, "Preparations for the first phase of the Bihar assembly elections begins today with the end of the election campaign. Therefore, there is an appeal to everyone that they should take care against all kind of conspiracies and tactics of opponents and cast their votes and make the BSP and RLSP coalition successful. The BSP, which is contesting on 80 seats in Bihar, has entered into an alliance with the Rashtriya Lok Samaj Party."

Fearing bypoll loss, BJP engaging in 'bargaining game': Nath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL, 26 OCTOBER

A day after a Congress MLA joined the BJP, the party's Madhya Pradesh unit president Kamal Nath on Monday hit out at the saffron outfit, saying due to its imminent rout in the upcoming assembly bypolls, it is engaging in "game of bargaining" and luring his legislators.

On Sunday, Congress MLA from Damoh Rahul Lodhi joined the BJP after resigning from the assembly. His resignation from the Congress came ahead of the November 3 bypolls on 28 assembly seats whose results will be declared on November 10.

The BJP has anticipated the result coming on November 10 so the BJP is not waiting for the result and has started the game of bargaining.

"Now they are left with only this option. I am getting calls from many Congress MLAs. They are telling that the BJP is luring them and offering money, Nath told reporters here."

The BJP dismissed the Con-



gress allegations and said Nath is not able to manage his party.

The former Chief Minister said the electorate of Madhya Pradesh is very simple and straightforward, but very aware politically. Election is a celebration of democracy. But this has become a celebration of bargaining. I don't believe in such politics, he said. I have written a letter to the Election Commission today. Lower-level government employees are being pressurised to work in favour of the BJP, the Leader of Opposition in Assembly said.

Nath said the BJP knows that it is not getting the numbers to save its government in the bypolls so it has started luring

Congress MLAs. Since March this year, 26 Congress MLAs have resigned and joined the BJP.

Reacting to Nath's allegations, state BJP spokesman Rajneesh Agrawal said the state Congress chief is not able to manage his party. So many Congress legislators and leaders have left the party under Nath's leadership. This puts a question mark on Nath's leadership. "He should not make baseless comments against the BJP, Agrawal said. The BJP spokesman said Nath is not even listening to the advice of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who has condemned certain controversial remarks of the MP Congress chief."

In March, 22 Congress MLAs, most of them loyalists of Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia, had resigned from the party and the state Assembly. This had led to the collapse of the 15-month-old Kamal Nath-led Congress government and cleared the way for the BJP to again come to power.

Scindia and his loyalists joined the BJP with some of the rebel MLAs becoming ministers in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government.

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 50 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Decomposed, **Hair:** White, **Wearing:** Pajama, **Details of injury mark:** Disfigured on face, **Place of recovery:** Dry Nahar near AFS Issapur Village, New Delhi. on 13.05.2017 at 10:15 AM. In this

regard, vide FIR No. 215/19, Dt. 22.12.2019 U/s 302 IPC has been lodged at PS J.P. Kalan, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

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

SHO
P.S., J.P. Kalan, Delhi
Ph. : 011-25318081, 25318100
8750871030

DP/330/DW/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Manisha, D/o Kalluwa, R/o Mahadav Mandir** near E-Block, Nala Jhuggi, Sewa Nagar, New Delhi has been missing since 29.09.2020. In this regard a **FIR No. 366/2020 u/s 363 IPC** dated 29.09.2020 has been registered at PS, Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi.

The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Manisha, **Father's Name :** Kalluwa, **Age :** 15 years, **Height :** 5'3", **Complexion :** Fair, **Face :** Round, **Wearing:** Pink color Suit and Salwar and Black Color chappal in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

SHO
P.S., Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-24620106, 8750870828

DP/277/SD/2020



Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a Female dead body **Name:** Unknown, **D/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 60/62 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Gender :** about Female, **Complex:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Cream Colour Kameez **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Long Black & White **Place of recovery :** was found dead at Q-103, Vikash Vihar, Manas Kunj Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi. on 23.10.2020. at

regard, **DD No. 43-A Date 23.10.2020** has been lodged at PS Bindapur, Delhi. Dead body preserved in the Mortuary of DDU Hospital, New Delhi

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this female may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Bindapur, Delhi
Ph. : 011-25633525/26,
8750871025

DP/333/DW/2020

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Guru Bachan Singh S/o Unknown R/o Unknown** on 14.09.2020 was found Rawta mor village Jaffarpur kalan, Delhi in the area of PS J.P. Kalan, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 76-A, dated 14.09.2020** has been lodged at PS, J.P. Kalan, Delhi. He is kept in Old-Age Home Village-Jaffarpur Kalan, Delhi. The

description of found person is as under : **Name :** Guru Bachan Singh, **Father's Name :** Unknown, **Age :** 65 years, **Height :** 5'7", **Face :** Oval, **Complexion :** Fair, **Hair:** White, **Wearing :** White T-Shirt, and Black Lower Track Suit. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

SHO
P.S., J.P. Kalan, Delhi
Ph. : 011-25318081
8750871031

DP/313/DW/2020



Modi didn't accept even tea during 9-hour questioning by Gujarat riots SIT: Raghavan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

Without parrying a single question out of the 100-odd ones put to him by the 2002 Gujarat riots SIT, Narendra Modi as the then Gujarat chief minister "kept his cool" throughout the marathon 9-hour questioning and did not accept even a cup of tea from investigators, the probe team's chief at that time RK Raghavan has said in a new book. Modi had also readily agreed to come to the SIT office in Gandhinagar for the questioning and brought his own bottle of water, Raghavan has written in his autobiography 'A Road Well Travelled'.

Before being asked to head the Supreme Court-appointed SIT that probed the 2002 Gujarat riots, Raghavan had also served as head of premier probe agency CBI. He was also involved in several other high-profile investigations over years, including those relating to the Bofors scam, the 2000 South Africa cricket-match fixing case and the fodder scam.

Talking about the time the SIT had called Modi for questioning as the then Gujarat chief minister, Raghavan writes in the book, "We had invited to his staff that he had to come in person to the SIT office for this purpose and that meeting him elsewhere would be misconstrued as a favour."

"He (Modi) understood the spirit of our stand and readily



agreed to come to the SIT office within the government complex in Gandhinagar," Raghavan said. The former police officer further said he took the "unusual step" of asking Ashok Malhotra, an SIT member, to do the questioning, mainly to avoid any "mischievous allegation" later that Modi and he had struck a deal. "This stand was endorsed months later by no less a person than amicus curiae Harish Salve. He told me that my presence would have vitiated Modi's statement and would have robbed it of its credibility," Raghavan said, adding that he had never consulted Salve prior to the event. It was my personal decision flowing from sheer intuition, said the retired IPS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, who was also appointed as High Commissioner to Cyprus in 2017. "Modi's questioning lasted nine hours in my own chamber at the SIT office. Malhotra told me later that Modi kept this

cool right through the marathon session which ended late at night," Raghavan said.

"He (Modi) never parried questions. Nor did he give the impression of padding up his responses. When Malhotra asked him whether he would like to break for lunch, he initially turned down the offer. He brought his own bottle of water and did not accept even a cup of tea from the SIT during the marathon questioning comprising a hundred-odd questions," he said.

Raghavan said it required "tremendous persuasion" to make Modi agree to a short recess. "This was possibly Modi's concession to the need for a respite for Malhotra rather than for himself. Such was the energy of the man."

In February 2012, the SIT filed a closure report, giving a clean chit to Modi and 63 others, including senior government officials, saying there was "no

prosecutable evidence" against them. In the book, the former CBI Director also asserted that the probe into the Gujarat riots by the Supreme Court-mandated SIT under him was "clinical and professional" and the SIT's "unequivocal stand" on the chief minister's role was "unpalatable to his (Modi's) adversaries" in the state and in Delhi.

"They engineered petitions against me, accusing me of favouring the chief minister. The grapevine had it that they misused central agencies to monitor my telephonic conversations. They were, however, disappointed not to find anything incriminating," he said.

Raghavan said false charges were aired against him on the sly to start with, and later openly. "Fortunately, the apex court stood by me and backed me to the hilt. I was found inconvenient because I refused to buy the argument that the state administration connived with the rioters who were targeting the Muslim community. Our investigation was clinical and professional," he asserted.

"If I displayed a measure of professional acumen and objectivity, it was not a little due to the sterling assistance of Ashok Kumar Malhotra, whom I inducted into the SIT in 2009," said Raghavan praising Malhotra, who was asked to oversee the team's work after the apex court allowed Raghavan to be relieved from the duty in 2017.



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Tempers frayed

Even as the World Health Organisation warns of an exponential rise in coronavirus cases and urges world leaders to take immediate steps to prevent further deaths, and as doctors say that the chronic pathologies of the winter will add to problems, people frayed by the restrictions put in place by governments have taken to the streets to protest. Those who say they want freedom from the tyranny of restrictions, have questioned the science behind the restrictions sought to be enforced. The weekend saw large protests in the United Kingdom and Italy. The leader of an organisation at the forefront of protests in London has said that regulations put in place by the government – split into three categories – were neither proportionate nor appropriate and were causing more harm than good. “We are very concerned with protecting people’s human rights: right to privacy, family life, bodily autonomy, medical freedoms, and so on”, Louise Creffield, the head of Save Our Rights UK was quoted as saying. While these responses question the efficacy of restrictions, others have gone so far as to label the pandemic a hoax, with some hinting at dark conspiracy theories, including actions of a Satanist cult. Such strains of extreme thought have always existed, but governments must now worry that they are gathering traction, as those hurt by job and income losses seek outlets for their anger. So far, the protests have been peaceful, and they have been easily dispersed, although they have violated most public safety rules. But it may only be a matter of time before things take an ugly turn. Thus, politicians who helm democratic governments must continually grapple with finding the balance between responsibility and populism as they cope with a disease that has thrown up more questions than its management has offered answers to. With different vaccine trials having encountered hiccups, with no clarity on when and if a vaccine will be available and now with questions being raised on whether people will allow a vaccine to be administered, the road ahead will be bumpy. The reason is that the primary weapon used by those putting restrictions in place – fear, especially of the unknown – is losing its potency. It is slowly being overwhelmed by the need for economic survival, as people around the world come around to the view that even a few million deaths are acceptable collateral damage.

It is against this backdrop that the outcome of the American Presidential election assumes importance. Beyond the question of who will lead the world’s most powerful nation, the election will answer a critical question on the approach to be adopted in managing the epidemic. While Democratic supporters point to President Trump’s own affliction as evidence of reckless management, many Republicans are pointing to his successful recovery at the age of 74 to suggest, as the President often has, that the disease is no big deal. If Mr Trump wins against all odds, his approach may well become the template in many countries.

Palace intervenes

With the rejection by Malaysia’s King of a controversial proposal put forth by the government of Prime Minister Muhyiddun Yassin to declare a state of emergency in the country, a move that many thought was aimed at ensuring suspension of Parliament to avoid a vote that may have seen the fall of the government, Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim may yet get a chance to lead the country. The emergency proposal was mooted soon after Mr Anwar, who leads the 91-member Pakatan Harapan coalition, claimed he had the support of 120 MPs and met the King earlier this month to stake his claim. While that meeting did not lead either to an invitation from the monarch, or clarity on where Mr Anwar would get the requisite additional numbers, it certainly set the cat among the pigeons for it provoked Mr Muhyiddun to propose emergency powers for reining in the coronavirus epidemic, a move even his allies in the ruling coalition termed disproportionate and unjustified, arguing that there was no breakdown of law and order to compel the extreme step. Mr Muhyiddin’s government was slammed by civil society groups and one former Minister termed the proposal as “killing a few rats using a bomb”. The recommendation forced consultations between the King and the other Malaysian rulers between whom the crown rotates, placing the monarchy in the position of having to adjudicate what was clearly a political rather than a public health question. The rejection of the proposal on Sunday was widely hailed in the country, with one Opposition leader saying the decision showed the “constitutional monarchy proves to be an important bulwark of parliamentary democracy in Malaysia”. Citizens too weighed in on social media under a hashtag that translates as Long Live the King.

With Mr Muhyiddun thus thwarted by the King, Malaysia faces three possible scenarios. The first is that his government, even if it is reduced to a minority, could bumble along with selective, issue-based support from other groupings. While such a government will be fragile, leaders of some parties have expressed support for the idea, saying that critical issues like the Budget and expenditure to tackle Covid could be cleared by Parliament if their points of view are accommodated in the proposals. The other possibility is that Mr Anwar, who has all along maintained he has the support of 120 MPs, could triumph on the floor of Parliament, thus giving Malaysia a new government and Prime Minister. The third possibility is that the country may be forced into fresh elections, a prospect many Malaysians may be uncomfortable with, as political campaigning could lead to a rise in virus cases, as was seen immediately after provincial elections in the state of Sabah in September when an exponential surge was reported.

Karma and Law

Karma, as the root of life, is at least as old as the Vedas if not even older. On the other hand, the inspiration to socialism may be vaguely traced to Plato’s Republic or Greek philosophy. The second written inspiration was Thomas More’s Utopia, a title which is self explanatory of socialism’s deficiency in realism. In any case, it has no connection with the Indian ethos



The Re 1 fine imposed by the Supreme Court on 31 August for contempt of court drew my attention to the foundation of our Constitution. The preamble begins with justice, liberty, equality and fraternity from which presumably emerge socialist and secular. All very noble sentiments, but not at all rooted in the Indian ethos. To me the moral cornerstone of Indians is karma.

Those citizens who are immigrants into the country and have not yet adjusted to the soil may not be au fait with this fundamen- but all others, including people of non-Hindu religions, know it. Karma is the root of life and is known to even illiterate Indians. The Indian Constitution should therefore be ideally rooted in karma and not liberty, equality and fraternity, the troika of words thrown up by the French Revolution of 1789.

Together the words sound resonant but those who speak or hear them do not realize that they are contradictory. Liberty or freedom is spontaneous, and most people are born free, whereas equality is not natural and has to be imposed by society or government. Almost everyone is born unequal. Excellence has to be reduced and ordinariness has to be supported to bring about equality or near equality. Many a person has to be supported to bring about equality. The moment society loosens its grip, equality goes and liberty takes over.

The essence of karma is liberty and it is utterly rational and logical. In life, the consequence of karma is bhagya or fate; deed leads to destiny. This is rather like the principle of physics that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Equality is an Abrahamic innovation; the first Prophet and his successors believed that God made man equal but society makes him unequal. The result was that every good Christian believes in the desirability of social service whether by running schools, colleges or hospitals. Islam introduced zakaat, a kind of tax of two and a half per cent

of every momin’s wealth at the end of every year.

The money so raised is used by the holy men for the welfare of poor Muslims. These are the ways Christians and Muslims try to make people as equal as possible. The sentiments are noble, but to what extent do they succeed in bringing about equality?

The faith in karma believes that a person is poor or suffering as an automatic atonement for

his deeds, bad as may have been the case. Or he or she is well off and happy as a reward for desirable deeds done earlier. Charity cannot be an equalizer of the essentially unequal. Nor can karma be controlled down or up. No society has been able to achieve equality, including the former Soviet Union which was based on the ideology of Marxism, which proclaimed “from each according to his ability to each according to his need.” The intentions of Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin remained on paper but the Soviet Union certainly went bankrupt in a matter of 70 years.

Karma, as the root of life, is at least as old as the Vedas if not even older. On the other hand, the inspiration to socialism may be vaguely traced to Plato’s Republic or Greek philosophy. The second written inspiration was Thomas More’s Utopia, a title which is self explanatory of socialism’s deficiency in realism. In any case, it has no connection with the Indian ethos. Incidentally, when the Constitution was first inaugurated in 1950, there was no mention of socialism. It was smuggled into the Preamble in 1976 (Emergency year) when most opposition leaders were in jail. However, Jawaharlal Nehru in 1956 introduced his economic policy as a socialistic pattern of society.

Secularism was similarly smuggled into the Preamble of

the Constitution in 1976. It had no meaning for India, a dominant Hindu country with no religious role in government. Hinduism is not a religion in the sense of one way of worship, one God, one holy book, one prophet. Its core is karma and thereafter there are innumerable denominations. Strangely enough, secularism began as a revolt against the Roman Church seen by many a German as practicing imperial-

ism. For example, three lakh pieces of gold used to be taken annually from the German speaking areas by Rome with no benefit to the Germans. Martin Luther led the protest which eventually resulted in the Reformation in the 16th century. France largely remained loyal to Rome and there were three houses to its parliament or national assembly, house of the landed aristocracy, house of commons and thirdly the house of bishops and abbots etc. The Church owned a great deal of land and had a substantial voice in governance. The king listened more to the Church and the others probably kept quiet for fear of God. When the French Revolution took place, the country still had the three houses. In the light of these facts one can see why secularism or the separation of the State from the Church took place. What was the relevance of these developments to India?

While Dr B R Ambedkar drafted the Constitution, it was Jawaharlal Nehru who directed it to the end. For the sake of communal peace, Articles 25 to 30 were introduced. The first, namely 25, gives freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion. This gives complete freedom to change one’s religion.

Article 27 gives freedom regarding payment of taxes for the promotion of any particular religion so long as non-payers are

not coerced. Article 28 allows freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions. With all these provisions, there is no justification for Hindus to complain that any of these provisions lead to minority pampering.

The Christians regularly propagate the faith of Christ. They also teach this message in their schools. Muslims raise a tax called zakaat, two and a half per cent of a person’s annual wealth for distribution to the poor; who need not be of their faith.

The Hindus do not do any such thing except to keep announcing ghar wapsi. Additionally, they could raise more funds through the freedom to tax. With the money collected, they could build schools and teach children their chosen curriculum, also religion, if they have interest. In fact, it is useful for children to grow up knowing the fundamentals of all faiths. There would then be little communal tension. Whether the Constitution should have been so liberal as to allow conversion, which would be the result of propagation, is a matter of opinion.

Article 41 provides the right to work, to education and to public assistance for the purpose. The national document was first released on 26 January 1950 and after all these years, teaching of poor children is not fully in gear. To achieve cent per cent school education there could be a public and private collaboration. The State can provide the land and a prosperous private party including an industry should construct the building after which public donations could be raised for other expenses like furniture, smart boards and other equipment.

Token fees should be charged because anything that comes free is taken for granted both by the parents and children. If no restriction is placed, say a period a day should be devoted to teaching moral values, including religious ones. More private parties would be attracted to participate in this grand collaboration for teaching India’s children.

A MEMBER OF THE

Attack on anti-rape long march condemnable

We condemn the repeated attacks on the anti-rape protesters who were on a long march from Dhaka to Noakhali by the men of ruling party MP in Feni. According to the president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, goons of the local Awami League MP in Feni launched attacks on the protesters with sticks and rods after the demonstrators concluded a rally in the Shaheed Minar area.

And the police present there did not do anything to stop the attackers; instead they joined the ruling-party men and chased the protesters. According to news reports, the protesters also alleged that plainclothes men in DB jackets took part in the attack which left at least 35 protesters injured, 10 of them suffering severe injuries.

What is even more horrifying is the fact that those injured could not take any treatment in Feni as the Chhatra League and Jubo League men took up positions on the sides of the road from Feni to Noakhali to stop them from seeking treatment and terrorising them further.

The long march was arranged in the wake of a dangerous rise in the incidents of rape and violence against women across the country.

After the gang rape in Sylhet’s MC College and the gang rape and torture



of a woman in Noakhali, which shook the conscience of the entire nation, we are coming across many other reports of rape and gang rape and other forms of violence against women on a regular basis.

This long march is a protest against the prevailing culture of rape and sexual violence against women in the country and against the impunity enjoyed by rapists and criminals.

While the demands of the protesters – exemplary punishment for those involved in gender-based violence, reformation of the Evidence Act, implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) charter, put an end to repression of women in the hills and on plain land, etc. – got support from the general public all over the country, it seems that the ruling party backed student organisations are against it.

Otherwise, why would they attack the peaceful protesters of the long march? In fact, in most of the recent rape cases across the country, the members of the youth organisations of the ruling party were found to be involved, which explains their anger against the protesters.

The role of the police was also questionable in this incident. Why did the police not stop the attackers in the first place becoming their associates instead? Why did they attack the protesters when their mandated duty was the opposite – to help them? Whose side are they on? The police must answer these questions.

The unwarranted attack on peaceful protesters has only served to damage the image of the government and erode people’s trust.

We demand immediate arrest of the attackers on the long march and expect that rapists and their protectors will be made to face justice according to our law.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

One-sided analysis

SIR, Harsha Kakar’s A Battle Won, A War Lost? (Oct 20) is a one-sided extolling of the Modi government’s illusory

achievements in Eastern Ladakh. Kakar turns a blind eye to China’s successful incursion into Ladakh, the

sheer ineptness with which the army top brass and the PMO reacted and the evident shortage of essential armaments and supplies with the army (forcing emergent purchase of Rs. 5,000 crore in the first instalment),



the absence of any infrastructure in Ladakh to support 70-80,000 Indian troops, the unsustainable cost of indefinite war time deployment, India’s 1:3 trade imbalance with China and economic dependence on China, etc. and knee-jerk policy barriers such as barring import of TV sets and apps, but nothing more substantial. Kakar takes a ludicrous stand that India is negotiating with China from a position of strength. Then why have nearly 20 rounds of army commander level meetings not resulted in Chinese pull-back to their pre-incursion positions or not daring India on Taiwan? Kakar is also unaware of Jaishanker’s recent statement, that clearly extended an olive branch to China.

Quad is presently only a concept and stray naval drills are hardly all that a military alliance should be doing. Kakar does not answer why China did not sweep into Ladakh in April-

July? Was it because their sole objective was to steadily bleed India into submission without waging war, thereby minimizing their human and material losses? Or was it to obtain an opening into the Indus riverine system via the Galwan and Shyok rivers in the Depsang region that has been achieved? Yours, etc., Shantanu Basu, New Delhi, 21 October.

JUSTIFIED

SIR, This is with reference to your editorial "Necessary,

Welcome "(21 October) and the report "HC modifies puja order" (22 October).

Such an order placing restrictions on festivity was expected from the Calcutta High Court as the state government was unable to give specific directives to puja organizers.

The High Court’s order is justified. A virtual Puja would be the most pious form of worship.

Yours, etc., Dilip Kumar Dutta, Midnapore, 22 October.

WELL DONE, RAHUL

SIR, One must appreciate ahul Gandhi for expressing his displeasure at the comment of Kamal Nath, a senior Congress leader, on a woman politician. Stooping to levels not expected of a senior leader like Nath is deplorable. Trespassing limits of criticism has become the order of the day. The comment may be hilarious and sarcastic but doesn’t result in any kind of electoral benefit. Rahul Gandhi has shown political maturity and sagacity, which is quite disarming. Others should emulate him.

Yours, etc., D S P Rao, Kakinada, 21 October.

Building sandcastles amidst a tsunami

Imagine a beautiful beach where families are gathered on a clear day under blue skies. Different families are building sandcastles, whilst some are playing on the beach. No one is watching that a tsunami with different waves is approaching the shore.

This is the vivid story told by former UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres. The first wave is the pandemic, followed by economic recession, then financial crisis, and finally the Big Wave of Climate Warming.

Why are people and politicians still building sandcastles and looking the other way?

The more intriguing question is: what sandcastles are still being built? One is called democracy. Another is called freedom.

In the next two weeks, we shall witness the outcome of the election of the century. Since the 2008 Great Financial Crisis, many have lamented that democracy has been on the retreat. Electoral democracy is founded on the idea that each society chooses its own leaders through one-citizen-one-vote. Abuses of leadership is checked and balanced through the Montesquieu trinity of Executive, Judiciary and Legislature. But with the emergence of Brexit, European populists and Donald Trump by 2016, the game became uglier, as political and social views became polarized and wealth and social inequalities widened.

Even as land and stock market prices rose when interest rates went near zero, politicians sleepwalked through the seismic shift in social conditions as the bottom half of society became insecure from loss of jobs to technology, globalization and rising levels of immigration. Centrist moderates were seen by both extreme left and right as having sold out to the powerful, and politics became more rigged, fractious and contested.

Will building the democracy sandcastle better at this point of time stop the tsunami crashing down on all of us? Surely the issue is to run and fight another day? When the tsunami comes, all sandcastles will be swept away and there may not even be a beach anymore. But some will survive, and the re-building must begin.

This is where the freedom sandcastle plays a critical role. Individual freedom is an anchor of the Western value system, now spread through



AFP

globalization. But Individual freedom comes with social obligations. The pandemic posed this dilemma in sharp focus. Many Americans and British felt that wearing a mask impinges on their individual freedom, but not doing so and not following social distancing rules have cost the two societies over a quarter million deaths so far, and rising.

On the assumption that each life costs \$10 million, the cost to the two societies on the day of writing is \$2.2 trillion and \$447 billion respectively. Larry Summers has calculated that the total cost of this pandemic so far is \$16 trillion for the US economy, or nearly three-quarters of its 2019 GDP.

We cannot blame democracy or freedom for such loss of life. East Asian economies from Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam (combined 2,552 deaths as of 21 October) have shown that different systems can produce better pandemic management results than say, Sweden (5,929 deaths) with 39 times larger population.

We have not yet beaten Covid-19, as the virus is mutating as it spreads. Vaccines may be coming, but their usage will not be widespread till next year. Winter is coming and death rates will increase as the seasonal influenza strikes. More than

ever, we should be prepared when the second and third waves of economic distress, unemployment, bankruptcies (all temporarily covered up by subsidies and debt forgiveness) surface by spring next year.

So why are we still building sandcastles as the waves crash down?

All this boils down to human psychology and reaction to unknowns. Depending on experience and knowledge, as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami showed, some may still wander down to the beach to figure out what is going on. There were 227,898 deaths then, but not everyone ran for their own lives. Many were brave enough to save

others. Others stayed to help many flee.

Clearly those who deny the tsunami have an education problem, which simply boils down to a moral issue. Is your individual freedom so important that you deny that this could put your loved ones and many other people at risk? It is not just a health issue, but the damage to the economy will be even more devastating. Central banks printing money cannot stem the losses, because they do not address structural issues exposed by the pandemic. Denial, blaming others, sheer incompetence and unwillingness to work with each other at all levels of society in the face of disaster have been hallmarks of those economies most devastated by the pandemic.

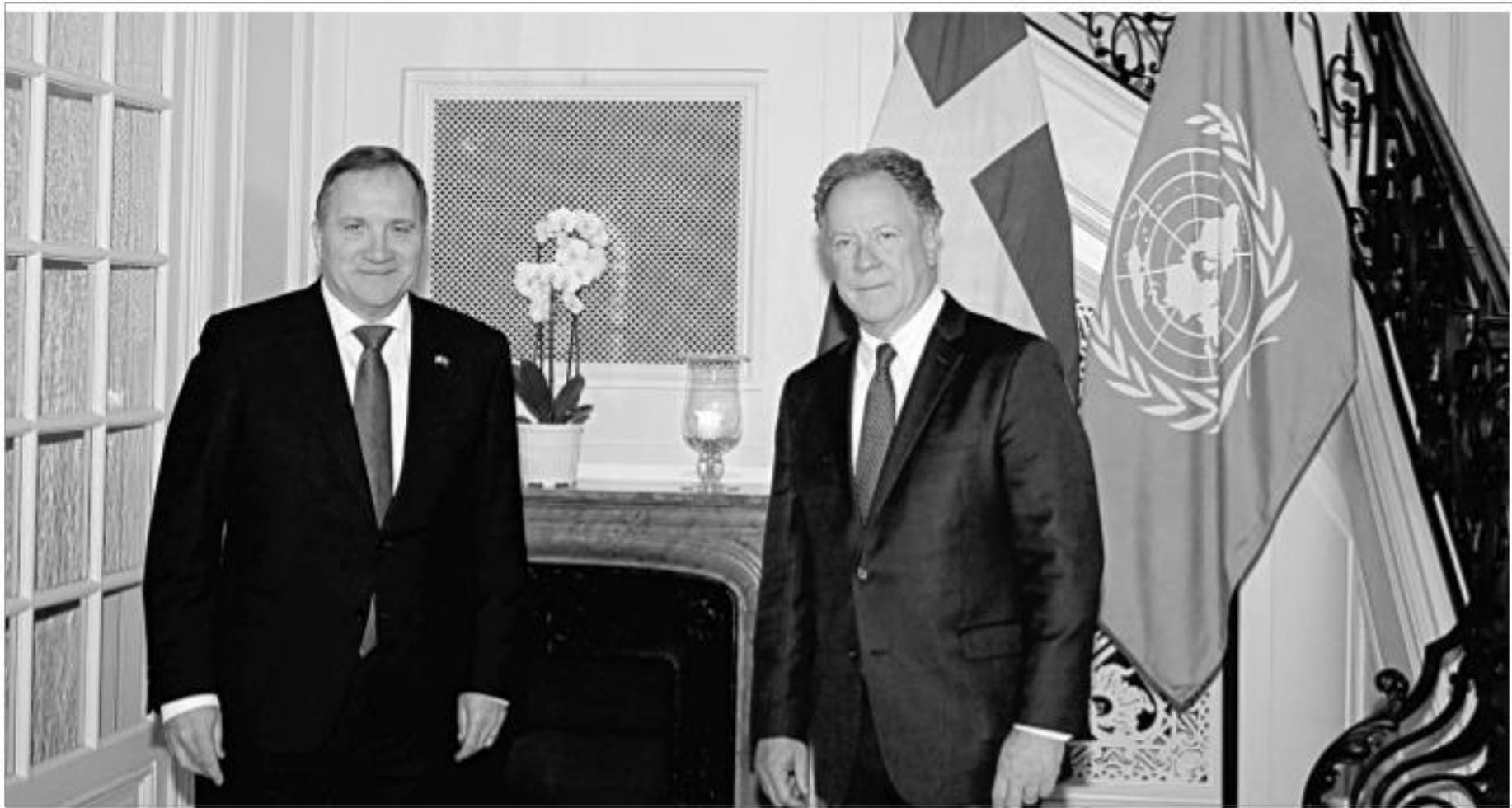
All these show that whilst the science-based approach is validated by the health crisis, human beings do not decide by facts alone. Our economic models based on dollars and cents cannot measure the agony of the masses when they lose their jobs, health and dignity. At the heart of human choice is ultimately a moral issue. Do you care only for yourself, or do you care more about other people and Mother Nature?

This is why the US elections is ultimately a moral test, not a democratic or freedom issue. This election could be fair, rigged or legally contested. Irrespective of who wins, and whether the election will result in a constitutional crisis requiring Supreme Court decisions, the test is how individuals involved: the voter, Presidential candidates, Supreme Court judges or the Attorney General decide on their personal sense of moral values. Their decisions in the coming days will have far reaching consequences for themselves and the rest of us.

We will soon know whether we have four more years of shambolic chaos or perhaps a period of healing after the pandemic. God bless America and pray for us all.

The writer is a former central banker and financial regulator. The views are entirely his own. Special to ANN.

Can WFP build peace on its own?



AFP

SUSAN JASPARS

By awarding the 2020 Nobel peace prize to the UN's World Food Programme (WFP), the Nobel committee said that it wanted to "turn the eyes of the world to the millions of people who suffer from or face the threat of hunger". Among its reasons for awarding the prize were WFP's "efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict".

These issues don't apply just to people living in areas of acute conflict, but also to the many people around the world who have experienced high levels of malnutrition for decades – usually in countries affect-

ed by multiple and long-term political crises such as Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Yemen.

The focus that the Nobel committee has brought to hunger and conflict is welcome and very much needed. It must be addressed as a matter of urgency – but not by WFP alone.

Hunger has been used as a weapon of war for many years, but the issue has recently risen to prominence because of the increased risk of mass starvation in today's conflicts.

The political acts which cause hunger and starvation can be divided into acts of commission, omission and provision. Acts of commission are

attacks on food production, markets and the restriction of people's movement. Omission is the failure to act, such as when food relief is blocked, while provision is the selective provision of aid to one side of a conflict.

Similar tactics are used in protracted crises but with more subtle manipulation of markets, trade and aid than direct attacks. The war on terror, a rise in authoritarian governments, and geopolitical manoeuvring have magnified these issues and increased the risk of starvation.

The link between war and hunger was recognised explicitly with the passing of a UN security council resolution in 2018 which prohibited the

use of hunger as a weapon of war. Since then, WFP has been working more actively to understand the link between food security and conflict and how it can contribute to building peace.

Since its establishment in 1961, WFP has set up an expansive food logistics system and a wealth of tools to assess needs and vulnerability. In the past decade, it has also become involved in cash transfers.

It is now one of the world's largest humanitarian organisations, but also a business which dominates all aspects of general food distribution and humanitarian assistance. It involves a whole range of people, institutions and practices which can have political and economic consequences well beyond meeting the needs of hungry people.

One of most intractable issues is the manipulation of food aid during conflict and its incorporation into the political economy of famine and war. Food aid has been stolen or taxed by warring parties or local authorities, providing not only a source of finance but boosting their political status.

In Somalia, food aid has been big business and its contractors key political actors. Elsewhere, governments increasingly deny access for food distribution in opposition-held areas, with Syria, and Sudan under its previous regime, being a case in point.

The denial of food aid can also benefit traders as it increases food prices and it benefits business because as people become displaced they are potential sources of cheap labour. The vulnerable are frequently excluded or marginalised, because they are the politically weaker mem-

bers of society.

As part of its role in improving conditions for peace, WFP can analyse these wider political and economic effects, and include them in the way it makes decisions. However, WFP cannot address the political causes of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition with food aid – or in fact with any technical intervention.

Conflicts need political solutions and crimes of mass starvation need to be prosecuted. Even one of WFP's most successful operations, the massive food distribution in Darfur in 2005 which effectively reduced malnutrition and mortality, required diplomatic efforts to negotiate the necessary access.

There is a danger that WFP becomes a substitute for political action to address the causes of conflict or for prosecuting crimes of mass starvation. This would actually perpetuate the problem, as structural causes of hunger and malnutrition remain unaddressed.

In turn, this keeps vulnerable people in a state of protracted crisis or precarity and persistent malnutrition. An over-reliance on WFP can also absolve politicians of the blame for creating famine or, alternatively, the international community's responsibility to protect.

With the spotlight of the Nobel peace prize, WFP can do much by making the political causes of hunger in conflict visible, helping to identify famine crimes, promoting effective assistance that is specific to particular contexts, and using its power to bring about political action.

The writer is Research Associate, LSE's Conflict and Civil Society Research Unit, and Food Studies Centre, SOAS, University of London. This article was published on www.theconversation.com

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

It is to be noted that Sir Herbert Samuel glibly promises the East Jordan Arabs a number of "very experienced British political officers" who will help them to organise defence, police, commerce, etc. There may be a certain overflow of "very experienced British political officers from Egypt under the new regime but those who know anything about the supply of this commodity are asking one another how England is to continue to support an ever-increasing drain on her best administrative material. By those who know it is asserted that the Mesopotamian failure has been the result of pitchforking indifferent military material into what should have been posts for highly trained administrators. Even so, Mesopotamia has absorbed a good many of this class; India, as always, is absorbing a much greater number; and the whole Middle East - the Hedjaz, East Africa, the Sudan, Palestine proper - is absorbing still more. The Home administrative services have swollen enormously as a result of the war. And still Ministers and High Commissioners are lavish in their promises of this unique British product, of which the supply is too obviously limited. The hour of retrenchment is probably not far distant and the Jordan Arabs will be fortunate if Sir Herbert Samuel is able to keep his promise.

NEWS ITEMS

MUNICIPAL SWEEPERS' STRIKE

In the Bombay police court today an application was made for the adjournment of the hearing of a summons taken out against ten municipal sweepers on strike. The Chief Presidency Magistrate, Mr. C.H. Setalvad, asked what the trouble was about, and Dr. K.B. Shroff, the Health Officer, replied that the men were demanding a salary of Rs 25 a month. They were given a rise of Rs 2 a month during the last four months, and were now in receipt of Rs 19 a month each. The Magistrate said how is a man to live on Rs 19 a month in these days, seeing that the rupee has depreciated to the equivalent of about six annas of the pre-war time? Dr. Shroff said an increase of Rs 2 per head of the sweepers means an addition of Rs 4 lakhs to the Municipal Budget. The adjournment applied for was granted.

CENTRAL PROVINCES COUNCIL

On the reopening of the Council today the Hon. Mr. Kelkar's resolution regarding the appointment of a mixed committee for drawing up definite rules regarding the holding of district Durbars was accepted. Three resolutions then came up for discussion which directly or indirectly were directed towards vetoing the construction of Ratona slaughter-house at Government expense in connection with Messrs. Devenport and Co.'s C.P. Tannery and Trading Concern. The resolution recommending the extension of the Slaughter of Animals Act to the whole province as well as the resolutions recommending that steps be taken to prevent the slaughter of agricultural and milch cattle were accepted. Government only enlisted the services of Messrs. Devenport and Co. for the purposes of supervision of the slaughter-house as experts in the matter.

GOVERNORSHIP OF ASSAM

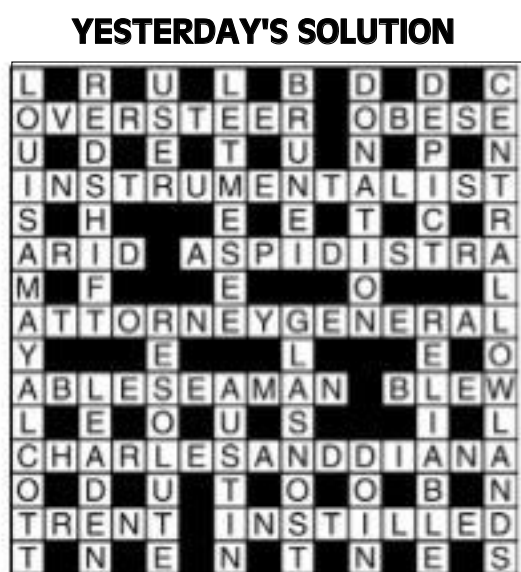
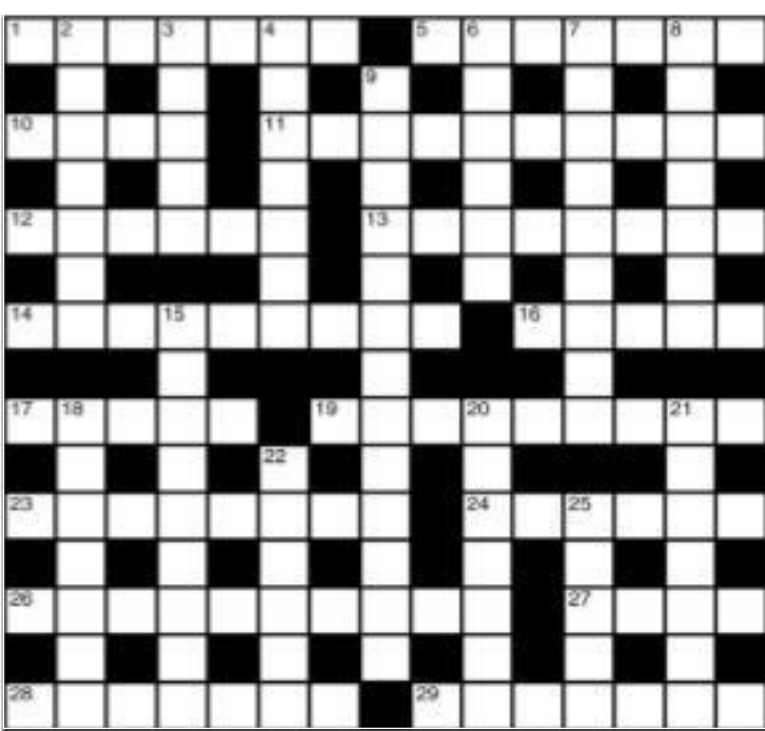
Sir William Marris, the Governor-Designate of Assam will, with the concurrence of the Governor-General, the proceeding on short leave to England in the winter. The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Nicholas Beatson-Bell, the present Chief Commissioner of Assam, to be Governor of Assam for the period which will intervene between the introduction of the new form of Government in the province and the assumption of the office of Governor by Sir William Marris on his return from leave. Sir Nicholas Beatson-Bell had expressed the wish to be allowed for private reasons to retire from the headship of the Province but has withdrawn his request to meet the public convenience for the purpose of inaugurating reforms in Assam during Sir William Marris's absence.

"HIJRAT"

A Press note issued by the Commissioner in Sind says: It is reported that unscrupulous persons are persuading poor Muhammadans to go on Hijrat by telling them that they will not be allowed to say public prayers in Sind, or that canal water will not be supplied to them. It is through falsehoods such as these that ignorant men are involved in the suffering inseparable from Hijrat, and sometimes take their wives and children with them, and sell their little property below its full value. Persons having influence or authority should try to convince their poorer neighbours of the falseness of the stories which are being told them.

CROSSWORD

NO 28116



ACROSS

- Go on about quiet mum's cover-up (7)
- Don't change this boy's headgear (7)
- Search through what grows on layer (4)
- Architect Charlie enters, generating endless rubbish (10)
- Heartless braggart and sailor (6)
- Intimidated woman was indebted to banks (8)
- Scant cover left over in hospital to hide lump (9)
- Deprived female lost cap (5)
- Sort of 14 popular in Delhi inside out (5)
- Denizen briefly entangled in plot, gaudily dressed (9)

- Funny A-lister entertains King's Head, twinkling? (8)
- Where ministers change top lines (6)
- F1 driver I see keeps article about replacement parts (10)
- Having nothing on except end of programme (4)
- Island's milk suppliers are the tops (7)
- Charge us cryptically for outfit? (7)

DOWN

- A mostly gloomy outlook primarily for drink (7)
- Some addicts kick this rather hard at first (5)
- One engaged in drama at sea leading at the front? (7)

- John the estate agent's sign impresses paper (6)
- Repeatedly copied note about a private talk (4-4-4)
- Crude English crime writer's given up taking cocaine (7)
- First of two soldiers reports capturing equipment (13)
- Article about lovemorn trippers, those who enjoy being 27 (9)
- Henry, old PM, swops sides, making a stand for 5 and 12 (3,4)
- No gas here to cook coq au vin Queen wanted (2,5)
- Heard rumours about listening device (7)
- It's typically put on in the dark near outskirts of Torbay (6)
- Drunkard pinching sailor's footwear (5)

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





Our energy sector will be growth-centric, investor-friendly and environment conscious

NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

Paytm Money launches ETFs: Fintech major Paytm on Monday said its wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Money has launched Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) on its platform after approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). PTI

Online GK Olympiad for school students: Mind Wars, a multiplatform knowledge programme promoted by ZEE, announced online general knowledge Olympiad 2020. A national-level championship will begin in November, and it is open to students of classes 4 to 12 across India, said a Press release statement. SNS

United Multistate Credit Co. partners Cashaa: United Multistate Credit Co. Operative Society, which currently has 34 branches across north India, has partnered up with the leading London-based neo-bank Cashaa, which allows cryptocurrencies to be part of the banking system. "This will allow us to build, scale and offer customised financial and crypto products for the Indian markets," said Dinesh Kukreja, CEO of United Multistate Credit Co. SNS

RIL deal: Future Group may challenge arbitration award

It will put a temporary hold on its ₹24,713 crore deal to sell assets to Reliance Industries

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

Kishore Biyani-led Future Retail on Monday hinted at challenging an arbitration order that put a temporary hold on its Rs 24,713 crore deal to sell assets to Reliance Industries.

Future Retail said it wasn't party to the agreement under which Amazon.com Inc had invoked arbitration proceedings. Amazon, which acquired an indirect minority stake in the retail and fashion conglomerate last year, alleged that Future's sale of its retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing businesses to Reliance breached its pre-existing contract, which included a right of the first offer and a non-compete clause.

On Sunday, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre restrained Future Retail and its founders from going ahead with the sale until a final decision is given.

In a statement, Future Retail Ltd (FRL) said it is "examining" the communication received

Future Group shares tank up to 10 pc; RIL down 4 pc

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

Shares of Future Group companies on Monday tumbled up to 10 per cent after Amazon.com Inc won an interim award to stall the group's deal to sell its retail assets to Reliance Industries for Rs 24,713 cr.

Future Lifestyle Fashions tanked 9.71 per cent to close at Rs 78.15, Future Retail

declined 5.08 per cent to Rs 73.85, Future Enterprises fell 4.99 per cent to Rs 9.53 -- its lower circuit limit and Future Consumer Ltd also dropped by 4.92 per cent to its lowest trading permissible limit for the day of Rs 7.54 on the BSE.

RIL stock tanked 3.97 per cent to close at Rs 2,028.70 on the BSE. During the day, it plunged 4.45 per cent to Rs 2,018.45.

The company's market valuation eroded by Rs 56,699.69 crore to Rs 13,71,814.57 crore. Meanwhile, Kishore Biyani-led Future Retail on Monday hinted that it may challenge the arbitration award from the Singapore-based arbitration center before Indian legal forums, to ensure that its Rs 24,713 crore deal proceeds unhindered and without any delay.

from the SIAC and the interim order of the Emergency Arbitrator.

"It may be noted that FRL is not a party to the agreement under which Amazon has invoked arbitration proceedings," it said.

"FRL has been legally advised that actions taken by the FRL/

its board, which are in full compliance of the relevant agreements and eminently in the interest of all stakeholders cannot be held back in arbitration proceedings initiated under an agreement to which FRL is not a party."

It went on to state that all relevant agreements are governed

by Indian law and provisions of the Indian Arbitration Act.

Stating that the interim award "raises several fundamental jurisdictional issues which go to the root of the matter," the firm said the order will have to be tested under the provisions of the Indian Arbitration Act in an appropriate forum.

"In any enforcement proceedings, FRL would take appropriate steps to ensure that the proposed transaction will proceed unhindered without any delay," it said without giving details.

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), a unit of billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd, in a statement on Sunday evening stated that it had "entered into the transaction for the acquisition of assets and business of Future Retail Ltd under proper legal advice and the rights and obligations are fully enforceable under Indian Law."

"RRVL intends to enforce its rights and complete the transaction in terms of the scheme and agreement with Future group without any delay," it had said. Online retail giant Amazon had last year acquired a 49 per cent stake in Future Coupons Ltd, the promoter entity which owns a 7.3 per cent interest in Future Retail, the operator of more than 1,500 stores in India including grocery chain Big Bazaar.

India will drive global energy demand: PM

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

India will drive the global energy demand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he showcased his government's recent reforms in the sector to global investors.

Speaking at the India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK, Modi said the coronavirus pandemic had resulted in global energy demand falling by one-third, investment decisions being impacted and predictions of a contraction in demand over the next few years.

But India is likely to see energy consumption double over the long term, he said.

This at a time when the country fast embraces cleaner and renewable sources of energy, India, he said, was on track to meet its COP21 commitment of raising electricity generation from renewable energy sources to 175 gigawatts by 2022.

"We have further extended the target to 450 GW by 2030," he said, adding India has one of the lowest carbon emissions.

Stating that India saw

'India was on track to meet its COP21 commitment of raising electricity generation from renewable energy sources to 175 gigawatts by 2022'

transformational reforms in the energy sector in the last five years, the Prime Minister highlighted changes in oil and gas exploration and production regime as well as gas marketing.

"India's reform journey has been on the high speed in the last five years," he emphasised.

While the focus is to make India a gas-based economy, the nation would also be raising oil refining capacity from 250 million tonnes per annum currently to 450 million tonnes by 2025 to keep self-reliance in sync with demand, he said.

India's energy future is bright and secure, Modi said, adding access to energy should be affordable and reliable.

"Our energy sector will be growth-centric, investor-friendly and environment conscious," he added.

Economic, oil demand recovery around the corner with development of Covid vaccine

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

The secretary general of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, on Monday exuded confidence that there is an economic as well as oil and gas demand recovery around the corner amid the development of vaccine for COVID-19.

However, he noted that currently, the demand recovery is not robust at the moment due to the impact of the virus across the globe.

Speaking at the India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK, Barkindo said, "We remain cautiously optimistic that recovery will continue. It may take longer, may be at lower levels. But, we are determined to

stay the course." About the oil and gas sector, he said hydrocarbons would dominate the energy basket as projected in the OPEC outlook for 2020 with a horizon of 2045.

He said, "In our outlook for 2020, the fundamentals look upwards and positive. The demand will continue to grow not only for energy well right up to 2045, we postulate that oil and gas will continue to dominate the energy basket."

According to the outlook, the oil will be in the region of 28 per cent (in energy basket) up to 2045. He added, "We don't see peaking of (oil) demand. But, we see deceleration of growth rate of demand."

His views assume significance in view of the crude oil price crash in April this year amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

BP eyes fuel market, wants gas in GST

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

Labelling India as an extraordinary country growing at an incredible scale, energy supermajor BP Plc on Monday said it is looking to expand its presence in the nation in fuel retailing and mobility solutions, but wanted natural gas to be included in the GST regime.

Speaking at the India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK, BP Group chief executive Bernard Looney said his firm in partnership with Reliance Industries Ltd will in the next 4-5 years set up 5,500 retail sites that will not just sell petrol and diesel but also offer mobility solutions like EV charging facility.

"India is an extraordinary country with an extraordinary history, an extraordinary group of people, and with extraordinary ambition," he said, adding the country has a growing population, and an ambitious agenda to cut emissions.

This, he said, was "very, very compelling." "Why is India important, because it is India," he said, adding energy mix in the country could fall from 50 per cent coal to 40 per cent, while gas and renewables will grow.

Looney said India will be the fastest-growing fuel and lubricant market in the next 20 years and his group's venture with Reliance will grow the network of petrol pumps to 5,500 in the next 4-5 years from the current 1,400. As many as 80,000 jobs will be created in the building of the network, he said, adding the venture will offer mobility solutions under the Jio-BP brand.

RIL, currently, has about 1,400 operating petrol pumps and some 31-odd aviation fuel stations at airports. These have been taken over by the RIL-BP joint venture and will be grown in the future. While petrol pumps will be expanded to 5,500, aviation refuelling facilities will grow to 45.

RIL holds 51 per cent in the

new joint venture company, while BP has the remaining 49 per cent. BP paid about Rs 7,000 crore to acquire the 49 per cent stake.

This is the third joint venture between Reliance and BP since 2011. BP had in 2011 bought a 30 per cent stake in 21 oil and gas exploration and production blocks of Reliance for USD 7.2 billion. At that time, another 50:50 joint venture, India Gas Solutions, was set up for sourcing and marketing gas in India.

RIL-BP is investing USD 5 billion in developing the next set of discoveries in the KG Basin D6 block. "Our production with Reliance will account for 15 per cent of India gas production," he said.

Looney said while the company feels the ease of doing business on the ground, India is a complex market. GST was a welcome federal initiative to ease trade and it will be good if natural gas is included in that.

Investor wealth tumbles ₹1.98 L cr as stock market plummets

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

Investor wealth on Monday tumbled Rs 1.98 lakh crore as markets witnessed heavy selling pressure following losses in Reliance Industries.

The 30-share BSE index plunged 540 points or 1.33 per cent to close at 40,145.50. During the day, it tanked 737.21 points to 39,948.29.

Following the weak sentiment, the market capitalisation of the BSE-listed companies declined by Rs 1,98,314.27 crore to Rs 1,58,60,685.73 crore.

RIL, the most-valued domestic company by market capitalisation, declined 3.97 per cent, after Amazon.com Inc won an interim arbitration award against its partner Future Group for selling its retail business to Reliance Industries Ltd for Rs

BSE SENSEX Oct 26, 2020			
Top Losers			
Open:	40,649.76		
Close:	40,145.50	Change:	-540.00 (-1.33%)
Previous close:	40,685.50		
	Closing Price in ₹	% Change	
Bajaj Auto	2,895	-6.10	
M&M	597	-4.53	
Reliance	2,029	-3.97	
Tata Steel	408	-3.60	
Tech Mahindra	819	-3.38	
SBI	197	-2.96	
ICICI Bank	405	-2.85	
Axis Bank	493	-2.74	
Bajaj Finserv	5,702	-2.19	
Sun Pharma	474	-2.04	

24,713 crore. On Sunday, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre restrained Future

Retail and its founders from going ahead with the sale until a final decision is given.

Choice Broking Executive Director Sumet Bagadia said, "Indian equity benchmarks witnessed sharp sell-off and ended lower as rising coronavirus cases in developed countries and uncertainty over the US economic package weighed on sentiments. Sharp sell-off in the index heavyweight Reliance also dragged the market lower."

Bajaj Auto was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack, tumbling 6.10 per cent, followed by Mahindra and Mahindra, RIL, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra and SBI.

Eight companies from the 30-share pack closed in the green, with Nestle India, Kotak Bank, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid and HUL among the biggest gainers.

PUBLIC SECTOR ROUNDUP

ICSI INAUGURATES OVERSEAS CENTRE IN LONDON



The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) inaugurated The ICSI Overseas Centre at London, United Kingdom, on 24 August, in the presence of Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani. This is ICSI's third Overseas Centre after USA and Dubai.

BHOOMI PUJAN OF NEW ESIC HOSPITAL



Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment performed Bhoomi Pujan of 100-bed new ESIC Hospital in Bareilly, UP on 25 October.

INDIAN BANK SIGNS MoU



Indian Bank today signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for payment of subsidy and cash incentives to street vendors under PM SVANidhi Scheme. The MoU was signed at New Delhi by Sanjay Kumar, joint secretary (NULM), MoHUA, Vikas Kumar, field general manager, New Delhi, Indian Bank and Subodh Kumar, general manager, SIDBI in the presence of Durga Shanker Mishra, secretary (MoHUA) and Debashish Panda, secretary financial services, MoF.

Pune airport to get new terminal building

AAI has undertaken the construction work for a new integrated terminal building at Pune airport. With abuilt up area of more than 5,00,000 square feet, the new terminal will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 475 crore. The new terminal building will be able to process 2300 passengers



(1700 domestic & 600 international) during peak hours. Equipped with five boarding bridges, 34 check-in counters and in-line baggage handling

system, the terminal will be an energy efficient building with 4-star GRIHA rating.

The work for multi-level car parking is likely to be completed by April, 2022. More than 40 per cent of the work is completed and the new building is likely to be completed by March, 2022.

N Rly holds performance review meeting

Rajiv Chaudhry, general manager, Northern & North Central railway held a review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway & North Central through video conferencing.

Chaudhry reviewed the work done over the zone in improving the maintenance standard of track, welds and removal of scrap lying near the tracks. Chaudhry also informed that, loading of food grains & other items have steadily increased with every month.

Indian Bank announces Q2 results for FY21

The Board of Directors of Indian Bank approved the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss for the

Q2 FY21, at their meeting held on 22, October 2020 in Chennai. The Bank's operating profit has registered a growth of 40 per cent, touching Rs 2995 crore for the Q2 FY21 as against Rs 2135 crore for Q2 FY20.

The Bank reports a net profit at Rs 412 crore for Q2 FY21 as against net loss of Rs 1755 crore for Q2 FY20 mainly on account of increase of non-interest income by 29 per cent.

App-based 'bags-on-wheels' service in Northern Railway

Rajiv Chaudhry, general manager Northern & North Central Railways informed that Delhi division has awarded a new innovative contract under new innovative non fare revenue ideas scheme (NIN-FRIS) for app-based bags-on-wheels services. It would be the first of its kind service available for the railway passengers in India.

Using BOW APP (will be available for Android & iPhone users), passengers will raise their demand for carrying their luggage to railway station or to their home.

Luggage will be picked up by the contractor in a secured manner and will be delivered

to the coach/home as per booking preference of passenger. The firm will provide door-to-door service to railway passengers on a nominal fee for hassle-free and smooth handling & transportation of luggage from the passenger's home to passenger's coach in train and vice-versa. It would be very helpful for passengers, especially senior citizens, divyangjan and woman passengers travelling alone.

Initially firm will provide its services for the passengers boarding trains from New Delhi, Delhi Jn., Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Ghaziabad and Gurgaon railway stations.

LIC launches New Jeevan Shanti plan

Life Insurance Corporation of India has introduced LIC's New Jeevan Shanti plan which is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, single premium, deferred annuity plan.

The annuity rates are guaranteed at the inception of the policy and annuities are payable post deferment period throughout the life time of Annuitant(s).

This plan can be purchased offline as well as online from 21 October 2020.

The plan can also be purchased for the benefit of Divyangjan (handicapped dependant) with minimum purchase price of Rs 50,000. Loan facility is also available under this plan.

'NAVRATRA FEST' AT KATRA, JAMMU

Union minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated 'Navratra Festival' at Katra to promote tourism in state with collaboration of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and District Administration.



PUNJAB & SIND BANK OPENS 3 NEW BRANCHES



Punjab and Sind Bank, India's one of the public sector Bank, opened three new branches in Gujarat in the presence of S. Krishnan, Managing Director & CEO and Ajit Kumar Das, executive director.

'Awareness must to beat breast cancer'

A panel of top oncologists from different specialties at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre (RGCIRC) including Dr D C Doval, Dr. Rajeev Kumar and Dr. Kundan Singh Chufal shared insights on advancements in treatment of breast cancer and the need to create awareness. "There is urgent need to make people aware about the

early detection and treatment of breast cancer as people tend to follow the history of others, especially within family or relatives, but every breast cancer is different, hence the treatment and outcomes would be different", said Dr D C Doval, chair medical oncology & Chief of breast & sarcoma Services, RGCIRC.

Shalini takes charge as NBCC CVO

Shalini Darbari, assumed the charge of Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of NBCC (India) Limited on 16 October. She is a 1990-batch Indian Railways Accounts Service (IRAS) officer and joined the service in 1991.

A post graduate in Economics from Lucknow University, Shalini pos-

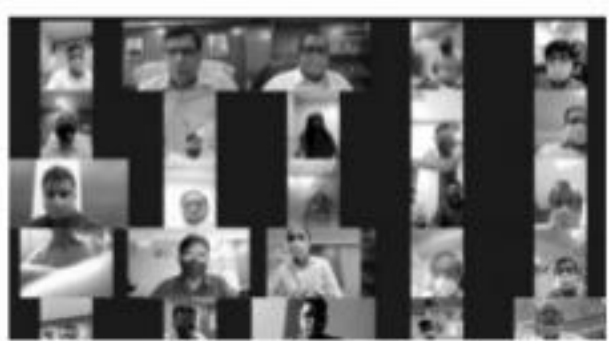
sesses more than two decades of professional experience in fields like finance, administration, project management, corporate finance and loan management. Apart from NBCC, she has also been entrusted with the charge of CVO of HSCL and SSC, the two Subsidiaries of NBCC and BMTPC.



Pledge to fight against Corona

Employees of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), an apex body of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in India pledged to follow 'COVID-Appropriate Behaviour'.

SCOPE has been working closely with the Government and PSEs to spread this low-cost high-intensity campaign with the key message to "wear mask, follow physical distancing, maintain hand hygiene."



NHPC restores Chamara-II Power Station in Chamba, HP

NHPC's 100 MW UNIT #1 of 300 MW Chamara-II Power Station located in Chamba District, Himachal Pradesh has been restored and successfully synchronized with the Northern Grid at 01:14 Hrs on 19 October.

Final tests and synchronisation activities were successfully carried out in-house by the team of NHPC

Engineers. Unit #1 and Unit #2 of Chamara-II Power Station were under outage due to fire incidents on 7 August, 2019 in which stators of both the units were damaged.

The restoration work was a tough challenge as it involved integrating new components into around 17 years old nits.



All over this country (America), powerful people are trying to make it difficult for folks to vote

KAMALA HARRIS
DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Sharif attacks Pak Army, ISI chief as Oppn says sun about to set on Imran govt

PTI
KARACHI, 26 OCTOBER

Pakistan's deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif has blamed Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed for the current political situation in the country, as the Opposition parties held their third massive joint rally against Prime Minister Imran Khan-led government.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), a coalition of 11 Opposition parties, was formed to oust Khan from power on September 20. The alliance held two massive back-to-back gatherings in Gujranwala and Karachi this month. The third rally was held in Quetta, capital of the restive Baluchistan province, on Sunday.

Addressing the gathering via video link from London, the three-time prime minister and chief of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) again blamed Army chief Bajwa and ISI Director General Hameed for Pakistan's current situation.

Gen Bajwa, you will have to answer for record rigging



in the 2018 elections, for horse-trading in Parliament, for making Imran Niazi prime minister against people's wishes and [by] tearing apart the Constitution and laws, for pushing people towards poverty and hunger," 70-year-old Sharif said.

Sharif, who is entangled in a number of corruption cases, has been in London since November last year after the

Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treating the heart disease and an immune system disorder.

He also accused the ISI chief of "interfering in politics for several years with impunity" in violation of his oath. Sharif said that he names individuals "because I don't want my Army to be defamed".

Pakistan's powerful Army

has denied meddling in politics. Prime Minister Khan also denies that the Army helped him win the election in 2018.

"Looking at this enthusiasm, I am sure that no one will be able to violate the voters' mandate now. I saw this enthusiasm in Gujranwala and Karachi, and now I'm seeing it in Quetta," Sharif said, addressing the huge crowd at

the stadium.

"I am aware of Baloch people's problems, Nawaz Sharif knows [...] the missing persons issue is still there. I feel pain when I see the victims," he said, in an apparent reference to the forced disappearance of hundreds of Baloch people.

He said that the PDM has risen against "unconstitutional powers that have made Pakistan hollow from inside and out".

This is not the first time Sharif has made such allegations against top Army brass; he made similar ones in the Gujranwala rally after which a furious Prime Minister Khan had declared that he would get tougher with the Opposition.

Sharif's daughter and PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz in her speech said that time has come to change the fate of Pakistan - and Balochistan.

"No longer will husbands and brothers go missing, people of Balochistan," she said, addressing the attendees.

"The reason you are deprived of food and shelter is that your vote is not respected. Those who rule you are not answerable to you but to

someone else, someone else pulls their strings," she said. Maryam said that the "sun is about to set" on the current "dictatorial regime" and the puppet show will soon come to an end.

Addressing the rally via video link, Pakistan People's Party chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari asked, What sort of a democracy is this where the media isn't free and neither is the judiciary."

In his speech, Balochistan National Party President Sardar Akhtar Mengal lashed out at the Khan government and establishment over the missing persons' issue.

He also alleged that since 1947, governments had never kept their agreements with the Baloch people and they were not treated as equal citizens of the country.

Meanwhile, Mohsin Dawar, a big critic of the government, was taken into custody by security officials at the Quetta airport on Saturday when he arrived for the rally.

Home Minister Ziaullah Langove said that there was a ban on Dawar's entry in the province. The ban is set to expire on October 29.

Dawar, a lawmaker and

leader of Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), tweeted that he had been told he was not allowed to enter because of security risks and said he refused to be silenced like this, and will not be intimidated.

As the public meeting began at the Ayub Stadium in Quetta on Sunday, the city witnessed a blast that killed three people and injured seven others in Hazarganji area, 35 to 40 minutes away from the rally site.

According to police, an improvised explosive device (IED) was planted in a motorcycle.

Undeterred by the blast, the PDM leaders went ahead with the rally, which was attended by PDM president Maulana Fazlur Rehman and other top leaders of the coalition.

The National Counter Terrorism Authority had earlier issued a security alert saying it received credible information that opposition rallies in Quetta and Peshawar could be targeted by militants.

The provincial government had asked the PDM not to hold the rally given the threats. However, PDM leaders rejected the call.

Thai parliament meets to debate political protest tensions

PTI
BANGKOK, 26 OCTOBER

Thailand's Parliament began a special session Monday that was called to address tensions as pro-democracy protests draw students and other demonstrators into the streets almost daily demanding the prime minister's resignation.

As Speaker of the House Chuan Leekpai began the session, only 450 of the total of 731 members of both houses had signed in for the meeting.

The demonstrations by student-led groups in the Bangkok and other cities have three main demands: that Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha step down, the constitution be amended to make it more democratic and reforms be made to the monarchy to make it more accountable.

Public criticism of the monarchy is unprecedented in a country where the royal institution has been considered sacrosanct, and royalists have denounced the protesters for raising the issue.

The only way to a lasting solution for all sides that is fair for those on the streets as well as for the many millions who choose not to go on the streets is to discuss and resolve these differences through the parliamentary process, Prayuth said last week.

The non-voting session of Parliament is expected to last two days.

The protesters have little confidence in the parliamentary path, declaring the government's efforts insincere.

They noted the points of discussion submitted by Prayuth's government for debate dealt not with the protesters' concerns but were thinly disguised criticisms of the protests themselves.

They concern instead the risk of the coronavirus spreading at rallies, the alleged interference with a royal motorcade by a small crowd earlier this month, and illegal gatherings and the destruction of images of the royal family.

The protesters allege Prayuth, who led a coup in 2014 as the army chief, was returned to power unfairly in last year's election because laws had been changed to favor a pro-military party. The protesters also say the constitution, written and enacted under military rule, is undemocratic.

Malaysian PM acknowledges king's rebuff of virus emergency

PTI
KUALA LUMPUR, 26 OCTOBER

Malaysia's prime minister said his government was prioritizing protecting people from COVID-19 amid a new outbreak after the king rebuffed his emergency proposal that critics saw as an undemocratic attempt to hold onto power.

Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's proposal for the king to declare a state of emergency to fight the coronavirus would have suspended Parliament and let him dodge an imminent test of his support. Muhyiddin could then govern through ordinances that could not be challenged in court.

The plan sparked national outrage, but the king's decision to reject it Sunday was praised by many Malaysians on social media.

The palace said in a statement that Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah is of the opinion that there is currently no need for His Majesty to declare a state of emergency in this country or any part of Malaysia."

The king also said the

government has handled the pandemic well and believes Muhyiddin is capable of coping with the crisis, though he also called for a halt to all politicking that could disrupt the government's stability.

Hours later, Muhyiddin said the Cabinet noted the king's decision and will further discuss the decree. Local media said the Cabinet is expected to meet later Monday. His aide couldn't be immediately reached for comment.

The priority of the Cabinet and the government at this time is to protect citizens from the COVID-19 disease," he said in a brief statement. He also welcomed the king's advice to ensure his government's stability.

Muhyiddin took power in March but holds only a two-seat majority in Parliament. He faces challenges from opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, who says he has majority support but needs the monarch's approval to form a new government, as well as from the biggest party in his ruling coalition, which is angry about being sidelined in his government.

China's Communist Party kicks off key meeting to discuss key challenges facing country

PTI
BEIJING, 26 OCTOBER

China's ruling Communist Party on Monday began its key four-day annual conclave to discuss the main challenges facing the country and proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and the long-range objectives upto 2035, the state media reported.

The 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) started its fifth plenary session here.

The party's closed-door plenum consisting of about 204 full central committee members and 172 alternate members is held annually to review the policies of the party and the government.

President Xi Jinping, 67, who has emerged as the CPC's most powerful leader after its founder Mao Zedong, holding the posts of CPC General Secretary, head of the military besides the Presidency with prospects of a life-long tenure, delivered a work report on behalf of the party's Politburo.

The report explained a draft document on proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

As a key item on the agenda, the session will review the proposals. The meeting is scheduled to conclude on October 29.

Though the main agenda of the meeting was stated to be the next Five-Year Plan, the plenum was expected to review the political situation especially the November 3 US presidential election.

China, where the coronavirus emerged in December last year at Wuhan, figured prominently in poll campaigns of both President Donald Trump, a Republican, and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

While China's ties with the US deteriorated to historic low, both Trump and Biden were expected to follow tough hardline policies towards Bei-

jing.

China is also battling an adverse image as COVID-19 spread all over the world, killing more than a million people.

The country also faced a tough international situation after it passed a controversial National Security Law this year for Hong Kong amidst massive opposition from the local people and the international community, virtually taking over the security of the Special Administration Region for the first time since it was transferred to China by Britain in 1997.

The meeting is also being held in the backdrop of the stalemate in the border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh, which had affected the relations between the two neighbouring countries.

Observers say that the significance of the top decision-making bodies of the CPC since the advent of Xi to power in 2012 and currently in his 2nd five-year term has declined as he firmly established his stamp of

authority, doing away with the past system of collective leadership. All CPC meetings including the Plenum are held in tight secrecy and the proceedings of such meetings other than the official handouts were rarely publicised.

The 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) period was a decisive phase of achieving a moderately prosperous society in all respects in China.

During this period, as China faced a complex international environment and arduous tasks for domestic reform, development and stability, especially the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPC headed by Xi has led the nation to secure decisive achievements in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eradicating poverty, the report said.

The goals and tasks set out by the 13th Five-Year Plan are about to be accomplished. China has made a new and major step forward in its economic and scientific power, as well as composite nation-

al strength, it said.

The 14th Five-Year Plan period will be the first five years as China embarks on a new journey to fully build a modern socialist country, after achieving a moderately prosperous society in all respects, according to a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

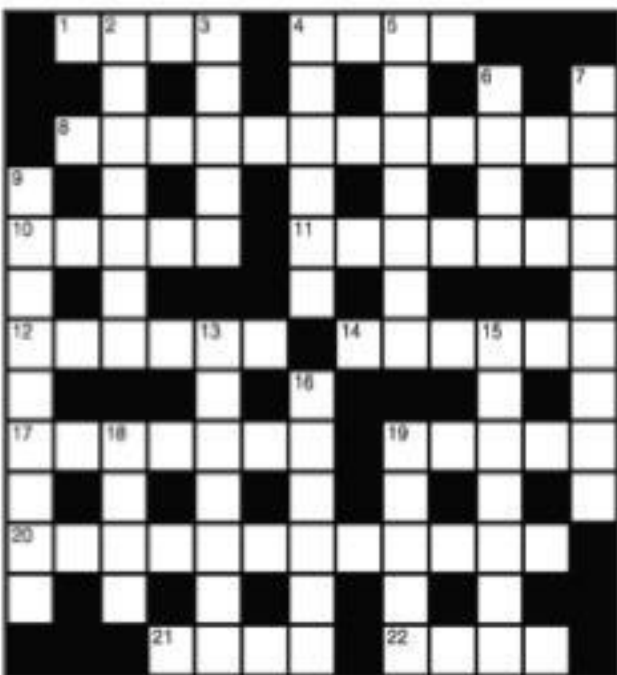
China is still in a period of strategic opportunity for development at present and for the foreseeable future, but there are new developments in both opportunities and challenges facing the country, the meeting said.

The Politburo of the CPC Central Committee, which earlier urged efforts to master the laws of development, carry forward the fighting spirit, seize the opportunity, meet challenges and forge ahead.

Comments and suggestions from both within and outside the CPC have been solicited for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan, including more than 1 million comments from netizens, the report said.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Artificial (4)
 - Leg joint (4)
 - Publicly-owned property (7,5)
 - White-faced (5)
 - Rule out (7)
 - Coercion (6)
 - Continually (6)
 - Incapacitate (7)
 - Dirty mark (5)
 - Portable radio link (6-6)
 - Eager (4)
 - 22 Playthings (4)
- DOWN**
- One more (7)
 - Colourless gas (5)
 - German emperor (6)
 - Moral (7)
 - Ballerina's skirt (4)
 - Essential (9)
 - With utter ease (5,4)
 - Exalted (7)
 - Useful facility (7)
 - Unit of force (6)
 - Foot part (4)
 - Divide (5)

- SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS**
- Reef
 - Herd (Refered)
 - Immunity
 - Idle
 - Alternatives
 - Suds
 - 11 Mace
 - 15 Ear-splitting
 - 2 Rumba
 - 2 Trupied
 - 18 Boil
 - 3 Heyday
 - 19 Inimical
 - 5 Diary
 - 20 Code
 - 6 Piece
 - 10 Season
 - 12 Ability
 - 13 Sluice
 - 14 Strip
 - 16 Salvo
 - 17 Glade

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovalski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800112511
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

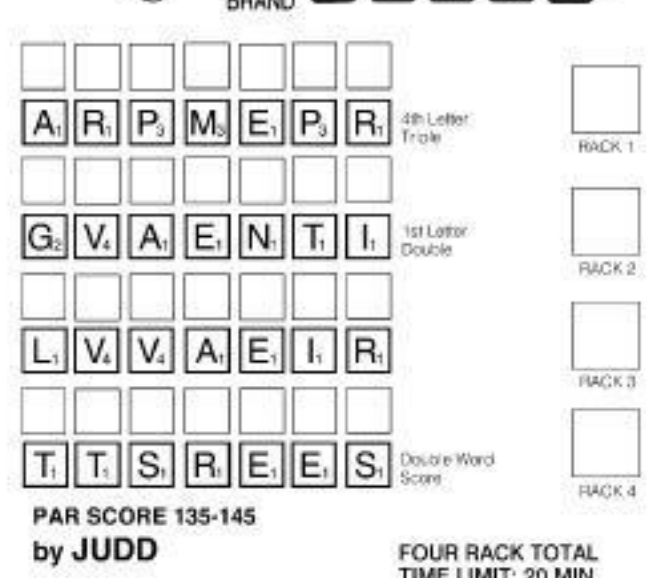
- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- Haryana Roadways 23861262
- Himachal Roadways 23717473, 23325320

- Punjab Roadways 23867842, 23860626
- Rajasthan Roadways 23864470
- U.P. Roadways 23688709

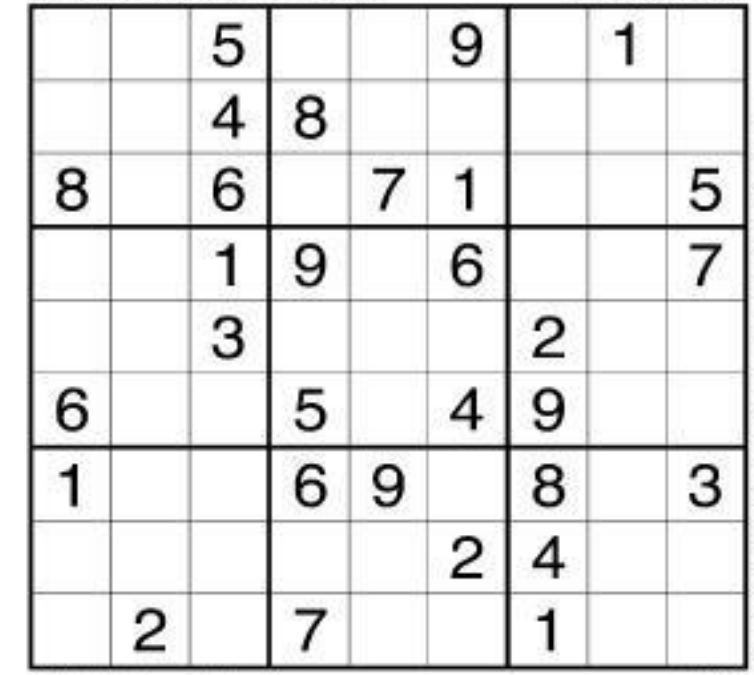
FLIGHT INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 0991038338, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air-
- port 011-25671580; Terminal I-B 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838
- JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111
- EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377
- Air Canada Flight Inquiry 25656421/25656431 Reservation 41528181
- Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25652294 (Airport)
- Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

SCRABBLE® GRAMMS



SUDOKU Concepts SudoKu



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, no column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.



No longer will husbands and brothers go missing, people of Balochistan

MARYAM NAWAZ
PML-N VICE PRESIDENT

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN	C	H
SINGAPORE	29°C	26°C	CL	
HONG KONG	29°C	22°C	CL	
TOKYO	21°C	14°C	CL	
LONDON	14°C	08°C	CL	
DUBAI	33°C	20°C	CL	
SAN FRANCISCO	24°C	12°C	S	
NEW YORK	17°C	12°C	H	
MOSCOW	12°C	05°C	H	
S= sunny, CL= clear, H=hazy, R= rainy...				

THUMBNAILS

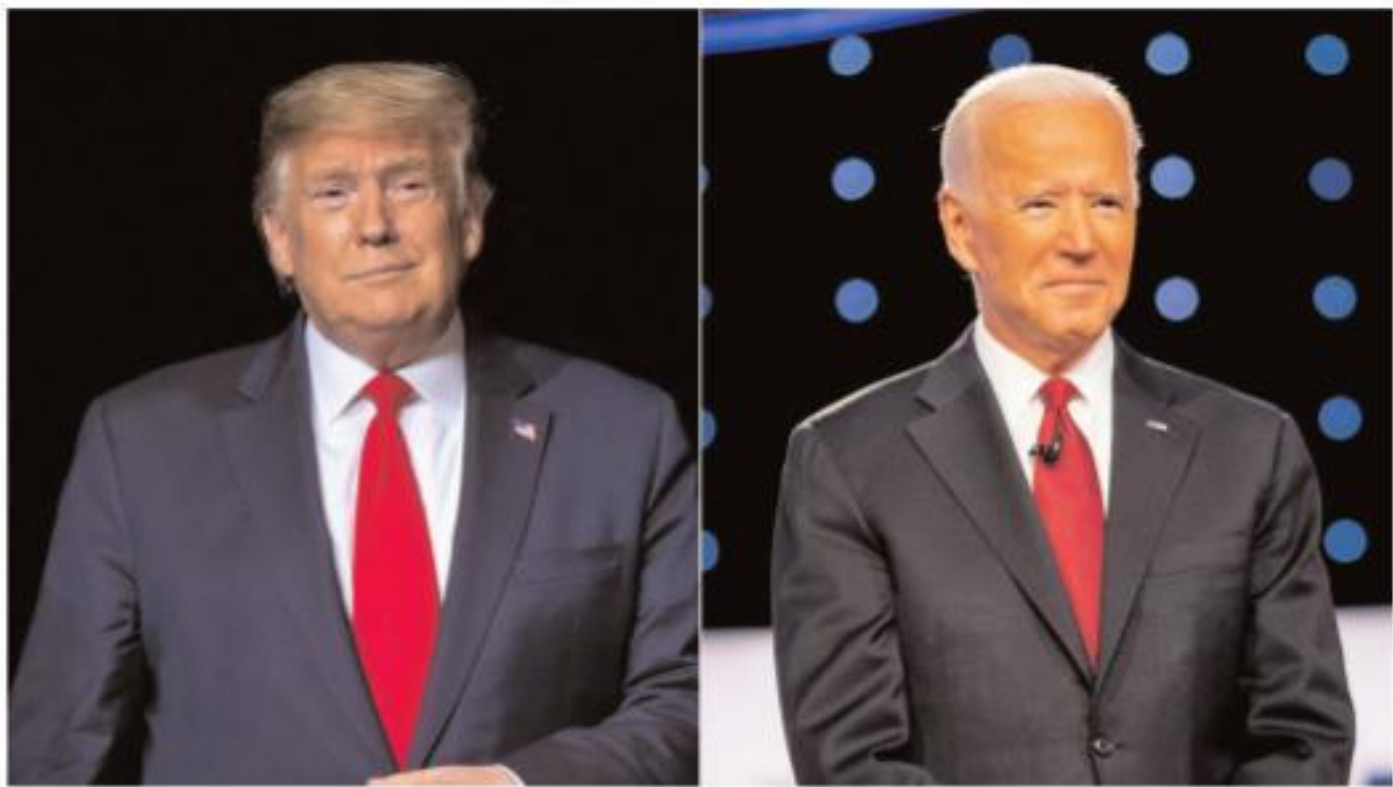


A woman makes jingalov hats - traditional Karabakh flatbreads stuffed with greens- for sale in Yerevan on Monday.

Asian shares mostly fall on uncertainty over US election: Asian shares were mostly lower in muted trading Monday amid widespread uncertainty over what the US presidential election will portend for markets and economic policy. Investors remain worried over surging cases and deaths related to COVID-19, especially in parts of the U.S. and Europe, and the implications for trade, tourism and economic activity. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 inched down 0.1 per cent to 23,495.21, while South Korea's Kospi lost 0.5 per cent to 2,348.54. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell nearly 0.2 per cent to 6,155.60. The Shanghai Composite index declined 1.1 per cent to 3,243.60. Markets in Hong Kong were closed for holidays.

Senate to confirm Barrett for court in highly partisan vote: A deeply torn Senate is set to confirm Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, Republicans overpowering Democratic opposition and institutional norms to secure President Donald Trump's nominee the week before Election Day. Barrett's confirmation Monday was hardly in doubt as Senate Republicans seized the opportunity to install a third Trump justice, securing a conservative court majority for the foreseeable future. With no real power to stop the vote, Democrats argued into the night Sunday that the winner of the November 3 election should be the one to choose the nominee to fill the vacancy left by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

GOP slowly gaining as early vote total surpasses 2016



AP WASHINGTON, 26 OCTOBER

With nine days before Election Day, more people already have cast ballots in this year's presidential election than voted early or absentee in the 2016 race as the start of in-person early voting in big states led to a surge in turnout in recent days.

The opening of early voting locations in Florida, Texas and elsewhere has piled millions of new votes on top of the mail ballots arriving at election offices as voters try to avoid crowded places on Nov. 3 during the coronavirus pandemic.

The result is a total of 58.6 million ballots cast so far, more than the 58 million that The Associated Press logged as being cast through the mail or at in-person early voting sites in 2016.

Democrats have continued to dominate the initial balloting, but Republicans are narrowing the gap. GOP voters have begun to show up as early in-person voting, a sign that many heeded President Donald Trump's unfounded warnings about mail-voting fraud.

On Oct. 15, Democrats registrants cast 51% of all ballots reported, compared with 25% from Republicans. On Sunday, Democrats had a slightly smaller lead, 51% to 31%.

The early vote totals, reported by state and local election officials and tracked by the AP, are an imperfect indicator of which party may be leading. The data only shows party registration, not which candidate voters support. Most GOP voters are expected to vote on Election Day.

Analysts said the still sizable Democratic turnout puts extra pressure on the Republican Party to push its voters out in the final week and, especially,

cially, on Nov. 3. That's especially clear in closely contested states such as Florida, Nevada and North Carolina.

This is a glass half-full, glass half-empty situation, said John Couvillon, a Republican pollster who tracks early voting closely. They're showing up more, he added, but Republicans need to rapidly narrow that gap.

In Florida, for example, Democrats have outvoted Republicans by a 596,000 margin by mail, while Republicans only have a 230,000 edge in person.

In Nevada, where Democrats usually dominate in-person early voting but the state decided to send a mail ballot to every voter this year, the GOP has a 42,600 voter edge in-person while Democrats have an 97,500 advantage in mail ballots.

At some point, Republicans have to vote, said Michael McDonald, a University of Florida political scientist who tracks early voting on Elect-Project.org.

You can't force everyone through a vote center on Election Day. Are you going to expect all those Republicans to stand in line for eight hours? Campaigns typically push their voters to cast ballots early so they can focus scarce resources chasing more marginal voters as the days tick down to Election Day.

That usually saves them money on mailers and digital ads something the cash-strapped Trump campaign would likely want and minimizes the impact of late surprises that could change the race.

Trump's campaign has been pushing its voters to cast ballots early, but with limited success, delighting Democrats. We see the Trump campaign, the RNC (Republican National Committee) and their state parties urging Trump's supporters to vote by mail while the president's Twitter account says it's a

Supporters chant 'Super Trump' at election rally

PTI WASHINGTON, 26 OCTOBER

President Donald Trump's supporters have started calling him Super Trump as he has fully recovered from the coronavirus and started addressing multiple election rallies a day.

At an election rally in the battleground state of New Hampshire, which was attended by thousands of people, Trump said that he felt like superman upon being given an antibody treatment when he had COVID-19.

I took something called Regeneron. Then following morning I felt so good. I felt like superman. I wanted to get back (to work). I did not want to cancel anything, Trump told his cheering supporters in the Londonderry city of New Hampshire. Soon, his supporters started chanting Super Trump, Super Trump, to which the president acknowledged with a smile and said Thank You.

Trump, 74, after resuming his normal life and hectic election campaigning following his recovery from coronavirus, appears to be more energetic.

Most of his speeches are more than an hour long and some have lasted for over 100 minutes. On Saturday, he addressed as many as four election rallies, from morning to late night and on Sunday, he addressed two including the one in New Hampshire.

On Monday, Trump is scheduled to address election rallies in the key battleground state of Pennsylvania. In all these rallies, Trump makes it a point to tell his supporters that he got infected with the COVID-19 virus because he decided to work and not to hide in a basement or lock himself in a White House bedroom.

At the same time, he alleges that his Democratic challenger Joe Biden pre-ferred to spend most of his time in a basement hiding from coronavirus.

Trump jokes that Biden's election meetings are attract-

ing a few people and describes the former vice president as a low energy individual or Sleepy Joe.

I don't know what's wrong with him (Biden). He never goes anywhere, Trump said, referring to the drive-way rally of the Democratic presidential candidate in Delaware.

Trump said that the media cameramen made the mistake of showing the very people who were there.

Then, he (Biden) got very agitated. Because our people were there and they were screaming he can't think through well. He was having a hard time, he said amidst huge applause from his supporters. He got angry. And (former president Barack) Obama got angry too because he went out to some place and it was all our people, said the president.

During his speech, Trump mocked Biden multiple times, calling him a lid, bashing the press for not turning cameras around to show the crowd, while maintaining that the country is rounding the turn on the pandemic.

The president regaled the crowd with a long story about negotiations for an upgraded Air Force One. He said his biggest concern about the coming election is the fake ballots.

There were boos at the mention of Barack Hussein Obama, Mitt Romney, Elizabeth Warren. And the boos became much louder for Kamala Harris, the Indian-origin California senator who is the Democratic Party's vice-presidential candidate.

In the middle of his speech, the president played videos highlighting Biden's past comments on raising taxes and social security, as well as one mocking some of his gaffes.

Polls shows that Trump is behind Biden in double digit.

This is not the crowd that comes in second, Trump said, referring to the unusually large crowd that had come to listen to him in Londonderry. It's like a poll, except much more accurate, he said as his fans chanted Four more years.

where 30.5% are new or infrequent voters.

The strong share of new and infrequent voters in the early vote is part of what leads analysts to predict more than 150 million total votes will be cast and possibly the

House already won? Pelosi thinks so, and reaches for more

AP WASHINGTON, 26 OCTOBER

Speaker Nancy Pelosi once predicted she'd have the House majority won by November of 2019.

Now, days before the November 3 election, she seems to have done it.

With control of the House hardly contested, Pelosi is expanding her reach to fortify Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and win extra House seats in case Congress is called on to resolve any Electoral College dispute with President Donald Trump.

Pelosi said she feels so confident Democrats will keep the House this election, she's already preparing to win the next one in 2022.

This year, I'm trying to win it two years in advance by being so substantial in this election that as soon as we start into the next year, people will see our strength, Pelosi told The Associated Press in an interview.

We intend to hold the House and grow our numbers," she said about the election November 3, and "contribute to winning the Senate and the presidency.

It's a stunning turnaround for the speaker, who just two years ago was being challenged for her job leading House Democrats.

Pelosi rose as the face of party, the House impeached the president and emboldened Democrats are on the march to pick up House seats deep into Trump country.

Democrats are working to reelect some 40 House freshmen elected in the 2018 midterm to win the majority, most of them from districts Trump won in 2016.

They're digging deeper for additional seats in historically out-of-reach Republican strongholds including Nebraska, Indiana and even Alaska and Montana, where winners could tip the balance in an Electoral College dispute.

To wrest control, Republicans need to gain some 20 seats, but even the House GOP leadership has downplayed their chances. Strategists say Trump is a drag at the top of the GOP ticket.

Even though Republicans recruited more female and minority candidates to compete with Democrats in suburban swing districts, the battle for the House is something of an afterthought in the marquee contests for control of the White House and the Senate.

A rising tide lifts all boats, and right now it seems a

Democratic tide is rising, said Michael Steel, a Republican strategist and former top aide to House GOP leadership.

Steel said it has less to do with Pelosi's planning than the national political environment.

I attribute the presumed success of her efforts to keep the majority more to Trump's failures than to her stated leadership, he said.

Those close to Pelosi's political operation did not always join her prediction that Democrats would handily keep control.

Trump wasn't on the ballot when they picked up the majority two years ago, and freshmen are often the most vulnerable to defeat as they seek reelection, especially this class of lawmakers now having to run alongside the president in districts often off-limits to Democrats.

Pelosi pushed ahead with the risky House vote to impeach the president in late 2019 over his dealings with Ukraine only to see the Senate, controlled by Republicans, vote to acquit him of the charges in a highly charged political environment early this year.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, the Capitol abruptly shuttered.

Pelosi engineered a rules change to allow the House to vote by proxy and work online, but it left lawmakers largely away from Washington.

Now Pelosi is holding out for a robust COVID-19 aid package with the Trump administration, another risky move, seeking a USD 2 trillion-plus deal Republicans don't want to give.

Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill, who is the chairwoman of the party's campaign arm in the House, said she counseled the new lawmakers not to get swept up in the national political debate but run your race like you're running for mayor meeting with constituents and responding to issues close to home.

When we set out to do this work in 2019 we had no idea what this cycle would hold, said Lucina Guinn, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's executive director.

The goal, she said, was to make the incumbents as strong as possible" while also recruiting new candidates to set up a big battlefield. Money helps.

Pelosi is on track to be a USD 1 billion fundraiser for her party an eye-popping sum during nearly two decades in leadership.

Over 58 m Americans have already voted, but wait for poll result could be long: Report

PTI NEW YORK, 26 OCTOBER

More than 58.7 million Americans have voted in the 2020 presidential election so far, surpassing all early ballots cast in the 2016 polls, but an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots has given rise to the possibility that the result could be delayed as counting of votes may stretch beyond November 3, according to a media report.

The report in the CNN said that according to a survey of election officials in all 50 states and Washington DC conducted by the US-based network, Edison Research and Catalist, more than 58.7 million Americans have voted so far in the election, with still 9 days left for November 3.

The report said in 2016, around 58.3 million pre-election ballots were cast, including ballots in the three vote-by-mail states that year. That early vote accounted for about 42 per cent of all ballots cast in the 2016 presidential election.

"Pre-election voting for the November election has surpassed all 2016 early ballots cast with 9 days left until Election Day," the report said. "Pre-Election Day voting is skyrocketing nationwide amid the ongoing coron-

avirus pandemic, and states are reporting record-breaking turnout as voters are energised to vote by mail or early in person before November," it said. There are more than 257 million people in the US who are 18 or older, and nearly 240 million citizens are eligible to vote this year, according to the American daily USA Today.

Another CNN report, however, noted that despite the unprecedented mail-in voting, there is a possibility that full results of who between President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden will win the Presidential election may not be known on election night.

"Election night can be synonymous with unpredictability - just look at 2016 - but this year might be even murkier than usual. The pandemic has changed the way millions of Americans vote for president," the report said.

While voters have already cast an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots, in many locations, including potential battleground states, the mail-in ballots will not be counted until after the election, "potentially leading to long delays in the news media's ability to call the election on election night," it said.

Pope names 13 new cardinals, including 1st Black US prelate

PTI VATICAN CITY, 26 OCTOBER

Pope Francis on Sunday named 13 new cardinals, including Washington D.C. Archbishop Wilton Gregory, who would become the first Black U.S. prelate to earn the coveted red hat.

In a surprise announcement from his studio window to faithful standing below in St. Peter's Square, Francis said the churchmen would be elevated to a cardinal's rank in a ceremony on Nov. 28.

Francis asked for prayers so the new cardinals may help me in my ministry as bishop of Rome for the good of all God's faithful holy people.

The selection of Gregory won praise from LGBTQ advocates in the United States, days after Pope Francis grabbed headlines for voicing support for civil unions for gay couples.

Other new cardinals include an Italian who is the long-time papal preacher at the Vatican, the Rev. Raniero Cantalamessa, who is a Franciscan friar; the Kigali, Rwanda, Archbishop Antoine Kamukamba; the Capiz, Philippines, Archbishop Jose Feurté Advincula, and the Santiago, Chile, Archbishop Celestino Aós Braco.

In 2010, while preaching at a Good Friday service attended by the then-pontiff Benedict XVI, Cantalamessa upset both Jewish and sex abuse sur-

vivors' group when he likened allegations that the pope had covered up sex abuse cases against clerics to the more shameful aspects of anti-Semitism.

The Vatican quickly distanced Benedict from Cantalamessa's remarks. Another Franciscan who was tapped is Friar Mauro Gambetti, in charge of the Sacred Convent in Assisi.

The pope, when elected in 2013, chose St. Francis of Assisi as his namesake saint. Earlier this month, the pontiff journeyed to that hill town in Umbria to sign an encyclical, or important church teaching document, about brotherhood.

Gambetti was so surprised, at first he thought the pope was joking when he heard he was named, convent spokesperson the Rev Enzo Fortunato said.

Gambetti quickly pledged to put himself at the service of humanity at a time so difficult to us all, including offering compassion to the needy, Fortunato said in reference to the coronavirus pandemic.

In a reflection of the pope's stress on helping those in need, Francis also named the former director of the Rome Catholic charity, Caritas, the Rev. Enrico Feroci, to be a cardinal.

The prestigious Washington archdiocese traditional-



Pope Francis waves to pilgrims gathered in St Peter's square during his Sunday Angelus prayer at the Vatican.

AFP

ly brings elevation to cardinal's rank, so the appointment of Gregory, 73, last year by the pope had positioned him to be tapped for the honor.

Still, the timing of his rise to cardinal is noteworthy, coming in the thick of increased U.S. attention on racial injustice following the police killing of George Floyd, a Black man, in Minnesota this year.

Gregory was publicly critical of U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to the St John Paul II National Shrine in Washington a day after civil rights demonstrators were forcibly cleared from a square to facil-

itate the president's visit to an Episcopal church in the U.S. capital.

Gregory has had his pulse on factions in the U.S. Catholic Church, which has both strong conservative and liberal veins since he served three times as the head of the U.S. Conference of Bishops.

Conservative prelates in the United States have openly lambasted Francis for his more liberal stands, including his support for same-sex civil unions that came out in a new documentary this week.

Gregory said in a statement that becoming a cardi-

nal would allow him to work more closely with the pontiff in caring for the Catholic Church.

While Gregory headed the Atlanta diocese earlier in his career, he wrote positively in a column about his conversations with Catholic parents of LGBTQ children.

An advocate for LGBTQ Catholics, Francis DeBernardo, told The Associated Press that choosing Gregory for a cardinal's post signals Francis wants "LGBTQ people to be part of the church, and he wants church people to respect them. DeBernardo linked the

appointment to Francis' recently reported comments supporting civil unions for same-sex couples.

He also praised the elevation to cardinal's rank of a Vatican bishop who comes from Malta, a tiny, traditionally Catholic nation which has made significant progress in LGBTQ civil rights and protections in recent years.

DeBernardo was referring to Mario Grech, 63, who serves at the Vatican as secretary general of the Synod of Bishops office and who formerly headed the diocese on the Maltese island of Gozo.

Since naming cardinals also affects who the next pontiff will be, the pope also shows that he is planning for the future of the church to continue in this affirming posture on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, the U.S.-based DeBernardo said in a written statement.

Not all of the pope's picks might stir positive recollections.

In 2010, while preaching at a Good Friday service attended by the then-pope, Benedict XVI, Cantalamessa upset both Jewish and sex abuse survivors' groups when he likened allegations that the pontiff had covered up sex abuse cases against clerics to the more shameful aspects of anti-Semitism. The Vatican quickly distanced Benedict from Cantalamessa's remarks..



As technology seems the answer to bridging the education gap, consistent efforts are on to make it a commonly held asset across India

Encouraging free exchange of ideas

SAIJU ARAVIND

In India, an intense gap has always existed in learning levels brought about by monetary, social and geographic factors. As a result, the country has been missing out on its undiscovered human capital. But with increasing awareness, internet penetration and urbanisation, tier 2 and 3 cities are slowly becoming open to new forms of educational tools.

To give a push to the same, make education accessible and streamline the sector, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has been released. According to the government, "It is a new education policy for the 21st century. It is important, as for 34 years there were no changes in the policy". The policy aims to encourage online and digital education and make it more integrated, holistic, flexible and learner-centred. Some major changes that are expected to revolutionise the education sector include one regulator for higher education institutions, a credit-based system, more focus on mother tongue, lesser focus on board exams, integration of vocational edu-

cation from Class VI onwards, and reduction in school curriculum to the core concepts.

Growing edtech market

Instead of buckling under the unpredictability of the situation, the in-charges of educational institutions have created a new space on the back of this unprecedented state of affairs. When "stay in touch but no touch" remains the dictum, education providers are conducting online classes, sharing worksheets and tutorials on online platforms. Needless to say, increased awareness and accessibility to online education is perhaps the only good thing about the pandemic.

According to a KPMG and Google report, the Indian edtech market is expected to reach \$1.96 billion by 2021. However, the growth rate is expected to increase considering the pandemic situation when education across the country has shifted online. A report by Omidyar Network India backed up by RedSeer Consulting' analysis predicted that the edtech market will 120 per cent growth in FY2020 and reach \$1.7 billion by the

end of the year.

With NEP 2020 come new opportunities for edtech start-ups

The pandemic created a demand for online learning which bought new growth opportunities for the edtech sector. As a result, edtech companies are now looking at new paths, exploring new markets especially in Tier 2 and 3 cities and expanding their learner base. Further, with NEP, the future looks promising and will for sure welcome the birth of new edtech. There is scope for several new edtech start-ups joining the space. Talks of mergers and acquisitions have already been doing the rounds in the space with some well established players already sealing deals.

Under NEP, an autonomous body called the National Educational Technology Forum will also be set up to encourage the free exchange of ideas and enhance assessment, learning, planning and administration.

As technology seems the answer to bridging the education gap, consistent efforts are being made to make

education a commonly held asset across the country. Considering that the 21st century workforce will be centred on technologies that did not exist a decade ago, edtech companies are leading this change whether it is about giving a platform for schools to run completely or online teaching coding to school kids.

The NEP also aims to set up an Academic Bank of Credit to enable digital storage of credits that a student earns from different higher educational institutions. These credits can also be counted as part of the final degree. This is expected to deliver huge benefits to students belonging to tier 2 and 3 cities as they can get credits by just adapting online courses.

Further, the credit bank offers huge scope for online higher education. The edtech players can help small colleges come online and start offering credits. This will not only make higher education easily accessible but also open up great opportunities for these players. As policy's vision is clear in its focus on technology for educational efficiency, we will

see many e-courses being developed in regional languages. The technology would be a core part of teaching, assessment, education planning, learning, and student training. Therefore, there are new growth opportunities which await the edtech sector. Edtech players will now explore new paths to expand their learner base especially in tier 2 and 3 cities and cater to the needs of this upcoming consumer segment.

Educators across the country are moving to virtual classes to ensure learning keeps going, connecting over interactive and collaborative tools in remote learning scenarios. These tools are enabling human and social interaction. This is perhaps the only silver lining of the crisis that it has pushed the education sector to discover the potential of e-learning.

With NEP, the times ahead will welcome unprecedented changes in the way education is delivered across the country and also, give a major push to edtech industry.

The writer is founder, EduRisk Knowledge Solutions

PLUS POINTS

Quality education



Using a curriculum that students can understand and get well informed about the real use of Artificial Intelligence, STEMROBO Technologies, an Ed-tech company has announced that their AI Connect Platform has been selected in the AI Step-Up Module initiative by NITI Aayog and NASSCOM. The module will be the next step in bringing AI to Indian classrooms wherein platforms like AI connect will help drive the education in AI and Innovation, free of cost across the country.

AI Connect platform is a Unique and Integrated Software based Platform that delivers practical exposure and analytical learning about AI concepts where a student can easily understand the concepts of Artificial Intelligence. In order to expand today's generation knowledge base, the initiative will give a comprehensive approach to the learner which can be applied in the real world.

Under this programme, the tinkers will not only learn the art of Data Analytics, Python, Computer Vision, Coding, Machine Learning, Algorithms, developing Robots, Games but also helps in building artificial intelligence skills which can solve day to day real-life problems.

Safe alternative



Mahindra University's student, Kartikeya Bhardwaj (Mechanical Engineering Student, Class of 2020), has created a deep learning app, Chakshu Face Attendance, to provide employers / institutions / organizations with touch-less recording of attendance attributes. Especially relevant in today's Covid outbreak, this app provides a safe alternative to touch-based fingerprint attendance systems. The start-up is being incubated at Mahindra e-hub, an incubation centre of the university under its Centre of Entrepreneurship & Innovation.

"One of the focuses of our university has been on Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning, wherein we have not just created state-of-the-art labs but also made available live projects for students to work on. It is indeed exciting to witness these efforts coming to fruition and our Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation is providing a platform for these start-ups to grow and grow on their own by providing all necessary assistance in sync with the Indian Government's mission," said Yajulu Medury, vice chancellor, Mahindra University.

Bringing laurels



The 25 winners of this year's Green Talents Competition have been selected to attend the premiere of a Virtual Science Forum for talented junior researchers in the field of sustainability science.

The winners are engaged in topics ranging from climate change to energy systems. For the first time ever, the winners include researchers from India, Benin, Japan and Malawi. The awardees' individual research profiles can be accessed exclusively at: <https://www.greentalents.delawardees-2020.php>.

Staying ahead



SP Jain School of Global Management has recorded successful internships for 40 per cent of its Master in Global Luxury Goods and Services Management Class of 2019-20.

The MGLuxM programme is a Partnership Programme between SP Jain School of Global Management, Mumbai, and MIP Politecnico Di Milano, Milan, Italy. The school organises study tours/field visits to other European cities such as Paris, Champagne, Geneva, Neuchatel, La Chaux de Fonds and Florence, in addition to classroom sessions.

LIVING A PRODUCTIVE LIFE

Research shows that social media and the spread of misinformation can have adverse effects on students' mental wellbeing



The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a global sense of uncertainty due to a lack of knowledge on the matter. Resultantly, the circulation of false information has dramatically increased over the past few months. What is commonly being termed as an "infodemic" is essentially the information being shared online, which could possibly include conspiracy theories, cures, and preventative measures that aren't evidence-based.

Government officials and public health authorities have expressed their concern regarding the adverse effects on mental health due to the amount of misinformation being circulated in regard to Covid-19.

Ever since the virus broke out, there has been a tide of the novel corona virus related content that is often inaccurate or absolutely false. On the contrary, it could actually be harmful. For instance, there was a notion that the virus was airborne and that generated a lot of anxiety among many people.

The younger generations have been more severely affected by this infodemic due to their excessive usage of social media and other technological advances, particularly during the lockdown. In fact, social media platforms are extremely popular for extracting data from the youth. Unfortunately, a lot of this information is unverified and unsourced.

On one hand, such platforms have played a key role in universally increasing anxiety and panic levels. On the other hand, memes and trolls online have trivialised the idea of a pandemic. This not only minimises the seriousness of the situation at hand but also increases the risk of spreading the infection.

The series of hoaxes being spread not only leads to elevated stress levels but also social media addiction. This can further result in mood modification, tolerance, withdrawal and conflicts in their personal lives. This facilitates changes in one's emotional state and also results in the development of cognitive, behavioral and emotional preoccupa-

pation with social media. The drastic increase in screen time can also result in an unpleasant experience when social media privileges are restricted.

Research shows that social media and the spread of misinformation are linked to the hindrance of mental wellbeing. For years now,

the internet has been known to cause sleep disturbances, which further affects mental health. Furthermore, fake news induces a state of paranoia, which too has been linked to psychological issues.

Social media should be used to create awareness instead of panic. Excessive use of social media during

these unprecedented times is not advisable. Instead, finding ways to keep oneself engaged in productive hobbies helps maintain a sound state of both body and mind. The government too, is taking appropriate measures to deal with the situation by enforcing certain laws, such as limiting forwards from popular

messaging apps and monitoring the content being circulated on social media. During such trying times, it is vital to take steps towards building resilience and adapting to the new normal.

The writer is senior consultant psychiatrist, centre head, Sukoon Health





POGBA DENIES QUITTING

Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba on Monday denied media reports that said he quit the France national team over comments made by the country's President Emmanuel Macron which were perceived to be against Islam.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Zverev wins Cologne title: Alexander Zverev made it back-to-back ATP Tour titles when he beat Diego Schwartzman 6-2, 6-1 in the final of the Cologne Championship. Zverev hit nine aces, saved the only break point he faced and converted five of his own to beat the French Open semifinalist. The first set was over in 38 minutes, the second in just 33.

Southampton win: Premier League leader Everton slumped to its first defeat of the season and lost Lucas Digne to a second-half red card as Danny Ings inspired Southampton to a 2-0 win at St. Mary's Stadium. Ward-Prowse scored the 27th-minute opener with a delicate through-ball and then Che Adams scored the final goal with a deflected finish in the 35th.



Pandya takes a knee: Mumbai Indians all-rounder Hardik Pandya has become the first player in the ongoing Indian Premier League to take a knee in support of the 'Black Lives Matter' movement. Pandya's gesture came during the game against Rajasthan Royals on Sunday. After reaching his half century, he went down on a knee with his right arm raised to show solidarity with the movement against racism.

CSA board resign: Cricket South Africa's 10-member Board of Directors has resigned, clearing the decks for an interim administrative structure in the crisis-ridden body as sought by the country's olympic committee. Six directors, including former acting president Beresford Williams, had stood down following a meeting on Sunday. The remaining four quit on Monday.

Coaching staff arrive: India head coach Ravi Shastri and his support staff have all arrived in Dubai and entered the bio-bubble as they get ready for the team's two-month tour of Australia next month. Shastri, batting coach Vikram Rathour, bowling coach Bharath Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar have all reached from their respective home cities on Sunday.

DC eye playoff berth in clash against SRH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, 26 OCTOBER

Delhi Capitals would look to complete the unfinished business and seal their place in the playoffs when they take on Sunrisers Hyderabad in a crucial Indian Premier League match here on Tuesday.

Two back-to-back defeats against Kolkata Knight Riders and Kings XI Punjab must be hurting but DC need to shrug it off and add two points to take their tally to 16, which will elevate them to the top of the table.

On the other hand, Sunrisers' hopes to reach the playoffs are hanging by a thread. David Warner and his men occupy the penultimate spot with eight points from 11 outings.

To reach the qualifiers they must win their remaining three games and hope all other results



go their way.

The Capitals possess an explosive batting department as well as a formidable bowling unit. They have not been dependent on any one person, as different players have raised their hands at different points

of time to deliver the goods for the team.

However, apart from Shikhar Dhawan, the Delhi batsmen have been very inconsistent in the last three games.

In the win against CSK, Dhawan, who scored a centu-

ry, did the heavy lifting with the bat.

The senior opener again notched up a hundred against KXIP but with no substantial contributions from the other batsmen Delhi lost the game.

Against KKR, the Delhi bats-

men crumbled under pressure, managing to put up only 139 runs in 20 overs while chasing 194.

Opener Prithvi Shaw, who has been going through a lean patch, was replaced by Ajinkya Rahane but to no avail as the senior Indian player perished without opening his account.

Rishabh Pant and Shimron Hetmyer have also struggled since their return to the playing XI.

The South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada (23 wickets) and Anrich Nortje (14) has been exceptional. Tushar Deshpande and Ravichandran Ashwin's performance has been erratic in recent matches, while Axar Patel has done well to suffocate the opposition teams.

Sunrisers head into the clash after a demoralising loss. Chasing a modest 127 against KXIP, the complexion of the

match changed following the dismissal of openers Warner and Jonny Bairstow in quick succession.

The former champions lost five wickets in the final two overs to suffer a humiliating defeat.

The team heavily relies on its batting unit, mainly on Bairstow, Warner and Manish Pandey. Vijay Shankar did well in the win against Rajasthan Royals but couldn't replicate his performance against KXIP.

The bowling unit strengthened by the inclusion of Jason Holder was outstanding in the previous game and skipper Warner will desperately hope they put up a similar display against Delhi.

The Orange Army will also take confidence from the fact that they defeated Delhi earlier in the tournament.

Teams:
Delhi Capitals: Shreyas Iyer

(c), Kagiso Rabada, Marcus Stoinis, Sandeep Lamichhane, Ishant Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shikhar Dhawan, Shimron Hetmyer, Alex Carey, Mohit Sharma, Prithvi Shaw, Lalit Yadav, Avesh Khan, Axar Patel, Tushar Deshpande, Rishabh Pant, Harshal Patel, Keemo Paul, Amit Mishra, Anrich Nortje, Daniel Sams.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner (C), Jonny Bairstow, Kane Williamson, Manish Pandey, Shreevats Goswami, Virat Singh, Priyam Garg, Wriddhiman Saha, Abdul Samad, Vijay Shankar, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Jason Holder, Abhishek Sharma, B Sandeep, Sanjay Yadav, Fabian Allen, Prithvi Raj Yarra, Khaleel Ahmed, Sandeep Sharma, Shahbaz Nadeem, Siddharth Kaul, Billy Stanlake, T Natarajan, Basil Thampi.

Match starts at 7.30pm

Hope this hundred gives family some happiness in difficult time: Stokes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ABU DHABI, 26 OCTOBER

Rajasthan Royals' star England all-rounder Ben Stokes is hoping that his swashbuckling return to form with a hundred would not just rejuvenate his side but also give some happiness to his family as it copes with his father Ged's battle with brain cancer.

Rajasthan rode on a blistering 107 by Stokes and an equally aggressive 54 by Sanju Samson to overhaul a 196-run target set by defending champions Mumbai Indians with 10 balls to spare on Sunday. The duo forged an unbeaten 152-run stand for the second wicket.

"It's a bit difficult at the moment, things are a bit tough back at home, hopefully, this will give them some happiness," Stokes told official broadcaster Star Sports in the post-match presentation.

Stokes, who missed the early part of the tournament to be with his father in New Zealand, said he was relieved to finally come to the party after a sluggish start in the opening role.

"Sort of bittersweet to be honest - it took so long to get one for the team. I would have preferred to get this form two or three games before when we weren't relying on other results to get us through to the qualifiers," he said.



"Came into the game with a lot more confidence than the other games. Nice to spend some time out in the middle and finish the game off. The ball was coming on nicely - be it short or full."

Rajasthan Royals skipper Steve Smith described the partnership between Stokes and Samson as "sensational" and said the eight-wicket win was just the kind of result they needed to get their IPL campaign back on track.

"Very pleased, that's what we were crying for, two of our experienced players take the game deep and the way I think those two (Stokes and Samson) finished it off today and played was sensational, so very pleased," Smith said.

"I thought that partnership with him (Stokes) and Sanju was sensational," added the Australian.

Smith said that his team was lacking match-winning contributions from experienced players, which it finally got against Mumbai.

KXIP's tidy bowling restricts KKR to 149/9

SHARJAH, 26 OCTOBER

Kings XI Punjab dished out a disciplined bowling show, especially at the back-end, to restrict Kolkata Knight Riders to a modest 149/9 in their Indian Premier League match here on Monday.

Mohammed Shami (3/35) was the pick of the Kings XI Punjab bowlers while leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (2/20) and Chris Jordan (2/25) claimed two wickets apiece to put brakes on KKR who were invited to bat first.

After a familiar jittery start, KKR got the momentum going with opener Shubman Gill (57 off 45 balls) (in photo) and skipper Eoin Morgan (40) firing all cylinders inside the Powerplay.

But KXIP's last match hero Jordan pulled things back for his team by brilliantly mixing up his slow deliveries, while Bishnoi took the prized scalp of Morgan after KKR reached 54/3 inside the Powerplay.



Morgan holed out to Murali Ashwin at deep square leg as Bishoi ended the free-flowing partnership for 81 runs from 47 balls and from then onwards KKR struggled to get going.

Earlier, KKR had another messy start and looked in deep trouble at 10/3 inside two overs after Shami's exceptional first over. But Morgan and Gill counter-attacked beautifully, getting the boundaries and sixes. The duo made full use of the Powerplay restrictions and Shami conceded 21 runs from his third over. PTI

SCOREBOARD	
KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS INNINGS	
S Gill c Pooran b Md Shami	57
N Rana c Gayle b Maxwell	0
R Tripathi c Rahul b Md Shami	7
KD Karthik c Rahul b Md Shami	0
E Morgan c Ashwin b R Bishnoi	40
SP Narine b Jordan	6
KL Nagarkoti b Ashwin	6
PJ Cummins lbw b Ravi Bishnoi	1
LH Ferguson not out	24
CV Varun b Jordan	2
MP Krishna not out	0
Extras: (lb 3, w 3)	0
TOTAL: (20 Ov, RR: 7.45)	149
BOWLING: GJ Maxwell 2.0, 21.1	
Md Shami 4.0, 35.3 A Singh 2.0, 18.0	
M Ashwin 4.0, 27.1 C Jordan	
4.0, 25.2 Ravi Bishnoi 4.1, 20.2	

Rohit out of Australia tour with hamstring injury

NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

India's limited-over vice-captain and senior opener Rohit Sharma was on Monday left out of all three squads for the tour of Australia due to a recurring hamstring injury which is set to rule him out of the remaining part of the Indian Premier League as well.

In Rohit's absence, KL Rahul will be Virat Kohli's

deputy in the white ball teams. Rohit picked up the injury during the ongoing IPL in the UAE.

Pacer Mohammed Siraj is the fifth speedster in the Test squad as reported by the PTI while Kolkata Knight Riders' mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy has made it to the T20 International squad.

Fast bowler Ishant Sharma, who is nursing a muscle tear, and Rohit will be monitored by the BCCI medical team.

There weren't any surprises save for Chakravarthy's inclusion in the T20 squad after his stellar show for KKR in the current IPL.

He has already picked up a five-for and has a total of 12 scalps to his credit this season so far.

The tour of Australia comprises three T20 Internationals, as many ODIs and four Tests. It is set to get underway from 27 November. PTI

Hamilton's future comes more into focus after record win

AGENCIES
LONDON, 26 OCTOBER

Mercedes Formula One boss Toto Wolff jokingly suggested he would have to sell the factory to keep Lewis Hamilton after the Briton's record 92nd career win in Portugal on Sunday.

Hamilton is out of contract at the end of the year, by which time the 35-year-old is likely to have won a record-equaling seventh championship and rank as the most successful driver in the history of the sport.

He and Wolff have yet to sit down and hammer out the details of a new deal in a season disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic but time is pushing on.

"It's huge. We have to sell plenty of inventory. Sell a lease-back of the buildings and just come up with the money," said Wolff when asked about the contract implications of the victory. The reality is less drastic, with both sides keen to stay together and set more records in a sport they have dominated since the start of the V6 turbo hybrid era in 2014.

If Ferrari great Michael Schumacher's record 91 wins once seemed an impossible target, Hamilton now looks likely to go well beyond 100 with an eighth title also no longer in the realms of fantasy.

"In 10 or 20 years we're going to look back and really acknowledge what a special driver he was," said Wolff.



Mercedes, meanwhile, are on the brink of becoming the first team to win seven successive constructors' titles.

Hamilton, who has been with Mercedes since 2013, already earns a reported 40 million pounds a year but the pandemic has changed the financial landscape for even the biggest companies. The champion knows no other team can give him what he wants, and no other team will feel like family in the way Mercedes does.

"I don't think I'm at my peak. I'm in a good area for sure but I still want to continue to race. I don't know how much longer that will be," the 35-year-old said. "This is a period of time where I've got to slowly work out what the future holds. All I can say is I plan to be here next year."

Hamilton's contract talks have always been something of a saga and this time he has also wanted to be sure of where Wolff's future lies.

The Austrian, a shareholder in the team, said he and Daimler boss Ola Kaellenius had agreed "to continue with each other".

Kho Kho becomes career option for many: Sudhanshu Mittal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 26 OCTOBER

Kho Kho, a traditional Indian game of 'Tag', is now gaining popularity among youngsters in India and with its experienced player Sarika Kale being honoured with Arjuna Award this year, it has led to a refreshed energy within the Kho Kho community.

On Monday, Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) president Sudhanshu Mittal expressed his joy over the rise in the game, saying that the

nation's indigenous sport is finally being recognised as a career option amongst the players and will no longer just be a pleasure play.

"I want to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and Sports Minister Kiren Rijji ji for helping in promoting Kho Kho. Earlier, for government jobs (in sports quota) Kho Kho was not considered but now Kho Kho players -- who did great -- can also get a job under that scheme. And the credit to this goes to the Central government."

"So, the sports persons -- who

play Kho Kho -- are now feeling secure (career wise) and I am sure such motivational steps will promote the sport in India," Mittal said.

The Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) President further said that the sport has opened up its wings and is ready to explore the World.

"It is a proud moment for the Kho Kho Federation of India that Kho Kho has got recognition at international level as well. Who would have thought that Kho Kho will become so popular in foreign countries too?"

Efforts were made to make it possible and I am thankful to all those who are supporting us in this regard. Foreign countries liked our sport (Kho Kho) because there is endurance, agility and strength in it. People will surely like it," he said.

The Kho Kho league was scheduled to start next month but because of COVID-19 it got postponed indefinitely.

Speaking about the league, Mr Mittal said the Kho Kho league will open a wide array of opportunities for the players to help improve their lives.

Vardy hurts Arsenal again to seal 1-0 win for Leicester

AGENCIES
LONDON, 26 OCTOBER

Jamie Vardy kept up his brilliant scoring record against Arsenal by coming off the bench to earn Leicester a 1-0 win at Emirates Stadium in the Premier League.

Restricted to just the final half-hour while he manages his return from a calf injury, Vardy had enough time to net his 11th league goal against Arsenal the most he has scored against a single opponent in the competition.



It was an excellent goal, too, with a fine pass over the defense by Youri Tielemans setting free substitute Cengiz

Under, who crossed for Vardy to stoop and head home from close range in the 80th minute.

Leicester bounced back from home losses to West Ham and Aston Villa to record a first win away to Arsenal since 1973. Brendan Rodgers' team has won all three of its away games so far, scoring nine goals in the process.

Alexandre Lacazette had a goal disallowed for Arsenal in the fourth minute. His near-post header from a corner was ruled out seemingly for offside against Granit Xhaka, who was stand-

ing in a central position near the line as the ball went past him and into the net.

Otherwise, the hosts barely troubled Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel, whose defense sat deep and soaked up pressure just as it did at Man City in the 5-2 win at Etihad Stadium.

Since opening with a 3-0 win at Fulham, Mikel Arteta's team has averaged just a goal a game in its last five games and star striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang hasn't scored in that period.

Ronaldo in doubt for Messi's Champions League visit to Juventus

AGENCIES
TURIN (ITALY), 26 OCTOBER

Some talking points ahead of the second round of games in the Champions League:

NO RONALDO VS. MESSI?

The highly anticipated matchup of Cristiano Ronaldo (in photo right) against Lionel Messi (in photo left) likely won't happen because Ronaldo has the coronavirus.

Juventus has not reported many details of Ronaldo's status but the forward has not played since appearing for Portugal earlier this month and isn't expected to be named to the Bianconeri's squad for Wednesday's visit by Barcelona in Group G.

Ronaldo tested positive while on international duty and has been quarantined at his home in Turin. Alvaro Morata replaced Ronaldo against Dynamo Kyiv last week and scored twice in a 2-0 win.

CHELSEA'S FAB FOUR

Could this be the week Chelsea manager Frank Lampard finally unleashes his very own Fab Four? In the wake of the club's \$300 million spending spree, there was lots of excitement at the start of the season about the prospect of Chelsea deploying a four-man front line comprising Christian Pulisic, Kai Havertz and Hakim Ziyech behind lone striker Timo Werner.

A mixture of injuries and



rotation meant this has yet to happen, but the option is there for Lampard in Chelsea's match at Krasnodar on Wednesday.

Both Chelsea and Krasnodar are seeking a first win after drawing their opening Group E matches against Sevilla and



Rennes, respectively. Manchester City would simply like to get a striker on the field against Marseille in Group C on Tuesday, but it is unlikely. Sergio Aguero, just back from a long-term knee injury, sustained a muscle problem against West Ham in the Pre-

mier League on Saturday and joins fellow striker Gabriel Jesus on the sidelines again.

NEYMAR'S LEAN SPELL

For all his evident talent, Neymar is having a worrying lean spell in Europe's elite competition. The star forward has not scored in his last four Champions League games, having squandered chances galore during the Final Eight in Lisbon and in last week's 2-1 home defeat to Manchester United in Group H.

That loss has PSG under some early pressure, and Neymar's performance was widely criticized.

It was back to the Neymar of old, as he constantly gave the ball away trying to dribble

past too many players or rolled on the ground claiming fouls.

The match at Turkish side Istanbul Basaksehir on Wednesday is likely to be a physical encounter and Neymar, who has already been sent off this season, will have to keep his cool. PSG coach Thomas Tuchel must also juggle with injuries, with winger Julian Draxler the latest to be sidelined.

BOUNCING BACK

Zinedine Zidane wants Real Madrid to play with the same intensity the team showed in its win over Barcelona in the clasico on Saturday.

Madrid visits Borussia Munchengladbach in Group B on Tuesday and is seeking to bounce back from a surprise

opening home loss to Shakhtar Donetsk.

Eden Hazard was added to the Madrid squad and could make his season debut after nursing a muscle injury.

Atletico Madrid and Luis Suarez are also looking to rebound. Diego Simeone's side was thrashed 4-0 by defending champion Bayern Munich and next hosts Salzburg in Group A on Tuesday.

BLAZING BAYERN

Bayern's biggest challenges seem to be how to maintain its outstanding form and meet its own burgeoning expectations. Bayern started its Champions League defense with a 4-0 rout of Atletico Madrid, extending its winning run in

the competition to 13 games. Hansi Flick's team has scored at least four goals in its last three games in the Bundesliga.

Atletico at least managed to stop Robert Lewandowski from scoring, but he answered Saturday with a hat trick against Eintracht Frankfurt to take his Bundesliga tally to 10 goals in five games.

Even if he doesn't score, others can fill in, such as Leroy San who marked his return from injury with an outstanding goal against Frankfurt. Forward Serge Gnabry was released from quarantine on Sunday after testing negative again. Lokomotiv Moscow hosts Bayern in Group A on Tuesday.

The teams last met in the UEFA Cup in 1985, when Bayern won 5-0.

