



RIFT IN AIADMK
WIDENS



REPLACE UP CM OR
IMPOSE PRESIDENT'S
RULE: MAYAWATI

P4



NAVALNY ALLEGES
PUTIN BEHIND
HIS POISONING

P5

ARTHUR IS LEFT
DISCOMFITED
BY INACTION



P12

WEATHER

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

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 86% Min: 35%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 36.7°C (+2) Min: 21.9°C (-1)
SUN RISES 06:15 hrs SUN SETS 18:06 hrs
MOON RISES 18:39 hrs MOON SETS 07:16 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Workers clean a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Marina Beach in Chennai ahead of Gandhi's 151st birth anniversary celebrations on Friday.

AFP

India-China talks: The Indian and Chinese militaries are working to schedule their seventh round of talks to take steps towards "early and complete" disengagement of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in accordance with the existing bilateral agreement and protocols, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday, a day after the two countries held another round of diplomatic talks to resolve the five-month-long military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

Rohtang tunnel: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the strategically important all-weather Atal Tunnel, which reduces the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km and the travel time by four to five hours, at Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday. After the inauguration function, Modi will also attend public functions at Sissu in Lahaul Spiti and at Solang Valley, the PMO said. The 9.02 km long Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world, and connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti throughout the year, the PMO said.

India's Covid-19 tally now over 63 lakh; Sept accounted for 41.53 pc of all cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

India's coronavirus tally on Thursday mounted to 63,12,584 cases, after 86,821 fresh cases and 1,181 deaths were reported in the 24 hours, according to Ministry of Health data. Out of the total cases, 9,40,705 are currently active, 52,73,201 have been discharged, while 98,678 have succumbed to the viral disease.

Though cases are increasing by the day, the recovery rate stands at 83.53 per cent and the fatality rate has come down to 1.56 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare showed. Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 13,84,446 cases, including 36,662 deaths.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, India conducted 14,23,052 sample tests in a single day on Wednesday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 7,56,19,781.

In the eight months since the first case of coronavirus infection was detected on January 30, September alone recorded 26,21,418 infections, accounting for 41.53 per cent of the over 63 lakh COVID-19 cases reported in the country so far.

The past month also saw 33,390 deaths due to the disease, which is around 33.84 per cent of the total 98,678 deaths recorded so far.

FACT FILE	
TOTAL CASES	63,12,584
ACTIVE CASES	9,40,705
NEW CASES	86,821
NEW RECOVERIES	85,376
TOTAL DEATHS	98,678

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY
FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M.
THURSDAY 01 OCTOBER 2020



At a protest outside Delhi University on Thursday.

ing due to it. "The report... says clearly that samples did not have sperm. It makes

clear that there was no rape or gang rape," he said.

"Even the woman in

her statement to police did not mention about rape but talked about 'marpeet' (beating) only, he said.

"For disturbing social harmony and create caste violence, some persons wrongly presented facts," the officer said. "Police took immediate action in the case and now we will identify those who tried to disturb social harmony and create caste violence."

Upset over the alleged gang-rape and murder of the woman and her forcible

cremation, a Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court on Thursday issued summons to the Uttar Pradesh additional chief secretary, director general of police and additional director general of police, asking them to appear before the court on October 12 to explain the case.

The family of the victim, meanwhile, alleged they were being pressured by the district administration, and demanded a CBI probe into the entire incident.

her hands. She was rushed to a nearby hospital but died on the way, the SP said.

When the matter was reported to the police by the hospital, her parents alleged she was gangraped, he added.

Acting on the family's complaint, police identified the accused as Shahid and Sahil and arrested them.

About the mother's allegation that the woman's legs and back were broken, Verma said, "It was not confirmed in the post-mortem. We contradict this news."

She was cremated on Wednesday after the post-mortem in the presence of her family members, the police said.

Hathras woman not raped, claim cops; HC issues summons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW, 1 OCTOBER

A senior Uttar Pradesh police officer said on Thursday the forensic report has revealed that the 19-year-old Hathras woman who succumbed to her injuries at a Delhi hospital was not raped.

Citing a forensic science laboratory report, ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said the cause of her death is an injury on the neck and trauma resulting

due to it. "The report... says clearly that samples did not have sperm. It makes

clear that there was no rape or gang rape," he said.

cremation, a Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court on Thursday issued summons to the Uttar Pradesh additional chief secretary, director general of police and additional director general of police, asking them to appear before the court on October 12 to explain the case.

The family of the victim, meanwhile, alleged they were being pressured by the district administration, and demanded a CBI probe into the entire incident.

Nation pays tributes to Mahatma Gandhi & Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversary

Revered Bapu's life reminds us to ensure that our every action should be such that it leads to the well-being of the poor and deprived. Likewise, Shastri Ji's life imparts to us the message of humility and simplicity.

- Narendra Modi

Scan the QR Code to participate in the quiz on Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri

DANP 22/20/13/01/2021



Once Goddess Sita had to go through 'Agni Pariksha' (test by fire). Now in UP, the woman was raped, and later her body was put on a funeral pyre

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Kejriwal to launch campaign against air pollution on 5 Oct

Delhi govt tasks Centre to regulate emissions from 11 thermal plants, 1900 brick kilns in NCR, says Gopal Rai

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai today said the Arvind Kejriwal government will launch a major anti-air pollution campaign on 5 October and that a centre was being set up in Najafgarh to produce a chemical to tackle stubble burning.

Rai said he has also appealed to the Centre and neighbouring states to use the chemical developed by scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), popularly known as Pusa Institute, here to deal with crop residue and stubble burning.

"CM Kejriwal will launch a mega anti-air pollution campaign after a meeting with officials from departments of environment, transport, development, PWD, Delhi Development Authority, Delhi Jal Board, traffic police and municipal corporations," Rai said.

At a meeting of NCR (National



Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai during a press conference in the Capital on Thursday. SNS

al Capital Region) states with Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar, Rai urged the Centre to take time-bound action to ensure that 11 thermal power plants and more than

1,900 brick kilns using outdated technology in the NCR control their emissions.

There are 11 thermal plants around Delhi - in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab - which

were supposed to retrofit their units with technology called "flue-gas desulphurisation" to reduce emissions by December 2019.

Rai said there were more than

1,640 such brick kilns in UP, 161 in Haryana and 164 in Rajasthan. All these contribute to Delhi's air pollution massively."

He also urged the Centre to take action against brick kilns using outdated technology in the neighbouring states.

The minister said the Delhi government presented its plan to tackle stubble burning in the city during the meeting with Javadekar.

He said a centre was being set up in Kharkhari village in Najafgarh where "bio-decomposer" solution will be prepared in around 400 containers starting early next week.

The IARI's new technology involves a liquid formulation prepared using bio-decomposed capsules, fermenting it over 8-10 days and then spraying the mixture on crop residue to ensure speedy bio-decomposition of the stubble. Capsules worth Rs 20 can effectively deal with 4-5 tonnes of raw straw per acre.

Rai said the Union government has been providing subsidies up to 80 per cent on farm machinery, but farmers still have to pay from their own pocket to use it.

"The Pusa bio-decomposer is an economically viable option. We have estimated that only Rs 20 lakh is needed to manage stubble in 800 hectares of agricultural land in Delhi," he said, adding that an action plan has been prepared to thus curb stubble burning in the city.

Under this plan, farmers will fill a form providing details such as name, address, village, the area where they produce non-basmati rice and the date when they want the government to spray the chemical to tackle stubble burning.

Based on this form, the Delhi government will send officials to spray the chemical at the designated farmland. The agricultural development officers of all the districts will lead this operation, Rai said.

Cinemas, swimming pools may not reopen in Delhi soon as govt sticks to status quo



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

PTI
NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

Cinemas, theatres, and swimming pools in the city are unlikely to open soon with the Delhi government deciding to maintain status quo on prohibited and permitted activities till October 31 in the national capital.

According to an order issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority, these establishments will remain closed till further orders. In his order issued on Wednesday night, Chief Secretary Vijay Dev said that two weekly markets in each civic body zone will be allowed to open every day. Bars in hotels, restaurants and clubs have been permitted to remain open.

The order stated that all social, academic, entertainment, cultural, religious, political functions as well as other gatherings and large congregations will continue to be prohibited across the city. "The situation of COVID-19 in Delhi has been reviewed and it has been decided that status quo in respect of prohibited and permitted activities (including activities on trial basis) may be maintained in NCT of Delhi till October 31 or further orders, whichever is earlier," it said.

However, maximum 50 people will be allowed in marriage related gatherings and maximum 20 people are allowed in funeral and last rites related gatherings, it stated. On Wednesday, the Union Home Ministry 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 October 15.

Complete installation of flow meters in city by 30 Oct: DJB VC to officials

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

lar point. This helps in finding out any possible leakage. The DJB through three mediums - 1,277 real-time flow meters, 1,007 battery-operated ones, and 188 manual flow meters.

Chadha told the officials that there must be an immediate audit of all manual flow meters to check their functioning and effectiveness. If any such meter is not functioning effectively, it should be immediately repaired. This task should be completed by 30 October. Installation of functional flow meters will help in proper auditing of water, he pointed out.

The DJB Vice-Chairman instructed the officials that within a period of 30 days, relevant electrical infrastructure should be raised with assistance from BSES Yamuna, BSES Rajdhani and TATA Power for all new installations.

He has scheduled a follow-up meeting on 1 November by when the respective chief engineers are expected to apprise him of the completion of the work in accordance with the deadline.

SDMC carries out demolition & sealing drive against unauthorised properties

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) launched a massive demolition and sealing drive against 'unauthorised structures' in its several areas and actions were taken against 121 properties, said SDMC official.

The building department of South zone has taken action against 121 unauthorised properties in Said-ul-Azaib, Khirki Extension, Panchsheel Vihar, Greater Kailash-II, Chhattarpur, Freedom Fighter Enclave, Neb Sarai, Vasant Kunj in last two months, the officials said.

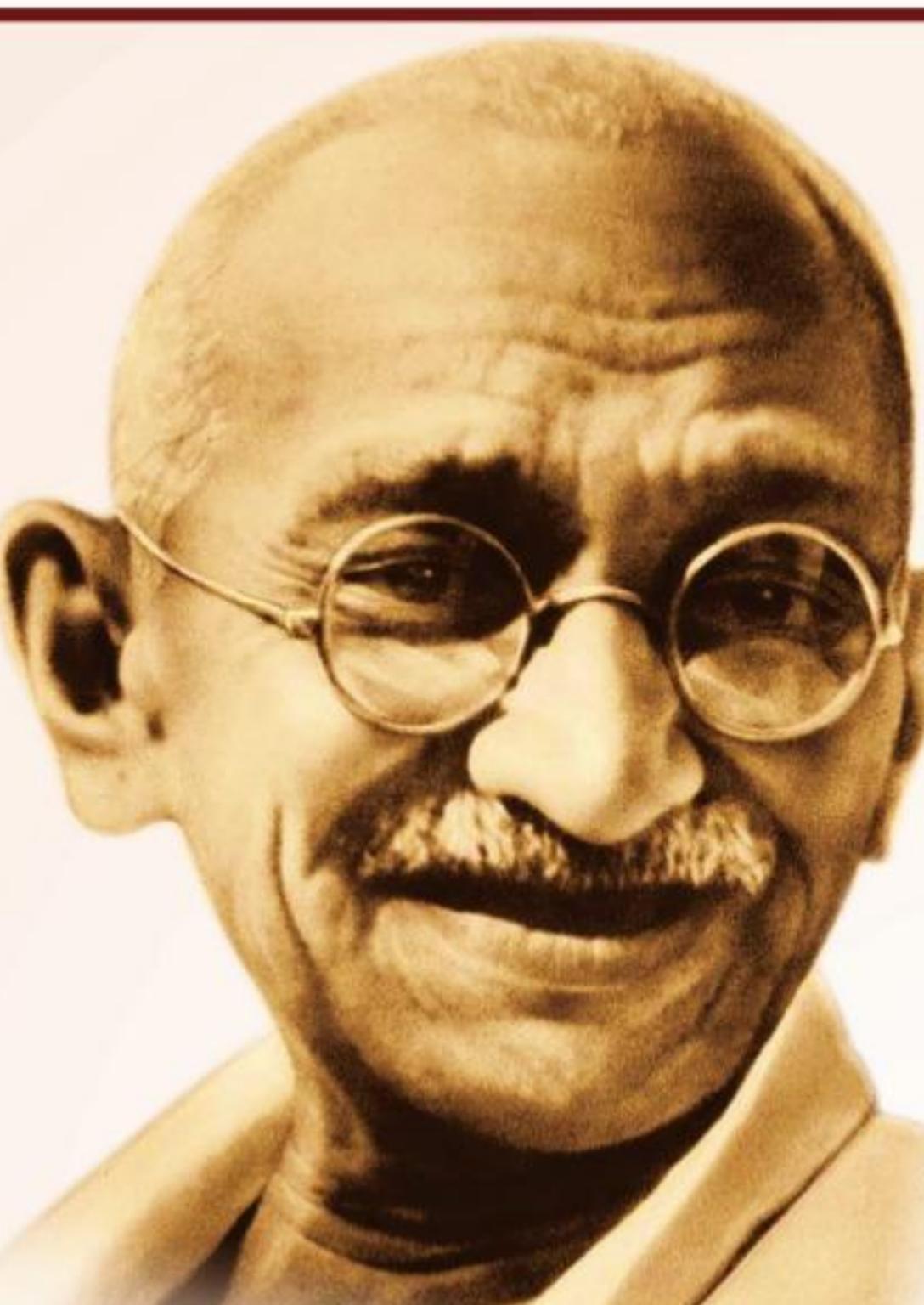
"The demolition actions have been taken by the department with a view to discourage the unauthorised construction activities by unscrupulous builders. During these actions, the properties have been left in uninhabitable conditions, so that the same cannot be used for habitable or other purposes and no scope for further unauthorised constructions," said SDMC.

unauthorised construction in blatant violations of Master Plan-2021, Unified Building Bye-Laws and DMC Act, 1957.

"Many offenders have also been prosecuted under the DMC Act, 1957 and criminal cases have been lodged with the police authorities during last two months against them," said SDMC in its statement.

"The demolition actions have been taken by the department with a view to discourage the unauthorised construction activities by unscrupulous builders. During these actions, the properties have been left in uninhabitable conditions, so that the same cannot be used for habitable or other purposes and no scope for further unauthorised constructions," said SDMC.

According to an official statement, it was observed that some unscrupulous builders carried out the deviations against sanctioned building plans or total



“ एक राष्ट्र की संरक्षिति, उसमें रहने वाले लोगों के दिलों में और आत्मा में रहती है। ”

- महात्मा गांधी

गांधी जयंती

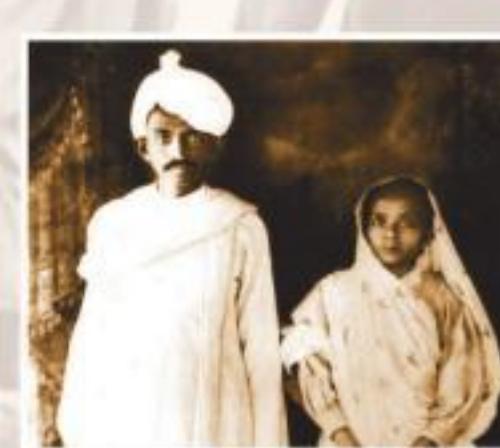
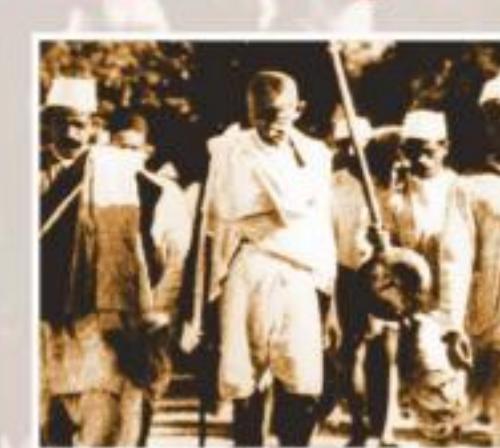
2 अक्टूबर, 2020

के अवसर पर

कोटि-कोटि नमन

- योगी आदित्यनाथ, मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश




कोटोना से बचाव के उपाय

2 गज सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करें

फेस कवर/मास्क अवश्य लगाएं

हाथों को साफ रखने हेतु साबुन/सैनेटाइजर का प्रयोग करें

छाँकते और खांसते समय अपना मुँह व नाक रुमाल से ढकें

Aarogya Setu App | आयुष आरोग्य सेतु एवं आयुष कवच एप्प का प्रयोग करें

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



Six meetings have already been held this year to discuss the issue of stubble burning and the central govt has taken several measures for the same

PRAKASH JAVADEKAR
UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 02 OCTOBER 2020

03

Pb govt lifts night curfew, ends Sunday lockdown

As Covid cases and deaths indicate a declining trend in Punjab, CM Capt Amarinder Singh orders various relaxations but asserts that there should not be any laxity in maintaining safety protocols

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 1 OCTOBER

Amid declining coronavirus (Covid-19) cases and deaths, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Thursday ordered lifting of night curfew and end to Sunday lockdown in the state.

The relaxations announced by the CM also include increasing the limit on the number of people for marriage functions and funerals to 100 in Punjab in accordance with the Union government's guidelines as well as easing the limit of three persons in a car and 50 per cent capacity in buses subject to the condition of windows being open.

Capt Amarinder, however,



has directed Director General of Police, Dinkar Gupta, to ensure strict adherence to Covid protocols, with immediate action against those violating the mandatory condition of wearing masks.

There should be no laxity, especially in view of the ongoing paddy procurement operations and the forthcoming festival season, the CM said.

During a virtual meeting held to review the Covid situation in the state, the CM took note of the trend of decline in the

of schools and educational institutions, which the Centre had left to the states to decide post 15 October under Unlock 5.0, the decision of the Punjab government will be announced after due deliberations between the home secretary and the education department.

coronavirus cases and said the restrictions imposed earlier by the state government had helped.

However, he expressed concern over the increase in cases in rural areas, even though numbers in cities or towns were going down.

In a brief presentation earlier, the state's expert health committee head, Dr K K Talwar, said the positivity rate in the state had come down from 10.85 per cent on 14 September to 5.12 per cent on 28 September.

The number of deaths and patients on ventilators had also shown a decline during this period, he said. The state's Covid death rate currently stands at 2.9 per cent, with deaths per million at 112.5 per cent. The recovery rate has

gone up to 82.1 per cent.

Meanwhile, strict monitoring of asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic Covid patients under home isolation will begin in Punjab from Friday, with the state government engaging a consortium of professional home healthcare companies for their regular monitoring.

Health secretary Hussain Lal said a private healthcare company has been hired for the purpose, and their professional health care tele-callers will monitor, on a daily basis, the health of Covid patients under home isolation for less than 10 days. The consortium has the experience of such monitoring in other states, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Karnataka.

Himachal Cong reminds PM Modi about 'unfulfilled promises' ahead of state visit

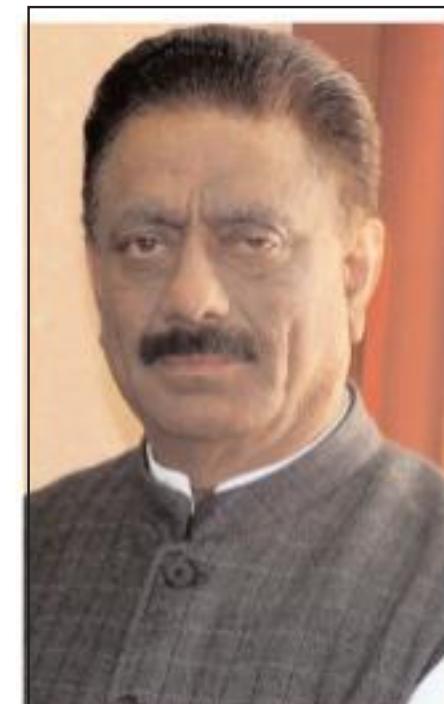
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 1 OCTOBER

Seeking clarification on various sops and schemes announced for Himachal Pradesh during previous visits to the state, state Congress chief Kuldeep Singh Rathore on Thursday reminded Prime Minister Narendra Modi of various "unfulfilled promises".

Addressing media in Shimla, Rathore said PM Modi had promised 67 new national highways for the state, curbs on import of apples, making it mandatory for cold drinks companies to use 5 percent fruit juice and opening of tomato processing plant in Solan.

"Besides this, during the previous Lok Sabha elections, the PM has promised to make airfare cheaper but instead the airfares become steeper and in fact, the air-services were stopped," he said.

He questioned Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on his statement that Himachal is



cated to Himachal from this package," he added.

Rathore further stated that Himachal needed a relief package as the Corona pandemic had forced closure of all small and medium industries and unemployment had increased manifold.

"PM Modi should announce a relief package to the state in view of prevalent circumstances and in addition, the state should also get special status plus special grants as Himachal plays a major role in environment conservation," he added.

State Congress chief also lashed at BJP leaders for taking credit for Atal Tunnel Rohtang and said it was former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Manmohan Singh who had a major role in construction of Rohtang tunnel.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi had laid the foundation of the tunnel on 28 June 2010 and the BJP leaders had only renamed it to Atal Tunnel Rohtang, he added.

Capital records 40 fresh Covid deaths; toll 5,401

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

Delhi today recorded 40 fresh deaths due to novel coronavirus infection (Covid-19), which pushed its Covid toll to 5,401, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. The city had yesterday reported 41 fresh fatalities due to coronavirus infection.

On 29 September, the national capital had recorded 48 deaths due to Covid - highest in 75 days - which was the highest number of Covid deaths reported in a day since 16 July, when the city had recorded 58 coronavirus fatal-

ties.

The coronavirus death count in Delhi was 37 on 28 September. It was 42 on 27 September and 46 on 26 September. On 25 September, the number of those who lost their lives due to coronavirus was 24.

HP Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday held separate meetings with Deputy Commissioners, ministers and state BJP office-bearers regarding the preparations for the 3 October event when PM Modi will dedicate Atal Tunnel to the nation.

Addressing the meeting of Cabinet ministers, MLAs and BJP office bearers, Thakur said as



HP CM Jai Ram Thakur holding a meeting on Thursday to take stock of preparations for the 3 October inauguration of Atal Tunnel by PM Modi.

was the third public function of the PM in COVID-19 pandemic after Ayodhya, which shows the importance of this tunnel for the Nation and also his benevolence towards the people of the state.

The event would have been magnificent but Corona pandemic has forced us to strictly follow the norms of social distancing, he said.

The Chief Minister also urged the party functionaries to ensure adequate coverage in the social media regarding messages welcoming PM Modi for inaugurating the Atal Tunnel and expressing gratitude towards him after the event. "PM Modi will be inaugurating the Atal Tunnel at 10 am on 3 October and he will address a public meeting at Sissu in Lahaul-Spiti dis-

trict at 12 noon and at Solang at 1.15 pm," he added.

Thakur, in a virtual meeting with Deputy Commissioners, directed them to ensure proper arrangements at all the 90 venues earmarked for LED screens for live telecast of inauguration of Atal Tunnel Rohtang.

He asked them to ensure social distancing and use of face masks by the people in these venues. "It should be ensured that the live telecast of the event be made available at headquarters of panchayats of the state.

Chief Secretary Anil Khachhi, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister JC Sharma, Advisor to Chief Minister R N Batta and Director Information and Public Relations Harbans Singh Branson were also present on the occasion.

forsitting of the people in these venues," he said. He further

stated that people should be motivated to watch live telecast on their social media handle so that maximum people could witness this event. State BJP chief Suresh Kashyap urged party functionaries to ensure maximum participation of the event at their respective places to make it a mega show.

Organizing Secretary Pawan Rana said party workers should trend #ataltunnelrohtang on their social media handle.



अटल टनल रोहतांग की विशेषताएं

9 कि.मी. लम्बी सुरंग से मनाली एवं लेह के मध्य 46 कि.मी. की दूरी कम होने से यात्रा में 5 घंटे का समय बचेगा

6 माह तक देश के शेष भाग से कटे रहने वाले क्षेत्र अब साल भर सड़क मार्ग से जुड़े रहेंगे

स्थानीय उत्पादों को देश और विदेश का बाजार उपलब्ध होगा, पर्यटन और अन्य आर्थिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा मिलेगा

यात्रियों की सुरक्षा के लिए प्रति 150 मीटर पर आपातकालीन टेलीफोन, 75 मीटर पर अग्नि हाईड्रेंट, 1 कि.मी. पर वायु गुणवत्ता अनुश्रवण तथा 500 मीटर पर आपातकालीन निकास सुविधा उपलब्ध

अटल इरादों से सपना हुआ साकार

10 हज़ार फुट की ऊँचाई पर बनी दुनिया की सबसे लम्बी राजमार्ग सुरंग

अटल टनल रोहतांग का

राष्ट्र को समर्पण

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा

3 अक्टूबर, 2020 को प्रातः 10 बजे

कार्यक्रम का सीधा प्रसारण देखिये
<https://www.facebook.com/CMOFFICEHP>
<http://www.youtube.com/c/JairamThakurbjp>

www.himachalpr.gov.in HimachalPradeshGovtPRDept DPR Himachal dprhp

सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार





Will Mr Modi hold another 'Namaste Trump' rally to honour his dear friend?

CONGRESS LEADER P CHIDAMBARAM

AFTER TRUMP ACCUSED INDIA OF CONCEALING COVID-19 DEATHS

i
ndia

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tender on the form NO 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer Nalagarh Division HP PWD Nalagarh on behalf of the Governor Of Himachal Pradesh From the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HP PWD, in the appropriate class for the work mentioned below in the presence of contractor or their authorized representative.

Time schedule of tender:-

(1) The last Date & time of receipt of Application for tender Form

16-10-2020 up to 3.00 PM.

(2) The last date of issue of tender form:

16-10-2020 up to 4.00 PM

(3) The date of opening of tender:

17-10-2020 at 11.00 A.M

Earliest money in the shape of National Saving certificate/ Time Deposit accounts/ Saving accounts in any of the Post Office/ Bank in H.P duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, HP PWD Nalagarh must be accompanied with the tender documents.

The conditional tender and the tender received without earliest money will be summarily rejected. The Executive Engineer reserves right to accept or reject any or all tenders, the tenders shall be kept open for 120 days.

The contractor should be registered as dealer Under HP VAT/ sale Tax Act 1968 and also produce sale tax clearance certificate from the Excise and Taxation Department.

Sr No	Name of work	Estimated Cost	EMD	E/Money	Time limit	Cost of Form
1	Geo-Tech investigation for safe bearing capacity by conducting standard penetration test/ DCPT as per IS:2131:6403:1998 & preparation of test report as per IRC-78 up to depth 30 m as per IS:1898 for construction of Bridge over Sirsa river on Nikuwal Mandyarpur road at Rd 1/500 Under BBNDA Deposit in Distt Solan (H.P)	450,000	9000	Two months	350/-	

Following documents should accompany the application for tender:-

1. The tender forms will not issued to those contractors whose performance is not found satisfactory .
2. Earliest money should be accompanied with application without earliest money will not be entertained.
3. The photo copy of G.S. T No /vat/ EPF/Enlistment Number should be attached with application otherwise tender form will not be issued.
4. The contractor will have to submit affidavit along with application for issue of tender that he has not more than two works in hand.
5. The contractor will have to submit Minium similar work done in last five years (without liquidated damages or compensation not less than 40 % of the estimated cost).

Executive Engineer
Nalagarh B&R Division,
HP PWD, Nalagarh

3472/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Office of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAISINGHPUR DIVISION H.P. Public Works Department, JAISINGHPUR 176095

Fax: 01894-228031, e-mail: ee-jaipwd-hp@gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Division, H.P.PWD, Jaisinghpur 176095 on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the online bids on item rate, electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved Contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD, Department.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs)	EMD (In Rs.)	Time limit	Form No.	Cost of Bidding Documents
1.	Periodical Maintenance of the road for the year 2020-21 from Deru Da Bar to Dhar Bharampuri road under (Village Road) (DRRP No. VR069) (SH:- Providing and laying 20mm thick premix carpet with seal coat at Km. 0/090 to 0/385, 0/488 to 0/915 and 2/700 to 3/00)	Rs. 5,75,702/-	11,600/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
2.	Restoration of rain Damages Galu Bhoda Shrinagar road Km. 7/0 to 13/600 (SH:- Providing and laying 20mm thick premix carpet with seal coat at Km. 12/0 to 12/200 and 12/350 to 13/00)	Rs. 8,42,206/-	16900/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
3.	C/O Hars Bus Stand to Sanjari Rama House in Km. 0/0 to 0/300 in Tehsil Jaisinghpur Distt: Kangra (HP) (SH:- C/O 8.00 mltr span RCC Slab culvert at RD 0/085 alongwith wing wall and creat work on upstream for protection of RCC slab culvert)	Rs. 19,47,800/-	36720.00	Six Month	6&8	500/-
4.	C/O Health Sub-Centre Building at Balakrupi in Tehsil Jaisinghpur Distt: Kangra (HP) (SH:- C/O Building portion alongwith W.S. & S.I. Rain water Harvestin system and 50 user septic Tank)	Rs. 18,70,839/-	35600.00	Twelve Month	6&8	500/-

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htpentrants.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids , the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA).Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD. May obtain the same from the website:- <https://htpentrants.gov.in>. Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized Case can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates.

1. Date of Online Publication:	15.10.2020 10:00 AM
2. Document Download Start and End Date:	15.10.2020 10:30 AM up to 27.10.2020 05:00 PM
3. Bid submission start and end date:	15.10.2020 10:30 AM up to 27.10.2020 05:00 PM
4. Physical Submission of EMD And Cost of Tender document	28.10.2020 up to 10:30 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of technical Bid	28.10.2020 11:00 HRS
6. Date of Financial Bid Opening	31.10.2020 11:30 HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS.

The Tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover.

- i) Cover1: Shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility information".
- ii) Cover 2: Shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid" where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. Submission of Original Documents:- The Bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of FDR duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, H.P. Public Works Department, Jaislager, Kangra (HP) as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 3 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bid shall be opened on 28.10.2020 at 11.00 HRS in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jaislager, Kangra (HP) by the authorized officer. In their interest the tenders are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 90 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Executive Engineer
Jaisinghpur Division,
HPPWD, Jaisinghpur

3472/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

e-procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer Kalpa Division, HP.PWD, Kalpa, District Kinnaur (HP) on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HPPWD, Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time allowed	Eligible class of Contractor
1	C/O Multipurpose Hall at Ice Skating Rink at Kalpa in Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH:- Building portion, WS & SI, Septic Tank and site development)	98,17,035/-	1,31,000/-	2000/-	Two Years	"B" Class
2	C/O Rain shelter cum Recreation Center near HDFC Bank at Reckong Peo in District Kinnaur (HP) (SH:- Civil work, WS & SI and site development and Dismantling of existing toilet)	15,18,065/-	30,300/-	500/-	One Year	"D" Class
3	C/O Public Toilet Near HDFC Bank at Reckong Peo in Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH:- Civil work, WS & SI and site development)	13,01,857/-	27,000/-	500/-	One Year	"D" Class
4	Extension of Bus Stand and C/O Rain shelter at Kanam in Distt. Kinnaur (HP) (SH:- Toilet block, Rain shelter, WS & SI, Septic Tank and Soak pit and R/wall)	15,55,363/-	31,000/-	500/-	One Year	"D" Class
5	Widening of Peo Township (Sector road) Km. 0/00 to 2/00 (SH:- C/O B/wall at RD: 0/132.50 to 19,97,847/-, 37,500/-, 500/- Six Months)	1/170.50 and R/wall at RD. 0/630 to 0/657, 1/045 to 1/060, 1/090 to 1/098.50, 1/265.50 to 1/305.80,	19,97,847/-	37,500/-	500/- Six Months	"D" Class

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htpentrants.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA).Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD. May obtain the same from the website:- <https://htpentrants.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized Case can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:-

1. Date of Online Publication:	14-10-2020 10:00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date:	14-10-2020 10:00 HRS up to 28-10-2020 17:30 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date:	14-10-2020 10:00 HRS up to 28-10-2020 17:30 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD And Cost of Tender Document	29-10-2020 up to 5:00 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	30-10-2020 at 11:30 HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:-

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

5. Submission of Original Documents:- The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of FDR duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Kalpa Division, HP.PWD, Kalpa and other Technical Documents in the O/O the Executive Engineer, Kalpa Division, HP.PWD, Kalpa as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 3 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. LIST OF MACHINERY, TOOL, PLANT :- The contractor/bidder must have to upload/submit the list of Machinery/tools/Equipment etc. in the form of affidavit.

7. CONTRACTOR'S REGISTRATION:- The bidders have to produce the enlistment of competent authority in appropriate class valid at the time of tender and up load as pdf.

8. GST REGISTRATION:- The bidders have to produce/upload the GST registration at the time of tender and up load as pdf.

9. Employees provident fund:- The bidders have to produce/upload the EPF No. as pdf.

10. PAN No.:- The bidders have to produce/upload the PAN No. in pdf.

11. Eligibility Criteria:-

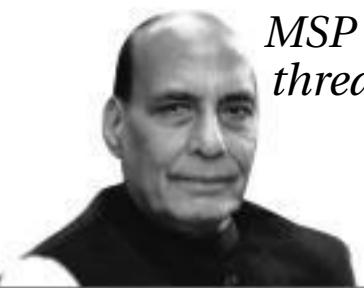
Work Done Certificate:- The bidder must have successfully completed similar nature of work not less than 40 % of estimated cost during the last five years (without liquidated damages or compensation) for Job No. 1.

Work in hand Certificate:- The bidders have to submit/upload the list of works which are completed/in hand (progress) in the proforma shown in General rule No. 19 in schedule "F". These statement should be countersigned by the Engineer-in-Charge not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent in State/Central Govt. PSUs's with their seal. The original / attested copies of same be submitted at the time of physical submission of tender.

iii) Turn over:- Bidders have to submit/upload the turnover of last five years duly certified from the Chartered Accountant in pdf. for Job No. 1.

iv) Affidavit:- Contractors have to submit an Affidavit wherein mentioned that they have not more than two works in hand in HPPWD.

12. BID OPENING DETAILS:- The bids shall be



MSP will be hiked continuously in coming years; there's no threat to farmers' land...

SEEKING TO ALLAY CONCERN OF FARMERS OVER A NEW SET OF LEGISLATIONS AMID PROTESTS

UNION MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 02 OCTOBER 2020

The Statesman

05

CBI did not probe possibility of Pakistan intel agencies' role in Babri case: Court

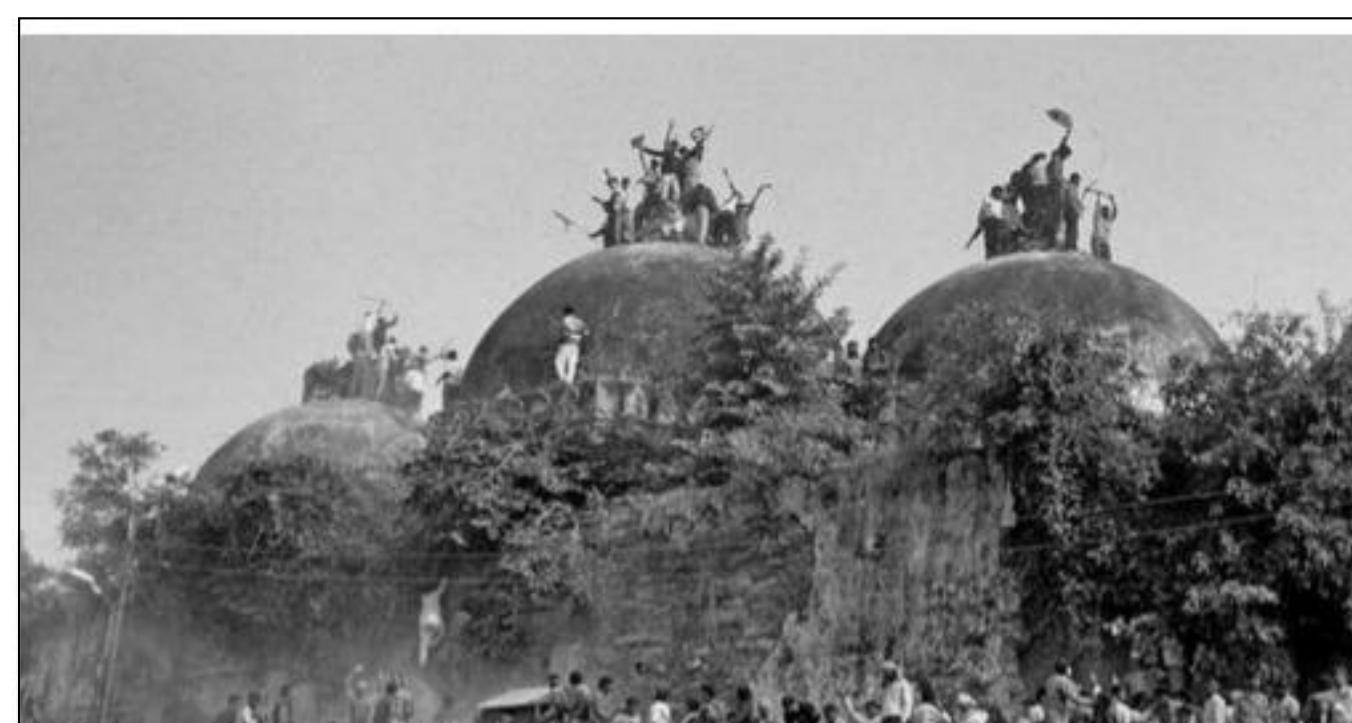
Special Judge SKYadav referred to inconsistencies in testimonies of several prosecution witnesses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW, 1 OCTOBER

A special court here has said the CBI did not probe on an "important" secret information that people from Pakistan intelligence agency may have also entered and damaged the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya to foment communal disturbances in the country.

Special Judge S K Yadav referred to inconsistencies in testimonies of several prosecution witnesses while holding that the charge of criminal conspiracy to demolish the structure and other charges were not proved against 32 high-profile accused in the case.

In the 2,300 page-long verdict written in Hindi, the judge said the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) case became weaker or "forceless" in view of the fact that it did not probe and ruled out the Pakistan angle to the demolition to make the criminal conspiracy charge stand the judi-



cial scrutiny.

The special CBI judge observed this on Wednesday in the judgement while acquitting the accused, including veteran BJP leaders L K Advani and M M Joshi, of conspiring to raze the structure among other charges.

The court said the CBI's allegations against the accused persons "become forceless also because it did not investigate a report sent by Local Intelligence Unit (LIU) on 5

December, 1992, that on 6 December, 1992, some persons from Pakistani intelligence agencies may cause damage to the disputed structure after merging with the local crowd".

It noted that there were local intelligence reports that on 2 December, 1992, itself some 'maajaa' (shrine) were broken and set on fire by persons from the Muslim community with an aim to vitiate the communal atmosphere so that 'kar seva' (voluntary service) may be

interrupted. It cited an LIU report, which was signed by Inspector General (security), Uttar Pradesh, that said "persons related to Pakistani intelligence agencies have merged with the masses in Ayodhya and they may create unrest in the state and the country by damaging the disputed structure with explosives and other means".

The court also noted that there were reports that explosives originated from Pak-

istan had reached Ayodhya via Delhi, while another intelligence report had warned the administration that "about 100 persons, including anti-social/anti-national elements, from Udhampur area of Jammu and Kashmir are coming to Ayodhya in the garb of kar sevaks (volunteers)".

The reports were received by authorities concerned and acted upon, the court observed.

The case is related to the razing of the disputed structure in Ayodhya on 6 December, 1992, which triggered riots for several months leaving nearly 2,000 people dead across the country.

The structure was demolished by 'kar sevaks' who claimed that the 16th century Babri mosque in Ayodhya was built on the site of an ancient Ram temple.

The 32 accused included former deputy prime minister Advani, former Union ministers Joshi and Uma Bharti, former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh during whose tenure the structure was pulled down, besides Vishva Hindu Parishad leaders Vinay

Katiyar and Sadvi Rithambra. Charges were framed against 49 people, but 17 (including stalwarts like Ashok Singhal, Balasaheb Thackeray, Vijayraje Scindia) have died during the course of the trial.

The serious criminal conspiracy charge against the accused was first dropped by the trial court in 2001. The verdict was upheld by the Allahabad High Court in 2010, but the Supreme Court ordered restoration of the conspiracy charge against the accused on 19 April, 2017.

The charge of conspiracy was in addition to other charges, including promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion. The CBI had argued that the accused conspired and instigated 'kar sevaks' to demolish the 16th century mosque. However, the accused had pleaded innocence, maintaining there is no evidence to prove their guilt and claiming that they were implicated by the then Congress government at the Centre as political vendetta.

While Pakistan asserted at the forum that there was an incitement of hatred in India, the Indian diplomat said, "We are not baffled that Pakistan does well when it comes to inciting hatred against religious minorities and targeting our leadership with hate speeches. It's well-cherished and inherited culture of hatred makes it the perfect candidate for carrying forward the legacy of intolerance against anybody having modern views on human rights."

He said, "Pakistan's India focus agenda demonstrates its own hollowness when it comes to accountability and justice for oppressing those standing for their rights. The pathetic state of affairs for journalists and human rights defenders is well known when the deep state could make prominent journalists disappear in broad daylight at the heart of Pakistan."

Badhe said silence was the apt word for journalists and human rights defenders effected through enforced disappearances, murders, detentions, custodial deaths and torture in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Pakistan occupied parts of Indian Union Territories of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

India: Pakistan-controlled territories death traps for journalists & minorities

STATESMAN NEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

Exercising its Right of Reply after Pakistan again raised Kashmir and minority issues at the 45th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, India hauled Pakistan over the coals, saying the country and territories under its control were death traps for journalists, human rights defenders, social activists and religious and ethnic minorities.

Resorting to 'abusive' and 'unacceptable' language against India in this August forum could not rectify Pakistan's dubious human rights record, Pawan Kumar Badhe, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in Geneva said.

"Perennial India bashing project of Pakistan in the UN system is also not going to change the fact that hundreds of journalists and human rights defenders die each year in Pakistan due to systematic killings including extra-judicial ones. Incessant attempts to malign India in all the international forums is also not going to change the fact that tens of thousands of minorities would not stop fleeing Pakistan," he said.

women in the state.

If the BJP high command cannot do this, then they should have a little mercy on the people of UP and improve the law and order situation by imposing the president's rule in the state," she added.

Reacting to the BSP leader's statement, state government spokesperson and Cabinet Minister Siddhartha Nath Singh said, "Mayawati ji you become the leader of Scheduled Castes but you forgot that during your tenure a thousand Dalits were killed; and today you are giving us a lecture."

When asked about Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi's plans to visit Hathras, he said, "Why are they not going to Rajasthan? Will Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi/Vadra not give answers on what is happening in Rajasthan," he said, adding that they wanted to play politics over the Hathras incident.

Replace UP CM or impose President's rule: Mayawati

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW, 1 OCTOBER



Police personnel detain students during a protest following accusations of police forcibly cremating the body of a 19-year-old gang-rape victim, outside the Delhi University campus in New Delhi on Thursday.

to protect them, you should resign, she asserted.

A 22-year-old Dalit woman

died in Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur district on Tues-

day after allegedly being

raped by two men. She suc-

cumbing to her injuries on

the day the Hathras woman

died in a Delhi hospital, two

weeks after she was alleged-

ly gangraped.

Both were cremated on

Wednesday.

Mayawati said the Yogi

Adityanath government was

not waking up despite con-

tinuous atrocities against

Minor girl raped in UP's

Bulandshahr, accused held

ducted.

According to the com-

plaint registered by the 14-year-

old victim's father, the girl was

sleeping in the courtyard of

their house along with her fam-

ily members on Tuesday night

when the accused alleged-

ly barged into their house

and drugged her. He then

allegedly took her somewhere

near the house and raped the

minor girl. He also threat-

ened her

that he will throw acid on

her face if she dares to inform

anyone about it.

Later, some of the victim's

family members freed the girl

and caught Rizwan whose

family members also came and

allegedly helped him to escape

from there. He was later arrested

by the police.

AAP giving tough competition to BJP & Congress in Ladakh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 1 OCTOBER

The Aam Admi Party (AAP)

that has for the first time

jumped into the election

arena of Leh's Ladakh

Autonomous Hill Develop-

ment Council (LAHDC) is

expected to play spoilsport

for the old-timers of the BJP

and Congress.

This is the first election in

Ladakh in which the AAP is

participating.

The LAHDC has become

more important after Ladakh

becoming a union territory

as a result of which it has lost

the four Assembly seats that

were reserved for it in the J&K Legislative Assembly.

The AAP is reportedly get-

ting good response particu-

larly from the youth and also

the certain elements from the

BJP and Congress.

The party's poll plank is

6th Schedule for Ladakh

under which the cold desert

region would get protec-

tion for land, jobs and cul-

ture.

The party has already

announced the first list of 8

candidates for the 26 mem-

ber LAHDC and was on

Thursday busy deliberating

on candidates for the leftover

constituencies.

INCREASE IN FREQUENCY OF POORVA EXPRESS SPECIAL

This is notified for the information of all concerned that railways have decided to increase the frequency of train no. 02303/02304 Howrah Jn.- New Delhi Poorva special (via-Patna) & 02381/02382 Howrah Jn.- New Delhi Poorva Special (via-Dhanbad) as per following details:-

Train No. & Train Name	Days of Run	Date(s) from originating station
02303 Howrah Jn. - New Delhi Spl. Poorva Express (via-Patna)	From Howrah Mon, Tue, Fri & Sat	From 05.10.2020
02304 New Delhi Jn. - Howrah Spl. Poorva Express (via-Patna)	From New Delhi Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun	From 08.10.2020
02381 Howrah Jn. - New Delhi Spl. Poorva Express (via-Dhanbad)	From Howrah Wed, Thu & Sun	From 07.10.2020
02382 New Delhi Jn. - Howrah Spl. Poorva Express (via-Dhanbad)	From New Delhi Mon, Tue & Fri	From 06.10.2020

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

Integrated Helpline No. 139



NORTHERN RAILWAY
visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

2119/20

Keshubhai reappointed Somnath Trust chairman

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, 1 OCTOBER

Raising questions over the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh, BSP chief Mayawati on Thursday demanded that either the state's chief minister be replaced or the president's rule imposed.

Referring to deaths of two women in Hathras and Balrampur regions of the state, she said the incidents are reminiscent of the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape and murder in Delhi.

"In the wake of the law and order situation in the state and a flood of crimes against women, the Union government should replace Yogi Adityanath with some 'kaabir' (capable) person

Sad reflection

The verdict by a special court in Lucknow acquitting leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party and of groups affiliated to it in the demolition of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya on 6 December 1992 is a sad reflection on the quality of the investigation by the prosecuting agency, but equally on the judiciary. For in concluding that the demolition was a spontaneous act by several thousand people gathered on the site that fateful date, the court refused to take cognisance of mountains of evidence that suggested the contrary. For refusing to place credence on newspaper reports, on the ground that originals were not submitted; video footage, on the ground that it had not been forensically validated and photographs, on the ground that negatives were not supplied, the judge may be accused of being overly technical. But how does this reflect on the Central Bureau of Investigation which even with its record of botching up sensitive cases ought to have anticipated these basic objections? This newspaper, for instance, had in the days just before the demolition, published despatches from a reporter who had disguised himself as a kar sevak, joined a contingent from Delhi to Ayodhya, and had participated in drills on how to use various tools to pull a structure down before returning on the eve of the demolition to file his reports. The fact that such training took place flies in the face of the conclusion that the demolition was a spontaneous act. At best, the judge might have raised questions on the proof offered to suggest that some leaders either conspired to cause the demolition or exhorted those who carried it out. But to reach the conclusion that none of those accused was involved in bringing kar sevaks to the site, or in preparing them for the demolition, or both, the judge would appear to have erred grievously, an error that may have been exposed had television channels replayed footage from 1992 which the government forbade them to.

But beyond quibbles on the quality of this judgment, greater concern must be voiced about its consequences. For it will widen the schism in Indian society – one that was created 28 years ago with the demolition – and heighten fears that other mosques, principally those in Varanasi and Mathura, will be targeted next. Certainly if an egregious act of violence carried out in full public glare in 1992, when the BJP did not control the Union government, could result in the perpetrators getting away scot free, it will only embolden those Hindu groups that three weeks ago revived the demand for the Varanasi and Mathura mosques. This is a slippery slope, and it will require sagacity and skill to both defuse the tensions that the verdict will arouse and to ensure that hotheads – on either side of the communal divide – do not use it as an opportunity to inflame passions. We lived in troubled times even before the Lucknow verdict; now, our troubles may be growing.

AIADMK on brink

The ruling AIADMK's "One Party, Two Leaders" experiment in Tamil Nadu to safeguard the party's government after the death of J Jayalalitha in December 2016 is on the brink. The executive committee meeting of the party convened on Monday to finalise its Chief Ministerial candidate for the coming Assembly election ended in a deadlock. Accidental Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami selected by Sasikala, the aide of Jayalalitha undergoing a four-year jail term in Bengaluru for amassing wealth beyond her legitimate sources of income, has consolidated his position in the last three and a half years and does not want to yield the coveted post to O Panneerselvam, Deputy Chief Minister who had been selected thrice as Chief Minister by Jayalalitha herself during her periods of incarceration in corruption cases. Having been Chief Minister thrice, and that too as the chosen vessel of Jayalalitha, Panneerselvam considers his claim to be stronger than that of Palaniswami's, who was chosen by Sasikala. Neither wants to leave it to the AIADMK Legislature Party to choose the leader, which is the democratic way of doing things. Into the deadlock comes the news that Sasikala will be out of jail on 27 January 2021, well ahead of the Assembly election in May next. Before going to jail, Sasikala was all set to take over as Chief Minister in February 2017. She had asked Panneerselvam, who was officiating as Chief Minister during Jayalalitha's terminal illness, to step down and he obliged. The Supreme Court put paid to her ambition of succeeding Jayalalitha as Chief Minister by upholding her conviction and sentence.

Although the law does not permit Sasikala to contest any election for six years after her release, there is always an exception to the rule. If the Union government and the Election Commission of India decide in her favour, she can contest the coming Assembly election in Tamil Nadu and undoubtedly there will be no contest for the Chief Minister's post in that case. All she has to do is to agree to be a handmaiden of the government at the Centre, which she is reluctant to commit at this stage. Prem Singh Thamong of Sikkim was given such an exception by the Election Commission and the BJP government. Sasikala has depoted her nephew TTV Dhinakaran, leader of the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazham, a splinter AIADMK group, to Delhi last week to explore the possibilities. Palaniswami and Panneerselvam have also sent their emissaries to Delhi to plead their respective cases. Panneerselvam along with 10 of his supporters voted against Chief Minister Palaniswami when he sought a confidence vote in the Assembly in early 2017 and the government should have fallen then itself. Palaniswami wooed him by making him Deputy Chief Minister. The Speaker of the Assembly failed in his duty to disqualify the 11 who voted against the motion and his inaction was condoned by the judiciary. The internecine quarrel among leaders of the AIADMK has only strengthened the chances of the Opposition DMK capturing Fort St George.

Danger Indoors

Indoor pollution is a grave and dangerous problem. According to the Global Burden of Disease Study, indoor pollution is a major contributor to ill-health and premature mortality rates in India. About 4.3 million people die from exposure to household air pollution annually according to World Health Organization



Human society has reached a critical threshold in its relation to its environment. In modern times, several environmental problems pose serious challenges and threats to mankind. Pollution is prominent among them. It is ubiquitous and deep. With the continual improvement in our quality of life, most of us believe that life today is generally healthier than in the past. Doctors and medical scientists, certainly, tell us that we are truly healthier than we have ever been, arguing that medical science has eradicated many of the killer diseases of the twentieth century and mortality rates have fallen.

What they rarely say is that while medical science has obviously eliminated many of the killer diseases, they have been replaced by a growing list of new disorders like cancer, asthma, heart diseases, allergies, chemical poisoning, infertility etc. – often less obvious but no less dangerous. What is striking about modern society is not how healthy it is, but how unhealthy.

With the rapid development of economies and booming population growth, various kinds of pollution – given as the presence of a wrong thing, in wrong place, in wrong quantity, and at wrong time – have been produced. Among various pollution problems, air pollution has caused major concern over the world due to its widespread nature, damage to our environment and potential health risk to humans. A study, conducted jointly by a team of scientists from different institutions spread across India, estimated the impacts of exposure to air pollution and established that about 1.24 million deaths in 2017 were attributable to air pollution. Of these, about 52.4 per cent were of persons aged less than 70 years; the average life expectancy would have been higher by 1.7 years had the air pollution levels been less than the minimum level. No matter where we are, we are always at risk of exposure to airborne pollutants from both indoor and outdoor sources.

Numerous studies in physics, chemistry, geography, and other relevant areas have been conducted to investigate the cause of seriousness of the air pollution problems. Simultaneously, the issue of indoor air pollution also piqued the interest of many scientists, as people spend most of their times (>80 per cent) indoors. Although the time people spend indoors varies with season, age, gender, type of work, health conditions, and so on, good air quality can safeguard the health of occupants and increase the productivity of

workers. Generally, indoor air quality is expected to be better than outdoor air quality due to shielding effects of buildings and possible installation of ventilation and air cleaning devices. But in combined indoor and outdoor air quality studies, more than 2/3ds have found indoor air pollutant concentrations higher than outdoor. Many studies have also indicated that indoor air quality is highly affected by the outdoor air quality.

Indoor pollution is a grave and dangerous problem. According to the Global Burden of Disease Study, indoor pollution is a major contributor to ill-health and premature mortality rates in India. According to Dr Srinath Reddy of Public

Health Foundation of India: "About 280 crore people are exposed to indoor pollution across the globe of which 78 crore people are in India." About 4.3 million people die from exposure to household air pollution annually according to World Health Organisation (WHO). A number of air pollutants – organic, inorganic, biological or even radioactive – have been recognised to exist indoors, including NO_x, SO₂, O₃, CO, volatile and semi volatile organic compounds (VOCs), PM, radon, and microorganisms. Some of these pollutants such as NO_x, SO₂, O₃, PM are common to both indoor and outdoor environments, and some may have originated outdoors. Ill effects of these pollutants depends upon the toxicity, concentration and exposure time of pollutants, and may vary from person to person.

The common effect is called sick building syndrome (SBS), in which people experience uncomfortable or acute health effects such as irritation in eyes, nose or throat, skin allergies, and so on. The cause of SBS is yet to be known, but the syndrome may disappear once the person affected by SBS leaves the room or the building. SBS can be reduced appreciably by improving ventilation rate of the room.

From cleaning agents used at home to perfumes sprayed on pets, everything leads to indoor pollution at homes. However, a few most common indoor pollutants, their sources and the health hazards they lead to are mentioned here.

One of the best known persistent volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in the home is formaldehyde. It is a gas that comes mainly from carpets,

latex paints, fabric and cheap furniture. Inhalation of formaldehyde causes flu-like symptoms, rashes, neurological illnesses and ultimately cancer. Sources of many other VOCs are solvents and chemicals in perfumes, hair sprays, furniture polish, glues, air fresheners, moth repellents and wood preservatives.

Hazardous effects include irritation of eyes, nose and throat. In more severe cases there may be headaches, nausea and loss of coordination. In the long term, some of the pollutants are also suspected to damage the liver and other organs.

In addition, people sometimes apply inappropriate pesticides directly to indoor surfaces, unaware that they are causing

their own high exposures. Pesticides that break down within days outdoor may last for years in carpets, where they are protected from the degradation caused by sunlight and bacteria. Carpets are most troublesome because they act as deep reservoirs of toxic compounds.

For many years, the treatment for lice and mites

has involved a healthy dose of toxic pesticides. Three types of pesticides used in the preparations are organophosphates, carbamate and pyrethroid. All are neurotoxins, which have also been shown to interfere with the functioning of the immune system. They can also cause endocrine disruption which may not become apparent until a child is older. Some lice shampoo also contains lindane, which when inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin, causes vomiting and diarrhea. Carbaryl and pyrethroids are considered to be potential carcinogens. The most dangerous chemicals included in personal care products are ammonia derivatives, such as diethanolamine, triethanolamine, and monoethanolamine. Known to have hormone-disrupting effects, they are added to soaps, bubble baths and facial cleaners. When they are mixed with products containing nitrates, carcinogenic nitrosamines can be formed.

Many chemicals found in common perfumes and fragrances are designated as 'hazardous', including methylene chloride, toluene, methyl ethyl ketone, toluene, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isopropyl ketone, ethyl alcohol and benzyl chloride. Many can cause cancers, birth defects, CNS disorders and allergic conditions. Some doctors believe that perfumes are as

damaging to health as tobacco smoke. Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), including second-hand smoke, causes respiratory irritation, bronchitis and pneumonia in children, emphysema, lung cancer and heart diseases.

Biological pollutants like mites, dust, fungi, parasites are mostly allergens that can cause asthma, hay fever, and other allergic diseases. Tobacco smoke, heaters, gas stoves and furnaces are the sources of carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen dioxide. Among other things, CO attacks bloodstream and the central nervous system. Exposure to low-level doses of CO can cause nausea, dizziness, headache, ingestion etc. and even be fatal.

There is substantial data available in India, and globally, about the health consequences for women and children due to indoor pollution caused by solid fuel use in households. Household air pollution caused by combustion solid fuel, mainly in chulhas, is responsible for 1.04 million premature deaths and 31.4 million lost life years annually in India which is much higher than premature deaths and lost life years due to outdoor air pollution.

In India, an estimated four lakh deaths from acute lower respiratory infection (ALRI) in children younger than five and 34,000 deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in women are attributed annually to household solid fuel use. Globally, exposure to indoor smoke from solid fuels is responsible for over half of the 1.8 million annual deaths from acute lower respiratory infections, making it largest environmental factor causing ill health and lost life years due to outdoor air pollution.

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A MEMBER OF THE

ANN
ASIAN VOICES

Regulations pile up

The government and the ruling Democratic Party of Korea keep tightening business regulations. They appear determined to demotivate companies. Business circles appealed to them for days to reconsider three "fair economy" bills. But they are adamant. The ruling party is poised to pass them through the National Assembly. Under the banner of a fair economy, they proposed bills to revise the commercial law and fair trade law, and enact the financial group supervision law, but companies worry about the bills exposing their managerial right to threats from speculative foreign investors while offering few self-defense tools. If businesses are compelled into a situation where they must concentrate on defending their management right, they will likely be distracted from business and investment. To add to their troubles, the Ministry of Justice suddenly announced bills last week to expand class action and punitive damages to all industries. The ministry on Monday began to gather opinions on the proposed legislation. The announcement came less than a month after the government proposed the three bills to the National Assembly.

A class action is undertaken by one or more plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and all other persons having an identical interest in the alleged wrong. It is understandable that this is useful in protecting consumer rights. But corporate concerns about excessive litigations must be considered as well. Korea introduced a class action system in 2005 with regard to securities transactions, but made related procedures difficult to prevent lawsuit abuse. This time, the ministry simplified the procedures and also allowed a jury in the first trial if plaintiffs want. A jury trial in a civil suit raises concerns about the influence of

The Korea Herald
public opinion, particularly from vociferous civic or consumer groups. Under the proposed legislation, class action is applied retroactively. Experts note that this goes against the constitutional principle of nonretroactivity of law. Punitive damages are effective in preventing companies from violating laws malignantly. However, these may cause heavy legal expenses to companies. Punitive awards are five times the compensatory damage in cases of malignant offenses. The burden of proof lies with companies. They must prove they did nothing wrong to avoid punitive damages. If punitive damages are imposed in addition to a fine and a criminal penalty, they effectively violate the constitutional principle against double punishment.

It is problematic, too, to subject the press to punitive damages for misinformation. The concept of "malignant fake news" is ambiguous. Freedom of expression may be intimidated. Protection of consumer interests are important, but adverse effects of class action and punitive damages must be removed. Excessive litigations can exhaust corporate resources. Even if a company wins a lawsuit, damage to its public image and revenue will be inevitable.

Small businesses may go bankrupt if they cannot afford to pay out astronomical recompense. Attorneys may file frivolous lawsuits just to earn quick settlements. The ruling party has proposed a bill to keep large retailers up to "20 kilometers" away from the boundary of a traditional market. The existing distance is 1 kilometer. Though existing large retailers are exceptions from the new distance regulation, critics note that it is practically impossible for new distributors to find proper sites for their retail outlets 20 km away from any traditional market. Protection of mom-and-pop stores is important, but large retailers should be able to compete and survive.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

A titan departs

SIR, The world of music is poorer with the death of S P Balasubrahmanyam whose singing career spanned over five decades. He had a golden voice that would fit varied human emotions. From a soothing lullaby to an upbeat number, he could lend his vocals to all kinds of music with ease and grace. Balasubrahmanyam sang in 16 languages and won the National Award six times. After K J Yesudas, he was only the second male singer from southern India to make a name for himself in the Hindi film industry. Much like his idol, Mohammed Rafi, Balasubrahmanyam

will be remembered for his soothing and melodious voice. Despite scaling dizzy heights and becoming an icon, he was the epitome of humility. In many ways, he was akin to the cricketing icon, Sachin Tendulkar, who shared an emotional message following the singer's death. The genial giant will always live in our hearts through his immortal songs. His popularity is evident from the fact that so many people gathered to bid him goodbye on his final journey braving the pandemic.

Yours, etc., Narayan Chandra Ghosh, Madanpur, 1 October.



NEW METHODS

SIR, This is with reference to Anupriyo Mallick's article "Learning from tomorrow" (The Statesman, 25 September). The whole system of education has been changed after Covid-19 and the lockdowns. The teachers face a huge challenge to adapt with the changing scenario. Adaptability and updation are the two factors teachers must lay stress on, or they will perish.

Now knowledge is not as important as presentation; they must know how to prepare Power Point presentations and visual aids. Teachers also face the risk of being exposed, especially at the primary level, as guardians will be assessing their knowledge constantly. It is not easy to include students in the teaching methodology as most of them are reticent about joining the discussion.

The writer has rightly pointed out "... a combination of imagination, innovation and collaboration will make their journey rewarding". These three things are important for the new normal.

Yours, etc., Abhijit Chakraborty, Howrah, 25 September.

A K GHOSH

As for food, India had plenty of fertile land; there is enough water and no dearth of manpower... The public should be educated to become self-reliant. Once they know that they have got to stand on their own legs, it would electrify the atmosphere". (Harijan, 19 October 1947)

Would it be out of place to suggest that 2 October be declared a day of self-reliance if only to remind ourselves of the danger of fresh enslavement coming from the new world order?

It is ironic that even after 73 years of a pseudo self-reliant model of development, the nation has been pushed towards dependent globalization. It is natural, therefore, to talk about atmanirbhar Bharat, a call like the one dubbed as Swadeshi given by Mahatma Gandhi nearly a century ago.

The Gandhian concept of Swadeshi is highly relevant for nations struggling to achieve independence and looking for a model of development. The Mahatma did not think of narrow nationalistic terms and certainly not in terms of the boycott of foreign goods. All that Swadeshi meant to him was a high degree of self-reliance at various levels - individual, social, political and, of course, economic.

Gandhiji laid great stress on self-reliance among the basic units of society, the villages and other communities where production is for use and not for exchange. Production for exchange, in his scheme of things, facilitates and promotes contacts between one village and another and between the countryside and the urban centers, but these are determined by the limits set by priority given to production for use. As such, the concept of self-reliance was designed to avoid domination of villages by cities. The Mahatma wanted the same principle to be extended to relationships between India and other nations in order to eliminate the risk of exploitation by either side. There are some serious misconceptions about the Gandhian approach which relate to his general concepts. They also have a bearing on economic issues. Gandhi is wrongly described as a technophobe. It is known that technology is overexploiting nature and other resources and is increasingly becoming anti-life. But from this to conclude that all technology is bad is incorrect. Gandhi's attack on the technologist and the machine-man was launched in a special historical context. Otherwise, his whole approach is known as Experiment with truth which is truly scientific.

It is often held that Gandhi was

Gandhi's vision of a self-reliant India



against capital-intensive technologies and was in favour only of labour-intensive technologies. There was no such absolutism in Gandhi. All technologies which were consistent with his conceptual system and economic objectives, particularly, full employment were acceptable to him.

It is also said that Gandhi was against industrialisation as such. But, in fact, he was against the excessively acquisitive spirit of profit making. He was against the Satanic spirit of industrialism. Industrialism run on greed or profit motives alone was unacceptable. State bureaucracy produces the same results. That industries run on a trusteeship basis formed the core of his economic ideology. He was not a votary of the economies of scale, but it would be ridiculous to suggest that he would have rejected the economies of scale if it also meant reduction of human drudgery. Similarly, it is a travesty of truth to say that he was against industrialisation. Only he has his own scheme of industries. What he is totally opposed was the spirit behind both Soviet and capitalist industrialism.

It is generally contended that Gandhi believed only in villages. His repeated references to pre-British village societies is often quoted as an example of his bias. Gandhi wanted all villages to be modern with facilities such as electricity, water and other provisions which make the life of people comfortable. What he aimed at was a balance between cities and villages, between mass societies and communities. It is said that Gandhi was a philosophical anarchist, which may not be taken for granted as he was in favour of all large-scale industries being in the public sector. Both private and public sectors were to become a part of the Trusteeship system.

Swadeshi is both an ideology and a system of policies and practices. As the Marxist and Keynesian models of growth have come to rely more and more on the artificial multiplication of personal or collective wants, the concept of Swadeshi has come to acquire special importance. For while it is bad enough that more than one-half of mankind should still be living in abject poverty, it is worse that the ethos of the affluent capitalist West should have

gripped the minds and hearts of the elites in the poorer countries and make them not only materially but also spiritually dependent on others.

It is a paradox of our times that self-conscious elites in search of economic independence have ended up by producing models of economic growth which increase rather than reduce dependence. The position can only worsen unless the elites learn to limit their own wants.

In one of his famous works published in Hind Swaraj (1919), Gandhi expressed his views on how modern machinery was enslaving a whole generation of Indians like nothing before. While, on the surface, it may make the Mahatma seem opposed to machinery, the reality is that of all the symbols that Gandhi used to invoke hope and pride in the hearts of millions of Indians, it was the machine - the famous Charkha - that became the most recognizable one. In 1921, he even expressed how he believed machinery could be the answer to all the problems of the Indian masses: "I would favour the use of the most elaborate machinery if thereby India's

pauperism and resulting idleness be avoided. I have suggested hand-spinning as the only ready means of driving away penury and making famine of work and wealth impossible".

Thus, Gandhi had promoted the use of Khadi clothing in the 1920s as an approach for empowering people with technology, and for opposing the commercial interests of the British. The vision behind the movement was to make people self-reliant. This philosophy leads us to believe that the promotion of Khadi was aimed at achieving Gandhi's wish that people be made self-reliant.

Mechanization and large-scale production may not provide the solution to problems of poverty and unemployment. A self-sufficient village economy may be a solution according to Gandhi and in this context the role of institutions in the rural sector like the village panchayat and rural multi-purpose cooperative can play a role to fulfill Gandhi's dream of a self-sufficient village economy?

The writer, a former Associate Professor, Department of English, Gurudas College, is now with the Rabindra Bharati University.

A train-wreck too awful to watch

ASFAQUE SWAPAN

US President Donald Trump could give Caligula a run for his money. The deranged, violent Roman emperor had once made his donkey a consul, but Trump is no slouch when it comes to outrageous behaviour.

At the first presidential debate in Cleveland, he ripped apart all etiquette and civilised norms in one of the more hallowed quadrennial traditions of US politics: the presidential debate. The debate between Trump and his Democratic opponent Joe Biden was like a train-wreck, awful to watch.

US presidential debates are decorous, staid affairs - and something of a bore. Debaters are too cagey and apprehensive, like two boxers eyeing each other warily, reluctant to get into an actual fight.

I shall presently reflect upon this disaster of a debate, or the lack thereof, and how this affects the political horse race. But first, allow me to express my outrage.

Trump's shameless, unseemly bullying marks this debate as a shameful, historical landmark in US political history. I cannot remember a single political event in the past 50 years in the Western world remotely comparable to Trump's unpardonable behaviour.

After it was over, I rubbed my eyes and pinched myself. Whew! Did that really happen? Or did I slither

down a rabbit hole like little Alice in Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" and crash into a surreal dystopian netherworld?

But that's just Trump being Trump. He has kicked off the guardrails of norms that protect and sustain US democratic institutions. From a callous disregard for Congress to using the White House as a political prop, Trump has sullied, defaced and devalued all that has come before him. Then there's his cringingly juvenile predawn tweets and constant, wearying mendacity. Unique among any Western democratic leaders, he has refused to pledge to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses. He continues to make unfounded claims of massive fraud of mail voting, undermining public trust in elections.

His debate strategy was about as subtle as a bazooka. The plan was to harangue Biden so relentlessly that he barely had a chance to speak.

The debate comes at a critical time of the US presidential campaign. Biden leads substantially in national polls and in most of the battleground states where the results will be decided.

On top of that, Biden is doing well in several states which Trump won in 2016, thus enlarging the field and forcing the Trump campaign to spread itself thin. Early voting has already begun and there is no time to turn the tide. Trump decided to go for broke because he figured what worked for him in 2016 ought to work for him in 2020.



The problem for Trump is that the political landscape has changed. There's no significant third party to siphon off support, and Biden is nowhere as reviled as Hillary Clinton was. His lead is also more solid.

The biggest challenge for Trump is the fact that he no longer has the, well, trump card that he did last time. In 2016, he was an outsider offering to shake up the system. This year he is an incumbent saddled with a global pandemic, an economic meltdown and nationwide social unrest. Surveys continue to show that voters are deeply dissatisfied with his handling of Covid-19.

Biden may benefit from the

debate. Notwithstanding Trump's attempts to muzzle him during the debate, he stood his ground. He was often articulate, and no longer will Trump be able to call him senile and make it stick.

The whole idea of a debate with Trump is absurd. He is the classical carnival barker, hustling, promising wonderful things which, generally, have very little relationship with the truth.

The question is whether it will wash. One remarkable thing about this election season is how stable public opinion has been. The US is going through a global pandemic, economic meltdown and nationwide social unrest over racism, but you

wouldn't be able to tell that by looking at polls during the year. The needle hasn't moved all that much.

That's bad news for Trump, because Biden has been comfortably ahead most of the time. Trump has to make something happen. Fast.

That awful thuggish performance during the debate was probably Trump's idea of a game changer.

Only the game may not change. Biden was quite adept at underlining critical points. One was that the threat to Obamacare will throw tens of millions of people out of health coverage. Trump's insistence that he had a plan rang hollow as did his defence of his administration's handling of Covid-19. He made big promises of early vaccines, but again with no proof, as usual.

Pollsters say public concern about Obamacare and Covid-19 are hanging like a millstone around Trump's neck. For all his fireworks and bluster, it's not clear his remarks will convince sceptics.

At the end of the day, his performance was vintage Trump. It was loud, brash, flamboyant and crude. Here's a man who revels in tabloid glory and the faux glamour of being a celebrity who plays a tycoon on TV, not the other way around.

His strategy to hustle, paint the Democrats as the radical left, and generate enough racial fear backfired in 2018. Democrats swept into power in the US House.

He is trying the same strategy for November. Will it work? Trump's constant talk about mail voting fraud suggests even he is not sure.

The Daily Star/ANN.

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The position of the cotton operatives in Lancashire is somewhat curious one. The demand for "holiday wages" mentioned in today's telegram probably proceeds in the main from the workmen in the Preston and neighbouring area, where the work done was formerly for the Indian market. For some time the mills specialising on the Indian trade have been resorting to various short time specifics, while the rest of the Lancashire mills have been working at top speed and are still failing to cope with the demand. Those in Lancashire who are interested in the Indian market still entertain the belief that Lancashire will ultimately recover all and more than all the position she formerly held in this country. Those who know the intricacies of the problem - political no less than industrial - from the Indian side believe that she will never do so. In the meantime the immediate anxiety in Lancashire is as to the means of satisfying one section of the workers without disturbing the vast majority, who are having "the time of their lives." An additional factor in the position is the strong conservative feeling among large sections of the operatives themselves induced by the fact that, as a result of the recent recapitalisation and the gamble in cotton-mill shares, most of the working men are now part owners of the mills in which they work.

NEWS ITEMS

THE LATE MR. JOHN SHUTER

It was a shock to cricketers, says a correspondent of the Times, to learn that Mr. John Shuter was dead. No one meeting him for the first time this summer would have imagined he was in his 66th year, as he did not look within 10 years of his age. He was born on February 9, 1855. In September last he succeeded Mr. Findlay as Surrey's secretary, and was thus until the end in closest touch with the club for which in his younger days he did so much. Mr. Shuter was a fine batsman, but it is chiefly as captain of the Surrey eleven that he will live in cricket history. Mr. Shuter played his first match for Surrey in 1877, having two years earlier made an appearance for Kent - the county in which he always lived.

IRELAND

Mr. Bonar Law announced in the Commons that the Bill dealing with disorders in Ireland would be introduced and passed. Replying to a very large deputation of members of the Houses of Lords and Commons who waited on Mr. Lloyd George on the subject of Ireland, the Prime Minister invited them to await the introduction of the above-mentioned legislation which would be most drastic. Whatever happened, Ireland could not be allowed to leave the Empire. He denied the report that armed guards were no longer provided for Government munitions sent by railway. He declared that railwaymen refusing to convey military goods, troops and police continued to be instantly dismissed.

CEYLON REFORMS

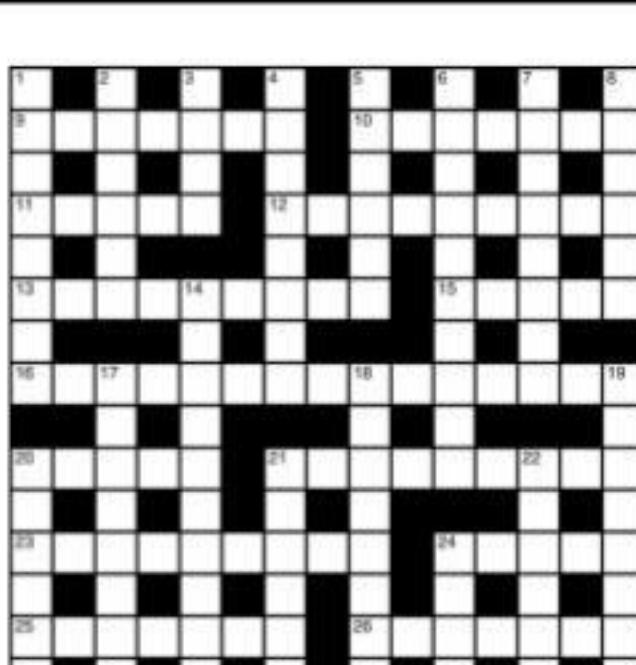
In the course of his statement in the Commons on the Ceylon Reforms, Colonel Amery said that eleven unofficial members of the Legislative Council would be elected on a territorial basis. The franchise and qualifications of the candidates would follow the proposals of the Ceylon National Congress. One member would be elected by the Chamber of Commerce, and one by the Low Country Products Association. As soon as arrangements could be made, the demarcation of constituencies and preparation of registers for Kandyans and Indians would be undertaken, but in the first instance two members would be nominated to represent the Kandyans, and one to represent Indians. Owing to the wide distribution of Mohammedans, it was thought impossible to introduce any system of election for them, but Lord Milner was prepared to consider proposals on the subject.

INDIAN OFFICER'S ESCAPE

Major Martin of the Indian Army who is home on leave, and Mrs. Martin had a thrilling experience early yesterday morning in their Thames house-boat Acacia, on which they lived close to Corporation Island, Windsor. They were suddenly awakened by the sinking of the boat, which was rapidly heeling over from the bank, towards the deeper water. Mrs. Martin jumped to a dinghy and rowed out in the river, while rain was falling heavily and Major Martin reached the riverbank. Mr. Frederick Horder and Mr. Ward, swimming bath attendants, were attracted by cries for help, and they hurried to the rescue. Major and Mrs. Martin were taken to the bath attendants' hut where they sat by a charcoal fire.

CROSSWORD

NO 28091



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|---|--|
| 9 | Leave sailor to support eliminating Spain (7) | 20 | College has to pay island resort (5) | 2 | American gas, say, promoting energy as serviceable (6) |
| 10 | English currently working to unseat one board (7) | 21 | Quiet and unhappy about unwanted sheep (9) | 3 | Comedian I overlooked is appearing on a list (4) |
| 11 | Author putting King and Ace following King and Ace (5) | 22 | Friend I note investing in tea (5) | 4 | Extra item a divine conclusion? I'm not sure (8) |
| 12 | Woman showing point in pursuing seabirds (9) | 23 | Golden one may be seen in Court? (7) | 5 | Sailors entering part of ship? That's the important point (6) |
| 13 | She's a good example in revolution around energy and style (4,5) | 24 | Fixed a name for the devil, mostly considering the devil (7) | 6 | A small amount mostly leads to vomit? Just conceivably (2,1,7) |
| 15 | Criticise curtailment of highway leading to another (5) | 25 | Steep charge to secure home? Mother's on to it (8) | 7 | Eat amusingly on the radio (6) |
| 16 | Possibly anthem for Aly and Dafty and Ffion, primarily (4,2,2,7) | 26 | Pattern in sky? Builder's installed city's first elevated railway (8) | 8 | Groups of performers overlooking core musical (4) |

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



Our relationship with corporates was more about giving credit. But, in the past couple of years, we have shifted focus

RAJNISH KUMAR
CHAIRMAN, STATE BANK OF INDIA

THUMBNAILS

ATF price up, kerosene rate cut: Jet fuel (ATF) price was hiked by almost 2 per cent on Thursday, while rate of kerosene sold through PDS was cut by Rs 2.19 per litre as oil firms synced rates in line with international cost. The price of aviation turbine fuel was raised by Rs 719.25 per kilolitre (kl), or 1.82 per cent, to Rs 40,211.78 per kl in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Besides, the oil firms reduced the rate of kerosene sold through PDS for cooking at poor households. The price was cut from Rs 25.84 per litre to Rs 23.65 per litre in Mumbai, IOC said.

PTI

MDPH foray: Mysore Deep Perfumery House (MDPH), one of the FMCG brands, introduced a new premium hand wash Orva, thus expanding its personal and home hygiene portfolio amidst the Covid pandemic. The agarbatti major has launched the product in three variants ~ herbal (neem & lemon), fruit (pineapple) and perfume (french aqua) at an affordable price, said a Press release.

SNS

Healthians: Healthians, one of largest at-home health test service providers, revealed in its report that there is about 22.3 per cent decrease in high cholesterol cases among people during the nationwide lockdown due to Covid pandemic. The findings are based on data collected from more than 50,000 samples during the last quarter of 2019 in comparison to the 3rd quarter of 2020, just after the unlock process started in the country, according to a Press release.

SNS

Yahoo-PhonePe: Yahoo Cricket has partnered with PhonePe to exclusively power the content for PhonePe's cricket hub 'Switch Gully' through the cricket season ahead. Users of PhonePe can now catch all the live action while they transact, with live scores, real-time cricket news updates and ball-by-ball commentary from Yahoo Cricket on Switch Gully, said a release.

SNS

Manufacturing growth at over eight-year high

Accelerated increase in new orders and production fuels the growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

India's manufacturing sector activity improved for the second straight month in September and touched an over eight-and-a-half-year high supported by accelerated increases in new orders and production, even as firms reduced staff numbers, a monthly survey said today.

The headline seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) increased from 52.0 in August to 56.8 in September ~ highest since January 2012.

► The headline seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) increased from 52.0 in August to 56.8 in September ~ highest since January 2012.
► "The Indian manufacturing industry continued to move in the right direction, with PMI data for September highlighting many positives. Due to loosened Covid-19 restrictions, factories went full steam ahead for production, supported by a surge in new work," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit.



territory for 32 consecutive months. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.

The upturn in total sales was supported by a renewed expansion in new export orders, the first since prior to the escalation of the Covid-19 outbreak.

"Exports also bounced back, following six successive months of contraction, while

inputs were purchased at a sharper rate and business confidence strengthened," Lima said.

Despite strong growth of order book volumes, Indian goods producers signalled another reduction in payroll numbers. In many cases, this was attributed to efforts to observe social distancing guidelines. Employment has now decreased for six consecutive months.

"One area that lagged behind, however, was employment. Some companies reported difficulties in hiring workers, while others suggested that staff numbers had been kept to a minimum amid efforts to observe social distancing guidelines," Lima noted.

On the prices front, output prices rose for the first time in six months, reflecting an uptick in input costs, the survey said.

Looking ahead, almost one-third of manufacturers expect output growth in the coming 12 months, against 8 per cent that foresee a contraction, resulting in the strongest degree of overall optimism in over four years.

"When we look at the PMI average for the second quarter of fiscal year 2020/21, the result is in stark contrast to that seen in the first quarter: a rise from 35.1 to 51.6. While uncertainty about the Covid-19 pandemic remains, producers can at least for now enjoy the recovery," Lima said.

Mubadala to invest ₹6,247 cr in Rel Retail

NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

Abu Dhabi-based sovereign wealth fund Mubadala Investment Co will invest Rs 6,247.5 crore to buy a 1.4 per cent stake in Reliance Industries Ltd's retail arm - the billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led firm's third such deal in less than two days.

Mubadala will be the fourth investor in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL).

Mubadala's Rs 6,247.5 crore investment "values Reliance Retail at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4,285 lakh crore," the Indian firm said in a statement. "Mubadala's investment will translate into a 1.40 per cent equity stake in RRVL on a fully diluted basis," it added.

This is the second investment by Mubadala in a subsidiary of Reliance Industries. It had previously invested Rs 9,093.60 crore for a 1.85 per cent stake in Jio Platforms.

Mukesh Ambani, chairman and MD of Reliance Industries, said: "We value the partnership with a knowledge-rich organisation like Mubadala and acknowledge their confidence in our mission to strengthen the core of India's retail sector ~ the millions of small retailers, merchants and shopkeepers ~ through the power of technology."

PTI

Govt unveils progress report of Atmanirbhar Bharat package

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

the details of the package.

Under the Atmanirbhar package, the government had pledged Rs 45,000 crore as partial credit guarantee scheme 2.0 for NBFCs, HFCs, and MFIs to do fresh lending to MSMEs and individuals. "Banks have approved the purchase of a portfolio of Rs 25,505 crore and are currently in process of approval and negotiations for Rs 3,171 crore. As reported by PSU banks so far, the portfolio of Rs 16,401 crore has been purchased," reads the Press release from the government.

Sharing the details of special liquidity scheme for NBFCs, HFCs, and MFIs, the government said by the end of H1 FY21, out of Rs 30,000 crore, 39 proposals involving an amount of Rs 11,120 crore have been approved. Out of this sanctioned amount, Rs 7,227 crore has been disbursed whereas Rs 182 crore will not be availed, the finance ministry said. Also, the remaining sanctions of Rs 3,707 crore have lapsed as the scheme has been closed on 30 September.

GST mop-up rises by 4% to ₹95,480 crore in Sept

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

The country's GST collections grew by 4 per cent to a high of Rs 95,480 crore in September, indicating that economic recovery is in sight. Goods and services tax (GST) mop-up in September 2019 stood at Rs 91,916 crore.

The finance ministry in a statement said the gross GST revenue collected in September 2020 is Rs 95,480 crore, out of which Central GST is Rs 17,741 crore, state GST is Rs 23,131 crore, integrated GST is Rs 47,484 crore (including Rs 22,442 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 7,124 crore (including Rs 788 crore collected on import of goods).

In September 2020, the tax collections from import of

goods and domestic transaction were 102 per cent and 105 per cent, respectively, of the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

The collections in September 2020 is higher by 10 per cent over August collections.

The GST revenue in April was Rs 32,172 crore, May (Rs 62,151 crore), June (Rs 90,917 crore), July (Rs 87,422 crore), August (Rs 86,449 crore).

PwC India leader (indirect tax) Pratik Jain said with the festive season coming in, though muted, one would hope that collections would improve further.

Measures such as e-invoicing should also help plug the tax leakage, he added.

Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co partner Rajat

Bose said: "The increase in the collection is an encouraging sign for the economy. It is expected that the revenue collection should continue to improve as we approach the festive season".

Deloitte India senior director M S Mani said a modest increase of 4 per cent in the GST collections compared to the previous year indicates that the economic recovery process is underway, with some key large states also reporting increased collections.

If the present trends of GST collections continue, we should be hopeful of significant increases in the coming months based on the unlockdown steps taken in various states and the festive season ahead," Mani added.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said its domestic sales increased by 32.2 per cent to 1,52,608 units last month.

Auto makers see green shoots of recovery

NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

Auto majors Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motor led the recovery march of passenger vehicle (PV) sales in the domestic market during September, posting high double-digit growth as manufacturers bank on festive season demand to carry forward the momentum.

Tata Motors, Honda Cars India, Skoda Auto India, Kia Motors India also witnessed increase in their September sales. While companies like Mahindra & Mahindra and Toyota Kirloskar Motor saw decline in sales, they said demand is picking up and there is a lot more confidence in the dealers.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said its domestic sales increased by 32.2 per cent to 1,52,608 units last month.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 1 OCTOBER

State-run mining major Coal India has registered production and off-take growth of 31.6 per cent and 31.7 per cent, respectively, in the month of September. This is the highest-ever growth in production and off-take for any month of September so far, Coal India said in a statement, adding for the first time in the current fiscal growth was in double digits in both the facets.

Coal India produced a total of 40.51 million tons in September this year compared with 30.78 million tons in the same month of the last year. Among CIL's subsidiaries, the top three leading the growth trend were Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)

with 68.5 per cent, followed by Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) 47.4 per cent and Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) 43.7 per cent, CIL said.

"Now that we broke the growth jinx in output and off-take, which were weighed down by the pandemic-induced slowdown, we expect to better our performance in the ensuing months. We aim to reclaim as much of the lost ground as possible during the rest of the fiscal," said a senior official of the company, adding "generally the H2 performance is higher in terms of production and supplies".

As regards off-take, CIL's coal off-take saw a sizeable jump of 11.2 MTs during the referred month. CIL supplied 46.46 MTs in September this year against 35.28 MTs in the same month last year, logging a growth of 31.7 per cent. MCL again registered the highest growth among the subsidiaries with 63 per cent, followed by WCL 60.2 per cent and CCL 31.5 per cent.

Supplies to non-power sector logged a growth of 65 per cent during September at 10.4 MTs compared to 6.08 MTs in September last year. Coal despatch of 36.42 MTs to power sector during the month witnessed a growth of 24.7 per cent compared to 29.20 MTs in September 2019, the increase in absolute terms being 7.2 MTs.

CIL on an average loaded a total of 241.2 rakes per day in September this year against 162.2 rakes in the same month last year, recording an increase of 79 rakes per day, the statement said.

Rupee rises 63 paise, Sensex surges 629 pts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 1 OCTOBER

The rupee strengthened by 63 paise to close at 73.13 against the US dollar today amid positive macroeconomic data and a weak greenback overseas.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.60 against the US dollar and touched an intra-day high of 73.07 and a low of 73.60. It finally settled at 73.13, registering a rise of 63 paise ~ its biggest single-day jump in a month.

Forex traders said the appreciation in the rupee was supported by strong macroeconomic data.

"We are expecting the rupee to trade with a slight appreciation bias in the near-term, given the persistent dollar inflows in the domestic market and a healthy current account surplus," said Sugandha Sachdeva, VP-met-

als, energy and currency research, Religare Broking. Sachdeva further noted that "72.80 remains a strong hurdle for the rupee, and the Reserve Bank of India may not be very comfortable allowing it to appreciate above those levels."

Going ahead, the market will be watching developments around the next round of US fiscal stimulus package, without which the upbeat risk appetite may not be able to sustain for very long, Sachdeva said.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.11 per cent down at 93.78.

Meanwhile, equity benchmark the Sensex rallied 629 points today, driven by strong buying sentiment in financial stocks amid positive domestic and global cues.

The 30-share BSE index ended 629.12 points or 1.65

MARKET WATCH

► The rupee strengthened by 63 paise to close at 73.13 against the US dollar on Thursday amid positive macroeconomic data and a weak greenback overseas.

► The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 629.12 points or 1.65 per cent higher at 38,697.05 points.

per cent higher at 38,697.05 points. The broader NSE Nifty surged 169.40 points or 1.51 per cent to close at 11,416.95 points.

Bank. On the other hand, ITC, NTPC, Titan, Reliance Industries and ONGC were the laggards.

The domestic market opened on a positive note following positive global cues and better-than-expected domestic PMI manufacturing data,

said Narendra Solanki, head-equity research (fundamen-

tal), Anand Rathi Shares.

India's manufacturing sector activity improved for the second straight month in September and touched an over eight-and-a-half-year high supported by accelerated increases in new orders and production, even as firms reduced staff numbers.

"During the afternoon session, the markets further showed strength as more broad-based buying was witnessed specially in banks and financial stocks ahead of the Supreme Court judgement on moratorium interest case scheduled for Monday.

"The sentiments were also boosted as... government has released a set of fresh guidelines under its Unlock 5 plans to kick-start the economy with additional relaxations," he stated.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.76 per cent lower at \$41.98 per barrel.

SBI, HUL tie up for providing easy credit to small retailers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 1 OCTOBER

The country's largest lender SBI and FMCG major HUL today announced a partnership to enable easy access to credit to small retailers and also help them join the digitisation bandwagon in order to "survive in the new world".

Under the partnership, HUL's retailers who use the company's Shikhar app will be able to avail of credit facility for payments to distributors through an integration with State Bank of India's (SBI) Yono app.

Hindustan Unilever (HUL) chairman and managing director Sanjiv Mehta said while there are around ten million retailers in India, they have faced constraints in access to credit as they have always operated in an infor-

mation environment, while they have also been reluctant to adopt digital technology.

"What our partnership does today is try to solve some of the very important constraints that the retailers and small shopkeepers face in the country today," Mehta said while addressing a virtual Press conference.

He further said, "...SBI has agreed to bring forth credit in a very seamless and easy fashion to these retailers without having to go through paper-work so that they can very quickly and in a very easy manner have access to credit. This is going to be a tremendous gamechanger."

HUL's Shikhar app allows retailers to place orders without even the salesmen visiting stores, and with Covid-19 intensifying focus on touchless sales, Mehta said the app

has proved to be a very big boon with lakhs of retailers across the country.

Another important aspect of the partnership, he said, is "cajoling and making the retailers adopt the technology. This we believe is extremely important if they have to survive in the new world".

He said the partnership with SBI will also enable "UPI-based payment from our retailers to our distributor" with the interface allowing instant transfer of funds.

SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar said with the kind of developments which are happening in the country and the digitisation of economy, "this is not only about partnership between the two giants SBI and HUL.

The pandemic has cost 34 mn jobs in Latin America. Latin America and the Caribbean are the worst-hit region in the world in terms of lost working hours

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, VINCIUS PINHEIRO

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 02 OCTOBER 2020

09

Push to bring vaccines to poor faces troubles

Covax was conceived as a way of giving countries access to vaccines regardless of their wealth

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 1 OCTOBER

Ambitious humanitarian project to deliver coronavirus vaccines to the world's poorest people is facing potential shortages of money, cargo planes, refrigeration and vaccines themselves and running into skepticism even from some of those it's intended to help most. In one of the biggest obstacles, rich countries have locked up most of the world's potential vaccine supply through 2021, and the US and others have refused to join the Covax project.

led by the World Health Organization, a UN agency; Gavi, a public-private alliance, funded in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which buys immunizations for 60% of the world's children; and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, or Cepi, another Gates-supported public-private collaboration.

The supply of vaccines is not going to be there in the near term, and the money also isn't there, warned Rohit Malpani, a public health consultant who previously worked for Doctors Without Borders.

Covax was conceived as a way of giving countries access to coronavirus vaccines regardless of their wealth. It is being

emerged: Some of the world's wealthiest nations have negotiated their own deals directly with drug companies, meaning they don't need to participate in the endeavor at all.

China, France, Germany, Russia and the US don't intend to join. And so many rich countries bought vaccines from manufacturers before the shots have even been approved that they have already snapped up the majority of the vaccine supply for 2021.

As a continent of 1.2 billion people, we still have concerns, Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director John Nkengasong told reporters Thursday.

Gavi, WHO and Cepi announced in September that countries representing two-thirds of the world's population had joined Covax, but they acknowledged they still need about \$400 million more from governments or elsewhere.

Without it, according to internal documents seen by The Associated Press before the organization's board meeting this week, Gavi can't sign agreements to buy vaccines.

One early problem that

is preparing as if vaccines will arrive in January or February, he said, and will roll out with speed.

The European Union has contributed 400 million euros (\$469 million) to support Covax, but the 27-country bloc won't use Covax to buy vaccines, in what some see as a vote of no-confidence in the project's ability to deliver.

Instead, the EU has signed its own deals to buy more than 1 billion doses, depriving Covax of the bulk negotiating power of buying shots for the continent.

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Online calls urged people to join protests, and crowds turned up at Hong Kong's Causeway Bay shopping district, some people chanting Disband the police and liberate Hong Kong, Revolution of our time," a popular pro-democracy slogan that has been banned by the Hong Kong

HK: 60 held for protesting on China holiday

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HONG KONG, 1 OCTOBER

Hong Kong police arrested at least 60 people on suspicion of unauthorised assembly on China's National Day holiday Thursday after crowds gathered on the streets of a popular shopping district chanting pro-democracy slogans.

Those arrested included two district councilors, police said in a statement posted on Facebook. They said the people were arrested after they ignored repeated warnings asking them to disperse.

Online calls urged people to join protests, and crowds turned up at Hong Kong's Causeway Bay shopping district, some people chanting Disband the police and liberate Hong Kong, Revolution of our time," a popular pro-democracy slogan that has been banned by the Hong Kong



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un impersonator Howard X joins a protest in Hong Kong during China's National Day on Thursday, which commemorates the 71st anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China. AFP

government for alleged secessionist sentiments. A heavy police presence outnumbered the protesters at the scene.

National Day, which celebrates the founding of the People's Republic of China, has become a day of protest in Hong Kong by those who oppose Beijing's increasing control over the semi-autonomous city. Large-scale protests are forbidden because of social distancing restrictions due to the coronavirus.

In the afternoon, police cordoned off some areas in the district and searched people on the streets. On several occasions, they unfurled warning banners that urged protesters to disperse, saying they

were participating in an illegal assembly.

Millions of Chinese hit roads to celebrate National Day holidays: Millions of travel-starved Chinese hit the roads as the country on Thursday shut down for eight-day official holidays to celebrate the 71st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Mid-Autumn Festival which overlaps with the National Day holidays.

This is the first major holiday season for the Chinese after the Covid hit Wuhan and rest of the country in January this year before it spread to the world, halting the Chinese New Year Celebrations with lockdowns. It is the second biggest holiday for the Chinese during which millions of people travel abroad and the country visiting their relatives and major tourist sites.

Seize Sharif's assets in Toshakhana graft case: Court

ISLAMABAD, 1 OCTOBER

A Pakistan anti-corruption court on Thursday ordered the seizure of assets of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif due to his failure to appear in the Toshakhana graft case, days after he was declared an absconder in the matter that allegedly caused a heavy loss to the national exchequer.

An anti-corruption court on September 9 indicted former president Asif Ali Zardari and ex-prime minister Yusuf Raza Gillani, while declared Sharif an absconder in the case.

The Islamabad-based accountability court was hearing the case filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), which submitted a detailed record of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo's movable and immovable properties.

The accountability Judge Asghar Ali ordered the authorities to freeze Sharif's national and international bank accounts and seize his 206 acres of agricultural land in Lahore and 12.75 acres in Sheikhpura, as well as his house in Muree in Punjab province.

Two tractors and cars that the 70-year-old leader allegedly obtained from the Toshakhana (state gift depository) after paying 15 per cent of the price are also included among assets the court has ordered to seize.

The Toshakhana graft case is about alleged relaxation of rules by Gilani, 68, for the benefit of Zardari, 65, and Sharif to buy vehicles gifted by foreign countries. PTI

Pompeo, Vatican talk China after tensions spill out publicly

ROME, 1 OCTOBER

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Vatican officials discussed their differences over China on Thursday, the Vatican said, a day after tensions over the Holy See's outreach to Beijing spilled out in public.

Pompeo spent 45 minutes in the Apostolic Palace with his Vatican counterpart, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, and the Vatican foreign minister, Archbishop Paul Gallagher.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said both sides presented their respective positions" about relations with China in a climate of respect, openness and cordiality." Pompeo was in Rome to participate in a conference on religious freedom organized and to meet with Italian and Vatican officials.

The Vatican declined Pompeo's request to see Pope Francis, citing Holy See policy to not grant papal audiences during election campaigns, Parolin said.

The conference was held at the same time the Vatican is entering into delicate negotiations with Beijing on extending their controversial 2018 agreement on nominating bishops for China. PTI

PROTEST PITCH



An Iraqi protester, dressed as characters from the "Casa de Papel" show, poses during a demonstration in Tahrir Square in the centre of Iraq's capital Baghdad on Thursday, commemorating the first anniversary of the massive decentralised anti-government protest movement against unemployment, poor public services, and endemic corruption. AFP

US Congressional report seeks decisive action against China

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 1 OCTOBER

A US Congressional report has sought decisive action to combat threats posed by China, alleging that it is engaged in human rights violations and has increased military buildup and violated other nations' sovereignty.

China Task Force of the House Republicans unveiled its report on Wednesday laying out more than 400 policy recommendations to address issues ranging from national security concerns, human rights violations, problems

with the supply chain, missteps in its handling of the coronavirus pandemic and China's overall expanding influence on the world stage.

The report said that China is engaged in "fatal skirmishes to conduct a land-grab on the Indian border."

It also supported the proposal of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson for the creation of a new D-10 group of leading democracies (the current G-7 members, plus South Korea, India, and Australia) for addressing both 5G mobile communications and vulnerable supply chains.

The report pushed for coordinating a whole-of-government offensive information statecraft campaign to counter the propaganda machine of ruling Chinese Communist Party by using truth and American values to undermine CCP's "lies and malign" ideology.

It said that in the past one year alone, the CCP has violated an international treaty and dismantled Hong Kong's civil liberties, continued its oppression of ethnic minorities, including Uighurs and Tibetans; increased its military buildup; conducted increasingly belligerent provocations,

and violated other nations' sovereignty at sea; engaged in fatal skirmishes to conduct a land-grab on the Indian border; and asserted new territorial claims over Bhutan.

Praising the State Department's July 2020 statement which said that China's territorial aggression in the South China Sea is illegal, the China Task Force said that the administration could take similar action regarding its illegal conduct in other areas, including around the Senkaku Islands and along India's border.

The US, it said, should improve predictability of arms

sales with allies and partners and expand military training with allied and partner nations.

"Doing so will improve interoperability with the US, support and protect American values, advance US national security and foreign policy interests, and promote the US as the partner of choice," it said. Further, the US should expand forward presence and improve interoperability with allies and partner nations over Bhutan.

Supporting Johnson's proposal for creating D-10 group of leading democracies, it said the US should work with the UK and other nations in leveraging technical expertise of each nation in emerging technologies for the benefit of democratic countries.

Congressman Michael McCaul said for decades the US and its allies have been asleep at the wheel until Covid to countering the CCP's 100-year marathon for global and military dominance.

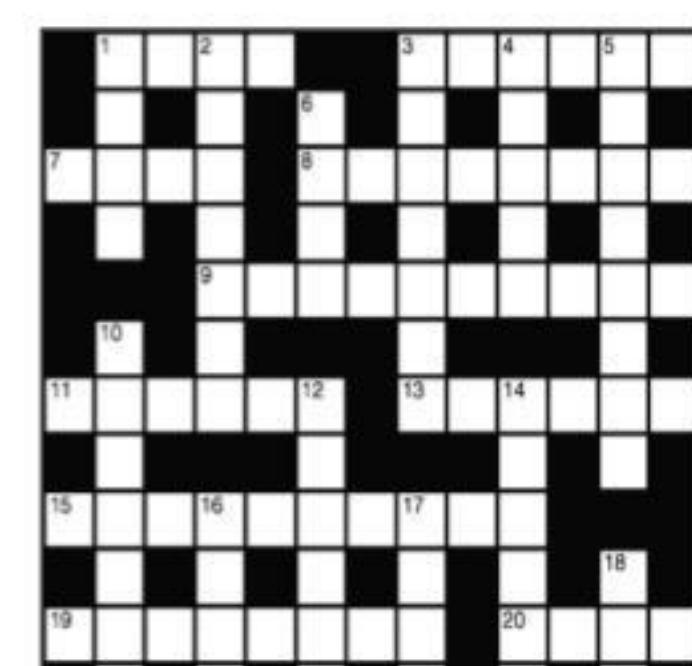
such as Australia, Japan, India, and other interested nations, the report said.

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LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Headlong plunge (4)	1 Food regimen (4)
3 Funeral car (6)	2 Deer meat (7)
7 Blood vessel (4)	3 Natural home (7)
8 Radioactive element (8)	4 Sound (5)
9 Liking for sugary foods (5,5)	5 Caused to sink (8)
11 Fine brandy (6)	6 Without charge (4)
13 Canopy (6)	10 US state (8)
15 Plot (6)	12 Style of cooking (7)
19 Looks hygienic (8)	14 Pale colour (3-4)
20 Burden (4)	16 Gleam (5)
21 Stick together (6)	17 Highest point (4)
22 Dexterous (4)	18 Datum (4)

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. 1800125151

23864470

City Offices 43513187, Call Centres 43513186, Reservation 41528180

212

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry):

2386836, 23865181

Haryana Roadways: 23861262

Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403

Himachal Roadways 21717473, 23325320

Guru Tegh Bahadur 43513186, Indigo Airlines Airline

Reservations 41528180

212

Port 011-25671580; Terminal I-B 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838

JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111

EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377

AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi

City Office 43513187, Call Centre 43513186, Reservation 18001803838, 23466262 (City)

25652294 (Airport)

Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528180

212

Answer to previous puzzle

Instructions Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters given below. Add points of each word, using scoring system. If a word contains 7 letter words get 50 points. Letters in brackets are used as any letter in the word.

RECENTLY, NAUGHTY, STOLID, OPINION

PACK 1 - 74

PACK 2 - 72

PACK 3 - 7



The President has begun planting seeds of doubt in the legitimacy of the 3 November elections as he is aware of his defeat

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE JOE BIDEN
A DAY AFTER THE CHAOTIC PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE.

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	18°C	12°C
LONDON	15°C	9°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C
NEW YORK	22°C	17°C
MOSCOW	14°C	09°C

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

THUMBNAILS



A man wearing a face mask takes a selfie picture near a fountain in front of the Bolshoi theatre in Moscow on Thursday. AP

Russia hacking: A Russian man convicted of hacking LinkedIn, Dropbox and Formspring and stealing the personal information of more than 100 million customers was sentenced on Wednesday to more than seven years in Federal prison. Yevgeniy Nikulin, 32, received the 88-month sentence in federal court in San Francisco. AP

Iran missiles: At least six missiles targeting Irbil international airport in northern Iraq were intercepted on Wednesday evening, a statement from the Kurdish Interior Ministry said, as diplomatic tensions between Washington and Baghdad mounted over a spate of rocket attacks targeting the US presence. AP

US bans Malaysian palm oil: Malaysian palm oil producer FGV Holdings Berhad vowed to clear its name after the US banned imports of its palm oil over allegations of forced labour and other abuses. The order issued says it found indicators of forced labour, including concerns about kids, along with other abuses such as sexual violence. AP

Biden, Trump snipe from road & rails after historic debate chaos

Biden called Trump's behaviour a 'national embarrassment'; Trump claims his debate performance a smashing success

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PITTSBURGH, 1 OCTOBER

President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden kept up their debate-stage sniping from the road and the rails, fighting for working-class voters in the Midwest while both parties — and the debate commission, too — sought to deal with the most chaotic presidential faceoff in memory.

The debate raised fresh questions about Trump's continued reluctance to condemn white supremacy, his questioning the legitimacy of the election and his unwillingness to respect debate ground rules his campaign had agreed to. Some Democrats called on Biden on Wednesday to skip the next two debates.

Biden's campaign confirmed he would participate in the subsequent meetings, as did Trump's. But the Commission on Presidential Debates promised "additional structure...to ensure a more orderly discussion of the issues."

Less than 12 hours after the wild debate concluded, Biden called Trump's behavior in the prime-time confrontation a "national embarrassment." The Democratic challenger launched his most aggressive day on the campaign trail all year, with eight stops on train tour that began mid-morning in Cleveland and ended 10 hours later in western Pennsylvania. Trump proclaimed his debate performance a smashing success during a Wednesday evening rally in Duluth, Minnesota. "Last night I did what the corrupt media has refused to do," Trump said. "I held Joe Biden accountable for his 47 years of failure."

Biden balanced criticism of Trump with a call for national unity. "If elected, I'm not going to be a Democratic president. I'm going to be an American president," Biden said at the Cleveland train station. As his tour moved into Pittsburgh, he accused Trump of never



"Make America Great Again" signage decorates a logging truck during a campaign rally for President Donald Trump at the Duluth International Airport in Duluth, Minnesota. AP

accepting responsibility for his mistakes and promised, "I'll always tell you the truth. And when I'm wrong, I'll say so."

While some Republicans feared that Trump's debate performance was too aggressive, he gave himself high marks as he left Washington. He had spent much of the day assailing Biden and debate moderator Chris Wallace on social media. "If you ever became president you have to deal with some of the toughest people in the world," Trump said at his Duluth rally. "And Chris Wallace is very very easy by comparison." The first of three scheduled debates between Trump and Biden deteriorated into bitter taunts and chaos Tuesday night as the Republican president repeatedly interrupted his Democratic rival with angry jabs that overshadowed any substantive discussion of the crises threatening the nation.

Trump and Biden frequently talked over each other, with Trump interrupting, nearly shouting, so often that Biden eventually snapped at him, "Will you shut up, man?"

Trump refused anew to say whether he would accept the results of the election, calling on his supporters to scrutinize voting procedures at the polls — something that critics warned could easily cross into voter

With just five weeks until Election Day and voting already underway in several key states, Biden holds a lead in national polls and in many battlegrounds. Polling has been remarkably stable for months, despite the historic crises that have battered the country this year, including the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 200,000 Americans and a reckoning over race and police

intimidation.

Trump also refused at the debate to condemn white supremacists who have supported him, telling one such group known as the Proud Boys to "stand back and stand by." Asked directly on Wednesday if he welcomed white supremacist support, he first said only that he favored law enforcement but when the questioner persisted, he said he had always denounced "any form of any of that."

On Capitol Hill, Republicans showed signs of debate hang-

Voters bemoan nasty debate: Donald Trump and Joe Biden debated. Americans cringed. After the presidential candidates put on one of the noisiest, most chaotic debates in recent memory, voters across the country struggled for words printable words to describe the display.

Many said Trump was the instigator, whose frequent interruptions blew up the rules and any pretense that the men were there to discuss policy. None said it would change their minds on how they planned to vote. Instead, voters on both sides said it only reaffirmed their positions. Donald Darwin, a 52-year-old white man, heard something different from the president, saying he felt he appropriately condemned white supremacists when asked about it by moderator Chris Wallace.

This election is incredibly important. If Trump were to give an inch, you can bet Biden and the left would have savaged him over it, he said.

Keith Valentine, a 37-year-old Las Vegas Democrat, said the president behaved like a narcissist, and he turned off his television after watching the debate for about 10 minutes. We knew it was going to be like that for an hour. AP

over, with few willing to defend Trump's performance.

Utah Sen. Mitt Romney called the debate "an embarrassment" and said Trump "of course" should have condemned white supremacists. "I think he misspoke," said South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, the only Black Republican senator. "I think he should correct it. I guess he didn't misspeak."

Trump did not say he misspoke when asked on Wednesday but claimed he did not know who the Proud Boys were. "They have to stand down — everybody. Whatever group you're talking about, let law enforcement do the work," he said. The president's brash debate posture may have appealed to his most passionate supporters, but it was unclear whether he embattled incumbent helped expand his coalition or won over any

persuadable voters, particularly white educated women and independents who have been turned off in part by the same tone and tenor the president displayed on the debate stage.

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While Biden distanced himself from some of the priorities of his party's left wing — and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders — on Tuesday night, there was no sign that he had turned off his party's grassroots activists.

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Fb tightens political ad bans as poll nears

Banned ads would include calling a method of voting inherently fraudulent, or using isolated incidents of voter fraud to delegitimize the result of an election

WASHINGTON, 1 OCTOBER

With just over a month to go before Americans head en masse to the polls in an extraordinarily contentious election, Facebook is expanding restrictions on political advertising, including new bans on messages claiming widespread voter fraud.

New prohibitions laid out in a blog post come days after President raised the prospect of mass fraud in the vote-by-mail process during a debate with Democratic rival Joe Biden. Banned ads would include calling a method of voting inherently fraudulent or corrupt, or using isolated incidents of voter fraud to delegitimize the result of an election.

The EU action underscored the worsening relations with Britain, which was a member of the bloc until January 31. Both sides are trying to forge a rudimentary free trade agreement before the end of the year, but the fight over the controversial UK Internal Market bill has soured relations this month.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that the British plan "by its very nature is a breach of the obligation of good faith laid down in the Withdrawal Agreement."

"If adopted as is, it will be in full contradiction to the protocol of Ireland-Northern Ireland" in the withdrawal agreement.

The EU had given London until Wednesday to withdraw the bill but instead U.K. lawmakers voted 340-256 Tuesday to push the legislation past its last major House of Commons hurdle.

It must also be approved by the House of Lords, where it is sure to meet strong opposition because it breaches international law.

At the same time, EU and UK officials were continuing talks on a trade deal, going into detailed negotiations over everything from fisheries rights, state aid rules and legal oversight in case of disputes.

Time is short for the UK and the EU to mend fences.

The EU-UK trade negotiating session is supposed to wrap up Friday but expectations are that negotiations will continue right up to an Oct. 15-16 EU summit, which British PM has set as a deadline for a deal.

AP

EU takes legal action against UK over Brexit bill

BRUSSELS, 1 OCTOBER

The European Union took legal action against Britain on Thursday over its plans to pass legislation that would breach parts of the legally binding divorce agreement the two sides reached late last year.

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AP

Cardinal Pell returns to Vatican mired in financial scandal

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ROME, 1 OCTOBER

in Australia, returned to Rome on Wednesday to find a Holy See mired in the type of corruption scandal he worked to expose and clean up. The 79-year-old Pell

The trip is his first back to Rome after he took a leave of absence as Pope Francis' finance czar in 2017 to face historic sexual abuse charges stemming from his time as the archbishop of Melbourne

arrived at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport on a flight from Sydney wearing a blue surgical mask. He waved briefly to reporters before getting into a waiting car without making any comments.

The trip is his first back to Rome after he took a leave of absence as Pope Francis' finance czar in 2017 to face historic sexual abuse charges stemming from his time as the archbishop of Melbourne. After he was absolved by Australia's High Court in April, Pell said he wanted to return to Rome to clean out his Vatican apartment, but intended to make Sydney his home. It wasn't immediately clear how long Pell would remain in the Vatican or what his agenda might involve. The Vatican didn't immediately say if he would meet with Francis.

The pope never turned on Pell throughout the Australian court proceedings, keeping his job vacant for two years so as to not pre-judge the outcome. Pell arrived the same day that European anti-money laundering evaluators began a periodic visit to the Vatican. They, too, found a mounting financial scandal that already has cost a half-dozen people their jobs, including one of the Holy See's most powerful cardinals, Angelo Becciu.

Pell and Becciu had long clashed over the Australian's efforts to bring greater transparency and accountability to the Vatican's balance sheets.

Critic Navalny alleges Putin behind poisoning

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, 1 OCTOBER

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who is recovering in Germany after being poisoned in Russia by a nerve agent, accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of being behind the attack in comments released Thursday.

Navalny's supporters have frequently maintained that such an attack could have only been ordered at the top levels, though the Kremlin has steadfastly denied any involvement in it. Navalny, a politician and corruption investigator who is Putin's fiercest critic, was flown to Germany two days after falling ill on 20 August on a domestic flight in Russia.

He spent 32 days in the hospital, 24 of them in intensive

care. He has posted frequent comments online as his recovery has progressed, but in his first interview since the attack, he told Germany's Der Spiegel magazine that in his mind, Putin was behind the attack, in a German translation of his comments.

I don't have any other versions of how the crime was committed," he said in a brief excerpt of the interview conducted in Berlin on Wednesday and to be released in full online later Thursday.

Navalny spent those two days in a coma in a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk, where Russian doctors said they found no trace of any poisoning, before being transported to Berlin for treatment.

German chemical weapons experts determined that he was

poisoned with the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok findings corroborated by labs in France and Sweden.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the poisoning an attempted murder and she and other world leaders have demanded that Russia fully investigate the case.

Russia has bristled at the demands for an investigation, saying that Germany needs to share medical data in the case or compare notes with Russian doctors. Germany has noted that Russian doctors have their own samples from Navalny since he was in their care for 48 hours.

Germany has also enlisted the Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for technical assistance.

AP

Belarus activist shares 'Alternative Nobel' with 3 others from US, Nicaragua

ASSOCIATED PRESS
STOCKHOLM, 1 OCTOBER



ARPIT GOYAL

Want to think about making something glittering and delightful? A piece of necklace or a pair of earrings? You can design and manufacture jewellery to your heart's content while making profits at the same time. One way to start out is by doing craft shows so that you can get direct customer feedback. It isn't almost fixing shop together with your wares and expecting people to shop for them - it's about researching the styles people buy, the costs

they're willing to pay. A key to success in this business is ensuring your designs are unique, it shouldn't be something one can purchase everywhere.

Once you set yourself as a trending jewellery designer, you will be able to approach fancy boutiques. First, create a catalogue of your designs or sell sheets together with your designs and wholesale pricing information. Send the packet to the customer from a specific shop, and then fix a meeting.

Deciding when to expand depends on your volume. The

choice depends on your skill level, production size and cost-effectiveness. If you can't make jewellery by yourself fast enough, then you can outsource. There are contract shops in many major cities and lots of work can be done by mail also, so you do not need to physically be there.

In fact, the field of jewellery design is filled with options. In terms of what is in, remember the style trends in your area. Long-term success comes from developing your unique style through which you'll interpret the ever-

changing tide of trends.

If you're a struggling designer, the simplest one can do is to simply accept that while it is possible to achieve success during this industry no matter the shifting sand, it'll just take more work than you would possibly have anticipated. Facing the industry's challenges is the measure of your ability to be a designer and therefore the key to your success. Your motivation and determination are going to be tested by employers, clients, and contemporaries, day in and out.

Diversify your skills where pos-

sible and look for opportunities for passive income.

Hedge your bets when working in traditional employment situations by building a robust personal brand and developing a strong network of contacts, which may be useful within the future. Learn to plug and sell your services on value and not price, and the way to leverage this stuff rather than directly competing with them. Remember that quality still matters. Set your sites on climbing the mountain.

The writer is owner of Ambrus Jewels

Working in new normal

Here are some of the benefits that remote work brings to both employers and employees

AYUSH JATSWAL

The corporate world took well over the past century to come up with the quintessential office, and it took a pandemic somewhere less than half a year to unravel the known. Remote work became the sole saviour to keep companies up and running. As jarring as this transition has been for the employed and their employers, the new normal of work from home comes with a fair set of realisations, starting with a universally felt sentiment.

Remote work is poised to become a norm for millennials and Gen Z, and its benefits are immense. Results from various surveys have confirmed that once you've gone remote, there's no looking back. Thus, here are some benefits of remote working both from the perspective of an employee and an employer, from the various surveys including the one conducted in India.

Well, it isn't hard to guess who the binary beneficiaries are in this situation, so let's directly delve into the benefits that remote employers and employees can reap.

Benefits for employers

1. Job satisfaction: As remote workers tend to be more satisfied from their jobs and likely to stay in their current job for the next five years 13 per cent more than their on-site colleagues (Owl Labs), employers end up saving a lot of money and resources that go in the hiring process and finding the best-suited candidate for the job

2. Sense of belonging: Not only are remote workers more engaged than office workers by putting in longer hours, but they also develop a stronger sense of belonging than their on-site counterparts.

3. Work-life balance: Further, the flexibility of remote working (be it work from home or any other place) allows the majority of workers to take only 2-3 weeks of vacation per year since they have more control over their schedules and therefore, do not require as much time off as their office-going counterparts

As per Global Workplace Analytics, all the factors together help organisations save an average of \$11,000 per year per part-time remote worker leading to 21 per cent higher profitability, and once you take into account the infrastructural costs that are minimised, the figure goes significantly higher. This number of course increases when you look at arbitrage by hiring across different geographies.

Benefits for employees

Now, let's look at factors other than flexibility that contribute to the satisfaction of remote workers.

1. The comfort of home: Working from the comforts of your own home and the option of switching from your workstation to bed to your balcony or whatever is your favourite corner can be particularly appealing in terms of relaxation and breaking the monotony of staying at one spot for multiple hours.

2. Not having to commute: Saving time and money and all the hassles of driving and public transport, sure, why not? Time spent in traffic will look as bizarre as sending letters to communicate in 2021. It just adds to human inefficiency.

3. Being with family: Ability to spend time more time with family and be near your loved ones.

4. Global jobs: Working with people across the globe excites you. Flexibility in schedule and work location was seen as the two major benefits of working remotely, followed by not having to commute.

Benefits for the environment

A few months into the lockdown, we all came across news reports of decreased pollution levels all over the world, thanks to 'not having to commute'. Employees working from home helps companies in cutting their electricity costs. And, let's agree to the fact that while working at home, we use less electricity than we would in the office.

The writer is co-founder and CEO, Pesto Tech

PLUS POINTS

Listen and learn



With schools being shut for a long time, educators, students and parents are trying hard to make sure that learning does not stop. To ensure children and educators continue to learn, Teach For India and Firki are set to launch "inspirED 2020", the first of its kind virtual conference that will bring together students, educators, policymakers, parents, and investors under one roof to reimagine education for 260 million children from 5 - 9 October.

Both the organisations are making relentless efforts to remain true to their mission - "one day all children will attain an excellent education". This initiative will bring together stakeholders to discuss ideas, listen to various perspectives and learn from each other. The sessions will be aired between 2.00 pm to 6.30 pm on YouTube and Facebook Live on both Teach for India and Firki's channels. For registration visit: <https://www.townscript.com/e/inspired-2020-114240>

Training teachers



As many as 3,173 school teachers throughout the country got recognised as Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) digital classroom teachers after qualifying the test conducted by Tech Avant-Garde (TAG), technology powered Ed-Tech Company and a global training partner of Microsoft in education. As part of the Knowledge L'avenir Conclave (KLC) webinar series, which started on Teacher's Day 2020, and will continue till November.

The highest percentage of marks was 100 per cent, followed by 97 and 94 per cent. Anamika L gained the first position from Mathakondapalli Model School - Hosur. There were 63 teachers in third position. Ali Sait of TAG had been recognised in ET Industry Leaders 2020 Awards List for software innovation in Ed-Tech.

Boosting metabolism



Hanshi Premjit Sen, president of Karate Do Association of Bengal, chairman and a world referee and coach is conducting online karate classes to keep children engaged. He started the workshops with modern techniques. During this pandemic, most of the children are spending their time playing video games, which can negatively affect their brain, memory and vision thereby causing stress, anxiety and even isolation. Karate that enhances physical fitness of an individual and prepares them to face any atrocious situations, gained mass popularity among the students. Guardians are also pleased with this initiative.

Accessing prowess



TCS iON announced that its National Qualifier Test (NQT) will now be a common gateway test for several participating corporates for their fresher recruitment programmes recently. Young professionals with up to two years of experience, as well as students from any stream, currently enrolled in pre-final/ final year of undergraduate or postgraduate programmes can apply. The test acts as a single window for job opportunities across leading organisations in IT, BFSI, manufacturing, pharma, and FMCG sectors, including TCS.

Candidates can take the test from the comfort of their homes. To ensure inclusion, candidates who do not have access to the necessary infrastructure at home, can take the test from a TCS iON centre. Registrations are open till 17 October. For details visit: <https://learning.tcsionhub.in/hub/national-qualifier-test/>



SNAKES & LADDERS

Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman has said that Ousmane Dembele (in photo, left) is no longer a guaranteed starter in his team because of the emergence of Ansu Fati but said it was up to the French winger to decide whether he wished to stay in or move away from the Camp Nou.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

At fault: Rajasthan Royals batsman Robin Uthappa appeared to have violated Covid-19 guidelines for the Indian Premier League on Wednesday, rubbing saliva into the ball in a match against Kolkata Knight Riders at Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

French Open: Divij Sharan and his South Korean partner Kwon Soon-woo bowed out of the French Open after suffering a 2-6, 6-4, 4-6 defeat in the first round of the men's doubles event to the 16th seeded Croatian-American duo of Franko Skugor and Austin Krajicek.

Super Cup: Bayern Munich wasted a two-goal lead and needed an 82nd-minute winner from Joshua Kimmich to beat Borussia Dortmund 3-2 in Germany's Super Cup on Wednesday, securing their fifth title this year. Kimmich took the ball in midfield to race up.

Vinicius strikes: Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr. came off the bench to fire his side to a 1-0 home victory over Real Valladolid in La Liga on Wednesday as the champions, star-studded but not very confident, once again found a way to win despite failing to sparkle.

Serie A: Atalanta captain Alejandro Gomez scored twice in an impressive 4-1 win for the Bergamo side away to top-four rivals Lazio in Serie A on Wednesday while a brace from Romelu Lukaku helped Inter Milan to a 5-2 victory at Benevento in another game.

Easy win: Manchester United earned their second win over Brighton & Hove Albion in five days as they booked a place in the League Cup quarter-finals with a 3-0 win at the Amex Stadium on Wednesday. It was much easier than Saturday's last-gasp 3-2 league victory.

Hazard injured: Eden Hazard has suffered another injury with Real Madrid and is a doubt for the international break. Belgium face three fixtures across the two-week period, though have already confirmed that no player will feature in all three games on the cards.

Bale backed: Wales manager Ryan Giggs has backed Gareth Bale to put his troubled Real Madrid spell behind him and rediscover his best form following his return to Tottenham Hotspur. Bale, 31, secured a loan move from Real back to his former team last month.

2024 Olympics: Organisers of the Paris 2024 Olympics announced a swathe of cost-cutting measures on Wednesday that are set to slash £400 million from the Games' bill. Swimming has been shifted to a posh area from a poor one, it was said.

Pak row: The public accounts committee on Wednesday made it clear the Pakistan Cricket Board was answerable to it, the apex accountability forum of the country. PCB chairman Ehsan Mani had stated that the board was autonomous, but his point of view was rejected.

Barca sign Dest: American right back Sergio Dest completed his move to Barcelona on Thursday after signing a five-year contract. Barcelona paid Ajax 21 million euros (\$24.7 million) plus an additional 5 million euros in add-ons to acquire the speedy defender.

Plan for Olympic hopefuls: Welcoming the government's decision to reopen pools for training, the Swimming Federation of India (SFI) on Thursday said its "immediate priority" is to chart out a plan for the Olympic hopefuls, which includes providing international competition exposure.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, 1 OCTOBER

Ambati Rayudu's (*in photo*) much-awaited comeback will be a shot in the arm for an under-pressure Chennai Super Kings when they take on Sunrisers Hyderabad, who have shown resilience after early setbacks, in the IPL here on Friday. Rayudu, hero of CSK's opening IPL victory against Mumbai Indians, missed out due to mild hamstring injury and Bravo has been also carrying a niggle of similar nature since the Caribbean Premier League where he didn't bowl in the last two games.

"Both Rayudu and Bravo are available for selection," CSK CEO KS Viswanathan told PTI on Thursday. CSK and Sunrisers Hyderabad (since inception) have traditionally been two of the most balanced sides in most IPL editions but both have ensured scratchy starts this year, losing two of their first three games, primarily due to lack of balance in the middle-order.

CSK vs SRH: Match begins at 7.30 pm IST.

non-negotiable on the Dubai track. For Hyderabad, the presence of Kane Williamson made a fragile middle-order, full of Indian rookies, look

more solid. Both Jonny Bairstow and David Warner also got their share of runs.

For SRH to succeed, they need to find that one dependable Indian big-hitter in the middle order in case their top three -- Bairstow, Warner and Williamson fail in unison.

Kashmiri lad Abdul Samad has shown promise while both Priyam Garg and Abhishek Sharma need to up their game.

The bowling line-up is

pretty even for both teams. While Deepak Chahar, Hazlewood, Curran, Ravindra Jadeja and Piyush Chawla can be more than a handful on slow a Dubai track, SRH have found their death overs specialist in T Natarajan, who can be an ideal foil to world's No.1 T20 bowler Rashid Khan.

Khan was brilliant against Delhi Capitals, claiming three wickets which also earned him the man of the match honours.

turned down after a review as the ball seemed to be going down the leg-stump. Taking a leaf out of his captain's book, Suryakumar Yadav got into the act straightaway, playing two back-to-back pleasing drives through the off-side.

Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi was introduced into the attack in the fourth over and while Shami could not strike with the ball first up, the India pacer ran out Suryakumar with a direct hit from short fine leg to leave MI at 21 for two in the fourth over.

Rohit gave himself some room and played Gowtham between mid-off and extra cover and cut the next ball through the point region for another fine boundary. Having reached 14 off 21 balls, Ishan Kishan lofted Bishnoi for a massive six over deep mid-wicket to break the shackles.

SCOREBOARD

Mumbai Indians innings:					
Quinton de Kock (wk/b) Cottrell	0				30
Rohit Sharma c Neesham b Shami	70				
Suryakumar Yadav run out (Shami)	10				
Ishan Kishan c Nair b K Gowtham	28				
Kieron Pollard not out	47				
Extras: 6 (b 0, lb 1, w 5, nb 0, p 0)					
Total: 191 (4 wkts, 20 ov)					
Bowling: Cottrell 4-1-20-1, Bishnoi 4-0-37-0, Neesham 4-0-52-0, Shami 4-0-36-1, Gowtham 4-0-45-1					

for another boundary.

Mohammed Shami came

back to hit the pads and

forced the umpire to raise his

finger with a vociferous appeal.

However, the decision was

started with a wicket maid-

en.

Rohit reached 5000 IPL

runs with a glorious cover drive

off his first ball of the innings,

joining Virat Kohli and Suresh Raina.

Three balls later, Rohit

hit one along the ground

through the cover-point region

tled Quinton de Kock with late swing after four dot balls in the first over. Smashed for five sixes in an over in his previous outing, it was a new day, new game for Cottrell, as he

started with a wicket maid-

en.

Rohit scored 22 runs off the

16th over bowled by James

Neesham. It was then left to

the pair of Pollard and Hardik

to provide the final flourish.

The start was inauspi-

cious for the defending cham-

pions as Sheldon Cottrell cas-

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