



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



MODI ENTERS 20TH
YEAR AS HEAD OF
AN ELECTED GOVT



NUANCED
APPROACHES



NO PLACE FOR HATE
IN AMERICA: BIDEN
AT GETTYSBURG



LET RAHUL MAKE
RUNS GALORE,
SAYS LARA

P5

P6

P10

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 36 and 19 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 89% Min: 39%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 36°C (+2) Min: 18.6°C (-3)

SUN RISES

06:18 hrs

MOON RISES

22:16 hrs

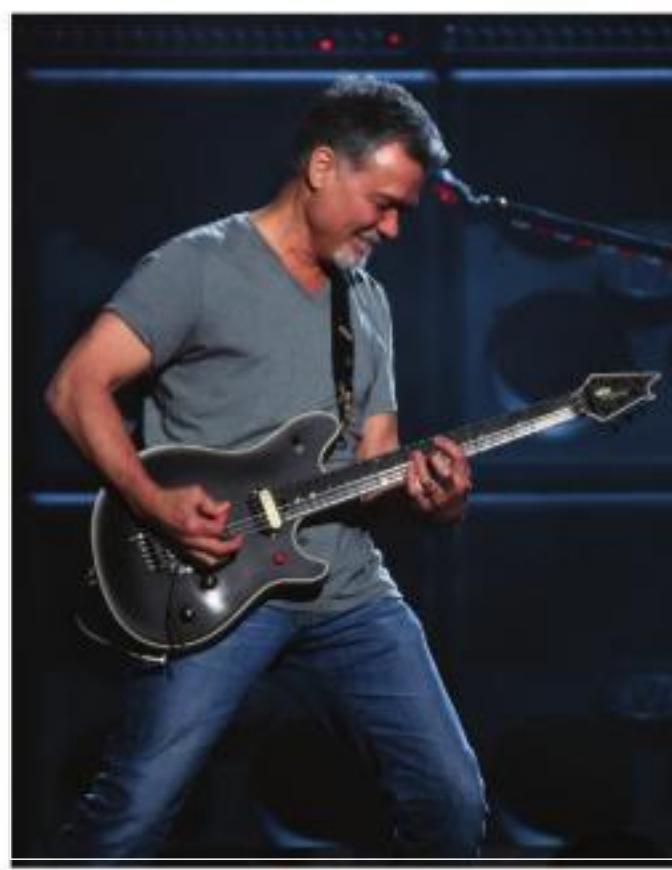
SUN SETS

17:59 hrs

MOON SETS

12:40 hrs

THUMBNAILS



In this file photo taken on 17 May 2015, Eddie Van Halen of hard rock group Van Halen performs during the 2015 Billboard Music Awards. Van Halen died on October 6, 2020 following a long battle with cancer, his son announced. **AFP** **Pio**

Sedition charge against journalist: Uttar Pradesh police on Wednesday booked four persons including Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan on sedition and other charges at Maant police station in Mathura, two days after they were held while on their way to Hathras. Charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IT Act have also been filed against the four who were held on Monday when they were on their way to Hathras, where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gang-raped.

P5

Centre approves revised cost for East-West Metro

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 7 OCTOBER

The East-West Metro Corridor today received a funds boost after the Union cabinet approved the Railway Ministry's revised cost estimate for construction of the Line-2 Project of Rs 8574.98 crores.

The project consisting of 12 stations will when completed connect Howrah with Salt Lake. The pre-pandemic target for completion of the project was December 2021. During the Phoolbagh Metro Station virtual inauguration, held last Sunday, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal had

expressed hopes of the entire project being completed by the end of 2021, if no further hiccups came up.

According to sources in Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL), the estimated cost of the East-West Project had risen due to change in the alignment. In the initial alignment, the estimated cost of construction was about 4874 crores which shot up to over 8500 crores after it was change.

The KMRCL authorities are said to have submitted a revised estimated cost in the 2015-16 fiscal which was later given a nod by the Railway Board.

Sources said Ashwani Kumar (70) was suffering

Former CBI director found hanging at Shimla residence

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 7 OCTOBER

Former Governor of Nagaland, former director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and former Director General of Police, Himachal Pradesh, Ashwani Kumar, allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at his residence in Shimla on Wednesday evening.

Sources said he was found hanging and dead in the attic of his house near Brockhurst in Shimla in the evening by his son.

Sources said Ashwani Kumar (70) was suffering



from depression and was taking treatment in Mumbai for some time. A suicide note has been recovered in which he referred to some ailment. "I don't want to be a burden on anyone. Embarking on journey after life," the note said.

Sources said the Director General of Police, Him-

achal Pradesh, Sanjay Kundu, reached his house after the news broke about his suicide.

Sources said the former Governor had returned from Mumbai recently and his son and daughter-in-law were also in Shimla, who were working from home.

Ashwani Kumar was the Governor of Nagaland from 21 March 2013 to 27 June 2014. Earlier, he served as director of the CBI from August 2, 2008 to November 30, 2010 and as Himachal Pradesh DGP from August 2006 to 2008.

He is survived by his wife Chanda and son Abhishek.

AIADMK decides to go with EPS as chief ministerial candidate

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 7 OCTOBER

For the first time in the history of the AIADMK, two clear power centres emerged with the announcement of Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the chief ministerial candidate of the party for the upcoming 2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

The party also decided to set up a 11-member steering committee to run party affairs, which was the demand of O Panneerselvam camp for a truce. The committee will have five members from the OPS faction, while the EPS faction bags the rest.

Also, it is for the first time that the party is facing an election with a previously announced CM candidate, which was unheard of in a party led by only two stalwarts, M G



Ramachandran (MGR) and J. Jayalalithaa aka Amma.

The party's CM face for the polls was announced in a joint press conference by AIADMK coordinator and deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam and joint coordinator and chief minister Palaniswami at the party headquarters.

"I am happy to announce that our dear brother Palaniswami will be the victorious Chief Ministerial candidate of the AIADMK for the 2021

Assembly elections," Mr. Palaniswami said. The decision has been taken unanimously, he said.

Palaniswami announced the composition of a steering committee, the main bone of contention between the two factions. The decisions brought an end to the protracted intra-party tussle on the issue that began on Independence Day. Forest minister Dindigul C. Sreenivasan, power minister P. Thangamani, Local administration

minister S. Velumani, food minister R. Kamraj, law minister C. Ve Shannugam, fisheries minister D. Jayakumar, former minister P. Mohan, former MP P. H. Manoj Pandian and R. Gopalakrishnan, former MLA J. C. D. Prabhakar, and Sholavandan legislator Manickam are the members of the panel, which will guide the party in all matters.

Fissures had developed within the party with both Palaniswami, who had been CM thrice, and Palaniswami aspiring for the CM post. The two leaders openly sparred at the executive committee meeting of the party held on September 28, in which senior ministers backed Palaniswami. Later, after hectic parleys the issue was settled with the EPS group conceding the demand to set up a steering committee.

The meeting took place a day after the "Quadrilateral Security Dialogue" between the foreign ministers of India, Japan, Australia and the USA. The External Affairs Ministry said the foreign ministers of India and Japan concurred that the Indo-Pacific region has acquired greater salience in recent times and underscored the need for their two countries to work together for the benefit of the region. They reaffirmed the similarities in their respective Indo-Pacific visions that are based on the rule of law and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The two ministers hoped the IPOI would take both countries' respective visions for the Indo-Pacific forward.

The focus areas of the IPOI include creating partnerships among interested states in enhancing maritime security; sustainably using marine resources and disaster prevention and management. **SNS**

With 72K fresh Covid cases, India's tally now 67.5 lakh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

With the addition of 72,049 fresh coronavirus cases and 986 deaths in 24 hours, India's tally on Wednesday went past the 67-lakh-mark with a total of 67,57,131 cases.

Out of these, 9,07,883 are currently active; 57,44,693 have been discharged, while 1,04,555 have lost the battle against the pandemic.

With daily recoveries exceeding new cases by over 10,000 for the previous 24 hours, the recovery rate stands at 85.02 per cent and the fatality rate at 1.55 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 14,65,911 cases including



Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for developing a method of genome editing likened to molecular scissors that offer the promise of one day curing inherited diseases and even cancer.

Working on opposite sides of the Atlantic, Frenchwoman Emmanuelle Charpentier and American Jennifer A. Doudna developed a method known as CRISPR/Cas9 that can be used to change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision.

There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which

kind with great opportunities. But he cautioned that the "enormous power of this technology means we have to use it with great care."

It has already raised serious ethical questions in the scientific community. Most of the world became more aware of CRISPR in 2018, when Chinese scientist Dr. He Jiankui revealed he had helped make the world's first gene-edited babies, to try to engineer resistance to future infection with the AIDS virus. His work was denounced worldwide as unsafe human experimentation because of the risk of causing unintended changes that can pass to future generations, and he's currently in prison.

Asked about the fact that it was the first time that two women have won the chemistry Nobel together, Charpentier said that while she considers herself first and foremost a scientist, she hoped it would

In September, an international panel of experts issued a report saying it's still too soon to try to make genetically edited babies because the science isn't advanced enough to ensure safety, but they mapped a pathway for many countries that want to consider it.

I was very emotional, I have to say, Charpentier (51) told reporters by phone from Berlin after hearing of the award, announced Wednesday in Stockholm by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Asked about the fact that it was the first time that two women have won the chemistry Nobel together, Charpentier said that while she considers herself first and foremost a scientist, she hoped it would

encourage others.

Doudna told The Associated Press about her surprise at receiving the early morning call. "I literally just found out, I'm in shock," she said. "I was sound asleep. My greatest hope is that it's used for good, to uncover new mysteries in biology and to benefit humankind," Doudna said.

The Broad Institute at Harvard and MIT have been in a long court fight over patents on CRISPR technology, and many other scientists did important work on it, but Doudna and Charpentier have been most consistently honoured for turning it into an easily usable tool.

The award comes with a gold medal and prize money

India, Japan finalise key cybersecurity accord

NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

India and Japan have finalised a cybersecurity agreement and Tokyo also agreed to be the lead partner in the connectivity pillar of the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI), which was proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year for safe, secure and stable maritime domain in the wake of China's aggressive posturing on maritime issues.

These announcements were made after the 13th India-Japan foreign ministers' strategic dialogue held in Tokyo this morning. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar led the Indian side at the dialogue while his Japanese counterpart Motegi Toshimitsu headed his country's team.

The meeting took place a day after the "Quadrilateral Security Dialogue" between the foreign ministers of India, Japan, Australia and the USA.

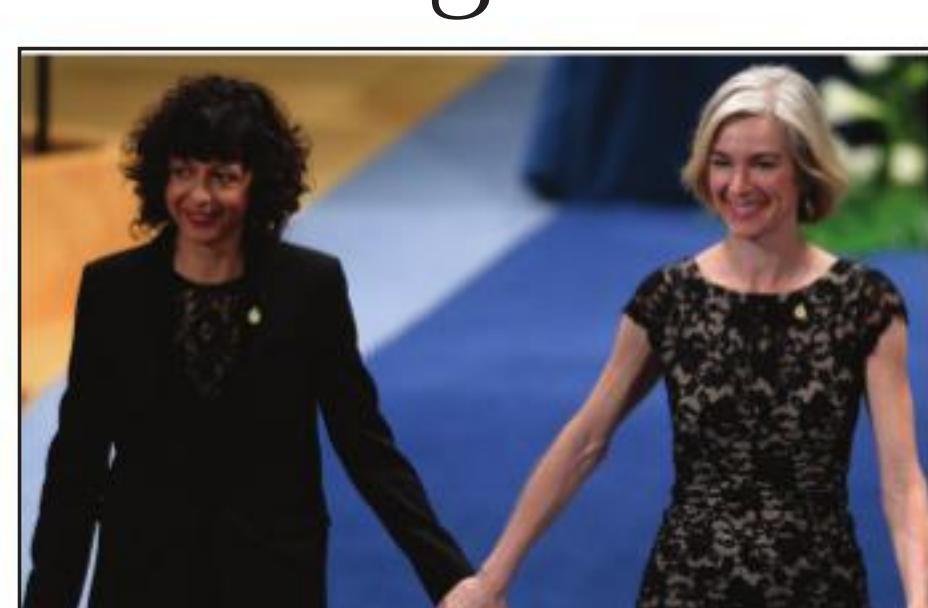
The External Affairs Ministry said the foreign ministers of India and Japan concurred that the Indo-Pacific region has acquired greater salience in recent times and underscored the need for their two countries to work together for the benefit of the region. They reaffirmed the similarities in their respective Indo-Pacific visions that are based on the rule of law and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The two ministers hoped the IPOI would take both countries' respective visions for the Indo-Pacific forward.

The focus areas of the IPOI include creating partnerships among interested states in enhancing maritime security; sustainably using marine resources and disaster prevention and management. **SNS**

All-women team get Chemistry Nobel prize for 'gene scissors'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
STOCKHOLM, 7 OCTOBER



affects us all, said Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry. "It has not only revolutionised basic science, but also resulted in innovative crops and will lead

to groundbreaking new medical treatments." Gustafsson said that, as a result, any genome can now be edited "to fix genetic damage, adding that the tool will provide human-





Karnataka has already achieved a distinction in the Aerospace and Defence map of the country by catering to nearly 25 per cent of the aircraft and space industry in the country

B S YEDIYURAPPA

KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

DJB VC calls for providing power to non-functional flow meters

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER



Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Vice-Chairman Raghav Chadha on Wednesday convened a high-level meeting of senior officials of the DJB along with the top management of the power companies -- BSES Yamuna, BSES Rajdhani and TATA Power -- where he emphasised the urgency of providing electricity to non-functional flow meters. He instructed the officials concerned for setting up a committee to address any issue regarding the proposed electricity connection.

According to a statement issued by his office, Chadha said, "The urgency of this matter can be ascertained from the fact that even with the sword of Covid-19 looming over our heads, we are all meeting today. We have to complete all pending work with respect to the existing flow meters by 30 October."

He instructed the representatives of the power companies to begin electricity work in order that the 794 flow meters may begin their work. The DJB has to stop operating as a mere intermediary but has to act as an instrument of change for Delhi's water management.

Chadha also ordered senior officials of the DJB and representatives of the respective power companies to conduct a joint visit to check the electricity connection to be given to flow meters.

At a meeting held on 1 October, where senior officials of the DJB along with the Member (Water) were also

present, the Vice-Chairman after reviewing the current status of all 3,004 primary and secondary flow meters under the purview of the Delhi Jal Board, exhorted the officials present that against the required 3,329 flow meters, the pending 325 flow meters must be installed by 30 October. He instructed for 100 per cent installation of flow meters across Delhi on a priority basis by 30 October.

He further directed that all the flow meters must be completed and integrated with the SCADA centre. The SCADA centre is the DJB's high-tech monitoring system which allows the head office at Varanayala to detect where and how much water is being leaked or tapped.

The DJB statement said the SCADA centre is a real-time data acquisition centre for flow meters that will make it possible to monitor over 3,000 strategic distribution nodes. The system can check water supply and remotely monitor engineers on web platforms.

The SCADA centre generates daily reports for analysis and problem-solving.

Cinemas, theatres, multiplexes to reopen in Delhi from 15 Oct

Delhi govt permits all weekly markets to reopen; also allows restaurants to operate round-the-clock

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

The Delhi government today permitted reopening of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity in the city from 15 October.

According to an order issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), such establishments will remain closed in Covid-19 containment zones in the national capital.

The decision to allow reopening of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes was taken after Delhi's Covid situation was reviewed.

However, authorities have not yet taken any decision on reopening of swimming pools, colleges and coaching institutes.

Taking to Twitter, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said that cinema halls will be allowed to reopen from 15 October and that the cinemas will have to follow all guidelines issued by the central government.

Kejriwal also said that all the city's weekly markets will reopen now. Earlier, only two such markets were allowed to open in a day in each zone of Delhi, the CM pointed out.

In his order, Delhi chief secretary Vijay Dev said, "Cinemas, theatres and multiplexes

will be permitted to open with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity, in NCT of Delhi, except in containment zones, with effect from October 15, 2020, subject to strict compliance of SOP..issued by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt of India as well as other directions/issued by Delhi Govt/DDMA."

On 30 September, the Union Home Ministry had issued new guidelines for permitting more activities in areas outside the containment zones that included opening up of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity from 15 October.

At a meeting yesterday, the DDMA discussed Delhi's revised Covid management strategy, which includes strict surveillance of home isolation cases, aggressive contact tracing, creation of containment zones at micro level and efforts for human behavioural changes through extensive campaign.

An official said that another meeting of the DDMA will be held next week to take a decision on other activities which have been permitted under the 'Unlock-5' guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Under the 'Unlock-5' guidelines, states and Union territories have been given the flexibility to decide on reopening schools and coaching institutions after 15 October in a graded manner, and permitting social, religious and political gatherings beyond the limit of 100 people, subject to certain conditions.

Meanwhile, in a major relief to city restaurants, the Delhi government today said they will be allowed to operate round-the-clock and the requirement of tourism licenses will be removed.

Setting an example of "Delhi Model of ease of doing business", the government also announced other measures such as initiation of a process to abolish police licenses and health trade licenses from local bodies for restaurants, an official statement said.

The decisions were taken at a meeting chaired by CM Kejriwal. The meeting was also attended by restaurants owners of the national capital.

The government said such steps will help the industry generate more employment in the city through higher demand, adding that this will set an example for the "Delhi Model of ease of doing business".

"On the request of restaurateurs to allow 24x7 business, it was agreed that the restaurants will be allowed to operate at all hours subject to the condition that they submit an undertaking that they will take care of the health and security of their entire staff," the statement stated.

The chief minister also instructed that the health trade licenses issued by municipal corporations to the restaurant industries be abolished within 10 days, it said.

During the meeting, the excise department agreed to review the existing policy of a 10 per cent automatic increase in the license fees every year.

Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, who also attended the meeting, called for the restaurants to be able to pay their excise by 31 March as against the existing deadline of 28 February, and for them to make quarterly license fee payments without any interest, the statement added.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF
MS. SHEFALI BARNALA
TANDON

Administrative Civil Judge-cum-ARC (Central)
Tis Hazari Courts,
Delhi-110054

Petition No. SC/68/2020
N.D.O.H. : 21-11-2020

Shri Kishore Mehra, son of Late Sh. Chaman Lal Mehra, r/o 30-19, First Floor, Near Water Tank, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi.

— Petitioner Versus

The State & Ors.

FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE
UNDER INDIAN
SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

To All concerned,

Whereas in the abovementioned petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs. xxx. As per record to be standing in the name of Late Smt. Alka Mehra deceased.

Whereas the 21-11-2020 at 10 O'clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing or the application notice is hereby given to this concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 06-10-2020.

Administrative Civil Judge-cum-ARC (Central)

Tis Hazari Courts,
Delhi-110054

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF
SH. ARVIND BANSAL
ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East)
Room No. 203, Second Floor
Saket Courts, New Delhi
SS-16/2019

In the matter of :

1. Smt. Shilpa Verma, w/o Late Sh. Devender Kumar.

2. Kumar Aaradhy (Aged 9 Years), d/o Late Sh. Deven Kumar.

3. Master Devansh (Aged 4 Years), s/o Late Sh. Deven Kumar. Through their Mother/Natural Guardian i.e. Petitioner No. 1 (Smt. Shilpa Verma).

All r/o House No. E-164A, Radha Kunj, Brij Vihar, Chan-dra Nagar, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

— Petitioner Versus

1. The State of Delhi

Through SDM (Defence Colony), Old Gargi College Building, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024.

Email: defencesdm@nic.in

2. Head Post Office Lodhi Road, Through Head Post Master, New Delhi-110003.

Email: srpmrhr-dl@india-
post.gov.in

— Respondents

Whereas, an application U/s 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by Smt. Shilpa Verma, suc-
cessor of Late Sh. Devender Kumar for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts/securities of deceased.

And whereas the said applicant shall come for hearing on 20-11-2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Therefore, the public at large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of Succession Cer-

tificate in favour of the said applicant, he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and time.

Given under my hand and

Seal on 07-10-2020.

ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East)

Saket Courts, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF
SH. ARVIND BANSAL
ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East)
Room No. 203, Second Floor
Saket Courts, New Delhi
SS-53/2020

In the matter of :

Ritu Wadhwa, d/o Shri Subodh Kumar Sahay, r/o II-F-59, Lajpat Nagar II, New Delhi-110024.

— Applicant/Petitioner Versus

1. State of NCT of Delhi, Through SDM (Defence Colony), Old Gargi College Building, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024.

defencesdm@nic.in

Ph. 01126476405

— Respondent No. 1.

2. Yes Bank Limited, Ground & Part 1st Floor, Vinayak Hospital, NH-1, Sector 27, Noida-201301.

Contact no.: Ph. No. 0120-6498706

— Respondents No. 2.

Whereas, an application U/s 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by Smt. Ritu Wadhwa, suc-
cessor of Late Sh. Gagan Wadhwa for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts/securities of deceased.

And whereas the said applicant shall come for hearing on 16-10-2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Therefore, the public at

large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of Succession Cer-

tificate in favour of the said applicant, he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and time.

Given under my hand and

Seal on 07-10-2020.

ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East)

Saket Courts, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

I, RENU Sharma, w/o Baldev Kumar, r/o 49-A, Gali No. 3, Jagatpuri, Delhi-51, has served relation and debarred my daughter's Dipti Arora, w/o Amit Arora, Babita, w/o Harshit Thakur, Monika Kashyap, w/o Gautam Kashyap, Twinkle Goyal, w/o Lovely Goyal from all moveable-immovable properties due to their misconduct. I wish my family will not be responsible for their acts.

I, GAJENDER, s/o Sh. Bagh Singh, r/o Vill. Baskushla, Teh. & District Gurugram. Inform that my son Navneet Chauhan is out of my control, I disown him from my all movable & immovable properties. In future anybody deals with him so do at his own risk I am not responsible for any matter.

I, HITHERO known as Kresh Balaji@Sanjana, w/o Deepak, r/o A-10, Majupuri, Delhi-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sanjana.

GOUTAM Chatopadhyay, 5/c, Ait Ke Chatopadhyay of Flat No.-17, 9, Gokhale Rd., Kol-20 purchased a land of 2 katha's 3 chhatkas 32 sq.ft. with 700 sq.ft. one storied building from Nilima Ghosh on 13.12.2012, Plot No.-2007 / 2957 (R.S.) and 2009 (L.R.). P.S.: Mouza-Duilya, P.S.: Sankrail, J.L.: No.-25, Dist: Howrah. She handed over to me her purchase deed of the land which I lost from

LOST & FOUND

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

TENDERS

TENDER No. WBTBCL-202010-0014 — West Bengal Text Book Corporation Ltd. invites offer to ascertain the rate per pc for manufacture and delivery of Booklets / Khata. For details and any future correction / amendments please visit our website: www.wbtextbookcorporation.com

EDUCATIONAL

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY Kolkata - 700 032 On-line applications are invited for admission to 1-year B.Lib. & Inf.Sc. course (session 2020-21) through the University website www.jaduniv.edu.in on and from October 7 to November 2, 2020. Details will be available in the University website on and from 07/10/2020. Reservations under SC/ST/ PD/BC-A/BC-B quota is as per State Govt. rules. Secretary, Faculty Council of Arts

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

Office of the Registrar Accredited by NAAC with Grade A Sealed quotations are invited from the interested vendors / suppliers, for purchase of material required for UGC sponsored project as per the specifications provided mentioning base price, discounts, GST and total price separately in the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, NBU. For details please see: www.nbu.ac.in

TENDER No. SPL-202010-0014 — Saraswati Press Limited invites offer from experienced vendors for supply of Bed Head Ticket & OPD Ticket. Offer may be sent within 19.10.2020 within 2 p.m. For details and any amendment please visit our website: www.saraswatipress.com

Advt. No. 326/R-2020
Dated: 08.10.2020

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

Delhi today reported 2,871 positive cases of Covid-19, which took the cumulative count of such patients in the city to 2,98,107, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The tests conducted for identification of these fresh coronavirus cases numbered 51,505, with the positivity rate being 5.57 per cent, the health bulletin said.

The national capital recorded 35 Covid-related fatalities, which pushed its coronavirus toll

to 5,616 so far, the bulletin stated.

The number of Delhi's recovered Covid patients discharged from various healthcare facilities during the past 24 hours was 3,370, which took the cumulative figure of cured patients in the city to 2,70,3



The media needs to re-think TRPs. There should be a better way to monitor popularity. Responsible journalism should not suffer due to the pressure of TRP

PRAKASH JAVADEKAR

INFORMATION & BROADCASTING MINISTER

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 08 OCTOBER 2020

03

Negate Centre's farm laws in 7 days: Farmer unions to Pb govt

CM rejects 1-week ultimatum given by farmers' unions for holding a special Assembly session to nix Modi govt's agric laws, saying he will take whatever decisions are needed in farmers' best interests

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 7 OCTOBER

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Wednesday rejected the one-week ultimatum given by the farmers' unions for holding a special Assembly session to negate the Centre's controversial farm laws, saying he will do what he feels is necessary in the interest of the farmers.

Although he has already asserted that his government would hold a special session of the Punjab Assembly to bring in necessary amendment to state legislations to counter the Narendra Modi-led central government's contentious agriculture laws, ultimatums were not the way to force the government into taking hasty steps, Capt Amarinder said.

His sole interest lies in protecting the state's farmers and the farm sector at all



costs, and not in appeasing the farmers' organisations, the CM said, adding that he will take whatever decisions are needed in the best interest of the farming community. Capt Amarinder was react-

ing to reports that at a meeting held on Wednesday, the state farmers' unions had issued an ultimatum to his government for convening a special session of the Assembly session to amend laws for

countering the Centre's farm laws. The farmers' unions also decided to continue with their present agitation, including 'Rail Roko', against the Centre's agric laws without any relaxations till 15 October, when they will hold their next meeting. They also decided to block all major highways in the state on Friday, from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

The farmers' unions' threat to gherao his residence or the houses of the state ministers and Congress leaders would not force him into taking any decision which may eventually turn out to be detrimental to the interests of the farmers, said Capt Amarinder, making it clear that he would not compromise the farmers' interests under pressure or threats from the unions.

He pointed out that he had taken suggestions of all these unions a few days back on the way forward on the Centre's farm laws, and would

ensure that nothing is allowed to obstruct his government's efforts to save the livelihood of the farmers and secure the future of their children.

On the decision of the farmers' unions not to heed his appeal to allow goods trains to pass amid their 'Rail Roko' protests, the CM said it was "regrettable", since by not relaxing their agitation these organisations were damaging the interests of the farmers as well as the state.

The state government needs to urgently transport foodgrain, coal, fertilizer and petroleum on priority, besides lifting the paddy grain from the grain markets.

Capt Amarinder said with fertilizer stocks running low, the potato sowing would also be adversely affected. With blockades at petrol stations, oil flow was also getting affected, which would impact the movement of tractors and the farm produce, he added.

Haryana to use satellite images and SMS alerts to curb stubble burning

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 7 OCTOBER

Satellite images will be used in Haryana to prevent stubble burning. Many official functionaries, ranging from local sarpanches (village council heads) to deputy commissioners, would get SMS alerts soon after a satellite detects stubble burning in an area.

The additional principal secretary to Chief Minister, V Umashankar on Wednesday said a system has been developed to closely monitor and control the incidence of crop residue burning.

Under this system, an SMS will be sent twice a day to sarpanches, village secretaries, deputy directors, agriculture departments, tehsildars and deputy commissioners if stubble is found burning in the range of 100 to 115 metres based on the satellite image so that the officers concerned could visit the spot, take stock of the situation and implement the next action.

Meanwhile, the chief secretary, Vijai Vardhan, has directed the deputy commissioners to achieve the goal of zero burning of stubble in the state, management of in-situ and ex-situ management.



ing of crop residues in compliance with the order of the Supreme Court held today through video conference.

The chief secretary directed the deputy commissioners to ensure the availability of crop residue management machinery to small and marginal farmers on a priority basis.

Vardhan said panchayats

will be rewarded at the state level for performing well under Crop Residue Management. He said the panchayat, which gets the first, second and third position, will be rewarded an amount of Rs 10 lakh, Rs Five lakh and Rs Three lakh respectively.

He also directed to carry out a comprehensive awareness campaign at the district, level, block, and village level, so as to make the people aware about not to burn stubble.

FREEZE-FRAME



Girls taking a selfie on a sunny day at the Ridge. In Shimla on Wednesday.

LALIT KUMAR

Corona protocols followed during PM's visit: HP govt

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 7 OCTOBER

Amid the Opposition Congress's allegations that the COVID-19 protocols were not followed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the state, the Himachal Pradesh government on Wednesday said the protocols for the PM's visit as laid down by the Special Protection Group (SPG) were strictly followed.

A state government official said the state government and the district administrations of Kullu and Lahaul Spiti had ensured that all protocol guidelines were strictly followed during the PM's visit for inauguration of Atal Tunnel at Rohtang on 3 October.

"As per the established protocol guidelines, COVID-19 negative test results not later than 48 hours are required for all persons in close proximity list."

The tests of all people in the proximity list were done properly. The test results were shared with SPG as well and after clearance only, persons who were Covid-19 negative were allowed in the function at all the venues.

All persons who tested positive were isolated as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), he added.

He said that MLA Banjar showed no visible symptoms of COVID-19, however, he was isolated immediately

Another HP minister tests Covid positive

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 7 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj, who had been under home quarantine since 2 October, tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday.

In a statement issued today to clarify on false reports about his elder son being tested positive, Bhardwaj said his elder son had tested COVID-19 negative while the younger son tested positive on 5th October.

"The doctors have advised me to self-isolate after my

after his test results came positive. He did not attend any event on 3 October or met any dignitary after his results came positive.

All other dignitaries who

younger son was tested COVID-19 positive," he said, adding his wife had been hospitalised after she tested positive for the viral disease.

He said that he would be under home quarantine although he is not experiencing any complications.

"I was already isolated at home for the last 5 days. I will join the office to serve the society as soon as I recover from COVID-19," he added.

Earlier, State Jal Shakti Minister Mahender Singh Thakur and Power Minister Sukhram Chaudhary had contracted the disease and they had now recuperated.

were present in the event were tested at the same time when MLA Banjar was tested and they were tested negative and were allowed to attend the main events.

HP to promote road safety campaign to curb accidents

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 7 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Transport Minister Bikram Singh on Wednesday said the road safety campaign would be promoted as a mass campaign to establish road safety culture to check accidents in the state. After the meeting of State Transport Development and Road Safety Council, Bikram Singh said around 95 percent road accidents were caused due to human errors.

"Out of these 62.86 percent accidents are caused by over speeding which could be reduced by making people aware of road safety."

he said. He directed the Public Works, Health and Transport Departments to work in coordination to reduce road accidents in the state.

The Transport Minister further stated that most people in the age group of 20 to 30 were victims of road accidents and therefore, it was very important to make students aware of road safety at school level. "The state government will include and teach road safety lessons in schools. Besides, seminars and awareness camps would be also organized across the state to spread awareness amongst the drivers of the government and private sector.

"In addition, the state government will link private hospitals with road safety to provide care to accident victims and empanel them accordingly," he added.

Singh said the Transport department had suffered a loss of Rs 272 crore during COVID-19 period and there was low occupancy in the buses that were being plying on over 1,700 routes across the state.

"The state government is also mulling to start inter-state buses till Ambala in Haryana for the time being and the government will soon take a decision on the issue," he added. Director Transport Captain J M Pathania, Principal Secretary/Transport K K Pant, Managing Director Himachal Road Transport Corporation Yunus, Director Information and Public Relations Department Harbans Singh Branson and Director Health Bharat Bhushan were also present in the meeting among others.

Atal tunnel expected to usher in development for Lahaul

ARCHANA PHULL
KEYLONG, 7 OCTOBER

It may take time, but the 9.02-kilometre-long all-weather Atal tunnel at Rohtang connecting Manali with Lahaul is set to change the contours of overall development in the remote Lahaul Spiti district in the hill state of Himachal Pradesh.

With easy accessibility, it will not only help in ensuring 'reverse migration' of tribals, but will also facilitate in updating infrastructure and human resources in this tribal district.

Apart from lack of connectivity, the tribal valley of Lahaul lacked basic amenities.

It did not have higher education facilities, proper health services and employment opportunities. That is why there was migration from Lahaul, not only during harsh winters but perennially, of those local residents looking for greener pastures outside the district.

The routine government systems also did not function in Lahaul properly in the tough distant land. The employees and officers of all rungs considered it as a pun-



Atal Tunnel

ishment posting as they were stuck for five months in the valley, due to Rohtang Pass closed due to heavy snow. And most of them managed not to go there.

However, with the tunnel now operational, the government institutions may also witness the phenomenon of "willing staff".

The locals feel that the government, which is aiming that the tunnel will open up the economy, needs to work out a plan to develop Lahaul in an environment-friendly way.

He said the tunnel apart, the decision of holding Assembly polls together in the hill state had made a major difference for the tribal areas of HP late last decade.

Local tribals feel the government must work out a plan to develop Lahaul in an environment-friendly manner

Many times in the past the polls to tribal constituencies of Lahaul Spiti, Kinnar and Bhamour (Chamba district) used to be held after the government formation based on 65 out of 68 Assembly segments because of inclement weather during elections, so the tribals had lesser say in democratic process.

The tunnel will, however, help in mainstreaming of the distant area, the locals do feel that Lahaul Spiti has developed much over the last two decades.

"We can't do anything when it is about harsh weather and heavy snow, with temperature dipping to minus 20-30 degrees at some places in Lahaul Spiti. But we now have power, water, phone connectivity and required roads, which were earlier not there when we were small children," said Sonam, 77, a local vendor in Keylong.

The old man recalled that everyone contributed to Lahaul Spiti's development, but the former six-time Congress Chief Minister took much pain to interact with tribals during his tenures and had a better connect with them on personal level.

Singh is one Chief Minister, who would come here, sit outside the rest house to meet people from morning to evening and would take action on their grievances," he said.

The tribals said the tunnel is a long conceived project and a survey on this was done in early 80s also at the instance of then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi. Although the credit for getting going on the Atal tunnel goes to former Prime Minister, Prem Kumar Dhumal pressing for it early last decade. Present Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) CM, Narendra Modi (then party in charge in HP) and former Chief Minister, Prem Kumar Dhumal pressing for it early last decade. Present Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) CM, Narendra Modi (then party in charge in HP) and former Chief Minister, Prem Kumar Dhumal pressing for it early last decade.

3 more held in ₹3,500-crore Bike Bot scam case

NOIDA, 7 OCTOBER

Three more people, including a retired Army man, wanted in the Rs 3,500-crore 'Bike Bot' scam case have been arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Police, officials said on Wednesday. They have been identified as Karanpal Singh, who retired from the Army in 2009, former Bike Bot director Sachin Bhati and his brother Pawan Bhati, the officials said.

Sachin Bhati and Pawan Bhati were held by the Noida unit of the Special Task Force (STF) around 10 pm on Tuesday near Dadri in Gautam Buddha Nagar, they said. PTI

That my clients Sri Shankar Biswas, S/O Late Chittu Ranjan Biswas and Smt. Enakshi Biswas W/o Sri Shankar Biswas, residing at 44-A/1053/6 Jhilli Road, Chittaranjan Park, 7A @ 1-A, Sector 10, Kolkata 700031 have lost two of the previous Link Deeds being 12621 for the Year 1969 which is registered in the office of S.R. Alipore and Deed of Trust being no. 5194 for the Year 2001, which is registered in the Office of D.S.R. Alipore and the details of the said Original Title Deeds are as follows:

1) Link Deed No. 12621 for the Year 1969 registered in the office of S.R. Alipore and Deed of Trust being no. 5194 for the Year 2001 which is registered in the Office of D.S.R. Alipore.

2) My client also lodged a General Diary in the Garia Police Station dated on 16-03-2020 vide G.D. Entry No. 1730 and further lodged a Link General Diary on 01-05-2020 vide G.D. Entry No. 61 for loss of title to said Title Deed, any person having any claim, share, right, interest, concerning the matter or any objection whatsoever must notify to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence, within 7 days (Seven days) from this date where after the claim if any shall be deemed to be waived and no further claim shall be entertained.

Sanjukta Sarkar,
Advocate
Ph. No. 810018297



Politics is not new for our family. My mother served as the village sarpanch and I learnt politics and wrestling during my childhood

WRESTLER BABITA PHOGAT

India

Major blast at Bhubaneswar IOC petrol pump, 9 injured: At least nine persons were injured, two of them critically, in a blast that occurred in a filling station of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) near Raj Bhawan on Wednesday. The filling station has LTC, diesel and petrol and is located in the heart of the city within metres of the Raj Bhawan. The accident took place around 1 p.m. The intensity of the blast of the LTC tank and fire was such that shattered and damaged glass panes, doors and windows of several houses within half a kilometre radius. A few two wheelers were found buried in the rubble while shreds of clothes, footwear, human flesh were strewn in the area.

CPCB writes to Delhi govt for urgent action to curb air pollution

NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

Pointing out that construction and demolition activities and open garbage dumping continue to be the major sources of air pollution in Delhi, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has written to the Arvind Kejriwal government seeking urgent action to curb the menace.

Expressing concern over air pollution in the national capital during winter season, the CPCB listed out a series of tasks to be accomplished across Delhi. "It is observed that construction activities and open dumping of waste continue to be the major concern in most of the areas and special efforts are needed to curb these activities."

Swapna appointed with Kerala CM's knowledge: ED

Swapna Suresh is a key accused in Kerala gold smuggling case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
T'PURAM, 7 OCTOBER

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) probing the money trail behind the Kerala gold smuggling case through the diplomatic channel, on Wednesday said Swapna Suresh, a key accused in the case, had contended that Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan was aware of her appointment as the Operations Manager of the Space Park which is a project under Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Ltd (KSITIL).

The preliminary charge sheet filed on Wednesday at the Special Court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases in Kochi. The ED said that Sivasankar had promised her that he would talk to the chief minister about her job and ensure her selection. Soon after this, the special officer of Space Park called Swapna and asked her to join the institution, ED stated in the charge sheet.

Quoting Swapna Suresh, ED stated in the charge sheet that she was asked to meet MD, KSITIL (Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Ltd) and the Special Officer Santhosh to understand her responsibilities at Space Park.

CM Vijayan had earlier



said he was not aware of the circumstances that led to the appointment of Swapna Suresh in the Space Park.

The ED said that Swapna and Sivasankar had met several times. The charge sheet also states that the chief minister was present when she met Shivashankar.

"Swapna stated that she met Sivasankar around eight times officially but met him many times unofficially; she met Sivasankar five to six times in the presence of the CM of Kerala; CM of Kerala knew her as secretary to Consul General; that she joined Space Park in

November 2019," ED said in the charge sheet. The chargesheet has been filed against Sarith PS, Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair, the accused in the Kerala gold smuggling case.

The charge sheet contained 303 pages in which 23 pages were related to findings by the ED as part of the probe. Similarly, 19 sets of documents used as evidence are also included in the charge sheet which alone runs to 276 pages.

The ED further states in the charge sheet that the accused, Sarith PS, Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair were involved

in black money transactions.

"From the investigation under PMLA and evidence gathered so far, it is clearly established that accused persons committed offence of money laundering as defined in Section 3 and they are liable to be prosecuted and punished under Section 4 of PMLA," said the charge sheet.

The ED has demanded a detailed investigation against M Sivasankar, former principal secretary of the chief minister.

The ED stated that Sivasankar is involved in financial transactions of Swapna Suresh.

Sivasankar's chartered accountant Venugopal Iyer had given statement that he had helped Swapna in getting a locker at the bank, more clarity has to be obtained in the WhatsApp messages between Sivasankar and Iyer.

There is a mention of one Sarai in it. There are some messages like "call me when I am alone", ED wrote in the charge sheet.

These messages may be regarding the money transactions. All this will be examined after assessing the digital evidence, the ED further says in the charge sheet.

The ED has also sought permission to continue probe and file supplementary charge sheets later.

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Ph. No. 01907-26245, E-mail: ee-sun-hp@nic.in
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Sunder Nagar, Distt. Mandi (HP) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works detailed in the table.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Starting date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid.
1	Construction of 08 Nos. Type-II Quarters, 24 Nos. Type-III Quarters and 08 Nos. Type-IV Quarters at Civil Hospital Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi (HP) (Sh: C/o 8 Nos. Type-II quarters, 06 Nos. Type-III quarters and 06 Nos. Type-IV quarters including WS & SI).	4,13,97,190/-	14-10-2020	4,46,500/-	28-10-2020
2	Construction of office-cum-residential building for Assistant Engineer, HPPWD Sub Division Dehar, Tehsil Sundernagar (Sh: C/o building portion with WS&SI).	36,87,702/-	14-10-2020	66,000/-	28-10-2020
3	Special repair to Auditorium Hall of Govt Polytechnic College Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi (HP) (Sh: Repair of prepared sheet roofing, coating, wall paneling and Toilet etc.) Deposit work.	29,80,721/-	14-10-2020	52,500/-	28-10-2020

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer, Sunder Nagar Division, HPPWD Sunder Nagar-175016
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

3539/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

KRISHNANAGAR MUNICIPALITY Krishnanagar, Nadia

The Chairperson, Board of Administrators, Krishnanagar Municipality invites NIEQ No-WBMAD/ULB/KRISHNANAGAR/NIQ-4/2nd CALL/2020-21 for the work of "Supply of LED Street Light" for Krishnanagar Municipality. The intending bidders are requested to visit the Website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> for details. Tender ID: 2020-MAD_300255_1

Sd/- Chairperson
Board of Administrators
Krishnanagar Municipality

CORRIDGUM NOTICE

Subject: Tender No. OP/2/2020-21 - DNT for replacement / Installation of LT CT Meter Boxes, Current Transformers (CTs), Cables and allied accessories for Smart Metering Project under Electy. 'OP' Sub Division No. 5, Electricity Wing of Engineering Department, U.T., Chandigarh (EWEDC).

The subject cited tender due to be opened on dated i.e. 07.10.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. is hereby extended upto 14.10.2020 at 14.00 Hrs. for uploading and opening date i.e. 14.10.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. due to some administrative reason.

All the other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

DA/-

---Sd---
Executive Engineer,
Electricity (OP) Division No. 2
Chandigarh, U.T.

"WEAR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, WATCH YOUR DISTANCE"

NOTICE INVITING TENDER HP.PWD KANGRA

Sealed item rate tenders on form 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Kangra Division, HP: PWD, Kangra on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the approved and eligible contractors/firms enlisted in HPPWD in the appropriate class for the work mentioned below on 30.10.2020 up to 14:45 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be obtained from his office on cash payment (no refundable) on any working day from 28.10.2020 to 29.10.2020. The applications for issue of tender forms will be received latest by 26.10.2020 up to 12.00 Noon. The applications for issue of tender forms accompanied with enlistment letter/or renewal letter and the earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificates/Saving Account/Time deposit Account in any of the Post Office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Kangra Division, HP.PWD, Kangra.

The conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

Work No.1:- C/O Sadhu to Prai road km.0/00 to 1/300 (SH: - C/O wire crate R/Wall at RD.0/330 to 0/355) (NABARD) Estimated cost: Rs. 480452/- Earnest Money Rs. 9700/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.2:- C/O Sadhu to Prai road km.0/00 to 1/300 (SH: - C/O wire crate R/Wall at RD.0/355 to 0/380) (NABARD) Estimated cost: Rs. 480452/- Earnest Money Rs. 9700/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.3:- RRD on Dohab to Kurella road at km.0/00 to 4/200 (SH: - C/O U-shape drain & C/O Hume pipe culvert) Estimated cost: Rs. 473209/- Earnest Money Rs. 9500/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.4:- Improvement & widening of Chambi Dharamshala road km.0/00 to 7/800 (SH: - Extension of existing 1.20mtrs RCC span culvert at RD.5/625) Estimated cost: Rs. 212186/- Earnest Money Rs. 4300/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.5:- A/R & M/O various roads under Gaggal Sub Division (SH: - P/L patch work) Estimated cost: Rs. 499973/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.6:- A/R & M/O various roads under Gaggal Sub Division (SH: - P/L patch work) Estimated cost: Rs. 499990/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.7:- RRD to Shahpur Kari Chattrer road at km.0/00 to 8/500 (SH: - C/O U-shape drain along with Edge wall at RD.5/400 to 5/575) (RS) Estimated cost: Rs. 493565/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.8:- C/O Kalyan Bhawan at Rait (SH: - C/O R/Wall) (Khad side) (Part-I) Estimated cost: Rs. 389912/- Earnest Money Rs. 7800/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.9:- C/O Kalyan Bhawan at Rait (SH: - C/O R/Wall) (Khad side) (Part-II) Estimated cost: Rs. 389912/- Earnest Money Rs. 7800/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.10:- C/O PWD Rest House at Kangra (SH: - C/O Temporary Kitchen) (Balance work) Estimated cost: Rs. 192423/- Earnest Money Rs. 4000/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:-

1. The contractors/firms should be registered as or/dealer under GST Act 2017.
2. The intending contractors/firms shall have to produce the copy of latest enlistment and renewal enlisted in HPPWD.
3. The contractors is required to submit an affidavit for not having more than two works in hand in the shape of affidavit duly attested by the competent authority.
4. If any of the date mentioned above has happened to be Gazetted Holiday the same shall be processed on next working day.
5. The contractor should quote the rates of all the items in the tender both in figures and in words failing which tender is likely to be rejected.
6. The copy of Employees Provident Funds (EPF Number) should be attached with the application.
7. Minimum one similar work done of amount not less than 40% (forty percent) of the estimated cost (without Liquidated Damage or compensation) in last five years.
8. The Earnest Money for the above works should be required at the time of sale of tender forms.
9. All the required document should be submitted with the application otherwise single application may be rejected.
10. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

3542/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

Office of

**Executive Engineer B & R Division HP.PWD. Joginder Nagar
Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department, Mandi-175015**

Phone & Fax No. 01908-222033 E-Mail:- ee-jog-hp@nic.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tender for the following works are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, B&R Division HP.PWD., Joginder Nagar District Mandi (H.P) from the eligible contractors of the appropriate class registered in HP.PWD. as per revised enlistment rules so as to reach in the office of under signed on 29/10/2020 up to 11:00 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender form can be held from this office against cash payment on 28/10/2020 upto 12:00 Noon. The earnest money as shown against each in the shape of National Saving certificate/time deposit accounts of any post office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in the name of the under signed must accompany with each tender. The tender form will be issued to contractor giving proof of enlistment, GST, done work certificate, proof of machinery etc. Conditional tender and tender received without earnest money will be out rightly rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 90 days. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

The draft NIT and other specifications and conditions of the tender can be seen by the contractors in the office of the under signed on any working day during the office hours.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender/ Est. cost	Earnest money	Cost of Tender Form	Eligible Class of Contractor	Time
1	Construction of Ambulance road to the house of Sh. Bhag Singh V.P.O. Bhararu (Sub Head:- C/o R/Wal and B/Wall at Rd.0/0 to 0/10)	1,32,148/-	2,600/-	350/-	Class C & D	Three months
2	Repair of link road to village Khadder to Khuddi Km. 0/0 to 3/500 (Sub Head:- C/O of U-shape drain from Km. 0/0 to 0/500)	2,66,578/-	5,500/-	350/-	Class C & D	Three months
3	Repair of link road to Faqla to Salahan Dhar Km. 0/0 to 2/0 (Sub Head:- P/L Kharanja Soling & cement concrete pavement from Km. 0/240 to 0/318)	1,17,803/-	2500/-	350/-	Class C & D	Three months
4	Construction of link road Tullah to village Khor Km. 0/0 to 2/0(Sub Head:- Construction of 9000mm dia RCC hume pipe culvert along with both side wing wall at Rd. 0/135)	1,25,371/-	2500/-	350/-	Class C & D	Three months
5	Construction of Pucca link road to village Chakroto to Ropru (Sub Head:- Construction of 9000mm dia RCC hume pipe culvert along with both side wing wall at Rd. 0/070)	1,25,371/-	2500/-	350/-	Class C & D	Three months
6	Repair and restoration of link road to Sanahil to Jhulgan(Sub Head:- Restoration of rain cuts maintenance of shoulder, removal of slips & c/o catcha drain on various RD.s)	1,19,528/-	2500/-	350/-	Class C & D	Three months
7	Repair of link road from Joginder Nagar Sarkaghil Ghamarwin road Km. 0/0 to 34/300 (Sub Head:- Providing & Laying premix carpet, repair of pot holes between various RD.s from Km. 21/500 to 26/0)	3,23,063/-	6,500/-	350/-	Class C & D	Three months
8	Construction i/c M/T of link road to Harizan Basti Chaneher Km.0/0 to 2/0 under SCSP in GP Bilhan (Sub Head:- Construction of 9000mm dia RCC hume pipe culvert along with both side wing wall at RD. 0/465 & 0/645)	1,92,048/-	4,000/-	350/-	Class C & D	Three months
9	Construction of Science Lab for Govt Sec. School (Girls) Tehsil Joginder Nagar, Distt. Mandi (HP) (Sub Head:- P/L Plastering, C. Concrete flooring & tile flooring etc)	4,				



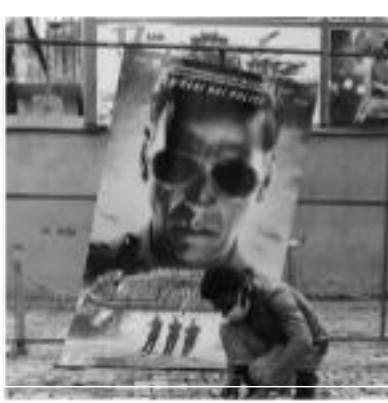
Those doing politics on dead bodies of poor will get exposed and will be dealt with as per the law of the land

UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH
IN THE WAKE OF OPPosition OUTCRY OVER THE HATHRAS INCIDENT

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 08 OCTOBER 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



A worker cleans the compound outside a closed cinema hall in Allahabad on Wednesday. AP

Chemical-laden truck overturns: A driver and cleaner of a truck had a narrow escape after their vehicle, laden with chemicals, overturned and caught fire on its way from Maharashtra's Bhiwandi town to Gujarat, an official said on Wednesday.

PTI

Bus driver arrested: A 45-year-old driver of a cluster bus was arrested five days after he allegedly killed a man while driving in an impaired condition near Kashmere Gate metro station, police said on Wednesday. The accused, Pardeep alias Nagraj, was under the influence of alcohol during the accident which took place on the 1 October night.

PTI

Key pact inked to allow Swiss developer to begin work on Jewar airport project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA, 7 OCTOBER

The Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) and Zurich Airport International AG on Wednesday signed a key agreement that would allow the Swiss developer to begin work at the site of the upcoming Jewar airport near Delhi, officials said. The 'concession agreement' for the Greenfield airport, estimated to cost Rs 29,560 crore, was inked between the Uttar Pradesh government's agency and the Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIALP), a special purpose vehicle floated by the Zurich Airport for the project, they said.

The agreement was signed by NIAL CEO Arun Vir Singh and Noida International Airport CEO Christoph Schnellmann in the presence of Additional Chief Secretary to CM and Civil Aviation Department, Uttar Pradesh government, SP Goyal and Civil Aviation Department Director Surendra Singh, according to an official statement. They were joined by NIAL directors Ritu Maheshwari and Narendra Bhushan, besides project's Nodal officer Shailendra Bhatia, among others with Zurich Airport's CEO Daniel Bircher joining the event virtually via Zoom from Switzerland. "The concession agreement grants Zurich Airport International the licence to design, build and operate Noida International Airport for a period of 40 years," according to the statement. The airport is being built on the public-private partnership (PPP) model and is billed to be the biggest in India upon completion, Nodal officer Bhatia said. "Infrastructure development will be key to economic recovery, not only in the state but also for the country. The construction of Noida International Airport will support economic growth through job creation in the state, while making it the most preferred destination for domestic as well as global investors in the upcoming years. We look forward to supporting the Zurich Airport International team to jump-start this mega project, which will reinforce the economic progress of the state of Uttar Pradesh," Goyal said.

Bircher said the signing of the agreement marks an important milestone in the development of the airport and when phase I development is completed in 2024, the developer will provide capacity for 12 million passengers per year.

"In partnership with the government of Uttar Pradesh and the government of India, Zurich Airport International looks forward to making this airport a major player in Indian air transportation and a benchmark for ease of use for passengers and logistic partners. 'We are a committed and trusted partner for India's growth, and see tremendous opportunity to invest and participate in India's aviation growth story,' he was quoted as saying in the statement.

Hathras case: Journalist, 3 others booked

On sedition and other charges two days after being held by UP police; FIR claimed pamphlets 'Justice for Hathras victim' were recovered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW/MATHURA,
7 OCTOBER

The Uttar Pradesh police on Wednesday booked four persons including Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan on sedition and other charges at Maant police station in Mathura, two days after they were held while on their way to Hathras.

Charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IT Act have also been filed against the four who were later remanded in judicial custody for 14 days by a Mathura court, officials said.

The FIR claimed that police recovered pamphlets 'Justice for Hathras victim', six mobile phones and a laptop from them, and during the initial probe it was found that they were going to Hathras with an intention to breach the peace as part of a conspiracy.

The four were held on Monday when they were on their way to Hathras, where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gang-raped - an incident that has sparked widespread outrage.



Police had earlier claimed that the four, identified as Kappan, a journalist of Malapuram in Kerala, Atiq-ur-Rehman of Muzaffarnagar, Masood Ahmad of Bahraich and Alam of Rampur, had links with alleged radical group Popular Front of India and its affiliates.

They were on Wednesday booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code

(IPC) including 124A (sedition) and 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), according to the FIR.

They have also been charged with IPC Section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage reli-

gious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious belief).

The recovered pamphlets, Am I not India's daughter, made with Carrd.co, encourage social discord and public unrest," the FIR said. The FIR alleged that internet platform Carrd.co and website Justice for Hathras' were being used to instigate caste violence, riots and collecting donations.

Such websites are spreading anti-national propaganda in the country and distorting facts to create tension and disrupt law and order, it alleged.

In this way, it is clear that prima facie internet platform Carrd.co and website Justice for Hathras' have committed offences under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and other Acts.

The four persons and other unidentified persons have been found to be involved in these criminal acts and an investigation is necessary to find the details of their actions, it said. It has to be probed from where and why these websites are being operated, how much money is being collected through this platform/web-site, where was this amount

spent. On Tuesday, it told the Supreme Court it wanted an apex court-monitored CBI inquiry into the incident to ensure "no vested interests will be able to create fake, false narrative with oblique motives".

But the UP government later sought a CBI probe into the case and the criminal conspiracy to spread caste conflict it has sus-

used and who were beneficiaries, the FIR said.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Anju Rajput granted the police a 14-day judicial remand of the four persons, saying the offence is of serious nature and



requires more interrogation.

The Press Association and the Indian Women Press Corps on Wednesday described the journalist's arrest as the Uttar Pradesh government's attempt to "silence" the media and

Asked about the reasons for the extension, he added, "The reason is one. The probe is not complete."

The Yogi Adityanath government is fighting severe criticism for its handling of the case, particularly after the local police burnt the woman's body at night without the family's approval. However, officials said the cremation was done "as per the wishes of the family".

The government has claimed that some people were trying to foment caste tensions in the aftermath of the alleged rape of the woman by four "upper caste" men on September 14. Quoting an FSL report, it has denied the rape charge.

Buffaloes make entry into Bihar poll scene

MANOJ CHAURASIA
PATNA, 7 OCTOBER

Buffaloes have made entry into the Bihar elections being held in a time of Covid-19.

With the big rallies and road shows involving choppers and several SUVs missing this time due to Corona restrictions, the candidates have turned to buffaloes to launch campaigns in the many areas, adding colour to the rather dull poll campaign.

Yesterday, a social activist Kapil Gope reached the local election office while riding a buffalo to file his nomination papers as an independent candidate. Gope filed his nomination papers from the Paliganj assembly seat in Patna district. A large crowd of local villagers watched Gope with curiosity as he moved on the streets riding the tastefully-decorated buffalo and seeking blessings from the voters on the way to the Election office

"I am an animal lover. If Lalaji can become the chief minister riding the buffaloes, what can't I become a legislator?" he shot back on being asked about choosing buffalo for reaching the election office.

Another social worker Surya Vats has also launched election campaigns on buffalo in Jamui district from where he wants to contest elections.

Wearing a dhoti, the man has been making extensive tours of the villages riding the buffalo. Around a decade back, he had taken a vow to use only a dhoti to cover his body and since then dhoti has been his lone cloth.

He also jumped into the poll fray in the last 2015 election but polled little over 4,000 votes. This time too, he has jumped into the poll fray Jhajha seat in Jamui. Covid-19 outbreak has brought huge change in the state poll arena this time. With the big rallies and road shows banned, the politicians have avoided using choppers and SUV cars so far, leaving the poll scene dry. Currently, the campaigns are being run mainly through online, Facebook or WhatsApp this time.

BJP leaders, Cabinet members laud Modi as he enters 20th year as elected govt head

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

BJP leaders on Wednesday heaped praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his leadership as he entered his 20th year without a break as the head of an elected government, including close to 13 years as chief minister of Gujarat.

Members of the Union Cabinet also congratulated the prime minister.

Party president JP Nadda said 7 October, 2001, when Modi was sworn in as Gujarat chief minister for the first time, is a "milestone" in India's political history.

Modi has since been notching up bigger victories and his popularity has only gone up, Nadda said on Twitter.

The party also tweeted details of many of Modi's key schemes during his 19 years as the head of a government.

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri lauded Modi for "20 years in service of humanity & Maa Bharat with dedication, vision & selflessness".

"Heartiest congratulations to PM @narendramodi Ji for becoming the only democratically elected world leader to serve the people continuously for 20 years since 2001," Puri said. Be it as chief minister of Gujarat or as prime minister of the world's largest democracy, Modi has always been a crusader for people's welfare, the party said.

"PM Sri @narendramodi Ji has completed 6941 successful days in total as CM of Gujarat & PM of India. One of the unblended tenures ever seen. Kept public welfare as a priority and never worried about himself. Always kept sovereignty & pride of India intact," its spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi tweeted.

Special Train Between Sealdah and New Delhi (Via Dankuni)

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run a Special Train between Sealdah and New Delhi (Via Dankuni) as per schedule given below:-

02313/02314 Sealdah-New Delhi-Sealdah Superfast AC Special (Via Dankuni) (Daily)			
TRAIN NO. 02313	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 02314	STATIONS
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
---	16:50	Sealdah	10:10
20:48	18:50	Durgapur	07:39 07:41
19:16	19:20	Asansol Jn.	07:09 07:11
20:20	20:25	Dhanbad Jn.	06:18 06:23
22:51	22:54	Gaya Jn.	03:45 03:48
01:05	01:15	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	01:35 01:45
05:07	05:12	Kanpur Central	21:12 21:17
10:35	---	New Delhi	---
			16:25

Days of Run: 02313 Ex. Sealdah on Daily from 12.10.2020 and 02314 Ex. New Delhi on Daily from 13.10.2020 till further advice.

Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating. **(This special train shall run fully reserved)**

As a result timings of the following Special Train will be revised as under:-

Revised Timings of 02301 Howrah-New Delhi AC Special Train			
TRAIN NO. 02301		Existing Timings	Revised Timings
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
Howrah	---	16:45	---
Asansol Jn.	19:11	19:13	19:00 19:02
Dhanbad Jn.	20:10	20:15	20:00 20:05

Beware of Touts Always Buy Train Tickets from Railway Counters/Authorised Railway Travel Agents only

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

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

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139

21/09/2020 Please Join US on :- **NORTHERN RAILWAY** Always at your service Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

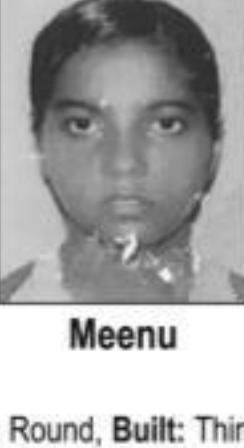
General public is hereby informed that a boy namely Mohd Tanvir @ Naaz, S/o Mohd Jahangir, R/o H.No. A-217/3, Buland Masjid Shastri Park, Delhi has been kidnapped since 31.08.2020 from his house. In this regard, FIR No. 416/20 dated 01.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Shastri Park, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the kidnapped boy is as under:



Mohd Tanvir @ Naaz
SHO
P.S. Shastri Park, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-22170120, 22170106

SEARCH OF KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl, (depicted in the photo), Name: Meenu, D/o: Mahender, R/o: H. No. 950/E, Gali No. 1, Near Mata Devi School, Babarpur, Shahdara, Delhi Aged: about 14 years, has been kidnapped from her house since 20.03.2014. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 180/14, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 21.03.2014, has been lodged at P.S. Welcome, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:



Meenu
S.H.O
P.S. Welcome, Delhi
Ph. 011-2282877, 22826808

SPECIAL TRAINS BETWEEN MALDA TOWN AND DELHI JN.

Fault lines

The death of an 80-year-old man, after his admonition to a fellow bar patron to wear a face mask resulted in an altercation, highlights, in a sense, a critical fault line in American society that has its genesis in the White House. For ever since the epidemic gripped North America, President Donald Trump has displayed only occasional interest in following safety protocols, an affliction that now appears to have gripped many Americans, especially those of his followers who see the impositions as an assault on their freedom. The death in Buffalo, New York, of Rocco Sapienza, a former Marine, caps a series of violent confrontations between Americans who adhere to safety norms and those who do not wish to do so. Disputes have often turned violent in stores and sometimes even hospitals. For instance, in April, a woman died in a Brooklyn hospital after being violently pushed by another who was upset at her for not following social distancing guidelines. A security guard in Michigan was shot dead after he told a customer at a store to make his daughter wear a mask. These incidents speak of a society on the edge, one where public health measures being followed by a section of people are being stoutly and sometimes violently resisted by the daredevilry of others who claim to emulate their President.

The consequences of President Trump's cavalier approach to safety protocols have already visited the White House, making the world's most powerful office-cum-residence its most prominent containment zone. His return from the Walter Reed Hospital after four days and three nights has thrown the White House into fresh frenzy, with more than a dozen staffers having tested positive for the virus and the West Wing wearing a deserted look even as polls suggest that a bid for re-election is fast slipping away from Mr Trump. He has been criticised for almost every aspect of his conduct – and that of his officials – after testing positive for the virus. His drive out of hospital to greet supporters drew flak for the risks to which it exposed Secret Service agents tasked with protecting him and the attempts by his physician to downplay his symptoms were widely criticised as acts of dishonesty. Those members of the White House staff who have not quarantined themselves are said to be going around in full protective gear – yellow gowns, surgical masks and eye covers – sights that Mr Trump must find galling after the way he defiantly took his mask off on return from hospital.

As some Americans have pointed out, a good boss ought to look out for his employees and they say Mr Trump has failed those who pledged their loyalty and service to him. In addition to his many other blunders, it is this widely perceived selfishness that might sink his chances at next month's election. There are but days to go for the poll, but Mr Trump's prospects are beginning to look as fragile as his health.

Nuanced approaches

Quite the most glaring feature of the meeting between foreign ministers of the United States, India, Japan and Australia – or the Quad as it is called – was the sharp contrast in emphasis in the positions taken by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on the one hand and his three counterparts on the other. While Mr Pompeo emphasised the need to "collaborate to protect our people and partners from the CCP's exploitation, corruption and coercion," the others including Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar were measured in their approach, preferring to pin their hopes on a free, inclusive and open Indo-Pacific, without directly targeting China. Mr Pompeo was acerbic as usual, saying "When we met last year, the landscape was very different. We couldn't have imagined a pandemic that came from Wuhan. That crisis was made infinitely worse by the Chinese Communist Party's cover-up. The regime's authoritarian nature led its leaders to lock up and silence the very brave Chinese citizens who were raising the alarm." The problem for America's allies is that while they realise the need to contain an expansionist and increasingly aggressive Beijing, they are handicapped by the extent to which their economies are intertwined with that of China. For this reason, they are loath to resort to the sort of rhetoric that seems to come easily to Mr Pompeo. Mr Jaishankar, for instance, would only go so far as to say that India remains committed to "upholding a rules-based international order" underpinned by "transparency, freedom of navigation in the international seas, respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes." While the objective of advancing security and economic interests binds Quad countries, it is the tone of their rhetoric that separates them.

While the Quad was set up initially to keep critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence and for the four member countries to create a shield that could thwart Chinese assertiveness, its scope has widened because of events that followed the outbreak of the coronavirus epidemic. Tensions between China and Japan have increased over the past few months over what Tokyo calls "relentlessly continued attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by coercion in the sea area around the Senkaku islands". Australia was targeted with additional tariffs on barley and a suspension of beef exports, after it called for an international inquiry into the outbreak of the virus in China. A few weeks ago, matters came to a head with the detention – without charge – of an Australian journalist. India, of course, has spent the entire summer fighting off Chinese incursions in Ladakh and is now preparing to dig its troops in for a crippling winter. While these imperatives are enough to bring the four countries together, their approaches will be far more nuanced than the US might like.

Food For All

The required increase in food production can be achieved if investments are made and policies conducive to agricultural production are put in place. But increasing production is not enough to achieve food security. It must be complemented by policies to enhance access by fighting poverty



The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations works to alleviate poverty and hunger by promoting agricultural development, improving nutritional standards and pursuing food security. FAO is responsible for the access of all people at all times to the food they need for an active and healthy life. It was founded at a conference at Quebec City on 16 October 1945. The date is observed every year as World Food Day.

World Food Day (WFD) 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of FAO at an exceptional moment as countries around the world deal with the widespread effects of the Covid-19 pandemic that has killed more than one million people with many regions still reporting surging numbers of new infections. The pandemic has brought hard times for many farmers and has imperilled food security for millions both in the cities and the countryside. Reports from the UN headquarters suggest that the risk of famine has been intensified in some African countries. WFD is an ushering call for global solidarity and cooperation to help the most vulnerable people to recover and make food systems more sustainable, stronger and resilient to shocks. The theme for WFD 2020 is 'Food safety, everyone's business'.

Even though improvements in agriculture have sustained food supplies to meet the growing world demand, hunger remains a serious problem. Food security is vital for human existence. What Malthus called "the power of population" has been matched and exceeded by the power of innovation, science and technology.

Global food production today is sufficient to provide everyone on Earth an adequate diet. FAO has revealed that on an average, 2800 calories are available per person after livestock is fed and post-harvest losses are accounted for. Yet, close to two billion people do not have regular access to safe, nutritious and adequate food. They do not get even 2200 calories per day, generally accepted as the nutritional bottom line. Worse, nearly 700 million people remain perpetually hungry, up 10 million since 2018.

The pandemic could add between 80-130 million people to this number this year depending upon the economic growth scenario. Why must anyone go hungry? The problem is not production but distribution of food and access to it. There are deeper causes of hunger.

Uneven distribution of food production and food trade, and poor access to food are the pri-

mary reasons why people continue to remain hungry and malnourished amidst plenty. Focussing on food availability alone to guide policy could lead to disastrous results. World food prices have increased at high rates and have become more volatile. This volatility has caused an enormous impact on people's access to food in poor countries. In many of these countries, the poorest 20 per cent spend over 80 per cent of their income on food. A high price of food combined with the global economic slump has been pushing more and more people into hunger and poverty. A steady increase in hunger together with under-nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies as well as overweight and obesity clearly indicate the need to accelerate and scale up actions to strengthen food systems and protect people's livelihoods. Today, only about ten plant species account for 65 per cent of total crop production although there are at least 20,000 edible plants. It is necessary to grow a variety of food to nourish people and sustain the planet.

Over a third of all foods ends up going to waste, a problem prevalent in wealthy Western countries. For those hit worst by the crisis, food is no longer grown locally in sufficient quantities, or is imported and is outside the financial means of those who as a result go hungry. These are the kind of facts that are behind the drive to eliminate world hunger by 2030, the UN's "zero hunger goal". Only ten years are left to achieve this lofty goal which does not appear to be in the realm of possibility.

Policies that encourage investment in biofuel production

have also contributed directly to food price volatility over the past decade. Although non-food crops can be used as feedstock in the production of bio-fuels, in most countries, the main crop used for this purpose is maize. In 2000, the global land use for ethanol production was around 10-m hectares, this is projected to rise to 120-m hectares by 2025. Bio-fuels are seen by many governments as a means to contribute to the diversification of energy supply and sustain agricultural incomes by creating new outlets for several products notably cereals, vegetable oils and sugar plants.

A period of keen interest was witnessed during 2000-2010 which led many countries such as US, the EU, Brazil and also

to reach 7 billion. In 2019, world population was 7.7 billion. Today it is about 7.9 billion. By 2050, the world's population is projected to reach 9 billion. Nearly all of this increase will occur in developing and less developed countries. Urbanisation will continue at an accelerated pace and about 70 per cent of the population will be urban as compared to about 50 per cent today. Income levels will also be higher than what they are now. In order to feed this larger, more urban and richer population, food production (net of food used for bio-fuels) needs to be increased by at least 70 per cent.

The required increase in food production can be achieved if investments are made and policies conducive to agricultural production are put in place. But increasing production is not enough to achieve food security. It must be complemented by policies to enhance access by fighting poverty, especially in rural areas as well as effective safety net programmes. Commercial invest-

ments in agriculture should be promoted as should rural infrastructure and telecommunications connectivity, all the while taking into account the potential environmental impacts and sustainability concerns related to the expansion of the agricultural industry. Hunger can persist amid plenty because the poor lack income opportunities. Experience of countries that have succeeded in reducing hunger and malnutrition shows that economic growth does not automatically ensure success, the sources of growth matter too. Small-scale farmers are not accommodated by the existing economic trade system as are large-scale farmers.

Farmers need to be able to make their own choices on issues such as the most appropriate seeds to use, which crops to grow and which markets suit their production. To this end it is important to strengthen farmers' organisations as an integral component of the food production chain and in order to increase the strength of small-scale farmers in the market economy.

Agriculture in the 21st century faces multiple challenges. It has to produce more food and fibre to feed a growing population with a smaller rural labour force, more feedstock for a potentially huge bio-energy market, contribute to overall development in the many agriculture-dependent developing countries, adopt more efficient and sustainable production methods and adapt to climate change. The world has the resources and technology to eradicate hunger and ensure long-term food security for all despite challenges and risks. Today, after accounting for other forms of land use, about 70 per cent of all cultivated land is devoted to producing cereal grains. These crops provide the bulk of human nutrition either from direct consumption or from eating the meat of animals that consume food grains.

Traders and travellers transplanted local crops around the world and these "green emigrants" flourished in their new homes on alien soil. Wheat was native to the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in what is now Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Lebanon. It now grows in plenty all over the world. If we do manage to produce enough, we should have the will to distribute the earth's bounty to all those who need it. Current agricultural policies practised globally only encourage food price volatility and deep inequities in the distribution of food. It is possible to create a hunger-free world provided the governments have the political will to ensure the basic elements of reliable food supply.

This is the message for the WFD 2020.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

A Covid vaccine must be mandatory

As governments research organisations and pharmaceutical companies race to find vaccines for the novel coronavirus, a recent survey published in The Lancet found that only 67 per cent of the US population would accept a vaccine for Covid-19 if it were recommended for them. Within weeks of the survey, a major vaccine trial at Oxford University was paused after a participant fell ill. This may confirm the suspicions of those afraid of vaccinations, but the pause in the development of the vaccine after one participant out of 30,000 fell ill shows that the researchers are following strict safety protocols.

The question is – once vaccines hit the market, what then? From the perspective of maximum social welfare, everyone should be vaccinated. Globally, as of September 10, there have been more than 27 million confirmed cases of Covid-19. Southeast Asia contributes about 5.1 million cases, exceeding Europe at 4.6 million cases. More than 900,000 people have died, and the number is still climbing. The estimates of the cost to the global economy range from \$5.5 to \$8.8 trillion, according to Asian Development Bank. When a vaccine is ready to produce, the world needs more than 7.5 billion doses. And if each person needs two doses, that figure doubles.

It is a massive demand that producers cannot fulfil by next year, even if the vaccines obtain approval by the end of this year. An equitable allocation of vaccines will be the most challenging task due to short supplies. Two critical questions emerge – should the government make it mandatory? How should vaccines for Covid-19 be allocated? For the first question, we can apply the economic theory of "merit goods". A merit good is characterised by its meritorious impact, and despite

The Phnom Penh Post
CAMBODIA'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD
the fact that it is not typically a public good, public funds may be used to provide it for mass consumption (Musgrave, 1959, 1998). Economic discourse may contest the position of merit goods, but public policy applies it in practice. Primary education and health care are among the most common merit goods recognised in many countries, especially in countries with substantial welfare states.

How does the Covid-19 vaccine fit within this analysis? The arguments for coercion to consume merit goods include the potential for people to act irrationally, increasing consumption of important goods for the beneficiaries, and maximising social welfare. Social welfare is the most critical argument for the Covid-19 vaccine viewed as a merit good. Culyer (1971), a prominent British health economist, argued that externalities in merit goods could serve as a justification for the government to intervene in the market. The global loss from the Covid-19 pandemic is huge and still counting if the world fails to control it. There are both positive and negative externalities in imposing the Covid-19 vaccine. Positive externalities include additional protection for large populations, which can reduce virus transmission, thus reducing health workers' burden and freeing up space in hospitals for non-Covid-19 patients.

It also reduces both private and public costs for Covid-19 patients' treatment and prevents productivity losses from infected people. The treatment costs for one Covid-19 patient could reach tens of thousands of dollars, far higher than the deemed maximum price of the vaccine at \$40 per dose (GAVI Alliance). On the other hand, negative externalities of not being vaccinated mainly come from negative impacts. A non-vaccinated person potentially becomes a virus spreader and infect others who are not yet vaccinated, and those who have been vaccinated but have yet to develop the antibodies.

Workers with automatic shoe-shine machines that cost about Rs 5,000 through loans. This will arouse a sense of dignity among these workers. Precedents of such assistance from corpora-

rations in upgrading manual work exist, as with replacement of pedal rickshaws by e-rickshaws.

Yours, etc., Kunal Kanti Konar,
Kolkata, 5 October.

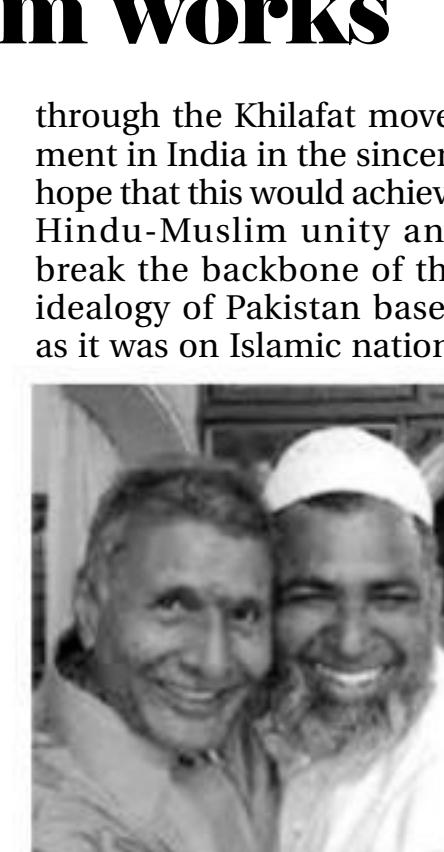


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Secularism works

SIR, This refers to your editorial 'France and Islam', published today. You do not seem to be comfortable with the blueprint to rein in Islam as also about the fears being expressed in Germany about "Islamic swamp". Perhaps you are not too distanced from the undercurrent of India's khilafat movement. In Turkey, during the 1920s, Gandhiji had overlooked consciously or unconsciously the secular principles of state policies as propounded by Mustafa Kamal when Turkey became a Republic in 1920. Gandhiji opposed the abolition of "caliphate"



through the Khilafat movement in India in the sincere hope that this would achieve Hindu-Muslim unity and break the backbone of the ideology of Pakistan based as it was on Islamic nationalis-

alism or Pan-Islamism of Mohammed Iqbal. Most of the historical problems in the Muslim world have their origin in this mindset. Religion cannot be the basis of nationality. Surely, Europe understands this. I suppose Trump also understands this. I hesitate to dwell more on the apparent concerns and fears about the Macron narrative.

Yours, etc., RC Jain, Kolkata, 5 October.

UPGRADE NEEDED

SIR, On street corners of our cities including Kolkata, and public places such as rail stations and bus terminuses, shoe shine men or boys carry on with their age-old

trade. But no attempt has been made yet to bring in a touch of technology to improve and upgrade this trade.

Our city corporations can think of providing these hard-working, shoe-shine

TRUMP CHASTENED

SIR, Not very long ago, President Trump had dismissed Coronavirus as another flu and said that it would go away. We had a more scientific mindset from the days of Sushruta and hence were more respectful to this affliction and yet were putting as much faith on the virtues of martinet governance. Trump, like western cowboys was acting plain macho and is now afflicted. The virus is having its merry course, irrespective of science or geography. A quarantined Trump under medication must be wondering if his bravado will come with the price of his second term. Should he fortuitously find his way back to the Oval office post November 2020, one can only hope that he revises his assessment of the WHO and underwrites the US' role as a responsible member in international institutions that promote scientific inquiry into the strange ways of nature and our ability to understand them.

Yours, etc., R Narayanan, Navi Mumbai. 5 October.

A way to protect the Sunderbans



TARUN KUMAR CHOWDHURY

The storm 'Amphan' had devastated the Sunderbans in May 2020 causing enormous damage to lives and livelihoods of the hapless people settled there. As per estimates of the State government, as reported in media, 28 lakh houses, 17 lakh hectares of agriculture land, 21 lakh domesticated animals and 8,000 board were affected. The storm led to problems with supply of drinking water, damaged roads, forests, power supply lines, education and health infrastructure and activities of some 26,000 MSM entre-

preneurs. The genesis of destruction was mainly floods caused through breaches in 245 km of earthen river bunds and 36 km of sea bunds.

When storm 'Aila' struck the Sunderbans in 2009 and the government approached the Water Resources Section of the Civil Engineering Department of IIT, Kharagpur for suggestions to resolve the problem permanently, it was recommended to replace all earthen river bunds by breach-resistant, concrete-reinforced earthen embankments. On further request, the faculty, in collaboration with a field experienced alumnus, evolved the innovative 'Reinforced

Earthen Embankment' technology using precast reinforced concrete material.

It is anchor-shaped, stands on three legs and has three arms protruding upwards. It weighs around 40 kg and was developed under the alumnus, during his tenure in Kolkata Port as River Training Engineer, while executing river projects like stabilisation of ship channels, arresting bank erosions etc.

The material, then named a Hexapod, was brought to public notice through a number of papers published in technical journals, the first one entitled "Use of Unconven-

tional Materials in the construction of Nurpur Spur, River Hooghly," in Irrigation and Power Journal, Vol. 36 No.2 April 1979 issue and the last one titled "Reinforced Concrete Hexapod - an innovative Material for River & Shore Management" in Institution of Engineers (India) Journal, Vol.87, May 2006 issue that was awarded a prize.

The Hexapods had been extensively tested in the port's river correc-

legs to make these cluster of Spiders more resistant.

IIT's Water Resources Wing informed the government about the innovative Reinforced Earthen Embankment technology with a request to test it in pilot projects at bund sites affected by Storm 'Aila'. Unfortunately, after initial enthusiasm, the government response was lukewarm.

We need to understand that only a breach-resistant, concrete-based wall inside the earthen embankment can protect Sunderbans from the fury of storms like 'Aila' and 'Amphan'. Moreover, the benefits from construction of breach-resistant embankments are manifold. These are: freedom from annual ritual of floods to enable islanders to plan their livelihood; saving of flood relief expenditure; retention of entire catchment rain to resolve drinking and agriculture water problems; less migration of rural labour to urban centres of different states in search of employment, and finally, freedom of villagers from insecure feelings and sleepless nights during the monsoon.

It may be mentioned that if Reinforced Earthen Embankments are used all over the country there would be further benefits, apart from those listed above. These are: entire catchment rain water harvesting without loss; pollution-free rivers including the Ganga; arrest of land silt going into the rivers with rainfall run-off and thereby protecting river drafts with least maintenance dredging, for benefit of Inland Water Transport system, and saving of rivers from being dried up due to annual land silt deposit through breaches in the bunds in monsoon by rain water run off.

Incidentally, the rural populace can be employed under the Mahatma Gandhi rural employment scheme to construct and maintain their own protection bunds. This will make the technology cost effective. It will be a misfortune if despite availability of low-cost, rural employment-oriented indigenous technology, the 245 km of river bunds and 36 km of sea bunds, reportedly damaged by 'Amphan' are not repaired properly to make them breach resistant and to save the Sunderbans. Nature gave a warning call in 2009 through 'Aila' and a wake-up call in 2020 through 'Amphan'.

The writer is an IIT alumnus and a former River Training Engineer at Kolkata Port.

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

In view of the fact that a small and obstructive minority in India clutches at every straw of criticism of the Turkish peace treaty, the general feeling will be that this country should have been spared and extended report of Lord Wester Wemyss's speech in the House of Lords. The noble lord may carry authority as a sailor; he carries none as a diplomatist. Lord Curzon did well to draw attention to some extraordinary features of the Turkish treaty looked at from the other point of view. Not a penny of indemnity is asked from Turkey either for the millions of British casualties she caused or for the hundreds of millions of pounds her perfidy cost Great Britain. Hundreds of millions of British and French money invested for economic purposes in Turkey at her own invitation have been sacrificed and no return is forthcoming. The Turkish peace is in no sense vindictive. It merely recognises Turkey's total inability to rule her subject races and gives the genuine Osmanli Turks a chance of starting afresh without the fearful incubus which has hitherto been their ruin. Not a single member of a race formerly subject to Turkey has ever asked for her government to be restored. There may be differences as to how Syria, Palestine, Armenia, Kurdistan, or Mesopotamia shall be ruled in the future, but no Arab, Jew, Armenian or Kurd ever dreams of a restoration of the old Turkish over-lordship of his race.

NEWS ITEMS

A POST MASTER'S CASE

Mr. P. Sen, Sudder Sub-divisional Magistrate of Alipore, disposed of a case in which Munshi Behayat Ali, Postmaster of Dock-Junction Post Office was charged for criminal breach of trust in respect of Rs 800 and falsification of Postal accounts. The Public Prosecutor with Babu Jatindra Nath Roy Chowdhury, vakil, appeared for the Crown. It transpired in evidence that the accused had systematically misappropriated money which he received on account of Postal money-orders. The accused reported to the head post office at Alipore that while he was bringing Rs 800 to the head office two unknown persons assaulted and robbed him of the money on the way. No injury was found on the accused, the Postmaster disbelieved his statement and informed police, who on enquiry found the report of robbery to be a false one. The magistrate made a case against the accused.

THE NEW COLONIES

Brit and his Japanese girlfriend" at a dinner party in the early 1970s. They sought his help, as a New York Times staffer, to press the case for a green card. "It turned out the Brit was John Lennon and his friend was Yoko Ono," Hersh deadpans. "How was I to know? Neither had anything to do with Watergate."

He notes that years later he visited the Lennons' New York apartment, which was "filled with dozens of framed drawings by the Beatle, all suggesting the world had yet to see the best of him".

The best of him is, in fact, never far off the radar. Until the Democratic Party establishment predictably scuttled Bernie Sanders' candidacy earlier this year, the "democratic socialist" candidate invariably arrived on the stage at campaign rallies to the tune of Power to the People, an anthem Lennon composed in 1971 after an extended encounter with a pair of left-wing journalists (one of whom happened to be my brother, Tariq Ali).

Five years ago, I tracked down the original, graffiti-strewn Lennon Wall in Prague. Since then, 'Lennon walls' have appeared all across Hong Kong as part of the territory's quest for democracy. The latest recycled, remastered Lennon compilation is titled Gimme Some Truth, after one of the songs on his Imagine album, a timely reminder, in the age of fake news, of the artist's relentless quest in what would have been the year he became an octogenarian.

Had he survived, John Lennon would have turned 80 on Friday, October 9 — twice the age he was when his life was brutally cut short. But it's gratifying that his spirit and his ideals live on and Give Peace a Chance is still sung.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28098

BOMBAY COUNCIL

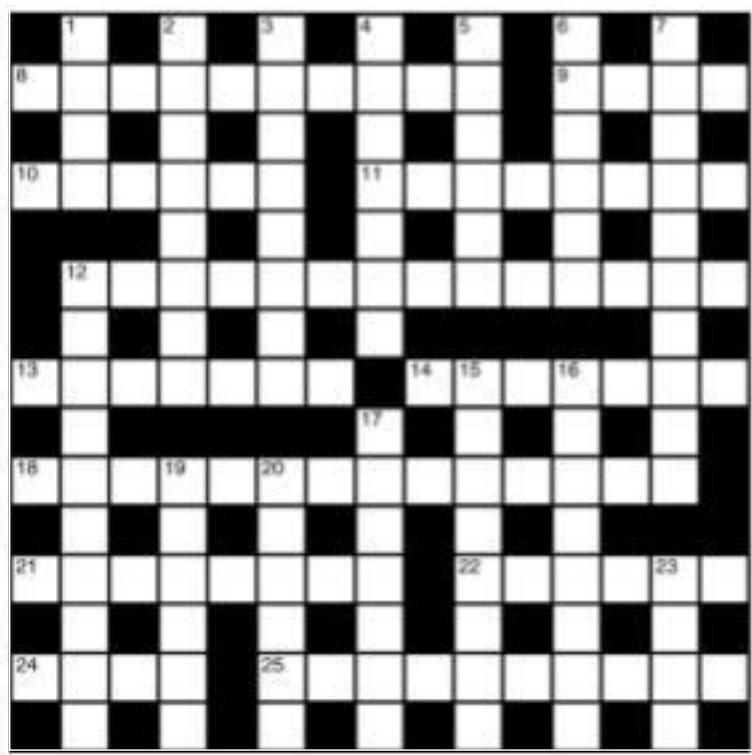
A meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council was held today, the Governor presiding. Sir George Carmichael presented the budget for 1920-21, and said

the budget had been framed on the assumption that the monsoon would be normal. The chief feature of the budget was the provision of large grants, amounting to Rs 47 lakhs, to meet increases of salary granted to establishments necessarily involving reduction of expenditure in other heads. During the budget debate members from Karachi expressed satisfaction at the allotments to road improvements, etc., for Sind province and urged on the Government other needs of Sind. Mr. Paranjpye criticised the provision for a large number of appointments which would fetter the reformed Governments, and complained that by their action Government was not treating the new regime in a fair manner.

GERMAN COAL

The House of Commons today approved the supply vote towards the five-million sterling advances in respect of German coal deliveries, in order to secure regular deliveries to France. It was pointed out that the vote would not necessitate fresh borrowing, as it would be supplied from actual receipts under the reparation clauses of the Peace Treaty. Sir Laming Worthington Evans stated that an arrangement for advances was being made in order to provide miners with adequate food. Replying to French criticism, he showed that benefits were accruing to France, while Britain was not receiving a single ton but was getting equitable consideration in other directions under the agreement made at Spa.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1 Record decisive win finally for white (7)
- 5 Compartment for passenger's drink (7)
- 9 Established standards in mock exams externally (5)
- 10 Draw of Spooner's patriarchy (9)
- 11 'Dunno... he maybe on the end of ward C' (3,7)
- 12 See 6 Down
- 14 Having issue on drug price reviewed (11)
- 18 Expert on board relative's trailer when train missed (11)
- 21 Certainly not free for cycling (4)
- 22 Catholic in with another crowd to see magic (10)
- 25 Text English channel pics featuring king in revolution (9)
- 26 Take in circuit ahead (3,2)
- 27 Follower of silly thing from the East in river (7)
- 28 Knight crossing main road by city is fairly close (7)
- 6/12 Player with chips went up and down (4,4)
- 7 Old comic features a bishop's junior colleague? (8)
- 8 Appear again stripping trees and verges, stopped by 1st of May (2-6)
- 13 Course of spicy food unfinished on ICU by
- 3 See drama unfolding around Queen's Ball (10)
- 4 Pried regularly into US deeds (5)
- 5 Blame safari company initially over simian attack (9)
- 15 Empty remark by priest on allowance (9)
- 16 Couldn't decide if San Diego was lousy (8)
- 17 Perhaps one with match over in outskirts of Kiev (8)
- 19 Floral part of short Persian cover possibly left (6)
- 20 Lethargy of Politburo put Stalin in the ascendant (6)
- 23 Duke's wife skipping half of dull musical (5)
- 24 Drunk gets pawn in position (4)

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



Highways and infrastructure can spur
the country's economic growthVK SINGH
UNION MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

Dinesh Khara takes over as SBI chairman: Dinesh Khara on Wednesday took charge as the new chairman of State Bank of India. Khara took over from Rajnish Kumar, who superannuated on Tuesday. Soon after taking over the charge, Khara told reporters that one of the top priorities for him will be to maintain the quality of the loan book. Other focus areas would be safety of bank employees and customers, he said. On Tuesday, the government appointed Khara for a period of three years.

PTI

HDFC Bank-Apollo: HDFC Bank on Wednesday announced a tie-up with Apollo Hospitals through which its customers can avail unsecured loans of up to Rs 40 lakh to pay for medical expenses incurred at the healthcare chain. The loans will be disbursed almost instantly as and when a need for money arises, and the hospital patients who are customers of HDFC Bank will also receive preferential treatment, its chief executive officer and MD Aditya Puri said.

PTI

LG festive offer: With the onset of festive season in India, LG Electronics has launched "Khawhishon Se Khushiyon Tak Season 2" lucky draw offer starting from 1 October to 20 November. Under this offer, consumers who have purchased LG home appliances during the offer period are eligible to participate by registering for this contest. Winners from the lucky draw will get the chance to win LG products worth Rs 5 crore, according to a company statement.

SNS

MINI special edition: MINI India has introduced a special edition of its best-selling Convertible - the new MINI Convertible Sidewalk edition in India. Offered as a completely built-up unit (CBU), only 15 units are available and can be booked exclusively on shop.mini.in, said a Press release.

SNS

Cabinet approves natural gas marketing reforms

It approves a standard procedure for discovering the price of gas through a transparent e-bidding

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

In a major boost to firms such as Reliance Industries, the government today allowed affiliate companies to buy gas produced from non-regulated fields as part of giving complete marketing freedom.

The government between 2016 and 2019 gave pricing freedom for all fields except those given to state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) on a nomination basis.

But, there were restrictions on marketing, including a ban on affiliates of producers buying the fuel and in some cases, a state nominee being mandated to offtake the gas. This restricted competition kept prices artificially low.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved natural gas marketing reforms, oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan told reporters here.

There will be no change in

POLICY SHIFT

► Complete marketing freedom has been provided where production sharing contracts (PSCs) already provide for pricing freedom. This would benefit firms such as Vedanta-owned Cairn and Focus Energy who can now sell fuel to anyone and not necessarily to state-owned GAIL.

► The government also allowed affiliate companies to buy gas produced from non-regulated fields as part of giving complete marketing freedom which will give a major boost to firms such as Reliance Industries.

the price of gas sold by ONGC and OIL from fields given to them on a nomination basis. The rate at \$1.79 per million British thermal unit is half of the production cost.

He said the CCEA approved a standard procedure for discovering the price of gas through a transparent and competitive e-bidding as also "permitting affiliates to participate in the bidding process for the sale of gas".

Complete marketing freedom has been provided where production sharing contracts (PSCs) already provide for pricing freedom. This would benefit firms such as Vedanta-owned Cairn and Focus Energy who can now sell fuel to anyone and not necessarily to state-owned GAIL.

"This will add 40 million standard cubic metres per day of production from Krishna-Godavari basin and other



areas to the current output of 84 mmscmd," Pradhan said.

He said the ban on producers buying their own gas will continue to prevent manipulations. But, their affiliates can participate in the auction for the discovery of price and buying the gas, he said.

Last year, Reliance and its partner BP had bid out 5 mmscmd of new gas from their KG-D6 block to firms such as Essar and GSPC.

Reliance and BP were keen to buy the gas but rules did not allow. Now, India Gas Solutions Pvt Ltd, an equal joint venture of Reliance and BP, will be allowed to bid and buy the gas.

"The objective of the policy is to prescribe a standard procedure to discover the market price of gas to be sold in the market by gas producers, through a transparent and competitive process," he said.

He added that it permits affiliates to participate in the bidding process for the sale of gas and allows marketing freedom to certain field development plans (FPDs) where PSCs

already provide pricing freedom.

Pradhan said the policy aims to provide a standard procedure for the sale of natural gas in a transparent and competitive manner to discover the market price by issuing guidelines for sale by the contractor through e-bidding.

"This will bring uniformity in the bidding process across the various contractual regimes and policies to avoid ambiguity and contribute towards ease of doing business," he said.

He, however, said re-bidding will be done in case only the affiliates participate in the auction.

"These reforms will build on a series of transformative reforms rolled out by the government in the past several years," he said.

In February 2019, the government gave ONGC and Reliance Industries pricing and marketing freedom for yet-to-be-developed discoveries and agreed to levy a lesser royalty in case of state-owned firms raising production from existing fields.

have been further modified by the government. The validity of the scheme has been extended till 31 March 2021.

"Accordingly, fresh or incremental term loan / working capital limit extended by co-operative banks with effect from 3 March 2020 will be eligible for coverage under the scheme," the RBI said. Further, requirement of Udyog Aadhaar Number (UAN) may be dispensed with for units eligible for GST.

Units not required to obtain GST may either submit income tax permanent account number (PAN) or their loan account must be categorised as MSME by the concerned bank, the RBI said. The RBI has asked co-operative banks to take appropriate action as envisaged in the operational guidelines and issue necessary instructions to their branches or controlling offices for successful implementation of the scheme.

As per the scheme, the loan accounts on the date of filing claim should not have been declared as NPAs.

The coverage of the scheme is limited to all term loans and working capital to the extent of Rs 100 lakh. The scheme provides for an interest relief of two per cent per annum to eligible MSMEs.

In notification, the RBI said certain operational guidelines for the scheme

1,218 crore provision towards legal claim. Including this number, the net profit was at Rs 7,475 crore, TCS said in a regulatory filing.

TCS had registered a net profit of Rs 8,042 crore in the September 2019 quarter.

Its revenue grew by three per cent year-on-year to Rs 40,135 crore for the just-ended quarter from Rs 38,977 crore in the year-ago period.

The company has also announced an interim dividend of Rs 12 per share.

The strong order book, a very robust deal pipeline, and continued market share gains give us confidence for the future," TCS CEO and managing director Rajesh Gopinathan said.

The company will roll out salary hikes effective 1 October. TCS' consolidated headcount stood at 4,53,540 as of 30 September 2020.

Govt recognises need for further stimulus: Sanyal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

addressing demand concern. "However, we recognise that there is a need for providing further stimulus to the economy at some point in time as may be appropriate," he said.

This is not something that is new, he said, adding that finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently mentioned this.

Addressing the anxiety over low demand in the economy, Sanyal said unlike many countries which may have gone for very large upfront demand creation, the approach of India was basically focused on creating a safety net, both for the vulnerable sections of society and business sector given the fiscal constraints.

"If we tried to re-inflate consumption demand in April,

May-June, it would have been entirely a waste of resources for the simple reason we ourselves have locked down all the avenues for spending," he said. With unlock taking place, he said, the manufacturing sector is gradually getting back to the pre-Covid levels and the services sector will gather momentum.

"So as we open things up, clearly, we are in a better position to do so (announce further a stimulus package). In this context, let me say, there is space both on the monetary side and on the fiscal side to do this, and a willingness to use this," he said.

Echoing similar views, K V Kamath, former president New Development Bank, said there is space on both monetary and fiscal sides for another package.

TCS announces ₹16,000-cr buyback

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) today announced a mega Rs 16,000-crore buyback plan at Rs 3,000 per equity share. In 2017 and 2018 too, TCS had undertaken buyback offers of similar sizes.

"...the board of directors of the company's meeting held today has approved a proposal to buy back up to 5,33,33,333 equity shares of the company for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 16,000 crore, being 1.42 per cent of the total paid-up equity share capital at Rs 3,000 per equity share," TCS said in a regulatory filing today.

The buyback will be conducted via a tender offer route using the stock exchange mechanism, it added.

The buyback offer is subject to the approval of the

members by means of a special resolution through a postal ballot, the filing said.

A public announcement setting out the process, timelines and other requisite details will be released in due course following the buyback regulations, it added.

Meanwhile, smaller rival Wipro has also announced that its board will consider a buyback plan on 13 October. However, no other details were provided. The TCS' offer price of Rs 3,000 per equity share is 9.6 per cent higher than the stock's closing at Rs 2,737.40 on BSE today. In 2018, TCS had undertaken a share buyback plan worth up to Rs 16,000 crore, offering Rs 2,100 per equity share and entailing up to 7,61 crore shares.

In 2017, TCS had conducted a similar share purchase exercise. The company had said its buyback offer was part of its

long-term capital allocation policy of returning excess cash to shareholders.

In a separate filing, TCS said its chief financial officer V Ramakrishnan would be retiring from the company on 30 April 2021. Based on the recommendations of the nomination and remuneration committee, the board has appointed Samir Seksaria as chief financial officer designate. He would take over from Ramakrishnan as CFO, effective 1 May 2021, the filing said.

Seksaria, vice-president, finance, has been with TCS since 1999 and has held various positions in business consulting and finance.

Q2 results: Tata Consultancy Services on Wednesday reported 4.9 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 8,433 crore for the September 2020 quarter. The net profit excluded Rs

Optiemus to invest in mobile manufacturing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

Electronic manufacturing services firm Optiemus plans to invest Rs 300 crore in the next 2-3 years in the glass ecosystem and mechanical items related to mobile phone manufacturing in the country, a top official of the company said today.

Optiemus is one of the 16 companies to have received approval from the government under a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme on Tuesday.

"Towards fulfilment of its absolute commitments to enhance value addition, Optiemus has already decided to invest up to Rs 300 crore over the next 2-3 years in the glass ecosystem and mechanical items manufacturing, especially in areas to support display assembly,

I-T refunds worth ₹1.21 lakh cr in FY'21

NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

back cover, etc," Optiemus Electronics chairman Ashok Gupta said in a statement.

Optiemus has worked with Oppo, OnePlus, LG, HTC, BlackBerry, Reliance Jio and Zen to make their devices in its Noida facility. "This manufacturing activity related to components of handsets will not only help to generate employment and reduce forex (foreign exchange) outflows but at the same time, this will also help reduce India's dependency on China-manufactured components," Gupta said.

He said the PLI approval granted in favour of Optiemus Electronics will definitely go along way to attract substantial manufacturing business for this company, which is determined and raring to go beyond the Indian market and serve the global market demand as well.

Sensex surges for 5th day in a row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 7 OCTOBER

Markets ticked higher for the fifth straight session today following gains in RIL, banking and IT stocks amid a mixed trend overseas after US President Donald Trump dashed hopes of a pre-election stimulus package.

After opening on a weak note, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained ground to end 304.38 points or 0.77 per cent higher at 39,878.95 points. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 76.45 points or 0.66 per cent to close at 11,738.85 points.

The Sensex has now gained 1,905.73 points in five trading sessions, while the Nifty has advanced 516.45 points. Titan was the top gainer in the Sensex pack today, climbing 4.44 per cent, after the Tata group firm said its business has been returning to normalcy in the second

quarter of this fiscal, led by the jewellery division.

Index heavyweight Reliance Industries spurted 2.13 per cent a day after its retail arm raised Rs 5,512.50 crore from Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for a 1.20 per cent stake.

Bajaj Auto, Maruti, UltraTech Cement and ONGC were among the other prominent gainers. IT major TCS inched up 0.78 per cent ahead of its quarterly results.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, PowerGrid, Sun Pharma, Tata Steel, NTPC and Bajaj Finserv were among the laggards, skidding up to 4.12 per cent.

On the global front, Wall Street tumbled after US President Donald Trump said he was calling off negotiations with Congress.

Business and financial indices rose up to 1.74 per cent, while metal, realty, power, utilities and capital goods lost as much as 2.97 per cent.

Meanwhile, snapping its two-day losing streak, the rupee strengthened by 13 paise to settle at 73.33 against the US dollar today.

"Markets remained upbeat amid signs of stabilisation in India's services sector and optimism over earnings. Business upbeat have been strong for companies like HDFC, HCL, Titan.

"Global sentiments remained cautious after US President Donald Trump abandoned Covid-19 relief talks with congressional Democrats.

Banks, IT, auto and FMCG stocks remained in traction while metals, pharma and realty stocks were subjected to profit booking," said Paras Bothra, president of equity research, Ashika Stock Broking. BSE consumer durables, energy, auto, IT, tech and financial indices rose up to 1.74 per cent, while metal, realty, power, utilities and capital goods lost as much as 2.97 per cent.

It stated that there has been greater acceptance of the new normal amongst consumers and they have been getting back to many of their routine activities leading to a positive on the walk-ins to the stores and time spent in stores.

The company is now gearing up to gain well from the upcoming festive season which is expected to further uplift the mood of the consumers. Titan said business through the e-commerce channel has grown significantly across all divisions.

Normalcy returning to business in Q2: Titan

NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

Tata Group firm Titan today said its business has been returning to normalcy led by recovery of sales in its jewellery division in the second quarter of the current fiscal.

The company had reported an unprecedented net loss of Rs 297 crore in the April-June quarter due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The company's return to normalcy on the business front has been progressing well with the almost complete lifting of restrictions in phased manner over last few months across the country," Titan said in its quarterly update.

It stated that there has been greater acceptance of the new normal amongst consumers and they have been getting back to many of their routine activities leading to a positive on the walk-ins to the stores and time spent in stores.

The company is now gearing up to gain well from the upcoming festive season which is expected to further uplift the mood of the consumers. Titan said business through the e-commerce channel has grown significantly across all divisions.

Opening of malls have also helped, but the footfalls are still relatively low in these stores. As the sales are reviving at a healthy pace, the network expansion has also resumed, the company added.

Titan said the jewellery division did very well in the second quarter, with a recovery rate of around 98 per cent (excluding sales of raw gold), compared to the revenue of the same quarter in last year.

"The recovery rate in metros that have got impacted the most by the pandemic has been improving gradually," it said.

New H-1B visa rules to harm US economy: Nasscom

Iran will not allow anyone, on some pretext, to bring terrorists that Iran has fought for years to our border



IRAN'S PRESIDENT HASSAN ROUHANI

SLAMS SENDING FIGHTERS TO NAGORNO-KARABAKH

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 08 OCTOBER 2020

09

Caucasus clashes continues as EU leaders call for calm

Nagorno-Karabakh officials say non-military facilities in Stepanakert have been hit with missiles & drones

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YEREVAN, 7 OCTOBER

The fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh continued Wednesday morning, with Armenian officials saying the territory's capital came under attack again and the European Union calling for cessation of hostilities.

Clashes between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces in the region since 27 September have killed hundreds in the worst escalation of hostilities since 1994 when a truce ended a war that raged for several years. Nagorno-Karabakh lies inside Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia for more than a quarter-century.

Armenian Defence Ministry spokesman Artsrun Ovanesian said Wednesday that Stepanakert, the capital of



Members of the Belgian Armenian community hold placards as they gather to protest against the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, near the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, on Wednesday.

Nagorno-Karabakh was being targeted once again by Azerbaijan along with other settlements. Nagorno-Karabakh officials said that non-military facilities in Stepanakert have been hit with missiles and drones.

Russian state RIA Novosti news agency reported Wednesday that some of the overnight shelling has hit people's houses, causing significant damage. Stepanakert

however, that some collateral damage was possible.

The fighting in the region involving heavy artillery, warplanes and drones has continued despite numerous international calls for a ceasefire. Both sides have accused each other of expanding the hostilities beyond Nagorno-Karabakh and of targeting civilians. The EU expressed concern Wednesday about the flare-up of violence.

We have seen extremely worrying reports of attacks on populated areas which is taking a deadly toll on civilians. We strongly urge the sides to fully observe their international obligations to protect civilian populations, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told members of the European Parliament.

Borrell told the lawmakers that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has no observers on the ground and so the EU can't rely on much of the informa-

tion being spread about the way the conflict is developing.

What we observe is an increasing amount of disinformation which is aimed at mobilizing domestic audiences in both countries and could be used to pull regional actors into the conflict, he said. Media reports need therefore to be examined with great precaution.

Borrell said that he had discussed the conflict with the foreign ministers of both countries, and with those of Russia and Turkey, the main regional players closest to the conflict. Turkey has publicly backed Azerbaijan in the conflict and said it was ready to provide military assistance, should Azerbaijan request it.

Russia is Armenia's main ally and sponsor and has a military base there. It also co-chairs the Minsk Group under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, set up to mediate the conflict.

Many students, workers protest Indonesian law



Youths throw stones at riot police during the second day of a three-day-strike of labourers against a government omnibus bill on job creation which they believe will deprive workers of their rights, in Lampung on Wednesday.

Russian envoy hits back at calls for Navalny probe

THE HAGUE, 7 OCTOBER

Russia's representative to the global chemical weapons watchdog has hit back at calls for a transparent investigation of the nerve agent poisoning of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, saying Moscow doesn't owe anything to anybody.

The comments by Ambassador Alexander Shulgin to a meeting of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, or OPCW, were published Wednesday on the website of Russia's embassy in The Hague, a day after Germany said that tests conducted at labs designated by the watchdog confirmed that Navalny was the victim of an attack with a Soviet-era Novichok nerve agent.

Anti-corruption investigator Navalny was flown to Germany two days after falling ill on August 20 during a domestic flight in Russia. German officials said last month that labs found traces of a Novichok agent in the Russian politician's system.

Navalny, who is recovering in Germany, said in comments published last week that only Russian President Vladimir Putin could have been behind the attack against him.

The Kremlin called that claim absolutely groundless and unacceptable. A group of 44 OPCW member states including Germany, the U.K., the United States and France delivered a statement at the organization's Executive Council meeting Tuesday strongly condemning the attack on Navalny.

Proposed Sri Lankan charter change raises rights concerns

COLOMBO, 7 OCTOBER

A proposed amendment to Sri Lanka's Constitution that would consolidate power in the president's hands has raised concerns about the independence of the country's institutions and the impact on ethnic minorities who fear their rights could be undermined by a nationalistic Sinhala Buddhist parliamentary majority.

If passed, the amendment will bring Parliament under the control of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who will have the power to dissolve the legislature, appoint top judges, have full immunity against any prosecution and make decisions critical for minorities, without checks.

The constitution now allows presidential decisions to be questioned in court, gives the prime minister the power to appoint Cabinet ministers, grants independent commissions power to appoint officials to key institutions and bars dual citizens from holding political office.

The proposal allowing dual citizens to hold political office would further strengthen the Rajapaksa family's grip on political power by enabling another sibling who is a dual U.S. citizen to be appointed to Parliament.

KURDISH ANGER



Syrian Kurdish women lift placards and flags during a demonstration in Hasakeh province, on Wednesday, to express opposition to Turkey and its local allies, and rejecting their one-year-old control over the Syrian areas of Ras al-Ain, Afrin, and Tal Abyad.

Negative views of China rises in advanced democracies

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TAIPEI, 7 OCTOBER

aggressive diplomatic approach.

The survey conducted in 14 democratic countries with advanced economies showed a majority of people had an unfavorable view of China. It was conducted from June 10 to 3 August among 14,276 adults across the 14 countries via telephone.

In Australia, 81% said they have an unfavorable view of China, according to the survey, a rise of 24 percentage points from last year.

The rise corresponds with higher tensions in the bilateral relationship after Australia led the call for an international investigation into the origins of the coronavirus.

China responded on the trade front, suspending imports of Australian beef, putting high tariffs on barley from the country and starting an anti-dumping probe into imports of Australian wine.

While the survey showed Australia had the sharpest

increase in negative attitudes toward China, other countries also showed an upward trend:

Those with an unfavourable view toward China hit 74% in Britain, a rise of 19 percentage points compared to last year; 71% in Germany, a rise of 15 points; and 73% in the U.S., a rise of 13 points.

The 14 countries surveyed were the U.S., Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the UK, Australia, Japan and South Korea.

Kuwait guards deputy chief picked as next crown prince

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI, 7 OCTOBER

Kuwait's deputy chief of the National Guard, who spent years in the oil-rich country's security services, was nominated as crown prince Wednesday, the Kuwaiti state news agency reported.

The nomination makes Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah the possible heir apparent to the new emir, 83-year-old Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who was prodded to power following the death of his half-brother.

Although Sheikh Nawaf had a full year to choose a successor, he picked Sheikh Meshal in record-breaking eight days, ending frenzied speculation that has gripped Kuwaiti social media.

Before Sheikh Meshal can

be officially named crown prince, lawmakers must approve the choice during their final session on Thursday, ahead of the formation of a new government in a rare vote for the region's Arab monarchies in which the question of succession is typically decided behind palace doors. Following the session, Kuwait's parliament will dissolve itself ahead of elections tentatively set for late November.

At age 80, the low-profile Sheikh Meshal, half-brother of the late Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah and the seventh son to ascend from the same branch of the royal family, is widely seen as a conventional and safe choice.

While his health status remains unclear, he recently underwent a kidney transplant, according to a Wash-

ington Institute for Near-East Policy article from May 2018.

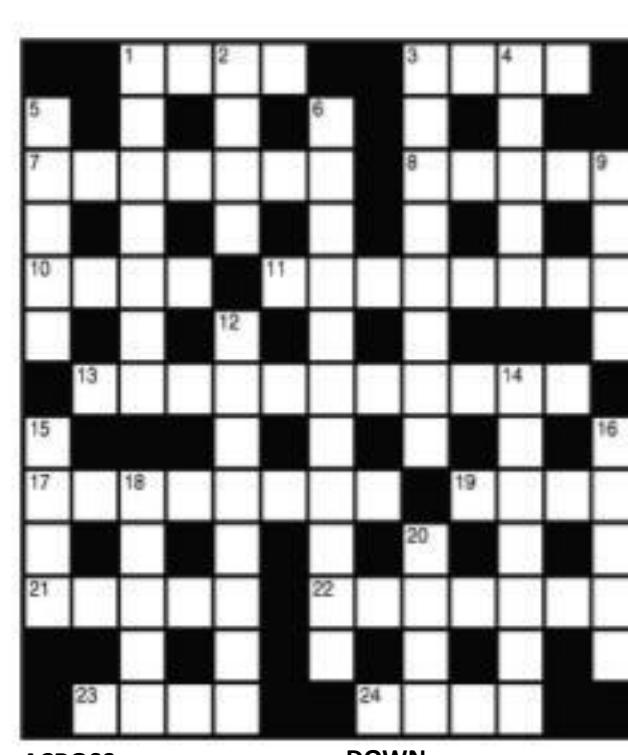
Given his career building up the interior ministry for over a decade, very little is known about his policy preferences. Unlike other top contenders for the post, he has steered clear of the country's tumultuous politics and the royal family's public feuds over corruption allegations.

Bader al-Saif, an assistant professor of history at Kuwait University, described the British-educated minister as a rare senior member of the royal family and political old guard who remains untainted by the country's corruption scandals. He's an insider and an outsider at the same time,

said al-Saif, noting that the country's National Guard remains a respected institution above the political fray.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



CROSS
1. Wail (4)
2. Floating marker (4)
7. West Indian song (7)
8. Means of control (5)
10. Public disorder (4)
11. Long-term plan (8)
13. Made hostile (11)
17. US lawyer (8)
19. Grain store (4)
21. Fronded plants (5)
22. Abate (7)
23. Seep (4)
24. Cattle shed (4)

DOWN
1. Swell (7)
2. Cried (4)
3. Savage (8)
4. Pending (2,3)
5. Derision (5)
6. Disput (11)
7. Fibrill (4)
8. Sport (8)
12. Neglected child (4)
13. Pugilist (5)
18. Trunk (5)
20. Comply with (4)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD
ACROSS
1 Larva, 10 Trendy, 12 Deprive,
4 Floe (Lava flow), 13 Graphics,
7 Nevertheless, 14 Lever,
19 Disinter-
grade, 15 Hints,
2 Gel, 20 Ague,
9 Listener, 21 Scarce, 11 Earring.

DOWN
1 Streak, 2 Level,
3 Savage, 4 Pending,
5 Aghast, 6 Filbert,
7 Obscene, 8 Shele.

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383383, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air

port 011-25671580; Terminal I 23860562

Rajasthan Roadways 25671579, 18001803838

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The Quad group will deepen cooperation to promote inclusive and open Indo-Pacific as well as support Covid recovery

AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MARISE PAYNE
AFTER ATTENDING THE 2ND QUAD MINISTERIAL MEETING

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C H
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C H
TOKYO	18°C	12°C CL
LONDON	17°C	9°C S
DUBAI	30°C	25°C S
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C S
NEW YORK	10°C	07°C S
MOSCOW	16°C	09°C H

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

THUMBNAILS



Scaffolding surrounds the newly revealed restored spire of the Elizabeth Tower, commonly known by the name of the bell Big Ben, in London on Wednesday.

AFP

Russia missile launch: The Russian military on Wednesday reported a successful test launch of the new Zircon hypersonic cruise missile, giving Russian President Vladimir Putin something to smile about on his 68th birthday. The missile successfully hit a target in the Barents Sea, military authorities said.

AP

Pak Navy to add vessels: The Pakistan Navy will add more than 50 vessels, including 20 major ships, to its fleet as part of an ambitious modernisation plan to improve its capabilities, the country's outgoing Chief of Naval Staff said on Wednesday.

PTI

Mao calligraphy found cut: A calligraphy scroll by former Chinese leader Mao Zedong estimated to be worth millions of dollars was cut in half after it was stolen last month in a high-profile burglary in Hong Kong, police said. The scroll was found damaged when police arrested a 49-year-old man last month on suspicion of handling stolen property.

AP

Google, Oracle meet in copyright clash in US SC

WASHINGTON, 7 OCTOBER

Tech giants Google and Oracle are clashing at the Supreme Court in a copyright dispute that's worth billions and important to the future of software development.

The case before the justices Wednesday has to do with Google's creation of the Android operating system now used on the vast majority of smartphones worldwide. Google says that to create Android, which was released in 2007, it wrote millions of lines of new computer code. But it also used 11,330 lines of code and an organization that's part of Oracle's Java platform.

Google has defended its actions, saying what it did is long-settled, common practice in the industry, a practice that has been good for technical progress. But Oracle says Google committed an egregious act of plagiarism and sued, seeking more than \$8 billion.

The case has been going on for a decade. Google won the first round when a trial court rejected Oracle's copyright claim, but that ruling was overturned on appeal. A jury then sided with Google, calling its copying fair use, but an appeals court disagreed.

Because of the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, only eight justices are hearing the case, and they're doing so by phone because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The questions for the court are whether the 1976 Copyright Act protects what Google copied, and, even if it does, whether what Google did is still permitted. Oracle, for its part, says the case is simple.

AP

US imposes new curbs on H-1B visas to protect US workers ahead of polls

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 7 OCTOBER

The Trump administration has announced new restrictions on H-1B nonimmigrant visa programme which it said is aimed at protecting American workers, restoring integrity and to better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries and petitioners, a move which will affect thousands of Indian IT professionals.

President knows that the H-1B visa should be reserved only for "specialised talent" that helps support a strong economy, the White House has said. The interim final rule

announced by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Tuesday, ahead of the US presidential election, will narrow the definition of "specialty occupation" as Congress intended by closing the overbroad definition that allowed companies to game the system.

It will also require companies to make "real" offers to "real employees," by closing loopholes and preventing the displacement of the American workers. And finally, the new rules would enhance the department's ability to enforce compliance through worksite inspections and monitor compliance before, during and after an H-1B petition is

The White House said that President Trump is improving US work visa programmes to prioritise the highest-skilled workers and protect American jobs and wages amidst the severe impact of the pandemic on the economy

approved.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens

of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

Such a decision by the Trump administration will have an adverse impact on thousands of Indian IT professionals. Already a large number of Indians on the H-1B visas have lost their jobs and are headed back home during the coronavirus pandemic that has severely hit the US economy.

According to the DHS, the interim final rule to be published in Federal Register will be effective in 60 days. It said the US Citizenship and Immigration Services is forgoing the regular notice and comment period to immediately ensure

that employing H-1B workers will not worsen the economic crisis caused by Covid and adversely affect wages and working conditions of similarly employed US workers, it said.

The pandemic's economic impact is an obvious and compelling fact that justifies good cause to issue this interim final rule, the DHS said in a press release.

The White House defended the move and said that the President is improving America's work visa programmes to prioritise the highest-skilled workers and protect the American jobs and wages amidst the severe impact on the economy due to the pandemic.

In a statement, the it said

that Trump is committed to making sure the American workers are not disadvantaged by foreign labour.

President Trump knows that H-1B visas should only be reserved for specialised talent that helps support a strong economy. For too long, this programme has been misused as an inexpensive labour programme, replacing American workers in the process, it said.

These critical reforms will improve the quality of the H-1B programme without changing the annual statutory cap for H-1B visas. The Trump administration is closing loopholes that have allowed employers in the United States to replace American workers

with low-cost foreign labour, the White House said.

The H-1B programme was intended to allow employers to fill gaps in their workforce and remain competitive in the global economy, however it has now expanded far beyond that, often to the detriment of US workers, the DHS said. Acting Secretary of DHS, Chad Wolf said, "We have entered an era in which economic security is an integral part of homeland security. Put simply, economic security is homeland security."

In response, we must do everything we can within the bounds of the law to make sure the American worker is put first, Wolf said.

Trump reports no symptoms, returns to downplaying virus

Stephen Miller, President's top aide tested +ve, taking the number of WH staffers infected to 10

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 7 OCTOBER

President Donald Trump, said to be making progress in his recovery from Covid, tweeted his eagerness to return to the campaign trail even as the outbreak that has killed more than 210,000 Americans reached ever more widely into the upper echelons of the US government.

As Trump convalesced out of sight in the White House on Tuesday, the administration defended the protections it has put in place to protect the staff working there to treat and support him. Trump again publicly played down the virus on Twitter after his return from a three-day hospitalization, though even more aides tested positive, including one of his closest advisers, Stephen Miller.

In one significant national coronavirus action, Trump declared there would be no action before the election when, immediately after Iwin, we will pass a major stimulus bill that focuses on hard-working Americans and small business, Trump said in a series of tweets on Tuesday. Trump's instructions came a day after he was discharged from a military hospital where

Trump stops talks with Dems on fresh stimulus for Covid-hit economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 7 OCTOBER

President Donald Trump has instructed his officials to stop negotiating with the Democrats on another stimulus package for the coronavirus-hit US economy until the November 3 presidential election, alleging that Speaker Nancy Pelosi was not holding

negotiations in good faith. He was treated for COVID-19. For the past a few weeks, senior officials from his administration were negotiating with the House Democrats on a major stimulus package before the presidential election.

Analysts have warned that the recovery of the world's largest economy risks stalling without further aid. While the US has regained about half the jobs lost in March and April, more than 10 million people remain unemployed.

Nancy Pelosi is asking for \$2.4 trillion to bailout poorly run, high crime Democrat states, money that is in no way related to Covid. We made a very generous offer of \$1.6 trillion and, as usual, she is not negotiating in good faith, the Republican president alleged.

I am rejecting their request and looking to the future of our country, he said.

Trump said he has asked Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell not to delay but to focus full time on approving his outstanding nominee

to the US Supreme Court, Amy Coney Barrett. Our Economy is doing very well. The Stock Market is at record levels, JOBS and unemployment also coming back in record numbers. We are leading the World in Economic Recovery, and THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

Trump said. In another tweet, he alleged that crazy Nancy Pelosi and the radical Left Democrats were just playing games with the desperately needed workers' stimulus payments.

They were never in it to help the workers and they never will be, he alleged.

But Pelosi accused Trump of "putting himself first at the expense of the country."

"He shows his contempt for science, his disdain for our heroes and he refuses to put money in workers' pockets, unless his name is printed on the cheque," she added.

Trump's move could endanger an economic recovery that for months was driven by the initial \$2.2 trillion stimulus passed by Congress in the spring.

ident remains Covid positive.

Biden told reporters in Pennsylvania that he was "looking forward to being able to debate him" but said "we're going to have to follow very strict guidelines."

Elsewhere in the government, the scope of the outbreak was still being uncovered. On Tuesday, the nation's top military leaders including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley, and the vice chairman, Gen. John Hyten, were in quarantine after exposure to Adm. Charles W. Ray, the vice commandant of the Coast Guard.

It was not known how Ray contracted the virus, but he attended an event for military families at the White House on 27 September. The Coast Guard said in a statement that Ray felt mild symptoms over the weekend and was tested on Monday.

Also testing positive Tuesday was Miller, a top policy adviser and Trump speechwriter, who has been an architect of the president's restrictive immigration measures."

Miller's wife, Katie Miller, who serves as communications director to Vice President, had the virus earlier this year. She had been in Salt Lake City with Pence where he is preparing to debate Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris, but she left as soon as she found out about her husband's diagnosis, officials said. She tested negative on Tuesday.

No place for hate in America: Biden



ASSOCIATED PRESS
GETTYSBURG, 7 OCTOBER

Seeking to unite the country behind him four weeks before the November 3 presidential poll, Democratic Party candidate Joe Biden on Tuesday

denied Covid-19 contracted the virus, but he attended an event for military families at the White House on 27 September. The Coast Guard said in a statement that Ray felt mild symptoms over the weekend and was tested on Monday.

It was not known how Ray contracted the virus, but he attended an event for military families at the White House on 27 September. The Coast Guard said in a statement that Ray felt mild symptoms over the weekend and was tested on Monday.

As part of the broader probe, investigators have interviewed dozens of victims who were sexually abused by Epstein after 1997 and obtained a limited number of sensitive documents and photographs, including school pictures and bank and travel records, they said. Prosecutors said they don't plan to offer the materials as evidence at trial and wanted to turn them over to the defense at the same time as materials related to other non-testifying witnesses.

Stressing that this can't be tolerated, Biden said, it's a product of a history that goes back 400 years to the moment

Greek court rules Golden Dawn party criminal org

ATHENS, 7 OCTOBER

A Greek court has ruled that the far-right Golden Dawn party was operating as a criminal organisation, delivering a landmark verdict in a marathon five-year trial.

The court on Wednesday delivered guilty verdicts against several of the party's former lawmakers for participating in a criminal organization, and deemed others guilty of leading a criminal organization.

The 68 defendants in the trial include 18 former lawmakers from the party that was founded in the 1980s as a neo-Nazi organization and rose to become Greece's third largest party in parliament during the country's decade-long financial crisis.

The court has been assessing four cases rolled into one: the fatal stabbing of Greek rap singer Pavlos Fyssas, attacks on migrant fishermen, attacks on left-wing activists and whether Golden Dawn was operating as a criminal organization.

The presiding judge of the three-member panel began reading the verdicts shortly after 11:30 a.m., delivering a guilty verdict against Giorgos Roupakias for the murder of Fyssas. That prompted applause inside the courtroom and among the crowd outside. Roupakias had been accused of being a party supporter who delivered the fatal stab wounds to Fyssas. Party leader Nikos Michaloliakos and 17 other former parliamentary members face at least 10 years in prison if convicted of charges of leading or participating in a criminal organization. AP

ROYAL AFFAIR



Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge (L), his wife Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge (2L) talk with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky (R) and his wife Olena, during an audience at Buckingham Palace in central London on Wednesday.

Prosecutors seek secrecy as Epstein probe continues

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, 7 OCTOBER

An investigation of financier Jeffrey Epstein's sexual abuse of girls and women remains active, leading prosecutors Tuesday to try to prevent lawyers for his incarcerated ex-girlfriend from learning too much about it until two months before her criminal trial next summer.

Manhattan prosecutors told a judge in a letter that they want to delay giving materials from dozens of victims cooperating with the government who will not testify at trial to lawyers for British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell. The active probe leaves open the possibility of additional arrests. Maxwell, 58, has been held without bail since her July

arrest on charges that she recruited teenage girls for Epstein to abuse in the mid-1990s and sometimes joined the abuse. She has pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors want to delay turning materials from some victims over to the defense until eight weeks before a trial scheduled for July.

A message seeking comment was left with lawyers for Maxwell. Prosecutors said defense lawyers have indicated they will oppose the secrecy request. In its letter, prosecutors said revealing 40 pages of photographs and 40 pages of documents related to Epstein victims who were harmed after the time spanned by the charges against Maxwell could jeopardize the government's ongoing investigation and scare other victims

from cooperating. Prosecutors said charges against Maxwell pertain to illegal sex acts that occurred between 1994 and 1997, but the indictment emerged from a wider probe that went beyond that period.

As part of the broader probe, investigators have interviewed dozens of victims who were sexually abused by Epstein after 1997 and obtained a limited number of sensitive documents and photographs, including school pictures and bank and travel records, they said. Prosecutors said they don't plan to offer the materials as evidence at trial and wanted to turn them over to the defense at the same time as materials related to other non-testifying witnesses.

Kravitz to Kenny Chesney.

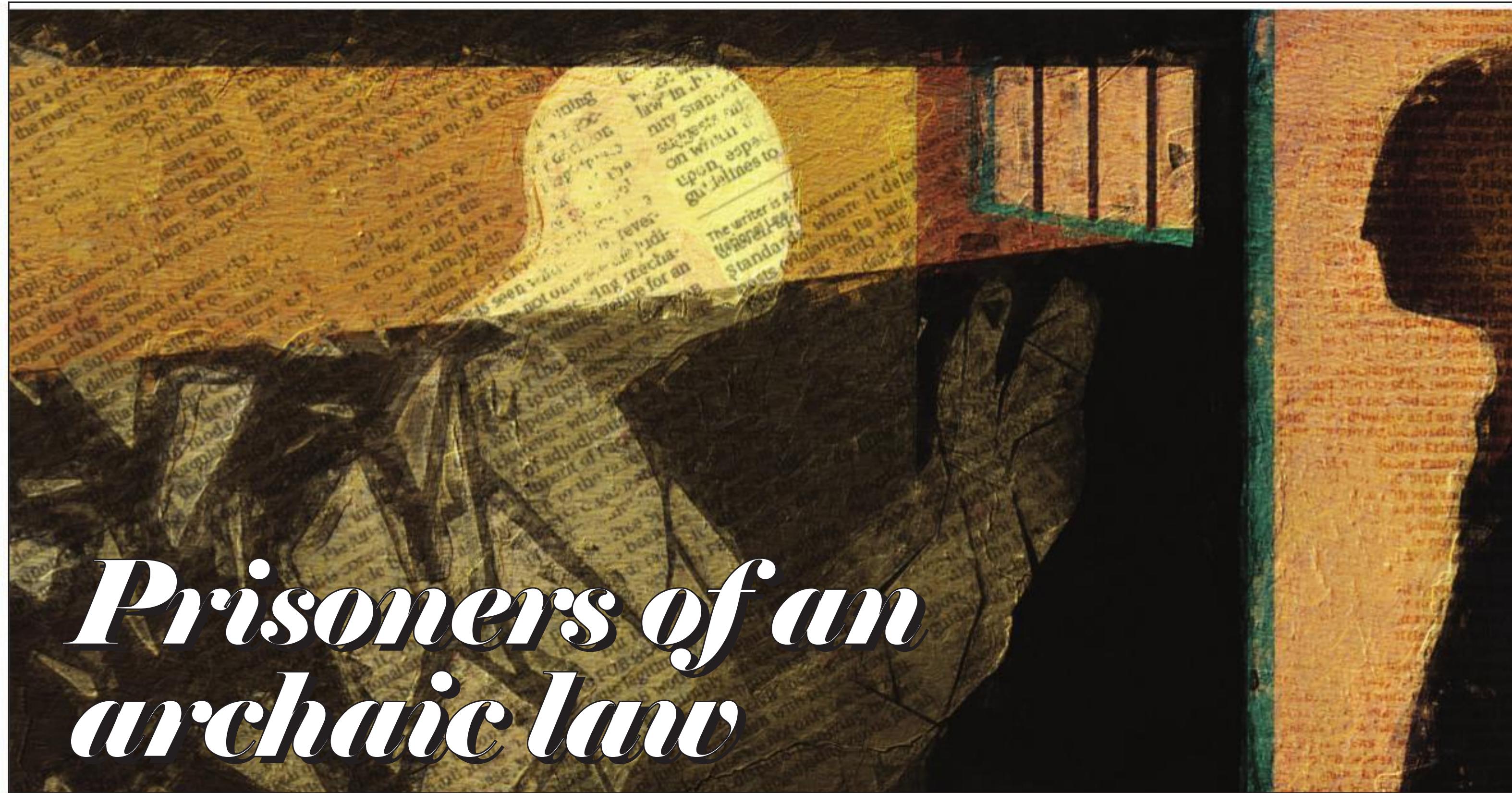
"You changed our world. You were the Mozart of rock guitar. Travel safe, rockstar, Motley Crue's Nikki Sixx said on Twitter. Added Lenny Kravitz: "Heaven will be electric tonight." The members of Van Halen - the two Van Halen brothers, Eddie and Alex, vocalist David Lee Roth; and bassist Michael Anthony - formed in 1974 in Pasadena, California. They were members of rival high school bands and then attended Pasadena City College together.

Eddie Van Halen was something of a musical contradiction. He was an autodidact who could play almost any instrument, but he couldn't read music. He was a classically trained pianist who also created some of the most distinctive guitar riffs in rock history. He was a Dutch immigrant who was considered one of the greatest American guitarists of his generation.

Van Halen is among the top 20 best-selling artists of all time, and the band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007. Rolling Stone magazine put Eddie Van Halen at No. 8 in its list of the 100 greatest guitarists.

Eddie Van Halen died on May 1, 2020, at the age of 65. Honours came from the music world, from Lenny

nin "With the Devil" and then



Prisoners of an archaic law

The elitist, colonial moorings that underly the groundwater law regime in India should be dismantled, and measures initiated to clothe it with a more egalitarian and inclusive identity, say ARMIN ROSENCRANZ and TONY GEORGE PUTHUCHERRIL

Groundwater supports the ever-increasing water requirements of most people on the planet.

More abundant than surface water, its criticality to life sustenance and human well-being cannot be emphasized enough. Groundwater caters to almost half of all the drinking water requirements worldwide. Forty per cent of irrigated agriculture is dependent upon it, as well as about one-third of the water supply required for industry. It is the primary source of drinking water in many parts of the world and is often considered a dependable source of uncontaminated water. In India, ground water extraction is not conducted on the basis of principles of equity and sustainability.

Having to cater to the water requirements of more than a billion people, India has emerged as the largest extractor of groundwater in the world. This by itself speaks volumes about the criticality of this resource for the country's socio-economic development. Presently, groundwater forms the largest share of India's agriculture and drinking water supply. More than 89 per cent of extracted groundwater supports irrigation, rendering it the backbone of India's agriculture. Groundwater extracted for domestic use accounts for 9 per cent of the total, and industrial uses account for 2 per cent.

Groundwater is the most preferred source of water in both urban (50 per cent of urban water require-

ments) and rural (85 per cent of rural domestic water requirements) India. It is no exaggeration to state that India is almost entirely dependent on groundwater to fuel its socio-economic development. However, as elsewhere, mining and excessive withdrawal at rates that far outstrip the rate of replenishment, and pollution has pushed large parts of the country into the cusp of a severe groundwater crisis that can offset India's march towards sustainable development. Thus, groundwater management, regulation, and conservation are critical concerns for law and legal reform.

The subject of water under the Constitution comes under the State List, which essentially means that it is the States that can enact laws on water, including groundwater. Despite this, in relation to groundwater, it is the federal and the colonial Indian Easements Act, 1882, that continues to be the primary law that organises water relations, including the groundwater allocation rules.

The Indian Easements Act essentially treats groundwater as private property and confers on the landowner the right to capture the groundwater underlying the property which belongs to him/her. In other words, groundwater is treated as a chattel attached to the land. This statute provides that groundwater rights can be enjoyed only by those who own the land overlying the resource. And, according to the law states that if you

own the land, then you are free to withdraw as much groundwater as you can, even if this deprives your neighbour of his/her groundwater. Even if these actions are tainted by spite or ill-will, you will still not face civil and criminal sanctions.

Even though archaic, this is the fundamental organizing legal principle on which groundwater management in India is based. Having originated in water-rich Britain when groundwater use was limited, it made pre-eminent sense for that landscape. The British introduced this principle in India without making any contextual modifications and, more importantly, ignoring the fact that India was predominantly arid or semi-arid. Despite the lapse of more than 135 years, India's water law regime continues to be hamstrung by these colonial precepts. Since owning land is a condition precedent to enjoying groundwater rights, the bias in the law produces detrimental social consequences.

Even after the initiation of land reforms and other measures to dismantle the feudalistic stranglehold control which upper castes had over land, the ground-realities virtually remain unchanged. It is still this privileged class who have the means of control and rights over land and, correspondingly, over the groundwater. The subaltern suffers from various handicaps, and land ownership is often beyond their means. They do not

have the same opportunities to buy, own, or even inherit the land. Furthermore, because groundwater rights are inextricably attached to land rights, it is no exaggeration to say that in several ways, India's water problem, at least in respect of groundwater, is in many ways related to its land ownership problem.

This bias in the law assumes new proportions when one takes into consideration caste dynamics. Even though the caste system is legally proscribed, it continues to raise its ugly head. In several parts of India, particularly in rural areas, caste determines access to groundwater. It is estimated that more than 25 per cent of the Dalits do not have access to safe drinking water. Dalits and other subaltern groups continue to be denied entry into areas where the upper castes control the community wells.

The bias in the law has also led to the rise of unregulated water markets. In urban/peri-urban areas, water scarcity is a significant issue. The water demands of urban centres are generally met by exploiting groundwater from rural areas. In many cities of India, there is a thriving tanker mafia that supplies water, often ruthlessly exploiting groundwater from rural areas. This leads to inequitable access among the urban and rural populations. This transfer of water from rural to urban/peri-urban areas leads to water scarcity in rural areas affecting the livelihood of small and marginal

farmers, ultimately forcing these groups to migrate to urban areas in search of jobs.

The ills of the elitist paradigm underlying the groundwater legal regime do not end with this. It assumes new proportions when water companies, including multinational giants, purchase large tracts of land (generally agricultural land) to set up their businesses, which guzzle out vast quantities of water from the bowels of the earth, leaving it parched. This is what happened at Plachimada in the state of Kerala, where Coca Cola purchased a large tract of land for its water operations.

Local communities, including indigenous peoples, in the vicinity of its factory were left water-less. Even though Coca Cola has stopped its operations at Plachimada, water companies continue to drain the groundwater resources from elsewhere, owing to the continued existence of the common law 'right to capture' rule, expressed in the Indian Easements Act.

Thus, groundwater, under India's legal system, is clothed with the veneer of elitism by a colonial legal instrument, namely, the Indian Easements Act, 1882. The bias that the law presents has created a new privileged class, which runs counter to the constitutional values of equality and the right to life. While attempts have been made to de-colonize the central organizing principle, these attempts are yet to fructify. There are a few judicial pronouncements from High Courts that

have sought to alter the nature of groundwater rights. These decisions treat groundwater as a common pool resource or as a public property resource vested in the State.

The State ownership in such cases is not absolute but is tempered by the doctrine of public trust. The State is put in the shoes of a trustee, under a legal obligation to protect natural resources for the benefit of the public who are the beneficiaries. What makes the public trust doctrine endearing is that it imposes restrictions on governmental authority to ensure that the State will not ride roughshod over individuals and local communities while dealing with resources relying upon its sovereign powers.

On the other hand, there are also judicial decisions that have reiterated faith in the common law groundwater rights principles rejecting abstract concepts like public trust as a legal basis to deny fundamental water rights. Given this divergence, any alteration in the legal position can be accomplished only by way of valid legislation.

Even though it is the States that have the legislative power over groundwater, the Union Ministry of Water Resources right from the 1970s has developed Model Groundwater Bills. It has circulated the same amongst States goading them to rely on the Model Bill as a template to mould their respective groundwater legislations.

In its latest iteration in 2016, section 9 describes the legal status of groundwater. It enunciates that groundwater is a common pool resource, a common heritage of people held in public trust, for all. In its natural state, groundwater is not amenable to ownership by the State, communities or persons. The State at all levels is the public trustee of groundwater responsible for ensuring that groundwater is allocated and used equitably in the public interest while promoting environmental values. However, this does not mean that landowners are utterly devoid of their groundwater rights. The section clarifies that landowners do have rights over that quantity necessary to protect the fundamental right to water for life.

While several States like Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab have groundwater laws on their statute books, these do not address the fundamental legal problem resulting in skewed groundwater use and management. It is, therefore, necessary that States in India initiate reform measures to ensure that the injustice inherent in the juridical nature of groundwater rights is addressed.

Another pathway of equitable management of groundwater could be through strengthening local governance in this regard through Panchayats. Minor irrigation, water management, watershed development and drinking water are areas that the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India has brought within the scope of Panchayats. In sum, the elitist moorings that underlie the groundwater law regime in India should be dismantled, and measures initiated to clothe it with a more egalitarian and inclusive identity.

The writers are, respectively, Dean and Professor, Jindal School of Environment and Sustainability and Associate Professor, OP Jindal Global Law School.

ANSWERS TO A CRITICAL WHAT-IF QUESTION

The answer to what happens if President Trump becomes very ill may lie in the little-used 25th Amendment to the American Constitution, says STEPHANIE NEWBOLD

Since Donald Trump was admitted to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for Covid-19 treatment on October 2, there have been conflicting messages about the status of the president's health.

While his doctor, Sean Conley, gave an upbeat account around noon on Sunday, the president's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, told reporters the day before, "The president's vitals over the last 24 hours were very concerning and the next 48 hours will be critical in terms of his care. We're still not on a clear path to a full recovery."

The prospect that Trump could be or become very ill raises the question of how the country can constitutionally transfer power if he is no longer capable of serving in his official capacity.

The answer is the little-used 25th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

That amendment has only been invoked a few times in history. And its lack of specificity about a situation in which the president is unable to determine himself whether he can carry out his duties means there is a potential constitutional crisis ahead in which the president may be unable or unwilling to give up power, even if he is clearly too ill to do his job.

The 25th Amendment, ratified by

the states in 1967, declares that upon the removal, resignation or death of the president, the vice-president assumes the presidency.

Commonly referred to as the Disability Clause, this constitutional provision also specifies that if the president is unable to perform the functions of his office, the vice-president will serve as acting president.

If the president is unable to determine his own decision-making capacity, it is possible – though this is an untested area of law – that the vice-president, independently or in consultation with the cabinet, would determine if he himself assumes the role of acting president.

But there is no precedent for this type of situation nor is there precise legal language that expressly outlines what the procedural processes should be if the president cannot determine his own ability to lead the nation. This is the constitutional crisis that may lay ahead.

In 2002 and 2007, President George W. Bush invoked the Disability Clause prior to scheduled colonoscopy procedures that required anesthesia and sedation. During this limited time, Vice President Dick Cheney became acting president.

In addition to the Disability Clause, there is legislation that clarifies the line of succession should the president become incapacitated.

The 1886 Succession Act made members of the president's cabinet direct successors if the vice-president could not serve.

Upon assuming the presidency in 1945 after President Franklin Roosevelt's death, Harry Truman requested Congress to amend the 1886 Succession Act to provide greater clarification of succession protocol.

Truman wanted that succession to place the speaker of the House second in line after the vice-president. After several years of negotiation, both houses of Congress agreed to this revision and passed the Presidential Succession Act in 1947.

The legislation specified that the line of succession begins with the vice-president and is followed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the secretary of the U.S. Department of State, the secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the remaining secretaries of cabinet departments in the order of when they were established as executive branch agencies.

Neither the Succession Act nor the 25th Amendment have ever been invoked for longer than a few hours. Since March 2020, the U.S. has

faced an extraordinary public health catastrophe. More than 200,000 Americans have died from the coronavirus and more than 7.2 million have been infected.

Over the last seven months, the president has publicly disagreed with his own team of medical and public health experts regarding precautionary measures that should be taken in order to minimize exposure to the virus. His staff have largely followed his lead. Of particular note is a private White House reception and Rose Garden announcement to nominate Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court. More than 200 people

attended, including many of the administration's most senior appointees and aides. Few at this event wore a mask. And now a number of prominent attendees – including GOP senators Thom Tillis and Mike Lee, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway – have tested positive for coronavirus.

As someone who has worked in the office of the White House chief of staff during the Clinton administration, I can personally attest to the concerning environment of the West Wing. Very few senior aides have their

own offices. People are constantly in close proximity, including the president, which is why it remains perplexing that White House staff were not required to wear masks.

The decision to ignore CDC guidelines in the West Wing, at official government functions and at campaign events, coupled with the president's disparagement of public health measures, have placed the country into a potential leadership crisis where it is not clear who should be in charge.

The writer is Associate Professor, Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University, Newark. This article was published on www.theconversation.com



AFP



For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Deals galore: The sport wing of Reliance, IMC-Reliance, is claimed to have cinched 36 deals across several brands and franchises for the Indian Premier League being held in the United Arab Emirates. Earnings have reportedly been doubled over last year's figures.

Khan out: US fast bowler Ali Khan, of Kolkatta Knight Riders, has been ruled out of the rest of the Indian Premier League tournament owing to an injury. Khan was brought in as the replacement for English paceman Harry Gurney, who had undergone surgery.

Smith penalised: Rajasthan Royals captain Steve Smith has been fined Rs 12 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during his side's 57-run loss against Mumbai Indians in their latest Indian Premier League encounter. It was his team's first offence of the season.

Open letter: The Premier League has issued an open letter to supporters on the return of crowds to grounds. Co-signed by the English Football League, Football Association and the Women's FA, it says a safe return can be ensured sooner rather than later.

Agents' fees: Gary Lineker has called on the authorities to change the rules surrounding agents receiving astronomical fees in transfer dealings. He was reacting to Jorge Mendes' successful window, which saw the Portuguese agent strike deals.

Duo's distress: As the transfer window slammed shut, two former England internationals were left outside in the cold. Ex-Manchester United and Arsenal striker Danny Welbeck and former Gunner Jack Wilshere ended the trading period without clubs.

Positive test: Serie A president Paolo Dal Pino has tested positive for Covid-19, Italy's league said in a statement on Tuesday, days before a 9 October meeting to assess bids by private equity funds for a stake in its media business. Pino was appointed in January.

Athletes' woes: Many Japanese athletes who were training overseas are unable to go back because of entry restrictions imposed owing to the coronavirus. With fewer than 300 days to go before the Tokyo Olympics, the athletes hope the restrictions will be lifted.

Open probe: Prosecutors on Tuesday said they had opened an investigation into alleged match-fixing in a women's doubles match at the French Open. The prosecutors' office said the investigation into "fraud in an organised group" and "active and passive corruption."

Serena's charge: Serena Williams has said she has been "underpaid (and) undervalued" as a black woman in tennis, applauding the Black Lives Matter movement for shining a light on entrenched racism, according to comments published by the British Vogue magazine.

Andalucia Rally: Hero MotoSports Team Rally started its first campaign of the season on a positive note, with all three riders delivering a solid performance in the first stage of the Andalucia Rally in Spain. Joaquin Rodriguez made an impressive start, finishing just outside the top 10, at 11th place. The new Hero on the block, Sebastian Buhler, finished the stage in the 15th place. Indian ace C S Santosh brought the stage home with a 23rd-place finish.

HEART OF THE MATTER

Mesut Ozil (*photo, left*) has offered to reimburse Arsenal with Jerry Quy's full salary so that the former club employee, who acted as the official mascot Gunnersaurus, can return to work. Quy had been an employee at Arsenal for 27 years before reports emerged that he was made redundant, with Arsenal spending £45m to sign Atletico Madrid's Thomas Partey hours later..



KXIP look to turnaround fortunes against SRH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, 7 OCTOBER

Their bowling attacks struggling to find form, Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad will look towards their power-hitters to do the job when the two erratic teams go head to head in an IPL match here on Thursday.

KXIP are currently languishing at the bottom of the table after losing four of their five games, while SRH are only slightly better at sixth following two wins and three losses so far.

KXIP's strength has been in a formidable opening duo. Skipper KL Rahul has been in scintillating form this year, scoring two fifties and a century, while Mayank Agarwal also has a half-century and a ton to his credit. The two have done the heavy-lifting for the team. Nicholas Pooran has also looked sharp but Glenn Maxwell is yet to fire.

KXIP vs SRH : Match begins at 7.30 pm IST.

and 10 wickets to spare.

And come Thursday, Sunrisers, who are blessed with a strong top order comprising Jonny Bairstow, David Warner, Manish Pandey and Kainan Williamson, will look to exploit a low-on-confidence KXIP's bowling unit.

Warner and his men were

handed a 34-run defeat by the Mumbai Indians on Sunday.

Having lost their opening two games due to the middle order, Sunrisers addressed

the issue by bringing in Williamson to the playing XI at the expense of an all-round option.

Skipper Warner backed

youngsters Abhishek Sharma and Abdul Samad to fill in for the fifth bowler and the risk paid off as the former champions won two games on the trot. However, the Orange Army was dealt a massive blow when senior pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar was ruled out of the tournament with a thigh muscle injury.

In Bhuvneshwar's absence, Sunrisers struggled with their bowling. Apart from T Natarajan, pacers Sandeep Sharma and Siddarth Kaul leaked runs. Samad was also expensive, which led Warner to turn to Williamson to bowl two overs of off-spin against Mumbai. Going ahead, there will be added pressure on yorker specialist Natarajan and star spinner Rashid Khan.

Sunrisers face the conundrum of either providing stability in the middle order or strengthening their bowling attack. They have the option of playing experienced Afghan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi or West Indies' Fabian Allen but that would mean Williamson will have to sit out.

Teams:
Sunrisers Hyderabad: David

Warner (c), Jonny Bairstow, Kane Williamson, Manish Pandey, Shreyas Gopal, 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, Siddarth Kaul, Billy Stanlake, T Natarajan, Basil Thampi.

Kings XI Punjab: KL Rahul (c), Mayank Agarwal, Sheldon Cottrell, Chris Gayle, Glenn Maxwell, Mohammed Shami, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Karun Nair, James Neesham, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Ishan Porel, Arshdeep Singh, Murugan Ashwin, Krishnappa Gowtham, Harpreet Brar, Deepak Hooda, Chris Jordan, Sarfaraz Khan, Mandeep Singh, Darshan Nalkande, Ravi Bishnoi, Simran Singh (wk), Jagadeesha Suchith, Tajinder Singh, Hardus Viljoen.

Revamped Md. Sporting firm favourites as sporting action resumes in country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, 7 OCTOBER

--which was held behind closed doors.

The group matches of the second division I-League too were stopped and the top team from each of the six groups was picked for the final round, which has now been re-christened as 'I-League Qualifier 2020'.

FC Kerala's spillover eventually made it a five-team tournament. Each team will play the other once in a round-robin format and the top team after the final match day on October 19 will gain entry to I-League 2020-21.

With some top signings from former I-League winners Aizawl FC, including defender Eze Kingsley, and the roping in of former East Bengal forward Willis Plaza and Nepalese international forward Abhishek Rijal, the 130-year-old Mohammmedan Sporting will be the club to watch out for.

They are also the most experienced of the lot having featured in I-League 2013-14.

Mohammmedan Sporting had also signed 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup team defender Anwar Ali who was later disallowed to play by the All India Football Federation after he was

diagnosed with a congenital heart condition.

The stakes will also be high for the 'Black Panthers' as they seek to become the lone side

from Kolkata in I-League this season -- to be held in West Bengal -- after the migration of Mohun Bagan and East Bengal to ISL.

"Every match is like a final. I have signed proven players including the foreigners. Hopefully, we can take this team up and do well in I-League," Mohammmedan Sporting coach Yan Law said in pre-match media conference.

The team has been camping in Kalyani for more than a month and will be well adapted to the conditions.

"For us, the first step is to get into I-League. We have a good team, and we have not had such a time for long."

City rivals Bhawanipore FC is also a century-old club and will dream big.

Coached by former Calcutta Football League-winning Mohun Bagan coach, Sankar Lal Chakraborty, the side have roped in former NEROCA FC striker Philip Adjah. They also have roped in some experienced

Indian players, though they will miss last season's CFL top scorer Ansuman Kromah who tested positive for COVID-19.

Garhwali FC's Nigerian captain Bala Dahir sounded confident of bagging the lone I-League spot. FC Bengaluru United also promised to put up a strong fight with former India captain Guramangi Singh working as deputy to head coach Richard Hood.

Ahmedabad-based ARA FC will look to make history by becoming the first team from Gujarat to make the I-League.

Full Fixtures:

October 8: Bhawanipore FC vs FC Bengaluru United; Mohammmedan Sporting vs Garhwali FC.

October 11: Mohammmedan Sporting vs ARA FC; Garhwali FC vs FC Bengaluru United.

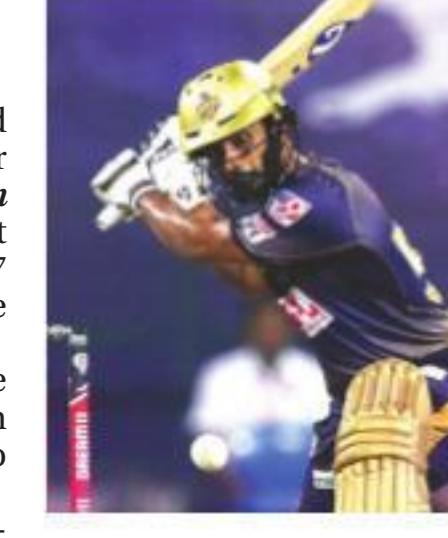
October 14: Garhwali FC vs Bhawanipore FC; FC Bengaluru United vs ARA FC.

October 16: ARA FC vs Garhwali FC; Bhawanipore FC vs Mohammmedan Sporting.

October 19: FC Bengaluru United vs Mohammmedan Sporting; ARA FC vs Bhawanipore FC.

All matches at 2:30pm and 4:30pm.

CSK bowl out KKR for 167 after Tripathi's breezy 81

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ABU DHABI, 7 OCTOBER

free knock and maintained a healthy run-rate.

Karthik made a baffling decision by sending Sunil Narine ahead of their best batsmen, Eoin Morgan, at No. 4.

However, Narine did his job with a nine-ball 17 before being dismissed by an excellent combined effort by a diving Ravindra Jadeja and Faf du Plessis.

Morgan started with a classical cover drive boundary but Curran cut short the with a bouncer that climbed in and took a faint edge behind the stumps.

Thakur, who had given the first breakthrough by dismissing an in-form Shubman Gill (11), claimed the big wicket of Andre Russell with a cross-seam short delivery as the KKR dizzler struggled to get going.

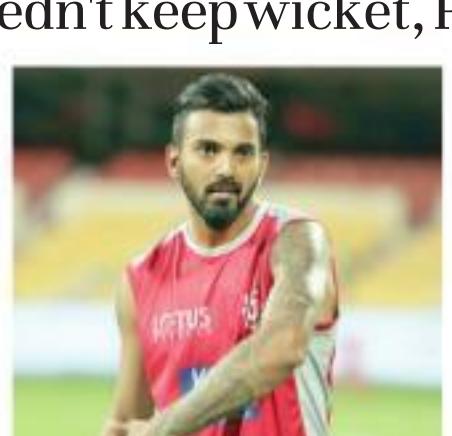
SCOREBOARD

Kolkata Knight Riders Innings	Shivam Mavi c Dhoni b Bravo 0
Tripathi c Watson b DJ Bravo 81	Chakravarthy run out Jadeja 1
Gill c Dhoni b Thakur 11	
Rana c Ravindra Jadeja b Karn Sharma 9	
Narine c de Plessis b Karn Sharma 17	
Morgan c Choni b Sam Curran 7	
Russell c Dhoni b Thakur 2	
Karthik Thakur b Sam Curran 12	
Cummins not out 17	
K Nagarkoti c de Plessis b Bravo 0	
Total: 167 all out (20 Overs)	

Bowling

Chahar 4-0-7-0, Sam Curran 4-0-26-2, Thakur 4-0-28-2, Karn Sharma 4-0-25-2, Bravo 4-0-37-3

Lara says Rahual needn't keep wicket, Pant is good enough

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER

West Indies captain, Rishabh Pant should be the number one choice to replace MS Dhoni

behind the stumps in the Indian team. Pant has been in good form in the ongoing tournament, scoring 171 runs in five matches he has played so far for Delhi Capitals.

"First, of all I would like to say that KL Rahul should not be burdened with wicket-keeping when it comes to that Indian squad. He's such a great batsman that I feel that he should concentrate on that and put a lot of runs on the board," Lara said on television. According to the former

itals, it looks like he wants that responsibility, he wants that onus

on him to score runs, build an innings and get big scores," said Lara. "If he continues that way, I think that he should be the number one," he added.

Dhoni retired from international cricket in August after representing India in 350 One-Day Internationals, 90 Tests and 98 Twenty20 Internationals besides effecting a staggering 829 dismissals behind the stumps across the formats.

Pant - who has so far played 13 Tests, 16 ODIs and 28 T20Is - had been touted as Dhoni's successor but could not put up consistent performances when playing for the national side. He was replaced behind the stumps, in the limited-overs formats, in New Zealand by Rahul when the Men in Blue last played international cricket.

"Rishabh Pant a year ago, I would say no, but I feel that he has stepped up in terms of his responsibility as a batsman. Look at how he plays for Delhi Cap-

itals under the pale autumn sun on Court Philippe Chatrier, Kvitova has yet to drop a set on the Paris clay.

"Right now, it's my lucky place," she said.

Nadal gets through Sinner test

Twelve-time champion Rafael Nadal got through a stern test against Italian teenager Jannik Sinner to enter the semi-finals of the ongoing French Open tennis tournament.

On Tuesday evening, Nadal -- playing his 100th match at the Roland Garros -- defeated his 19-year-old Sinner 7-6(4), 6-4, 6-1 in a match that lasted two hours and 49 minutes on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

His record now stands at 98 wins and just two defeats, 237 hours and eight minutes on the

court, just 27 sets lost, 427 of 602 break points saved, according to the tournament's website.

The Spaniard will next face Diego Schwartzman, who beat Dominic Thiem on Wednesday in a five-set quarter-final that lasted more than five hours.

In women's singles, Argentine qualifier Nadia Podoroska produced the greatest shock of the current tournament as she defeated No 3 seed Elina Svitolina, 6-2, 6-4 in the quarter-finals. She has become the first in 21 years to reach such a point in any major.

"It's difficult for me to speak after the match, but thanks everyone for your support. I'm very, very happy!" Podoroska said after the match.

Premier League has spent £1.2 billion during the pandemic

MIGUEL DELANEY
LONDON, 7 OCTOBER

because of the pandemic. It's impossible not to think of the relatively paltry money saved on 55 redundancies on one side, not to mention the existential threat to so many clubs in the game at the other. There are then Daniel Levy's words at the start of this crisis. On 31 March, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman came out with the following. "When I read or hear stories about player transfers this summer like nothing has happened, people need to wake up to the enormity of what is happening around us."

So, what did actually happen? Well, Tottenham themselves had their most ambitious summer since 2013. That summer, they brought in seven promising players, after the world-record

£83.5m sale of Gareth Bale. This summer, they brought in six established players, after a £175m Bank of England loan to cover the impact of the crisis. That was to pay staff and operating costs. They then spent up to £15m back on Bale.

It all adds up to a total of £1.27 billion spent by Premier League clubs this window.

That's £861 million when sales are taken into account, but

treated as "business as usual," as Ed