



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



DOVAL STORMS
OUT OF SCO MEET
OVER PAKISTAN'S
FICTITIOUS MAP

P4



TOYOTA HALTS INDIA
EXPANSION, BLAMES
'HIGH TAXES'

P8



NAVALNY LOOKS
GAUNT IN PICTURE
FROM HOSPITAL

P10



THE RICHEST
OF THEM
ALL IS MESSI

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 38 and 25 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 90% Min: 48%
TEMPERATURE
Max: 37.4°C (+4) Min: 26.0°C (+1)
SUN RISES SUN SETS
06:07 hrs 18:25 hrs
MOON RISES MOON SETS
4:41 hrs 18:01 hrs

THUMBNAILS



A woman dries food grain along railway tracks near slums in the Capital on Tuesday.

AMARJEET SINGH

Jaya lambastes social media: Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan on Tuesday lashed out at social media alleging they were maligning Bollywood and urged the government for protection. Raising the issue of public importance in Rajya Sabha, Mrs Bachchan said Bollywood was being flogged by a section of people and condemned the attempts made by some people to defame the industry. She was apparently reacting to the statement made by actor-politician Ravi Kishan, who on Monday called Bollywood a 'gutter' while raising the drug addiction issue of Bollywood in Lok Sabha. P5

Growth forecast: India's coronavirus-battered economy will shrink by 9 per cent this fiscal, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) predicted on Tuesday, saying growth outlook remains highly vulnerable to either a prolonged outbreak of the pandemic or a resurgence of cases. This will be the first time in four decades that the Indian economic growth will contract. In its Asian Development Outlook 2020 Update, ADB forecasts a strong recovery for the economy in FY2021 with gross domestic product growing by 8 per cent as mobility and business activities resume more widely. P8

Lok Sabha passes Bill to cut salaries of MPs by 30%



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed a bill to reduce for one year the salaries of MPs by 30 per cent "to meet the exigencies arising out of Covid-19 pandemic".

The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment)

Bill, 2020 was introduced in the Lower House on Monday.

It will replace the Salary, Allowances And Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

The ordinance was cleared by the Cabinet on 6 April and promulgated the next day.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Covid-19 has been constituted on 7 August under the NITI Aayog. Thirteen clinical trials of repurposed drugs have been undertaken to build a portfolio of therapeutic options for coronavirus patients, he said.

"The government of India has taken a series of actions to prevent, control and mitigate the impact of Covid-19. India followed a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach," Choubey said.

The Prime Minister, a high-level group of ministers (GoM), cabinet secretary, committee of secretaries and Health Ministry officials continue to monitor the public health response to Covid in the country, he said.

The Covid-19 case fatality rate due to the virus was recorded at 1.64 per cent.

There are 9,90,061 active cases of Covid in the country which comprises 20.08 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's Covid tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on

7 August; 30 lakh on 23 August and hit 40 lakh on 5 September.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 5,83,12,273 samples have been tested up to 14 September with 10,72,845 samples being tested on Monday. India is at the top in terms of the number of recovered cases followed by Brazil and the US, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

India is the second-worst hit nation in terms of Covid-19 cases after the US, while it is third in terms of fatalities globally after the US and Brazil, according to the JHU data.

Of the 1,054 new deaths, 363 are from Maharashtra, 119 from Karnataka, 68 from Punjab, 62 from Uttar Pradesh, 60 from Andhra Pradesh, 58 from West Bengal, 53 from Tamil Nadu, 29 from Madhya Pradesh, 25 from Haryana, 18 from Chhattisgarh, 17 each from Gujarat and Jammu and

Kashmir, 15 each from Kerala and Uttarakhand and 14 each from Rajasthan and Goa.

Thirteen fatalities have been reported from Assam, 11 from Odisha, 10 from Telangana, nine each from Bihar and Puducherry, seven from Tripura, six from Jharkhand, five each from Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh, two from Sikkim while Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Ladakh have registered one fatality each.

A total of 80,776 deaths have been reported so far in the country includes 29,894 from Maharashtra followed by 8,434 from Tamil Nadu. The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website.

40 L kept under surveillance as part of Covid contact-tracing: Centre

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Around 40 lakh people have been kept under surveillance as part of the contact-tracing efforts in the country, Union minister Ashwini Choubey told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is conducting contact tracing through community surveillance.

"As on 10 September, a total of about 40 lakh persons have been kept under surveillance. There are 1,697 laboratories conducting Covid-19 testing," he said.

The MoS for health said there were 15,290 Covid-treatment facilities with 13,14,171 dedicated isolation beds till 10 September. There are also

2,31,269 oxygen-supported isolation beds and 62,694 ICU beds (including 32,241 ventilator beds).

States are being supported in terms of supply of logistics, Choubey said.

So far, 1.39-crore PPE kits, 3.42-crore N-95 masks, 10.84-crore hydroxychloroquine tablets, 29,779 ventilators and 1,02,400 oxygen cylinders have been supplied to state and central government hospitals till 10 September, he said.

More than 30 vaccine candidates have been supported and they are in different stages of development. Three candidates are in advanced stage of Phase I, II and III trials, and more than four are in advanced pre-clinical development stage.

A national expert group on vaccine administration for

Covid-19 has been constituted on 7 August under the NITI Aayog. Thirteen clinical trials of repurposed drugs have been undertaken to build a portfolio of therapeutic options for coronavirus patients, he said.

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"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website.

Parliament passes Bill to give statutory status to aviation regulators

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Parliament on Tuesday passed a bill that seeks to improve India's aviation safety ratings and provide statutory status to regulatory institutions, including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri today said the government will not compromise on air safety and asserted that India's air safety record had improved tremendously after the Modi government took over.

The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which provides for

statutory backing to the DGCA, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), was passed by a voice vote in Rajya Sabha.

The bill that was passed in Lok Sabha on 17 March which amends the Aircraft Act, 1934 also entails to increase the fine for violations from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore. The last revision was made in 2007 from Rs 1,000-2000 to Rs 10 lakh.

Puri said the Lifeline Udan service carried 1,000 tonnes of essential medical supplies within the country, brought 1,500 tonnes from abroad,

and transported 30 tonnes to other countries.

It was wrong to suggest that the airline charged exorbitant fares. In fact, other airlines charged several times more than Air India, he said.

The amendments were necessary as tremendous growth in civil aviation has thrown many challenges such as saturated airport capacity, lack of trained manpower, limited manpower capabilities, he said, adding these are happy challenges.

Puri said the bill seeks to insert a new definition for three regulatory bodies DGCA, BCAS and AAIB.

The proposed amend-

ments follow the 2012 and the 2015 audit by the International Civil Aviation Organisation that had indicated the need to give statutory recog-

nition to these agencies, he said.

No change has been proposed in terms of imprisonment that is at two years in most cases, he said.

DGCA, BCAS and AAIB were constituted under executive powers of the government.

Referring to members' fears over the sale of Air India, he said, the choice was between privatization and closure, as the airline had a debt of Rs 16,000 crores. The Government was confident that the airline would be handed over to a new owner in a running condition so that the airline and its flag keep flying, he said.

Puri said Mumbai and

Delhi handled 33 per cent of Indian passenger traffic and earnings, while the six airports awarded in 2018 accounted for just nine per cent Indian passenger traffic.

On the other hand, entities from all over the world participated in the bidding for six airports in 2018, he said. He said the government in the last three years has recruited 1,000 air traffic controllers as against requirement of 3,500 such officials.

Since the privatisation of Mumbai and Delhi airports, the Airports Authority of India has received Rs 29,000 crore which has been utilised to develop airport infrastructure in the country elsewhere. The vast earning was also the reason Budget for the Civil Aviation sector had declined.

Puri said Mumbai and

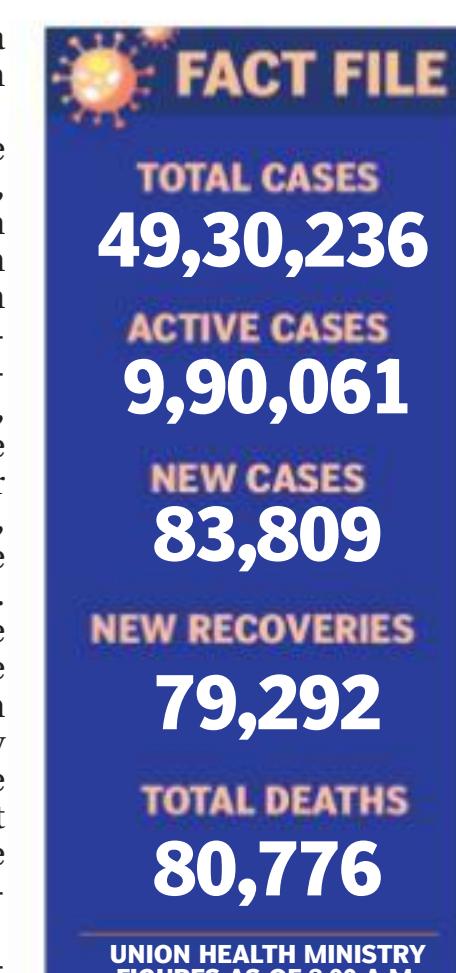
Delhi records 4,263 new cases, 36 deaths

SNS

NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Delhi today recorded 4,263 fresh Covid-19 cases, which took the cumulative total of the city's Covid caseload to 2,25,796, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The national capital today also reported a record 62,669 tests being conducted for detection of coronavirus cases, which was the highest number of such tests so far. Thirty-six fatalities due to the coronavirus infection were recorded that pushed Delhi's Covid death toll to 4,806. The recovered Covid patients discharged from various hospitals during the past 24 hours were 3,081, which took the total of such patients to 1,91,203. The city's Covid recovery rate, however, further dipped to 84.67 per cent.



paper . thestatesman . com

Delhi records 4,263 fresh Covid cases, 36 deaths, over 62K tests

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

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The national capital today also reported a record 62,669 tests being conducted for detection of coronavirus cases, which was its highest number of such tests so far.

The count of rapid antigen tests conducted stood at 52,271 while the number of RT-PCR, CBNAAT and True NAAT tests was 10,398, thereby altogether adding to 62,669, according to the bulletin.

The recovered Covid patients discharged from different hospitals during the



(2,312); 28,835 (2,509); 32,834 (2,737); 36,219 (2,914); 38,895 (2,973); 36,046 (3,256); 22,954 (2,077); 45,797 (3,609); 54,517 (4,039); 58,340 (4,308); 60,580 (4,266); 60,076 (4,321); 56,656 (4,235); and 44,884 (3,229).

The number of tests done per million now was over 1.18 lakh while the total number of tests stood at over 22.46 lakh. The positivity rate today stood at 6.8 per cent, the bulletin said, adding that the case fatality rate stood at 2.13 per cent.

Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain held a meeting with medical directors and medical superintendents of all Delhi government hospitals to review the status of testing.

Meanwhile, Delhi chief secretary Vijay Dev reviewed the Covid-19 management along with district magistrates in a meeting, according to the bulletin.

Since 18 August, coronavirus cases again have been coming in four-figure count in the city. According to the bulletin, out of the total number of beds in Covid hospitals, 7,824 were vacant. It said that 2,649 beds in Covid care centres were occupied by persons under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by Vande Bharat Mission and "bubble" flights.

The active cases tally today rose to 29,787 from yesterday's 28,641, the bulletin said.

The number of containment zones in Delhi today jumped to 1,560 from 1,517 the previous day. The number of patients getting treatment under the home isolation system was 16,576.

The Delhi government has significantly ramped up testing over the last several days.

The number of tests conducted and corresponding fresh cases reported from September 1-14 in that order are: 14,389 (1,358); 20,437 (2,024); 24,198

Classified

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(B) M.Sc. (2 yrs. / 4 semesters): Mathematics; Educational Qualification: (a) B.Sc. (Hons.) Degree in Mathematics or (b) B.Sc. (Pass / General Course Under 10+2+3 pattern / Old 11+3 pattern) with Mathematics as one of the Elective subjects) or (b) 2 years B.Sc. Degree with 1 year Bridge Course from any recognised university.

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Directorate of Distance Education, NBU

Advt. No. 310/R-2020 Date: 16.09.2020

LEGAL NOTICES



CHANGE OF NAME

IN THE COURT OF SH. AKASH JAIN
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Additional Rent Controller (West)
Court Room No. 112,
1st Floor
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.
Petition No. SC-17/2020

I Shri Kant, s/o Ram Darash Singh have changed my name from Shri Kant to Shri Kant Singh in my all documents vide affidavit before notary public dated 15-09-2020 for all future purposes.

I Ram Darash, s/o Randheer Singh have changed my name from Ram Darash Singh in my all documents vide affidavit before notary public dated 15-09-2020 for all future purposes.

I, ABDUL Wahid Shaikh, s/o. Emani Shaikh, R/o. Teghari Milonpara, Murshidabad, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I 'Abdul Wahid Shaikh' and 'Rantu Sk.' is same and identical person, vide affidavit sworn before Notary Public Alipore dated: 15.09.2020.

VIDE affidavits sworn before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore Court, dated: 06.08.2020. I, Ashutosh Chakraborty, S/o. late Ramsankar Chakraborty declared that Ashutosh Chakraborty and C/o. Sri Ramsankar Chakraborty are both the same & one identical person in every cases of concerned documents.

I, ABDUL Wahid Shaikh, s/o. Emani Shaikh, R/o. Teghari Milonpara, Murshidabad, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I 'Abdul Wahid Shaikh' and 'Rantu Sk.' is same and identical person, vide affidavit sworn before Notary Public Alipore dated: 15.09.2020.

AISHEE XEROX CENTRE: Khudiram Nagar, Opposite Zilla Parishad, Paschim Medinipur, 721101. 9434702050, 9434259909. S. TRIVEDI, Pathakpara, Bankura, (0324) 232065. RINKU AD AGENCY: Chanchal Bhattacharya, 74, Santiniketan Rasta, Bally, Howrah-711101. Mobile: 831833485. RAYCOGNISE: Arghya Commercial Plaza, Upper Ground Floor, Room No. 8, Burnpur Rd., Ansals, 4, Burdwan. Ph: 933 3104777, Fax: 933 2253099.

TRIVENI, Pathakpara, Bankura, (0324) 232065. TYPE CORNER, Collectry More (opposite SP Bunglow), Krishnanagar-741101, Dist: Nadia, 9474334978, (03472) 257432, KRISHNA DEB, C/o. Balurhat Barta, Balurhat-733101. Dist: Dakshin Dinajpur (W.B.), Ph: (03522) 249230. Mobile: 8759169158 / 09434247137.

COLLECTION: 110, B.C. Rd, Barabazar (Near C.M.S. School) Burdwan, Ph: 0342-256069 / 8926434614. NEW COMPUTER INDIA: New Market, Benachity, 9883934508. DURGAPUR-713213. Ph.: 9838217177 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.), Sunday Closed. STANDARD BOOK DEPOT: 10/1, Grand Trunk Rd. (South) Howrah Maidan, Howrah-711101. Ph: 2641-4114 / 2474-5856.

NARAYAN DASGUPTA: Mahakali Paper Centre, B/9/16 (CA), Kalyani-741235, Nadia. Phone: 9851771877, 5852-7177 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.), Sunday Closed. STANDARD

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The public health actions were taken in a pre-emptive, proactive, graded manner based on the evolving scenario.

ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY
MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

03

Introduction of 3 farm Bills in LS exposes SAD: Capt

Punjab CM slams Sukhbir Badal for SAD's 'farce' & 'charade' over 'anti-farmers' Ordinances pushed by itsally Modi-led NDA govt; seeks Union minister Danve's apology for 'misleading' nation on the Ordinances issue

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 15 SEPTEMBER

Punjab chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh today said that the introduction of three farm sector Bills in the Lok Sabha by the Narendra Modi-led NDA government yesterday to replace the three controversial Ordinances promulgated earlier had "totally exposed" the "farce of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)'s pretense of protecting the interests of the farmers" of the state.

With the BJP-led NDA government going ahead with introducing the three Bills in the Lok Sabha on the very first day of the current Parliament session instead of accepting its ally SAD's "so-called plea to defer it", the SAD's "charade on the issue had been laid bare", Capt Amarinder charged.

He said that the point that SAD chief and MP Sukhbir Singh Badal had stayed away from the Lower House on Monday, when the Bills were introduced to replace the Ordinances, showed that the "entire drama of seeking postponement of their enactment was played out by the SAD president to appease the farmer organisations", which have been up in arms against the Ordinances.

There has clearly been a "conspiracy" to undermine farmers' interests and that of the states, which are constitutionally-mandated to be responsible for agriculture, the CM said, asking "why else would Sukhbir conveniently remain away from Parliament on the opening day itself?" Capt Amarinder said that the "SAD president knew



all along" that the Bills would be brought to the House to replace the Ordinances which had the "explicit stamp of Akali approval".

This was also done by the Akalis in the Punjab Legislative Assembly during its one-day session earlier, the CM charged, adding that even then the SAD had chosen not to attend the proceedings of the House to avoid having to vote for the anti-Ordinances resolution.

He also alleged that the "SAD, which had endorsed the anti-farmer and anti-federal Ordinances as part of the ruling coalition at the Centre, was now indulging in the drama of seeking clarifications and amendments to the Ordinances for the consumption of the farmer organisations and unions, which had seen through their gimmickry".

Capt Amarinder asked Sukhbir: "You think the people of Punjab, and the farmers, are fools? They are not going to be taken in by your theatrics and pretensions of

shedding crocodile tears."

These "pathetic attempts" to woo the farmer vote-bank ahead of the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections would backfire on the Akalis, as they had done in 2017, he said.

The Punjab CM also demanded an unconditional apology from Union minister Raosaheb Patil Danve for "misleading" the nation on the farm Ordinances issue from the floor of the House in a "clear and complete breach of parliamentary principles and propriety".

Rejecting as "totally incorrect" Danve's statement in the Lok Sabha yesterday about Punjab being on board the anti-farmer Ordinances, the CM said the remarks of the Union minister of state for consumer affairs, food and public distribution were aimed at "defaming" the Congress and its government in the state.

Capt Amarinder said that at no point did the high-powered committee make any suggestion about bringing these anti-farmers Ordinances, which the "Centre introduced on the sly amid the pandemic and has now placed in Parliament for enactment through false pretensions".

The minister should "apologise immediately and unequivocally for presenting false facts in the Lok Sabha", said the CM, describing his statements made in the Lok Sabha as "undemocratic and unethical and a violation of the parliamentary principles".

The CM said his government has "consistently and persistently opposed any move to dilute the rights and interests of the farmers, not only in the high-powered committee on agricultural reforms but in the state Assembly and on all public forums".

It was his government, which had "initiated the resolution in the Assembly rejecting the Ordinances", he said, adding that he personally had written twice to PM Modi seeking withdrawal of the "anti-farmer legislations that would spell the death-knell of the farming community in Punjab".

The report of the high-powered committee, of which Punjab was made a member weeks after it was constituted, nowhere suggested any Ordinance or central law to be enacted by the Government of India, said Capt Amarinder, dismissing any claims to the contrary. In its response to the draft report, the Punjab government had said that 86 per cent of the state's farmers are small holders cultivating less than 2 hectares with little bargaining power in the market. They are illiterate or less educated and cannot be left at the mercy of market forces for determination of commodity prices, the state government had said.

The Punjab government's response further stated that "majority of the farmers are fearful of entering into contracts with large corporate houses...they feel that they may not be able to compete with them in case of any litigation".

In the last 18 months, oil amounting to around 88,000 litres has been stolen from over 120 transformers in BSES areas. Of these, around 40 cases are since April 2020 onwards, the spokesperson

Leaking oil from a transformer can also lead to a fire incident and the BSES has taken these incidents very seriously and registered FIRs in various police stations, the spokesperson said.

"More recently, oil thieves were caught red-handed while trying to steal oil from a distribution transformer in Subhash Mohalla in east Delhi. A similar case of oil theft was reported even last week from Lodhi Road," the spokesperson said.

Aspecial oil is used in transformers for cooling purposes. Up to 900 litres of oil can be used depending on the size of the transformers, an official said.

"The BSES discoms are using surveillance and technology to contain the menace," the spokesperson said.

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amounting to around 88,000 litres has been stolen from over 120 transformers in BSES areas. Of these, around 40 cases are since April 2020 onwards, the spokesperson

Marg, GTB Enclave, Nand Nagri, Shastry Park, Jatrabari, Jagatpuri, Subhash Mohalla, Kalyanpur and Vinod Nagar," the spokesperson said.

BSES is closely working with the Delhi Police to crack down on this menace. It has been observed that thieves are able to steal oil from live transformers, even when they are properly locked and surrounded by steel fencing, the official said.

Increased vigilance, especially during the night hours, cooperation of RWAs, deployment of quick response teams, installation of internet-based sensors on transformers in select vulnerable pockets, are some other methods being used to check oil theft, the spokesperson said.

"In south and west Delhi, these pockets are located in Paschim Vihar, Punjabi Bagh, Palam, Mayapuri, Janakpuri, Mundka, Tagore Garden, Dwarika among others.

In east and central Delhi, these pockets are located in Mansarovar Park, Rani Jansi

During the last few months, oil has been stolen from transformers located in several areas of south, west, east and central Delhi, said the BSES spokesperson.

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In east and central Delhi, these pockets are located in Mansarovar Park, Rani Jansi

Also MOGs (Magnet Oil Gauge) have been retrofitted in around 1,200 transformers. The moment oil level goes below a certain threshold, the transformer trips automatically, protecting it, as also alerting the control centre, the spokesperson added.

Cong MLAs stage walkout from HP Assembly seeking debate on land scam; BJP hits back



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 15 SEPTEMBER

members staged walkout for the second consecutive day in the assembly which seemed to be aimed at garnering limelight and remain in headlines.

Generally, ruling and opposition members meet the Speaker at his office and raise issues but till date, no such protest was held as was witnessed today," he added.

Thakur said the 10-day assembly session was being held amid COVID-19 pandemic and a 3-day discussion was held on the viral disease since the beginning of the house which a first in the history of HP assembly.

"We were expecting that opposition members would give valuable suggestions backed by facts during debate on COVID-19 but no such thing happened during the debate," he said.

The Chief Minister said the opposition members were to day demanding debate on benami land deals and the state government had sought time to collect facts before taking decision to allow debate on the issue.

But the opposition members staged walkout which pointed out that they were only interested in making headlines by staging walkout from assembly, he added.

State Parliamentary Affairs minister Suresh Bhardwaj termed the move of opposition members as undemocratic and unprecedented and accused them of trying to stall discussion on issues related to welfare of people of the state.

"The state government has spent lakhs of rupees of people's money to conduct Question Hour in the House but the opposition seems to avert discussion and are conducting hurdles in smooth functioning of the house.

"It is a sheer wastage of government exchequer money," he said while asserting that the state government might have to rethink its decision of holding Question Hour in the HP assembly.

TENDER

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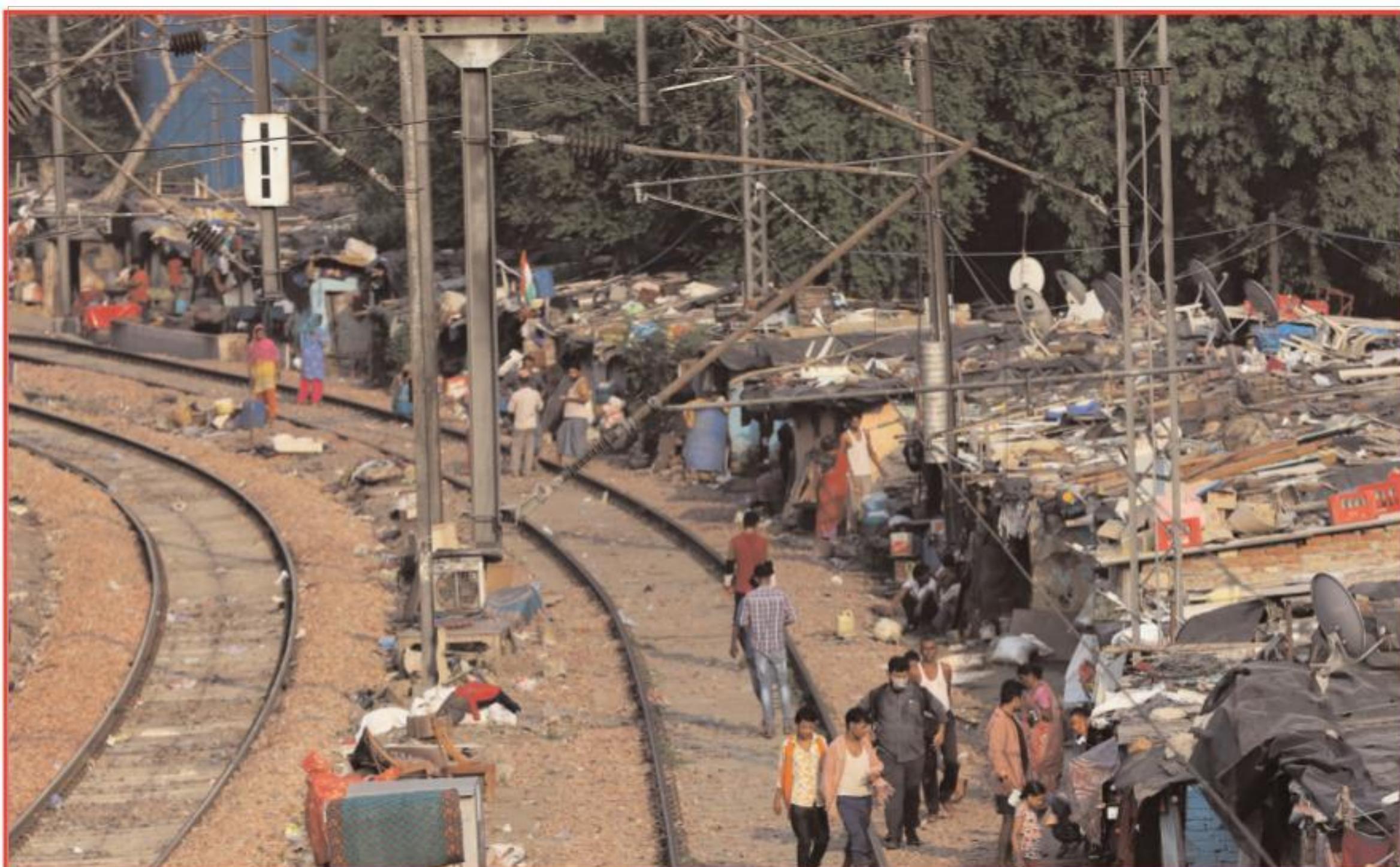
IRCTC Invites

1. Expression of Interest for the "Development of Goods Sheds on Indian Railway Network". Interested parties may contact: JGM/Infra (Mob: 8287930444, E-mail: jgminfra@irctc.com)
2. Open E-tender No CO/NIT/FP-FFU/2020/05 for Setting up, Operation and Management of Food Plaza at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station. Last Date for submission of Tender is 06.10.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs.
3. Open E-tender for Printing, Designing and Transportation of "Trains at a Glance 2020". Last day of submission: 28.09.2020.

For details visit www.irctc.com or www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC. Tender document download & participation can be done on website: www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC. Corrigendum/addendum, will be published only on www.irctc.com and www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC.

Office Address: IRCTC Limited, 11th Floor, B-148, Statesman House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110 001, Tel: 011-23701239, Fax: 011-23311259

LIVING ON MARGINS



The residents of a slum along railway tracks in the Capital going about their daily lives under tough, challenging and precarious circumstances. On Tuesday.

AMARJEET SINGH

Forced by Covid spike, U'khand govt scraps decision to reopen schools from 21 Sept

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

DEHRADUN, 15 SEPTEMBER

government to reopen schools. Uttarakhand education minister Arvind Pandey said, "Due to rising number of cases and assessing the current situation, we have decided to cancel the order to reopen the schools in Uttarakhand from coming 21 September, till further orders."

Under the new guideline of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Government of India) students of class 9 to 12 were permitted to visit their school on voluntary basis for taking guidance from their teachers. The students were required to submit a written consent from their parents/guardians.

The Uttarakhand government too started preparation for the reopening of the schools in the state. But, this month witnessed a sharp increase in coronavirus cases in Uttarakhand. The trend has discouraged the state



of a total 33,016 cases registered (by 14 September), 22,077 persons have recovered so far. There are presently 10,374 active cases in Uttarakhand and most of the hospitals, providing Covid-19 care, are packed. Four hundred and twenty-nine persons lost their lives by getting infected with the virus in the hill state.

He said that the examination would be conducted for officers/ officials of Indian Administrative Services, HP Administrative Services, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, IFS/HPS, all other gazetted officers and eligible Non-Gazetted Officers (Superintendent Grade II and Senior Assistant) technical and non-technical, HP Board of School Education (Class-II officers/ officials of Board, Engineering Officers (Civil/ Electrical/ Mechanical) of HP State Electricity Board Ltd, Assistant Engineers (Civil)/ Senior Managers of Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) Ltd.

He said that those who intend to appear in the Departmental Examinations have been directed to reach examination centre half an hour before the exam and follow proper social distancing norms and other guidelines issued by the Government of India

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trical/ Mechanical) of HP State

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He said that those who intend to appear in the Departmental Examinations have been directed to reach examination centre half an hour before the exam and follow proper social distancing norms and other guidelines issued by the Government of India

and ensure to download Aarogya Setu App in their mobile phones.

The spokesperson said that the candidates who have been declared Corona infected or advised to stay under home/institutional quarantine after coming in contact with corona positive person should inform it to the board at least two days prior to the exam so that arrangements could be made to conduct examination for them separately in quarantine centre.

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bers staged walkout which pointed out that they were only interested in making headlines by staging walkout from assembly, he added.

State Parliamentary Affairs minister Suresh Bhardwaj termed the move of opposition members as undemocratic and unprecedented and accused them of trying to stall discussion on issues related to welfare of people of the state.

"The state government has spent lakhs of rupees of people's money to conduct Question Hour in the House but the opposition seems to avert discussion and are conducting hurdles in smooth functioning of the house.

"It is a sheer wastage of government exchequer money," he said while asserting that the state government might have to rethink its decision of holding Question Hour in the HP assembly.

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PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER AMARINDER SINGH
ON SAD CHIEF STAYING AWAY FROM HOUSE WHEN ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED

THUMBNAILS



A health worker collects a nasal swab sample during Covid-19 screening inside a temple in Mumbai on Tues-day. ■ AFP

Indigenous families: Assam government will distribute land-papers to 60,000 indigenous families on 5 October. Earlier the government in Dispur provided patta to 46,000 families and CM Sarbananda Sonowal committed more than one lakh such families would be facilitated land papers within this year.

SNS

Drug abuse: The CBI, Bengaluru, probing drug abuse among bigwigs, including Kannada film actors, on Tuesday swooped down on the lavish bungalow of Aditya Alva, son of former minister and late Jeevaraj Alva in the city.

PTI

Ruckus in TN House over NEET, Mekedatu dam

Congress MLAs were evicted from session for disrupting discussion on NEET

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Controversy over NEET and Mekedatu dam project in Karnataka ruffled feathers in Tamil Nadu Assembly on its second day of the three-day session.

Congress MLAs in the Tamil Nadu Assembly were evicted from the session on Tuesday after they disrupted discussions on the National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET).

The legislators objected to AIADMK's stand that the previous Union government led by the Congress and DMK alliance (in the 2009 general elections) was responsible for the introduction of NEET, and that former Congress minister P Chidambaram's wife Nalini Chidambaram had fought in the Supreme Court to bring the examination to Tamil Nadu.

The arguments began after Speaker P Dhanapal called for parties to express their views and opposition to NEET. After DMK chief MK Stalin's statement over the issue, chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami gave a forceful speech blaming the Congress-DMK alliance, which had come to power in 2009, for the examination itself, which triggered protests from Congress members.

"In 2010, it was your alliance that introduced NEET. You



are responsible and the whole country knows this," the chief minister said. "The DMK is responsible for the death of 13 NEET aspirants," he added.

The AIADMK members also pointed out that former chief minister Jayalalithaa had fought against NEET in the Supreme Court while the wife of Congress leader P Chidambaram had fought for it.

The reference to the leader's wife and advocate Nalini Chidambaram agitated the Congress, which said her individual actions cannot be mentioned and that it must be struck off the record. The Speaker reportedly refused this, which led to the disruption in the Assembly, and the Congress MLAs were eventually evicted.

"The AIADMK said that

Congress brought NEET, but at the time, it was optional for all states and they could take a call," said Congress leader KR Ramasamy after Assembly session. "They are saying Congress purposely brought NEET. When cases were in the Supreme Court, several lawyers, including Nalini Chidambaram, were part of it. But Congress has been against NEET, and Nalini Chidambaram cannot be brought into this. We said that this should not be said but the Speaker did not accept this," he added.

The debate in the Assembly over NEET happened after the deaths by suicide of three students over the fear of writing the examination and the inability to get seats in medical colleges. All three aspirants

who died within a span of three days had spent the year preparing for NEET.

Meanwhile, chief minister Palaniswami said the state government will never allow the Mekedatu dam in Karnataka to be constructed. He was answering a question raised by DMK's Durai Murugan, who is also the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly.

"Karnataka brought it up in the Cauvery Water Management Authority and we opposed it strongly. Then it was removed from the agenda. There is a case against this dam in the Supreme Court. Hence let me categorically state that the government of Tamil Nadu will not allow them to construct Mekedatu dam," Palaniswami said in the Assembly.

HARD TIME



Labourers smoothen the edges of a road divider on Meerut Expressway being constructed by the NHAI, in Ghaziabad on Tuesday.

■ AFP

Telangana Assembly adopts resolution against Electricity Amendment Bill

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 15 SEPTEMBER

that BJP MPs from the state should respond to the Bill as well.

The chief minister moved the resolution and opposed the Bill on three counts. For one, it is detrimental to the interests of the farmers and the poor; secondly, it usurped the rights of the states and finally, lead to privatisation. By this resolution the Telangana Assembly urges the Centre against forcing the proposed Act on the citizens of the country and to withdraw the Bill immediately," he said.

This comes a day after TRS abstained in the Rajya Sabha paving the way for the NDA candidate during election for deputy chairperson's post. Rao announced in the Assembly that TRS MPs will oppose the Bill in both Houses of the Parliament. He also demanded

the 25 lakh pumpsets used by farmers.

Power bills would have to be paid at a cost every month without exception with the regulatory commission at the central level deciding upon the charges without subsidy. Telangana which provided cross-subsidies will be heavily affected under the new Bill.

Distribution companies will have to bear additional expense of paying salaries of meter readers and are expected to suffer losses due to the open access system which will enable consumers to procure more power from anywhere. Rao warned the enactment of the Bill will lead to backdoor entry of corporates in power distribution while adversely affecting state-run power distribution companies.

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On line bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division, Ghumarwin on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractor/firms of appropriate class enlisted with HP JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG.

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD Cost of Tender	Time of completion	Cost of form
1	Retrofitting of LWSS Bharari Ladhani in Ghumarwin constituency to provide functional household tap connection (FHTC) to leftover households under Jal Jeevan Mission- Har Ghar Nal Se Jal (SH: C/o pump house, retaining wall & barbed wire fencing Job NO.1)	1934242/-	36500/-	Six Months	400/-

1. Tender document and other instruction can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <https://htptenders.gov.in> by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.

2. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.

3. Key Dates :-

1. Date of online publication	10.9.2020 05:00 PM.
2. Downloading of e-tender Document	From 10.09.2020 05:00 PM. up to 5:00 PM 17-09-2020
3. Date of submission of e-tendering	From 07.09.2020 05:00 PM. up to 5:00 PM 17-09-2020
4. Physical submission of Earnest Money Deposit and cost of tender document.	Up to 5:00 PM 17-09-2020
5. Date of opening Bid	Up to 11:30 AM 18-09-2020

Conditions:-

1. The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 covers:-

i) Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of "eligibility information".

ii) Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" on the prescribed form.

2. Cover-1 shall contain Scanned copies of following "eligibility information" (Scanned copies to be uploaded)

i) Earnest money in the shape of NSC/saving account on any of the Post offices in Himachal Pradesh/Time Deposit Receipt of any nationalized bank, demand draft duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Ghumarwin OR certificate of exemption of Earnest Money Deposit or through e-payment. However in case of e-payment physical submission of documents is not required.

ii) Cost of tender Form in the shape of demand draft of Rs.400/-only or through e-payment.

iii) Certificate of registration with Jal Shakti Vibhag in appropriate class and latest renewal thereof.

iv) Income Tax & GST registration and latest clearance certificates thereof.

v) A scanned copy of undertaking that I have carefully studied all the terms and conditions stipulated in form PWD 6 & 8 as well as special terms and conditions appended along with schedule of quantity and MIT before quoting the rates in the BOQ chart and that I have visited the site of work before quoting the rates.

vi) A Scanned copy of Valid EPF Number and authorized dealership certificate for pumping machinery from Principal manufacturers.

Cover-2 shall contain BOQ where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

3. The tenders of the contractors/firms who fail to fulfill the eligibility information will be summarily rejected.

4. The contractor will submit the original document in respect of Earnest money and cost of tender document in the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Ghumarwin before 17-9-2020 up to 5:00 PM.

5. The negotiation/clarification, if any will be taken from the successful contractor only in respect of error and omission, technical aspects and in no case financial bid.

6. Earnest money of L1, L2 and L3 may be retained for a period of 120 days.

7. The representatives of the firm should inspect the site himself and make conversant with the site conditions.

8. If opening day is a holiday, the tenders shall be opened on next working day at the same time.

9. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

NOTE: - In case of failure of supply/ net connectivity problem, the tenders shall be downloaded on the restoration of the same.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Ghumarwin (HP)
Telephone No. 01978255287
e-mail: xeniphgmr@rediffmail.com

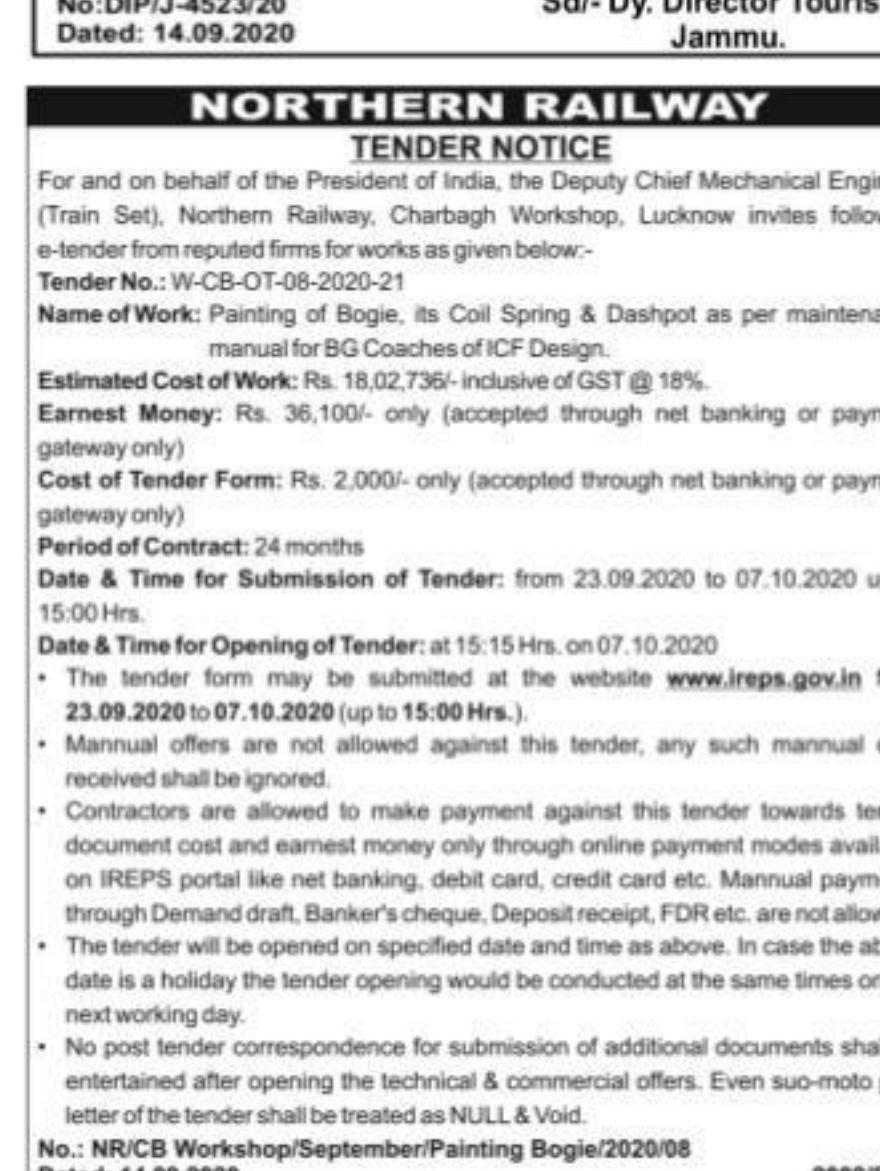
2972/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

Gold smuggling case: ED to quiz Jaleel again

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 15 SEPTEMBER

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday said the

agency has not given clean chit to Kerala higher education minister K T Jaleel in the Thiruvananthapuram airport gold smuggling case.



India walks out of SCO meet to protest Pak's 'fictitious' map

NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

India today walked out of a meeting of the National Security Advisors (NSA) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Russia after Pakistan presented at the meet a "fictitious" map of the country.

It has been reported that the retrieved digital evidences contained information which could prove Swapna's links with highly placed individuals and her transactions.

The court on Tuesday granted the NSA the custody of three accused persons - Sandeep Nair, Muhammad Ali Ibrahim and Muhammad Shafi - for four days for questioning them in the case in the light of digital evidences retrieved from the laptops, mobile phones etc of the accused.

SNS

Darj dist sees Covid spike with 125 cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Darjeeling district registered a spike in Covid-19 cases today. The district detected 125 cases in the past 24 hours, while cases also went up in the Siliguri Municipal Corporation area with 71, of which 44 are in areas under the district sources said.

Twenty-one cases have been found in Naxalbari, 20 in Matigara, and one in Kharibari blocks.

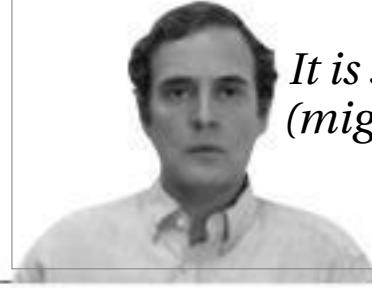
Eighteen cases have been found in Darjeeling Municipality, 11 at Sukhia Pokhri, four at Sunkha, two in Mirik, three in Pulbazar and one in Kurseong Municipality. Sources said 40 patients had been discharged and completed their home isolation today.

86 new cases in Malda

Malda reported 86 new Covid-19 cases in tests conducted in the Malda Medical College and Hospital last night. After a slowdown in the infections in the first week of this month, the number of cases is on the rise again in the district. English Bazaar Municipality area had 19 fresh cases, while Kalimpong-II had 16, sources said.

and taken inside the hospital on that day.

"We are not aware of the kind of medical



It is sad the government was unaffected by it, the world saw their (migrant labour) deaths, only Modi government was not aware of it

CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

ATTACKING GOVERNMENT ON 'NO DATA ON MIGRANT LABOURERS' DEATHS'

The Statesman

05

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

THUMBNAILS



A commuter wearing face mask as a preventive measure against Covid-19, travel in a local bus in New Delhi on Wednesday. AFP

Fierly threat: BJP leader Raju Banerjee has threatened to set Kalna Police Station on fire if the police fails make any arrests in what he termed was the murder of a BJP worker. "The local party men have set four days time for police to book the persons accused of murder of our party worker in Kalna," claimed Raju Banerjee, the BJP's South Bengal observer while a camping at Patharghat village where the BJP cadre Rabin Pal was lynched allegedly by the TMC workers on 5 September.

SNS

CBI raids in Jammu and Kathua: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday carried out raids in Jammu and Kathua districts of J&K to probe allegations of corruption and land grab by an education trust run by a former BJP minister Chaudhary Lal Singh. Reports said that the CBI also registered a case of criminal breach of trust and corruption against the trust run by Lal Singh, family members and certain government officials.

SNS

Centre transfer ₹38,282 cr to farmers: The Centre has transferred Rs 38,282 crore to farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme till August this fiscal, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

PTI

SC grants interim protection to ex-Punjab DGP: SC on Tuesday granted interim protection from arrest to former Punjab SGP Sumedh Singh Saini in 1991 alleged murder of Balwant Singh Multani.

SNS

'25 March-31 May lockdown controlled Covid-19 progression'

Choubey says ₹898.93 crore has been released from PM Cares Fund for installation of 30,000 ICU ventilators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

The lockdown from 25 March to 31 May successfully controlled the aggressive progression of Covid-19 in India but there has been a steady rise in the number of cases in the post-lockdown phase, minister of state for health and family welfare Ashwini Choubey said on Tuesday.

However, 3,328 cases and 55 deaths per million population in the country are one of the lowest in the world, Choubey said, replying to a question in Rajya Sabha.

He also said the health ministry followed a graded approach for expanding Covid-19 dedicated hospital infrastructure and enough beds are available for any contingency.

"Outbreaks of Covid-19 are still largely restricted to urban and peri-urban areas. However, there has been reporting from rural areas in the proximity of major cities," he said.

To a question on whether the government is planning to increase intensive care beds and the capacity of hospitals in remote areas to cope with a large-scale outbreak of Covid-19, Choubey said the health ministry followed a

graded approach for expanding Covid-19 dedicated hospital infrastructure.

The states were advised to plan for the requisite number of isolation, oxygen supported and ICU beds based on the prevalent and expected case growth rate.

The Ministry of health and family welfare is also monitoring the Covid-19 hospital infrastructure, he said. As of now, there are enough beds available to face any contingency, he added.

On the number of ICU beds and ventilators available and operational in different government-run hospitals in states and union territories, the minister said such details are not maintained centrally.

According to the information provided by the states and UTs on the Covid portal, there were 62,979 ICU beds and 32,862 ventilators available in the country as of 14 September. The ministry has instructed the states that they may indicate the number of ventilators required so that the same can be supplied to them.

"So far, 32,109 ventilators have been allocated to various states and a total of 20,916 ventilators have been installed at the facilities," Choubey said.

A total amount of Rs 898.93

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Amid a spurt in Covid-19 cases, the government on Tuesday said India learnt from the experience of nations that suffered high mortalities and was able to "distribute the curve" of coronavirus infection due to a "very effective" lockdown and avoid the "huge peak" those countries had in terms of deaths.

Asserting that India has one of the largest number of Covid recoveries, Health

Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the number of active cases are less than 5,000.

India's Covid deaths per million population at 58 is also amongst the lowest in the world and the global average is 118, Bhushan added. Asserting that there has been a progressive rise in India's Covid testing, he said, "We took 27 days to double our testing from 1 crore to 2 crore. However, we took only 10 days to jump from 4 crore tests to 5 crore tests."

Director General of the Indian Council of Medical

Research (ICMR), Dr Balram Bhagava, hailed a very effective lockdown for India not experiencing a "huge peak" as some of the European countries. He said, "If you look at the countries of Europe and the United States, they had a peak and then they came down and during that peak whether it was Spain, the UK or Sweden or Italy, there were huge number of mortalities. Then there was a peak which came down and then they had a second wave which is recently occurring in those countries."

on 11 September. "India has also exported it (hydroxychloroquine) to more than 140 countries," Vardhan said.

He also said there is a plan to conduct trial of ayurvedic medicines such as aswagandha, guduchi, pipali etc to prevent people from getting infected from Covid-19. The government has also made provisions for investigational therapies and has also been using Remdesivir, Convalescent plasma and Tocilizumab for managing severe cases under close medical supervision, he said.

Congress MLA dies of Covid, Kamal Nath alleges lack of treatment

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Bhopal, 15 SEPTEMBER:

Congress MLA from Biaora Assembly constituency in Madhya Pradesh, Govardhan Dangi (62), died of Covid-19 related complications in the wee hours of Tuesday in New Delhi, the Madhya Pradesh Congress informed.

Dangi is the first MLA of the state to succumb to Covid.

He tested positive for coronavirus on 25 August. Subsequently, he was admitted to the private Chirayu Hospital at Bhopal for treatment. However, his condition deteriorated during treatment and was flown by air ambulance on 8 September to a hospital in New Delhi.

MP Congress President and former MP CM Kamal Nath expressed grief on Dangi's demise. Nath also alleged that the Congress MLA did not get proper treatment at the Chirayu Hospital in Bhopal.

Nath told media personnel at Bhopal on Tuesday afternoon that the BJP state government failed to provide proper treatment to the Congress MLA and due to that negligent attitude, the Congress party lost one of its hard working and popular MLAs.

With Dangi's death, the number of bye-elections to be held in MP in the coming months has now gone up to 28.



Three MLAs, including Dangi have died, while the remaining 25 by-polls are to be held due to resignations of Congress MLAs in February, which had led to the fall of the Kamal Nath-led Congress government in the state on 20 March this year.

Meanwhile, it was decided at an all-party meet of the state Assembly today that the next assembly session in the state would be of just one day on 21 September. Limited number of MLAs would be given admission in the session and the proposed elections to the posts of Assembly Speaker and Deputy Speaker would not be held in this session.

CM Chouhan, Kamal Nath, Assembly Protem Speaker Rameshwar Sharma and other leaders attended the meeting.

The number of Covid cases in MP crossed the 93,000 mark on Tuesday. The state registered more than 2,300 new positive cases and 29 deaths in last 24 hours.

ALL WORK NO PLAY



A girl sells flowers near a temple at a roadside in Allahabad on Tuesday. ■ AFP

Ex-Navy man with BJP, RSS now

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Former Navy man Madan Sharma, who was recently attacked by Shiv Sena workers, on Tuesday said he will associate with the BJP and RSS from now on.

Sharma, who met Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at Raj Bhavan, along with local BJP leaders Mangal Prabhakar Lodha and Atul Bhatkalkar, said he wants stringent action against those who assaulted him.

"From today onwards, I am with BJP-RSS. When I was beaten up, they had levelled allegations that I am with BJP-RSS. So I am with BJP-RSS from now on," Sharma (62) told reporters.

In a letter submitted to

Koshyari, he said he did not get justice from Maharashtra government and requested the Governor to convey his displeasure over the issue to CM Uddhav Thackeray.

In the letter, Sharma said he suffered eye and back injuries in the attack by the Shiv Sena workers. He claimed that instead of taking action against the assailants, police came to arrest him an hour after the incident. He said police filed a case against Sena workers only after he raised the issue with Bhatkalkar, a local BJP MLA.

Sharma said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to him over phone and Union minister Ramdas Athawale met him at his residence.

made by actor-turned-politician Ravi Kishan, who on Monday called Bollywood a 'gutter' while raising the problem of drug-addiction in the film industry in the Lok Sabha.

Though she did not name Ravi Kishan, she said, people made a name in the industry and now call it a gutter. She said: "I completely disagree and disassociate" of the remark of alleged Bollywood drug cartel. She said she was embarrassed and ashamed.

"Jis thali mein khata hai Usme chheda karte hai (bite the hands that feed them). Galat baat hai (it is unfortunate)," she said without naming Ravi Kishan. Jaya Bachchan further said the entertainment industry in the country provides

direct employment to 5 lakh people daily and indirect employment to 5 million people.

She said: "At a time when the financial situation is in a depressing state and employment rate at the worst levels,

Improved menu for Covid patients

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 15 SEPTEMBER

From now novel coronavirus patients undergoing treatment in different government Covid hospitals across the state will get tea with biscuits at morning and light snacks in the evening in their daily diets.

According to the existing system, Covid-19 patients get meals-breakfast, lunch and dinner- daily at Rs 150 each.

On Monday, the state health department led by the chief minister Miss Mamata Banerjee has issued an order

saying that the Covid-19 patients will get two additional items - tea with biscuits and light snacks in the morning and evening respectively in their daily meals.

The existing rate is Rs 150 that includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The revised list of meals at Rs 175 daily includes tea with two biscuits at morning, four pieces of slice bread, milk and an egg for breakfast, rice, dal, vegetables, fish/chicken and curd for lunch, rice/chapati

ti, bread, dal, fish or chicken in dinner. There will be paneer/mushrooms instead of fish or chicken for vegetarian patients.

Sources in the health department said, "With complaints of a section of patients different Covid-19 care hospitals were proposing the state government provide tea and biscuits at morning and snacks as in evening besides with the existing meals-breakfast, lunch and dinner."

"No food from outside is allowed for Covid-19 patients at hospitals. Therefore, there was a long gap of

about six hours between lunch and dinner for patients. The new system will help the patients have little snacks," an official in the health department said.

"I hope the government tells these people who have made their earning, name and fame in this industry to stop using such language," the SPMP said. "There are people in the entertainment industry who are some of the highest taxpayers. They are still being harassed," she said.

"I think the government must stand by the entertainment industry because it always comes forward to help the government in whatever good work it takes up... I think it is very important that the government must support this industry and not kill it... just because there are few people, you cannot tarnish the image of the entire industry," Jaya Bachchan said.



Chhattisgarh's Mungeli district goes for lockdown

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

RAIPUR, 15 SEPTEMBER

Amid nationwide unlocking, despite Covid-19 cases shooting up uncontrollably, administration in Mungeli district of Chhattisgarh has opted to go for a week's lockdown with the pandemic.

Mungeli District Collector PC Elma issued lockdown orders keeping in view the swelling pandemic in Chhattisgarh.

The collector, in his order issued today, said that given the increased Corona infection in the district, the district will be locked down from 17 to 23 September.

Citizens had been demanding a lockdown to control the pandemic in this rural terrain, the order further stated.

Shops, commercial establishments, factories, go-downs, and weekly markets in the district will also remain closed, whereas factories producing emergency products will be exempted from the lockdown stringencies.

Religious, cultural, and tourist places will also be closed and a fine of Rs 100 will be imposed for going out of the home without a mask

and legal action will be taken if anyone is caught without a mask for the second time, the order further stated.

Chhattisgarh which initially looked unaffected by the pandemic appears caught in the pandemic wave with hundreds of Covid-19 positive cases emerging from the state capital Raipur alone.

Given its smaller size of the population, Raipur seems to marching way ahead in terms of the number of corona cases than several other capital cities with a sizeable population.

The only respite the city can boast of is the low mortality rate. However, poor health infrastructure, a characteristic Hindi heartland trait, is taking its toll in the state.

Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh police launched a mobile application to provide their services online to citizens without them having to visit police stations. CM Bhupesh Baghel on Monday launched "CG-COP" app, through which people will have access to at least 14 types of services, an official said.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a female name Pushpa Sahu W/o Sh. Chandan Sahu R/o Gali No. 11, Satbeer House, Zamrudpur, New Delhi, Age: 20 years, Height: 4'6", Face: Long, Built: Normal, Complexion: Fair, Hair: Black, Wearing: Dark Green Suit & Salwar, Identification Mark: Mole Mark on Back is missing since 27.09.2015 at 11:00 AM from the area of P.S. Greater Kailash, New Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 27-A dated 27.09.2015 has been registered at P.S. Greater Kailash, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this female please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

DP/206/SD/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 45 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead in front of National Club SPM Marg, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No: 28-A dated 13.09.2020 at PS Lahori Gate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Male, **Age:** about 45 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Green colour vest and blue colour half pant.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Lahori Gate, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

Tokyo Monogatari

Visuals of Japan's outgoing Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, and the newly elected party president, hitherto the Chief Cabinet Secretary, Yoshihide Suga, on Monday reaffirm the smooth transition scripted by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Mr Suga, who has been elected as the president of the party, is set to be named as the country's next Prime Minister at an extraordinary session of the Diet on 16 September. Both the election and the change of guard were necessitated by Abe's decision to step down on grounds of failing health. As his long-time aide, it is pretty obvious that the forces of continuity have won over the forces of change. "A political vacuum cannot be allowed amid the national crisis caused by the novel coronavirus," was Mr Suga's gracious response after his election as head of the LDP. We must overcome this crisis and continue the efforts of Prime Minister Abe. Let's take this country forward." A major challenge will be Japan's equation with China, a relationship Mr Abe had crafted with some care. Mr Suga scored a resounding victory with 377 votes in the first round of voting. LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Fumio Kishida received 89 votes, and former LDP Secretary General Shigeru Ishiba gained 68 votes. A total of 534 votes were cast by the 393 LDP Diet members, 282 from the House of Representatives, 111 from the House of Councillors and 47 prefectural LDP chapters. Each chapter had three votes for a total of 141. Altogether, the vote is a tribute to Abe's leadership as Suga succeeds to an enormously encouraging inheritance.

Suga has been serving as Chief Cabinet Secretary ever since the inauguration of the second Abe cabinet in December 2012, and has been the backbone of the administration. In the build-up to the election, Suga called for continuity with the Abe administration and advocated striking a balance between containing the novel coronavirus and social and economic activities. He does not belong to a faction, effectively making him the first party president without any affiliation. He has been fairly explicit in his enunciation of his agenda. In his address to the LDP lawmakers, he said, "My vision of society is one of self-help, mutual help, public help and bonding. We should do what we can do by ourselves, and help each other out in our communities and families. Then communities and families should help each other, and the government will provide a safety net to protect them. I want to create a government that will be trusted by the people." Japan bears witness to the first change of guard in eight years. And Yoshihide Suga will continue the tradition bequeathed by Shinzo Abe. Almost a latter-day rerun of a 1953 film, made by Yasujiro Ozu, from which we borrow the title of this comment.

Navalny's 'smart vote'

The cat is out the bag and the plot thickens. In parallel to Sunday's local elections in Russia comes the revelation that the suspected poisoning of the Kremlin critic, Alexei Navalny, happened when he was campaigning for what he called "smart voting". In real terms, this implies an appeal to the electorate to vote for the strongest candidate, but one who does not belong to the ruling party, United Russia, helmed by President Vladimir Putin. Theoretically, the practice thus recommended is concordant with the certitudes of democracy, and Navalny had to pay for his praxis close to three decades after the collapse of the authoritarian Soviet Union (August 1991). It is hard not to wonder whether there has been any fundamental change from the Soviet system of governance. This must be the uppermost thought as Navalny recovers in a hospital in Berlin. In his reckoning, his praxis has the potential to weaken the Kremlin's overwhelming grip over the system. Equally, it can disrupt the system that, as often as not, does not allow Putin's detractors to run for office. Given the monolithic leadership, the historical aversion towards critics and detractors persists.

It may yet be a sobering thought that the voting pattern in the local elections will be scrutinised for signs of disaffection with the ruling party, and therein lies a message for the Kremlin. It is significant too that the initiative comes in the aftermath of the poisoning of Navalny. He had hoped to undermine United Russia's grip on regional power and had even urged his supporters to vote against it tactically. This was a short while before he fell gravely ill last month in what Germany, pre-eminently its Chancellor Angela Merkel, has alleged was an attempt to kill him, a charge now buttressed by findings of laboratories in France and Sweden. It shall not be easy for the Russian leadership to shore up its image in the face of such serious suspicions and allegations.

United Russia, which backs President Putin, dominates regional politics, and he may preside over the country for a long while yet, thanks to an exceptional tenure that he has put in place. Not that Putin is currently on a strong wicket. The local elections coincide with public frustration over years of falling wages and the government's handling of the pandemic. Across the Atlantic, Moscow and Washington have been equally impervious to the disaster. The regional polls in Russia would not have been of much moment were it not for the political implications. They assume importance not the least because they are considered to be the "dry run" for next September's parliamentary elections. The polls will elect 18 Governors, besides local parliaments and city councils. It is a measure of the opposition's determination to counter the establishment that the "smart voting" strategy has entailed the naming of a thousand politicians whom they think can defeat the ruling party candidates on the ballot. Perhaps the poisoning of Navalny may prove the last straw.

Gandhi the Hindu

The obvious question which arises is why the adjective 'Hindu' is put before the name of Mahatma Gandhi? Indira Gandhi was also a Hindu, but her name was not preceded by the adjective Hindu, nor was the name of her father, Jawaharlal Nehru

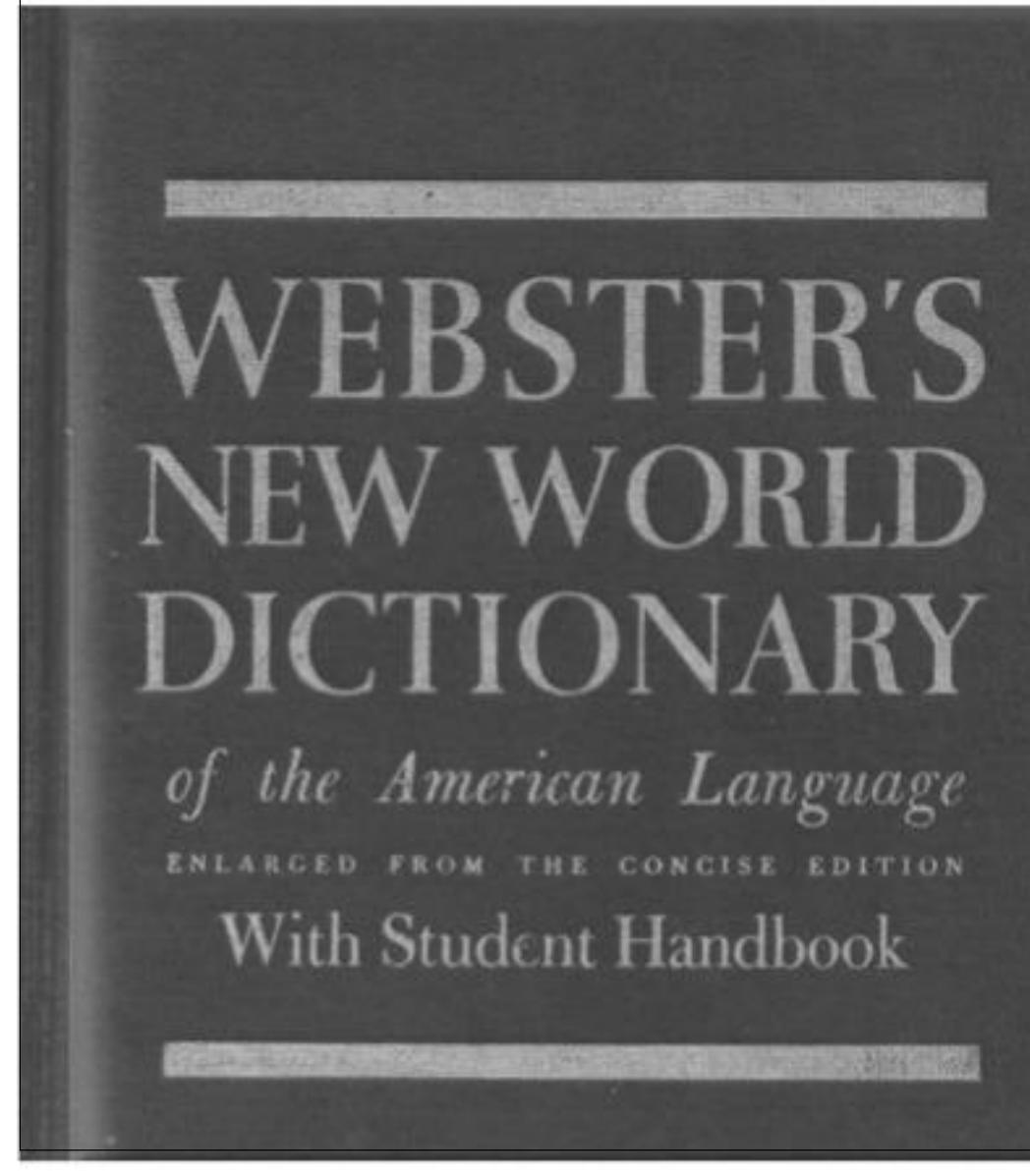
Educated persons have an idea that a dictionary or lexicon, which is an alphabetical list of words and their meanings with pronunciation, etymology and origin, is unbiased and neutral. The same kind of belief exists about an encyclopedia, which unlike a dictionary, is a compendium of information on many subjects or any particular subject, say a medical encyclopedia. Teachers and parents always advise their students and children to consult dictionaries and encyclopedias, whenever the latter want to know the meaning of a word or about any subject. Dictionaries and encyclopedias supply authentic meanings of words and information on various subjects. They have become an essential part of the culture of the educated community. We often forget that dictionaries and encyclopedias are also compiled and written by human beings, who as the proverb goes commit errors.

One of the most famous encyclopedic dictionaries is the Webster's New World Dictionary of American English, which was first published in 1951. In 1953 its first college edition appeared after a decade of preparation by a group of dedicated young scholars in the United States of America. The main objective of this group of energetic and enthusiastic lexicographers was to break away from the then prevailing view on dictionaries. The established view of the lexicographers was similar to the current belief about the lexicon, which runs as follows: 'a dictionary or lexicon is authoritative like a law of the land. One has to abide by what the dictionary says. Lexicons can never make mistakes or errors.'

Contrary to popular belief, in the Foreword of the Webster's first college edition, the editors wrote about their dictionary that it 'was not to create the impression that it was authoritarian, laying down the law; it was to play, rather, the role of a friendly guide, pointing out the safe, well-travelled roads.' Their main innovation was to give importance to relaxed pronunciation used in ordinary conversations by cultivated speakers of that language, then known as 'General American'.

The Third college edition of Webster's New World Dictionary of American English was published in 1988 by Simon and Schuster Inc., which was the revised version of its second edition published from 1970 onwards going through several rounds of revision up to 1986. The third edition is a massive 1,557-page encyclopedic dictionary with colour plates and contains more than 1,70,000 words and their meanings. This dictionary was compiled by 100 scholars in different fields with editorial assistance of specialists in 22 branches of knowledge, like, Aeronautics & Astronautics, Anthropology, Astronomy, Automotive Engineering, Biology, Biochemistry, Biophysics, Chemistry, Dentistry, Law, Music, Philosophy, Photography, Physics, Sports and many others. Interestingly, there was no special consultant and contributing editor on history and politics.

Apart from words, this ency-



clopedia dictionary has an interesting set of entries, which is brief information about famous scientists, litterateurs, politicians, statesmen and women, film makers, artists and sportspersons. The bias of Webster in this regard is quite remarkable. For example, we do not find the names of Satyajit Ray or Steven Spielberg although the names of Sergei Eisenstein, Federico Fellini, Alfred Hitchcock and Akira Kurosawa are: 1. Mrs Indira (Nehru) 1917-84; Indian statesman: prime minister of India (1966-77; 1980-84); assassinated: daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru. 2. Mohandas Karamchand (1869-1948): Hindu nationalist leader and social reformer: assassinated: called Mahatma Gandhi. Interestingly, Indira Gandhi has been referred to as a 'statesman'.

The Collins online English dictionary is not sexist like the Webster and mentioned Indira Gandhi as an 'Indian stateswoman'. It is relevant here to mention what the Collins online dictionary says about Mahatma Gandhi. In the British English version Collins reads about M.K.Gandhi as follows: 'Mohandas Karamchand, known as Mahatma Gandhi. 1869-1948, Indian political and spiritual leader and social reformer. He played a major part

in India's struggle for home rule and was frequently imprisoned by the British for organizing acts of civil disobedience. He advocated passive resistance and hunger strikes as a means of achieving reform, campaigned for the Dalit, and attempted to unite Muslims and Hindus. He was assassinated by a Hindu extremist' (ibid). In the American English version, Collins followed the Webster route on M.K. Gandhi by saying: 'Mohandas Karamchand 1869-1948; Hindu nationalist leader & social reformer: assassinated (ibid)'.

The obvious question which arises is why the adjective 'Hindu' is put before the name of Mahatma Gandhi? Indira Gandhi was also a Hindu, but her name was not preceded by the adjective Hindu. Let us move to page 908 of the encyclopedic dictionary and we now find the word 'Nehru'. The information provided by the lexicon reads: 'Jawahar-

lal 1989-1964; Indian nationalist leader in India's movement for independence: prime minister (1947-64).' So, Nehru also did not require the epithet 'Hindu' like Gandhi.

Let me move to the entry under the name 'Thomas Paine', the famous revolutionary patriot of the USA. On page 971, the dictionary reads: 'Paine Thomas 1737-1809; American Revolutionary patriot, writer, and political theoretician, born in England'. On page 1507, the dictionary says about George Washington: 'Washington George 1732-99; 1st president of the U.S. (1789-97); commander in chief of the Continental army', and on page 785 it says about Abraham Lincoln: 'Lincoln, Abraham 1809-65; 16th president of the U.S. (1861-65): assassinated'.

My point is simple. All the three great nation builders of the United States of America were Christians. Paine for example, despite his severe criticisms of the Bible believed in one supreme God and in early life he was also a member of the parish vestry, an influential local church group in East Sussex, England. Lincoln was a believer in the Bible and frequently quoted and praised the Holy book in his speeches. George Washington also privately prayed and read the Bible daily, and he publicly encouraged people and the nation to pray. Why then did the famous and prestigious Webster's New World Dictionary of American English depict Gandhi primarily as a Hindu nationalist leader of India? Finally, let us look at what the dictionary says about Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. The Webster says on page 727: 'Jinnah, Muhammad Ali 1876-1948: Indian statesman: 1st governor general of Pakistan (1947-1948).' Suffice it to say that Jinnah is not depicted as a Muslim nationalist by the dictionary.

Hindu nationalist leaders all over the world may rejoice at Webster's categorisation of the Father of our Nation as 'Hindu' but the bias of the lexicographers is clear. I would conclude with a quote from the erudite article 'The English language: variation, the dictionary and the user' by John Algeo printed in the third college edition of Webster's New World Dictionary of American English, about which the editor-in-chief Victoria Neufeldt stated: 'Users of this dictionary are urged to read this essay of Algeo' then Professor of English at the University of Georgia and former editor of the journal American Speech. I quote Algeo:

"Lexicographers however are human beings like the rest of us, with preconceptions, prejudices, and preferences. They subscribe to whatever worldview dominated their culture, and are taken in by the same popular delusions as we are. When they are functioning as lexicographers, they attempt to curb those normal human responses, but can never do so completely. Prejudices can be worked unconsciously into a dictionary, a fact that both the writers and users of the work have to keep in mind".

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

The case for quick and dirty tests for the coronavirus

Fast, cheap tests don't need to be perfect and will relieve the weariness associated with hopes for a return to normality. Screwtape, C.S. Lewis' unforgettable devil, has this advice for crushing people who are facing a test of endurance. "Feed him with false hopes... Exaggerate the weariness by making him think it will soon be over." Thanks to the coronavirus pandemic, we are starting to learn all about weariness and false hopes.

It seems endless. And since a highly effective vaccine remains an uncertain prospect, is there any way we might get back to normality without one? I think there is. The image I can't shake off is that of the Ready Brek advertisements that have run since I was a child in the 1970s. They show children walking to school in wet and gloomy British winters shielded by a warm orange glow because they ate their porridge-adjacent breakfast.

So indulge me for a moment of science fiction. What if everyone who was infectious glowed bright orange? The virus would be extinct in humans within a month.

The coronavirus is an information problem. A few people are infected, but we don't know who. We are forced to assume that anybody might be - and, as the economist Joshua Gans observes in his forthcoming book, this is extraordinarily costly. It would be worth a lot to know who is and who is not infectious, and the obvious way to approach the orange glow scenario is to produce tests so cheap, so plentiful and so easy to administer that everyone could test themselves frequently, by spitting onto a strip of special paper. Such an idea has been dis-

THE STRAITS TIMES

cussed for months in certain circles, including in a campaign by Nobel laureate economist Paul Romer. But it came to the foreground in Britain recently when - against the backdrop of a faltering testing system - Prime Minister Boris Johnson promised millions of tests a day. A promise from Mr Johnson might well have negative value. He and his ministers have repeatedly set and missed targets for the scale of testing and the speed at which tests are processed.

And while industry press statements have suggested that cheap, accurate tests are just around the corner, independent experts such as Birmingham University professor Jon Deeks point to a history of over-promising and a lack of trustworthy evidence that new tests are effective.

Even if a test that is as cheap as a cup of coffee could be produced and distributed in sufficient quantities, problems remain. The most obvious is the issue of false positives. The Office for National Statistics estimated that one in 2,000 people were infected with the coronavirus in England and Wales late last month. With a test that has a false-positive rate of just 1 per cent, you would wrongly flag up 20 uninfected people for every genuine case. The rarer the virus, the worse this problem becomes. No wonder the experts are sceptical - not just that a cheap test will be produced, but that it could be useful for mass screening if it was. Yet, while false positives are a disaster if we react to them in the wrong way, even a shoddy test used well can nudge the odds in our favour. Self-administered Covid-19 testing in England.

FARCICAL SUBSIDY

SIR, Currently, the government subsidizes 12 LPG cylinders of 14.2 kilograms each per household every year. For additional purchases of LPG cylinders the consumer has to buy the same at the market price. The amount of subsidy provided by the government on the annual quota of 12 refills varies from month to month. The LPG subsidy that is being provided by government during the pandemic lockdown period from 25 March 2020 was gradually reduced from Rs 189.58 (Indane; April 2020) to Rs 19.58 (Indane; September 2020) an all time-low without any rhyme or reason when the price of crude has a falling trend throughout the world. This 95 per cent reduction of subsidy during a period of 6 months is a farcical subsidy for ostentation and is probably aimed at closing the kitchens of the worst affected. Senior citizens and the bulk of the middle class have fallen prey to an unprecedented jobless situation in the country - a welfare state. After another 6 months is the central government mooting imposition of levy instead of providing subsidy per LPG cylinder to keep the kitchen ovens burning? But what about the crony multi-millionaire politicians including MPs and MLAs, elected representatives of the people and voted to power by the people, who are consuming more than 12 LPG cylinders in a year at what rate and at whose cost? A true and honest leader must have the courage to admit to the electorate what he or she is doing to set an example to the people.

Yours, etc., Samares Bandyopadhyay,
Kolkata, 14 September.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Holistic approach needed to tackle China

SIR, Tensions along the LAC have escalated with Chinese troops firing in the air to intimidate the Indian side at Mukhpuri Top in eastern Ladakh's Chushul sector. This is the first time in 45 years that firing has taken place at the LAC, further exemplifying China's disregard for the 1993 Peace and Tranquillity Agreement and subsequent arrangements to ensure calm on the LAC. It's clear that China wants to unilaterally push the LAC westwards and is extremely upset with Indian forces preemptively occupying strategic heights on the Kailash range - on the Indian side of the LAC - that gives them a clear line of sight of the crucial PLA Moldo garrison and helps them dominate all ingress routes through the Spanggur Gap.

But eastern Ladakh is only one part of the larger strategic security tussle in play. According to intelligence reports, the PLA has

violated the LAC several times over the past two months in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand. Thus, China could keep the entire LAC hot and force a war on India. With far deeper pockets, and having contained the Covid pandemic, Beijing may think it can out-maneuver New Delhi.

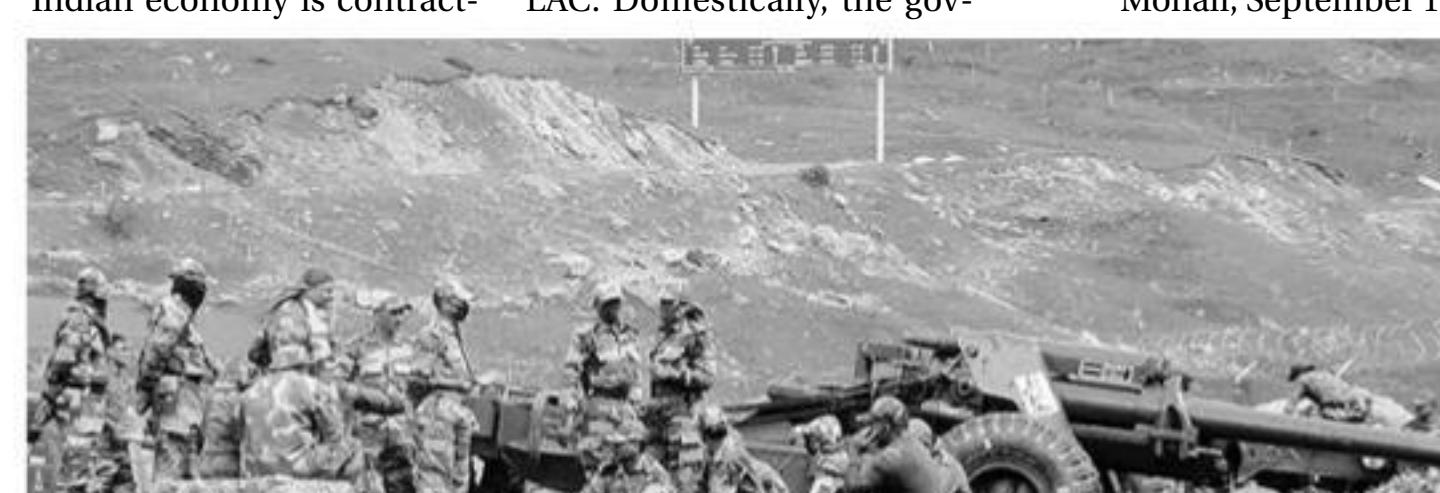
To tackle this challenge, India has no choice but to adopt a response whereby it must work on multiple fronts. It will need bigger spending to shore up its defences. The Indian economy is contract-

ing by 10-15 per cent in the current fiscal. This needs to be quickly arrested through a big fiscal stimulus package to revive growth in the short term, and simultaneously enacting deep reforms to put the economy on a high growth trajectory.

On the foreign policy front, India must push for an alliance of democracies to counter China. This should include, immediately, asking for advanced satellite intel from the US for greater domain awareness along the LAC. Domestically, the gov-

ernment must foster social cohesion and unity at home, which must include arresting the present trend of political polarisation for perceived short-term electoral ends. States' grievances on GST compensation should be addressed. We must recognise that China today poses an unprecedented strategic security challenge. The only way we can rise to the occasion is if we become internally strong by mobilising all available resources.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra,
Mohali, September 10.



J HARSHA

Consider a scenario wherein a flood forecast is issued as 'Rising' with a value above danger mark at a river point 24 hours ahead of time. The river point can be anywhere in Assam or Bihar or Karnataka or West Bengal.

In this compelling scenario, the forecast does say where the rising water would inundate. But the district administration and municipalities that receive the flood forecast have only 24 hours to react.

Consider another scenario wherein the same flood forecast is issued 7-10 days ahead of time but with probabilities of different intensities of flood events at that river point. The probabilities 10 days ahead could be something like this: The chance of water level exceeding the danger level is 70 per cent and the chance of inundation of a nearby village is 30 per cent.

Certainly, the flood forecast in the second scenario reflects higher level of confidence of the impending flood risk and enables local administrations to take better decisions and to be better prepared than in the first scenario.

The flood forecast of the type shown in first scenario is known as "Deterministic forecast" whereas that of second scenario is known as "Ensemble or probabilistic forecast". The length of time from issuance of forecast and occurrence of flood event is termed "lead time".

Advanced countries like USA, EU and Japan have already shifted towards "Ensemble forecast" coupled with "Inundation modelling" whereas India has recently shifted towards "Deterministic forecast". However, the shortcomings with Indian flood forecast are glaring.

An accurate flood forecast with longer lead time is the outcome of the successful integration of meteorological and hydrological data; their technological integration of computer-based modelling capabilities, advanced telemetry and deployment of advanced weather radars of adequate numbers, etc.

In India, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issues meteorological or weather forecasts whereas Central Water Commission (CWC) issues flood forecasts at various river points.

The advancement of flood fore-

Fighting floods with insufficient warning

casting technology therefore depends on how quickly rainfall is estimated and forecast by IMD and how quickly CWC integrates the rainfall forecast (also known as Quantitative Precipitation Forecast or QPF) with the flood forecast and how quickly CWC disseminates that to user agencies.

Reports suggest that IMD has deployed advanced 30-35 Doppler weather radars for weather forecasting. Doppler weather radars can measure the likely rainfall directly from the cloud reflectivity over a large area due to which the lead time can be extended up to 3 days.

But the advantage of deploying advanced radars or any advanced technology by IMD becomes infructuous because the reality is that most of the flood forecasts at several river points across India are based on statistical methods that possess lead time of less than 24 hours. Yes, just 24 hours! This is contrary to the perception that India's flood forecast is driven by Google's most advanced AI techniques.

These statistical methods known as gauge to gauge correlations and multiple coaxial correlations fail to capture the hydrological response of river basins between a base station and a forecast station. They cannot be coupled with QPF.

Although radars extend lead time up to three days, statistical methods limit that to just 24 hours.

According to a scholarly study by NIT, Warangal, only recently, India has shifted towards using hydrological (or simply rainfall-runoff models) capable of coupling with QPF. So, lead time of third days is sporadic in India and at only select river points.

Further, the limitations of weather forecasting by IMD can also render any advanced infrastructure deployed by flood forecasting agency infructuous.

For example, USA being twice the size of India has deployed 160-180 next generation S-band Doppler weather radars called NEXRAD with a range of 250-300 km. So, India needs



at least 80-100 S-band radars to cover its entire territory for accurate QPF. Else, the limitations of altitude, range and extensive maintenance enlarge the forecast error in QPF which would ultimately shift to CWC flood forecast.

Therefore, the outdated technologies coupled with lack of technological parity between multiple agencies decreases the lead time and increases the forecast errors thus throwing the onus of interpretation on hapless end user agencies.

The outcome is increase of flood risk and disaster.

Weather phenomenon is chaotic. Beyond three days lead time, deterministic forecast becomes less and less accurate. Hence, the developed world has leapt from deterministic forecast (which gives one value of

water level for one model run with a warning like "Rising") towards ensemble weather models that measure uncertainty by causing perturbations in initial conditions thus reflecting the different states of the chaotic atmosphere.

The probabilities are computed for different flood events with a lead time beyond 10 days.

India has a long way to go to master ensemble model based flood forecast.

Although, IMD has begun testing and using ensemble models for weather forecast through its 4-6 teraflop supercomputers called "PRATYUSH" and "MIHIR", the flood forecasting agency has to catch up with this advanced technology and achieve technological parity with IMD

in order to couple the ensemble forecasts to its hydrological models.

It has to modernize not only the telemetry infrastructure but also raise the technological compatibility with river basin specific hydrological, hydrodynamic and inundation modelling.

Only then can the country witness probabilistic based flood forecasts with a lead time of more than 7-10 days on par with the developed world. Only then will local administrations witness scenarios of probabilistic forecasts with ample time to decide, react, prepare and undertake rescue missions so as to reduce the flood hazard.

The writer is Director, Central Water Commission, Government of India. The views expressed are personal.

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The American newspapers report that, on landing at San Francisco from a world tour for his firm, the American Locomotive Company, Mr. John Reynolds stated that India was the only country which now offered opposition to the introduction of the American locomotive. India, he said, needed 575 locomotives. British firms could give definite assurances for the delivery of only 185. Mr. Reynolds offered American locomotives for delivery in Calcutta within sixty days of the placing of the order, but could get no buyer. He ascribed the fact to the attitude of the British Government in "enforcing upon the railways of India that they should purchase all rolling stock through a buying office" - presumably the Stores Department of the India Office in London. Mr. Reynolds considered the refusal to buy his locomotives the more extraordinary because thousands of tons of coal were available in India for realisation at high prices for the use of foreign shipping, but could not be moved owing to the shortage of locomotives. The last of Mr. Reynolds's facts is true, but it would be of interest to hear the Railway Board's reply to the earlier part of his assertions. There is a limit both to the Finance Member's capacity to furnish, and the Railway Board's capacity to spend, money, although the fact that American locomotives were ready for delivery should have furnished a strong motive - as, at one time, did the fact that American wagons were ready - for considering a firm American offer.

NEWS ITEMS

GOVERNMENT PRINTERS' STRIKE

The compositors of the Government Printing Office in Hastings Street who came out on strike on Wednesday, held a meeting yesterday at Beadon Square to consider their position. It appears that the compositors had petitioned for less work and more wages. On Wednesday the men were told by the authorities that instead of 13 hours' work they would have to work only ten hours, and that they would get 40 per cent War bonus instead of 25 per cent they were receiving. Yesterday the intimation was communicated to the strikers in writing. The effect of the speeches was that the new scheme would reduce their income, and so they must continue the strike. No definite suggestion as to what would satisfy the strikers was made before the meeting concluded. Some 5,000 men are out.

CO-OPERATION IN EASTERN BENGAL

That the co-operative movement is daily gaining ground in Eastern Bengal will be evidenced by the progress it has made during the last six months. It is understood that during this period more than 300 Societies have been registered. The year has been an unusually bad one owing to the terrific effects of the last cyclone and the abnormal rise of prices, but nevertheless the various central banks are being flooded with applications for new societies. A large number of applications for registration are still pending with the honorary organisers. Some additional honorary organisers have recently been appointed. The total number of societies is about 1650, and it is expected that more societies will soon come into existence. A new feature to be noticed has been the increasing demand for co-operative stores in important places.

MESOPOTAMIA

Replying in the Commons to the Hon. Mr. Ormesby Gore, Mr. Churchill stated that Arabs attacked Government buildings at Rumaila on the Euphrates, killed the Arab guard and cut the railway. Reinforcements were sent from Basra, and the small column sent out to Rumaila suffered casualties owing to the cutting of the canal, and was unable to reach town. Further reinforcements were sent from Bagdad, and punitive measures were being taken by troops and air force. The rising appeared to be local in character, and was probably due to religious agitation. The immediate cause was the civil authorities arresting the local Sheikh, who had been inciting the tribesmen to rebel. The garrison of Rumaila was still holding out, and columns had been sent from Bagdad to assist it.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT

About 11-15 on Wednesday night No. 135 down Ranchi-Purulia mixed train after leaving Tatisilwai ran into a breach that had been caused by heavy floods at mile 267/16 between Tatisilwai and Gangahat, the engine and six leading goods vehicles being badly derailed. There has been no loss of life or injuries to passengers but the engine staff were killed. A further breach has also occurred just outside Jonha station down outer signal, and transhipment at present is not possible. The Deputy Chief Engineer left for the scene of the accident last night and a diversion will be put in, and through running resumed as soon as possible.





THUMBNAILS

Mcleod Russel: The auditor to debt-laden tea producer Mcleod Russel has said the company's current liabilities have exceeded its assets, flagging an "uncertainty about its ability to continue as a going concern". "The company's current liabilities exceeded its current assets. Funds obtained by borrowing and utilised for providing funds to other companies have become unserviceable primarily due to non-repayment of outstanding amounts by those companies where funds were given," the auditor Lodha & Co said.

Rupee derivatives: The Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday proposed allowing foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to undertake exchange-traded rupee interest rate derivatives transactions subject to an overall ceiling of Rs 5,000 crore. Interest rate derivatives (IRD) are contracts whose value is derived from one or more interest rates, prices of interest rate instruments, or interest rate indices.

Honda initiative: Honda Cars India Ltd has announced a "body & paint service camp" for its customers, giving them a chance to give their Honda cars the same look they once fell for. This customer-centric initiative has started from 14 September and will continue till 26 September at all authorised Honda service outlets across India, said a Press release from the company.

Max India buy-back: Max India, which is mainly into senior living housing business, on Tuesday said its board has approved a capital reduction programme under which the company will buy back equity shares worth up to Rs 92 crore from public shareholders. The company plans to offer its public shareholders the option of taking Rs 85 per share for up to 20 per cent of their shareholding in lieu of cancelling these shares, Max India said.

Toyota halts expansion in India, blames 'high taxes'

Punitive taxes discourage foreign investment and destroy automakers' margins, the company says

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Toyota Motor Corp will not expand further in India due to the country's high taxes, vice-chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motors Shekar Viswanathan told Bloomberg in an interview today.

The government keeps taxes on cars so high that auto companies find it hard to build scale, Viswanathan was reported saying. He blamed the "high taxes" for making car ownership out of reach of many consumers, and resulting in idle factories and fewer jobs.

The message we are getting after we have come here and invested money, is that we don't want you, Viswanathan said.

In the absence of tax reforms, they "won't exit India, but won't scale up."

The Japanese car giant Toyota has been associated with India's Kirloskar Group as Toyota Kirloskar Motors (TKM) since 1997. Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts was further set up in May 2004 to produce trans-

BLOW TO 'MAKE IN INDIA' CAMPAIGN

► The Japanese car giant Toyota has been associated with India's Kirloskar Group as Toyota Kirloskar Motors (TKM) since 1997

► Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts was further set up in May 2004 to produce transmissions for Toyota's global market.

missions for Toyota's global market.

Toyota's global media unit has not confirmed its non-expansion decision in India.

In July, Toyota Kirloskar reported a 48.32 per cent decline in domestic vehicle sales, selling 5,386 units compared to 10,423 units in the same month last year. Low sales and factories closed due to lockdown were given as reasons.

Punitive taxes discourage foreign investment, destroy automakers' margins and



The government keeps taxes on cars so high that auto companies find it hard to build scale...high taxes make car ownership out of reach of many consumers, and result in idle factories and fewer jobs. The message we are getting after we have come here and invested money, is that we don't want you...in the absence of tax reforms, we won't exit India, but won't scale up.

SHEKAR VISWANATHAN
VICE-CHAIRMAN
TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTORS

make the cost of launching new products prohibitive, Viswanathan said. He joined other multi-national auto chieftains in India complaining of high taxes in the country.

Maruti Suzuki chairman RC Bhargava had in August remarked about how high taxes in India are restricting car sales.

"Very high taxation does not allow the market to grow and therefore, restricts us from bringing in more products

that are locally made," said Rohit Suri, president and managing director of Tata Group's Jaguar Land Rover. Suri in July had asked for GST on cars to be reduced to 18 per cent.

Cars, two-wheelers and sports utility vehicles (not electric vehicles) are currently taxed at 28 per cent in India, the highest among major auto-making countries worldwide.

India levies additional taxes depending on the car model, length, engine size, SUV and models categorised as "luxury"

can have taxes totalling to nearly 50 per cent. In comparison, the European Union taxes cars at 19 per cent VAT, while Japan has 10 per cent tax.

"You'd think the auto sector is making drugs or liquor," Toyota India's Viswanathan was quoted caustically saying.

Electric vehicles currently taxed at 5 per cent will probably also go up once sales increase, Viswanathan predicted based on what he sees as a pattern with successive governments in India. "At the slightest sign of a product doing well, they slap it with a higher and higher tax rate," he said.

Tax-grumbling auto industry chieftains though are yet to offer their wisdom on the self-defeating impact of an explosion of new car owners in the world's second-largest population - amid chronic traffic snarls already choking roads in big cities and mega metros such as Mumbai.

While discussions are on among ministries about reducing automobile industry taxes, there is no immediate agreement on tax cuts in sight.

SBI's OTP-based ATM withdrawal facility to be available 24 hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 15 SEPTEMBER

prevent SBI debit cardholders from the risk of falling prey to fraudsters, unauthorised withdrawals, card skimming, card cloning and the likes, the release said.

The lender has urged all its customers to register or update their mobile numbers.

The OTP-based cash withdrawal facility is available only at SBI ATMs as this functionality has not been developed at non-SBI ATMs in National Financial Switch (NFS), the bank said.

OTP is a system-generated numeric string of characters that authenticates the user for a single transaction.

Once customers enter the amount they wish to withdraw, the ATM screen will ask for OTP where they would be required to enter the same received on their registered mobile number.

State Bank of India has the largest network of over 22,000 branches in India with an ATM/automated deposit cum withdrawal machine (ADWM) network of over 58,000 and total BC outlets of more than 61,000.

SpiceJet posts ₹600-cr loss for Apr-Jun qtr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Budget carrier SpiceJet today reported a net loss of Rs 600.5 crore for the first quarter ended 30 June 2020, owing to the suspension of flight operations due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown. It had posted a net profit of Rs 262.8 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

The airline's operating revenue stood at Rs 521 crore in the first quarter of 2020-21, significantly lower as against Rs 3,002.8 crore a year ago, it said in a statement. Operating expenses during the June 2020 quarter were Rs 1,311.6 crore, compared to Rs 2,886.7 crore in the year-ago period.

SpiceJet chairman and managing director Ajay Singh said: "Flight operations were suspended for most part of the (first) quarter, and the partial resumption of flights initially and weak demand thereafter were a reminder of the significant problems that this pandemic has resulted in."

In July, the country's largest airline IndiGo declared a net loss of Rs 2,884.3 crore for the first quarter of 2020-21.

Scheduled domestic flight services were suspended in India from 25 March to 24 May due to the lockdown. The domestic flights resumed from 25 May but in a curtailed manner.

Scheduled international flights have been suspended in India since 23 March. However, special international passenger flights have been operating in India under the Vande Bharat Mission and under bilateral air bubble arrangements.

SpiceJet chairman and managing director Ajay Singh said: "Flight operations were

Economy to shrink 9% in FY21: ADB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

India's coronavirus-battered economy will shrink by 9 per cent this fiscal, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) predicted today, saying growth outlook remains highly vulnerable to either a prolonged outbreak or a resurgence of cases.

This will be the first time in four decades that the Indian economic growth will contract.

In its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2020 Update, ADB forecasts a strong recovery for the economy in FY2021, with gross domestic product (GDP) growing by 8 per cent

as mobility and business activities resume more widely.

"India imposed strict lockdown measures to contain the spread of the pandemic and this has had a severe impact

on economic activity," said ADB chief economist Yasuyuki Sawada.

Sawada further noted that "it is crucial that containment measures, such as robust testing, tracking, and ensuring treatment capacities, are implemented consistently and effectively to stop the spread of Covid-19 and provide a sustainable platform for the economy's recovery for the next fiscal year and beyond."

With lockdowns stalling private spending, ADB said GDP will shrink by 9 per cent in April 2020 to March 2021, sharply down from its June's forecast of (-) 4 per cent.

"The growth outlook remains highly vulnerable to either a prolonged outbreak or a resurgence of cases, with the country now having one of the highest number of Covid-19 cases globally," it said.

Other downside risks

GROWTH OUTLOOK

► Growth outlook remains highly vulnerable to either a prolonged outbreak or a resurgence of cases, with the country now having one of the highest number of Covid-19 cases globally, ADB said

► Other downside risks include increasing public and private debt levels that could affect technology and infrastructure investment, as well as rising non-performing loans caused by



the pandemic that could further weaken the financial sector and its ability to support economic growth, it said.

include increasing public and private debt levels that could affect technology and infrastructure investment, as well as rising non-performing loans caused by

the pandemic that could further weaken the financial sector and its ability to support economic growth.

ADB joins a chorus of international agencies that have predicted a contraction in the Indian economy in the current fiscal.

S&P Global Ratings on Monday slashed its FY21 growth forecast for India to (-) 9 per cent, from (-) 5 per cent estimated earlier, saying that

rising Covid-19 cases would keep private spending and investment lower for longer.

Last week, two other global rating agencies Moody's and Fitch projected the Indian economy to contract 11.5 per cent and 10.5 per cent, respectively, in the current fiscal. However, Goldman Sachs has estimated the contraction at 14.8 per cent.

India Ratings and Research expects contraction at 11.8 per cent, while Crisil estimates the contraction at 9 per cent.

For the 2021-22 fiscal, S&P expects economic growth at 10 per cent.

ADB said government initiatives to address the pandemic, including the rural employment guarantee programme and other social protection measures, will aid rural incomes protecting the vulnerable people, but private consumption may continue to suffer.

Flipkart says Big Billion Days to create 70K seasonal jobs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Walmart-owned Flipkart today said it will help generate over 70,000 direct and lakhs of indirect seasonal jobs in the country ahead of the festive season and its Big Billion Days sale. The company said while direct job opportunities will be created across Flipkart's supply chain, including roles like delivery executives, pickers, packers and sorters, there will also be additional indirect jobs created at Flipkart's seller partner locations and kiranas.

This will be further supplemented by job creation in ancillary industries, including vendor locations and freight partners, as the entire ecosystem scales up for the festive season, a statement said.

"The expansion and

strengthening of the supply chain will help create a robust system enabling millions of new e-commerce users to shop online seamlessly as lakhs of ecosystem players gear up for the festive season," it added.

E-commerce companies see a large chunk of their business coming in during the festive sales and they make significant investments ahead of time to ramp up their capacity to be able to handle the spike in orders.

Last year, Flipkart and its rival Amazon had announced creation of over 1.4 lakh temporary jobs across supply chain, last-mile connectivity and customer support in preparation for their festive sales.

Flipkart said the "complexity and scale" of its BBD sale requires investments for

Facebook offers \$4.3m grants for small units

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Social media giant Facebook today said it will offer grants totalling \$4.3 million (Rs 32 crore) to more than 3,000 small businesses across five Indian cities, including Delhi and Mumbai, to help them grow their operations amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is part of Facebook's \$100 million grant, announced in March, to help small businesses in 30 countries cope with the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

"As part of our \$100 million global grant for small businesses announced back in March, today (Tuesday) we are announcing a grant of \$4.3 million (Rs 32 crore) for more than 3,000 small businesses across Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Ben-

galuru, where Facebook has offices," Facebook India MD and vice-president Ajit Mohan said in a blogpost. The grant includes both cash and ad credits, with cash constituting a larger share, he added.

He said the grant programme is open to small businesses from all industries and verticals, and businesses do not need to have a Facebook family of apps presence in order to apply. Also, they would be free to do what they wish to do with this grant.

Mohan noted that earlier this year, Facebook underlined its commitment to India and especially to small businesses through its \$5.7-billion investment and partnership with Jio Platforms.

"Small businesses are a big priority for Facebook," he said.

Exports decline 12.66% in Aug, trade deficit narrows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Contracting for the sixth straight month, India's exports slipped 12.66 per cent to \$22.7 billion in August, on account of decline in the shipments of petroleum, leather, engineering goods and gems and jewellery items, according to the government data released today.

The country's imports too declined by 26 per cent to \$29.47 billion in August, leaving a trade deficit of \$6.77 billion, compared to a shortfall of \$13.86 billion in the corresponding month of last year, as per the government data.

Country's oil imports declined by 41.62 percent to \$6.42 billion in the month under review.

Trade deficit during the period stood at \$20.72 billion.

Meanwhile, the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) today said it has set up three committees that will submit detailed recommendations to the government to boost exports of food, chemicals, food processing technology and beverages.

The committees were constituted on food and beverages, food processing technology, and chemical and allied products.

It would "act as a think-

tank, and submit its suggestions and recommendations to the government for policies to boost exports", TPCI said.

It said Laxman Singh Rathore, president of International Business of Ramdev Food Products Pvt Ltd, was elected chairman of the sector specific committee on food and beverages.

The committee on food processing technology will be chaired by R Sengutuwan, CEO of ITC Limited (printing and packaging division). It added that the committee on chemical will be chaired by Manish Shah, managing director of Tanya Exports.

"These committees will meet regularly and will represent the demand and concerns of the industry at various forums," it said.

Equity indices rise on positive global cues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Equity indices found firmer ground today as investors poured money into banking and finance counters amid a positive trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex overcame bouts of volatility to end 287.72 points or 0.74 per cent higher at 39,044.35 points.

Global equities were buoyed by encouraging industrial output data from China, which also propelled yuan to a 16-month high.



The dramatic increase in those suffering from food insecurity in Syria in the first half of 2020 is deeply concerning

UN EXPERT KAREN KONING ABUZAYD
DECRYING CONTINUED ABUSE IN SYRIA

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

09

UAE, Bahrain to sign deals with Israel at WH

Trump says, the event would usher in a new era towards peace in the region; Israel-UAE deal was announced on 13 Aug & the Israel-Bahrain deal was announced last week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 15 SEPTEMBER

The White House will host a signing ceremony on Tuesday for Israel to establish diplomatic relationships with two important Islamic countries in the Middle East - the UAE and Bahrain, marking a notable diplomatic achievement for US President Donald Trump in an election year.

Representatives from the UAE and Bahrain will sign the historic agreement with Israel in the presence of President Trump at the White House.

President Trump helped broker a historic agreement between the UAE and Israel

to normalise relations in August. Last week, Trump announced that Bahrain had also reached a deal with Israel to normalise relations.

The event, the president says, would usher in a new era towards peace in the region.

So, the Emiratis and the Israelis will be signing their own document, as will the Bahrainis and the Israelis will be signing their own document. Then there's also going to be, sort of, something that everybody is signing, a senior administration official told reporters during a conference call on the eve of the historic agreements, in which President's advisor and son-in-law Jared Kushner has played a key role.

Both the deals were



Protesters demonstrate with Palestinian flags as they march with a banner during a protest against the UAE and Bahrain's decisions to normalise relations with Israel, in the city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday. ■ AFP

announced by Trump himself after he hosted the phone calls with their respective leaders. The Israel-UAE deal was announced on August 13 and the Israel-Bahrain deal

was announced last week. According to the senior administration official, the UAE's Crown Prince's brother and foreign minister of the country is going to be in attendance.

Bahrain would be represented by its foreign minister as well. The agreement has been dubbed as the Abraham Accord. There's going to be, sort of, the Abraham Accord that is going to be signed. And then the bilateral with the US as witness or observer will be signed, the US official said on conditions of anonymity. A few hundred people are expected to attend the signing ceremony at the White House. In an interview to Fox News, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that it is a remarkable accomplishment.

The administration of President Trump has set the conditions for peace in the Middle East. There's real progress. Tomorrow we'll have the

Israelis, the Bahrainis, the Emiratis all in Washington to sign agreements normalising relationships amongst the countries. It's a great day, the top American diplomat said. I remember (former) Secretary of State John Kerry saying that if the nuclear was abandoned, that Israel would become more isolated, when in fact just the opposite has now happened, he said.

They've joined hands and now they have many more partners across the region. Each of those countries, those Gulf states recognise that the shared threat from the Islamic Republic of Iran is very, very real, and now they are working together, building out security and economic rela-

tionships and real ties between these countries. It'll be truly stabilising for the Middle East to see what happens tomorrow in Washington, DC. I'm proud of what President Trump and his team have accomplished, Pompeo said.

The deal between the UAE and Israel represented a significant breakthrough in diplomatic relations between the two nations as the Trump administration works to facilitate cooperation between Arab nations and Israel.

Trump, seeking re-election in the November 3 presidential election against his Democratic Party rival, Joe Biden, is hoping that the two major diplomatic deals would help him in the polls.

US issues sweeping new travel warning for China, HK

BEIJING, 15 SEPTEMBER

The US on Tuesday issued a sweeping new advisory warning against travel to mainland China and Hong Kong, citing the risk of arbitrary detention and arbitrary enforcement of local laws."

The advisory is likely to heighten tensions between the sides that have spiked since Beijing's imposition on Hong Kong of a strict new national security law in June that has already been met with a series of US punitive actions.

The new advisory cautions US citizens that China imposes arbitrary detention and exit bans to compel cooperation with investigations, pressure family members to return to China from abroad, influence civil disputes.

US citizens travelling or residing in China or Hong Kong, may be detained without access to US consular services or information about their alleged crime. US citizens may be subjected to prolonged interrogations and extended detention without due process of law," the advisory said.

In Hong Kong, China unilaterally and arbitrarily exercises police and security power, the advisory said, adding that new legislation also covers offenses committed by non-Hong Kong residents or organizations outside of Hong Kong, possibly subjecting US citizens who have publicly criticized China to a heightened risk of arrest, detention, expulsion. When in Hong Kong, US citizens are strongly cautioned to be aware of their surroundings and avoid demonstrations," the advisory said.

Iran has denied the allegations. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement that the assassination allegations were part of ongoing anti-Iranian propaganda by the Americans ahead of the elections scheduled for November 3.

In a news report based on unnamed intelligence sources, the Politico said "the Iranian government is weighing an assassination attempt against the American ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks. If carried out, it could dramatically ratchet up already serious tensions between the US and Iran and create enormous pressure on Trump to strike back – possibly in the middle of a tense election season, the American news outlet said. An intel-

ligence source told Fox News that the intel community is taking the threat against the ambassador seriously and believe the Iranian regime potentially has the ability to act on an assassination plot.

Iran has in the past planned assassinations of American ambassadors -- which is partly why the intelligence community is taking this particular threat assessment seriously, the news channel said.

Iran had vowed to seek revenge for Gen Soleimani's killing. Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude!

Trump said in a tweet after news reports emerged that Iran is planning some kind of attack against the US.

"Iran may be planning an assassination or other attack,"

Japan begins trial of Nissan, ex-executive over Ghosn's pay

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO, 15 SEPTEMBER

The financial misconduct trial of former Nissan executive Greg Kelly began Tuesday with Kelly saying he committed no crimes and was only trying to keep his star boss Carlos Ghosn from leaving.

The charges being heard at Tokyo District Court center around Kelly's alleged role in failing to report to Japanese authorities the future compensation of Ghosn, who led Nissan Motor Co. for two decades. Japanese prosecutors outlined allegations of what they said was a complex and clandestine scheme to pay former star executive Carlos Ghosn more than the amount the company was legally required to disclose.

Kelly denied the allegations and said everything that was done was intended to keep Ghosn, who he called an extraordinary executive, at Nissan. This was all in the best interests of Nissan, Kelly said, reading from a statement.

Indeed the allegations, said Kelly, whose trial opened on his 64th birthday. Ghosn was arrested in late 2018 at the same time as Kelly but jumped bail and fled to Lebanon late last year. Since Lebanon has no extradition treaty with Japan, he may never face trial. But Kelly evinced no rancor over being left to face trial himself.

The prosecutors said that in 2010 Ghosn returned to Nissan about \$6.6 million that exceeded the amount Nissan would disclose as his compensation. The maximum penalty for the charge of falsifying fiscal statements is 10 years in prison.

Ghosn was arrested in late 2018 at the same time as Kelly but jumped bail and fled to Lebanon late last year. Since Lebanon has no extradition treaty with Japan, he may never face trial.

was doomed, Kelly said, but Mr. Ghosn proved the experts wrong. Under Mr. Ghosn, Nissan became very profitable. Top management at Nissan fretted they might lose Ghosn, who occasionally complained he could make more money elsewhere even though he was paid more than most Japanese top executives. They researched lawful methods to provide incentives for him to stay, consulting with in-house and outside attorneys to try to retain him.

The evidence will show that I did not break the law, said Kelly, who has a law degree and was hired by Nissan in the U.S. in 1988. Kelly's head defense lawyer Yoichi Kitamura said little apart from: My client is not guilty. Kelly's wife, Dee, who attended the session, defended her husband outside the courthouse. She said her husband had been going over the evidence for the trial to prepare for the case. Greg has done nothing wrong," Dee Kelly said.

The prosecutors said that in 2010 Ghosn returned to Nissan about \$6.6 million that exceeded the amount Nissan would disclose as his compensation. The maximum penalty for the charge of falsifying fiscal statements is 10 years in prison.

HOLDING FIRM



Mongolians protest against China's plan to introduce Mandarin-only classes at schools in the Chinese province of Inner Mongolia, at Sukhbaatar Square in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia on Tuesday. ■ AFP

Roadside blast targets British convoy in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 SEPTEMBER

A roadside bombing targeted British diplomatic vehicles in Baghdad on Tuesday, the British Embassy and Iraqi officials said. There were no injuries but the attack is fueling concerns of armed groups outside of the state's control. The attack targeted an embassy convoy on a Baghdad highway. No one claimed responsibility for the bombing.

The US and India last week denounced the use of terrorist proxies and strongly con-

Take objective view to issues of peace & security: Pak to partner countries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 15 SEPTEMBER

Under pressure from the US and India to act against terrorist groups operating on its soil and to bring to justice the perpetrators of terror attacks, including the 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot carnages, Pakistan on Tuesday urged partner countries to take an objective view to the issues of peace and security in South Asia.

The US and India last week denounced the use of terrorist proxies and strongly con-

demned cross-border terrorism in all its forms. They exchanged views on threats posed by UN-sanctioned terrorist entities and emphasised the need for concerted action against all terrorist networks, including al-Qaeda, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen.

The two countries held the 17th meeting of the India-US Counter Terrorism Joint Working Group and the third session of the India-US Des-

ignations Dialogue virtually on September 9-10.

During the meeting, the two sides underlined the urgent need for Pakistan to take immediate, sustained, and irreversible action to ensure that no territory under its control is used for terrorist attacks, and to expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators of such attacks, including 26/11 and Pathankot.

The US also reiterated its support for the people and government of India in the fight against terrorism. In its reac-

tion to the US-India joint statement of September 10, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday said it is important that partner countries take an objective view of the issues of peace and security in South Asia and refrain from endorsing positions that are divorced from ground realities.

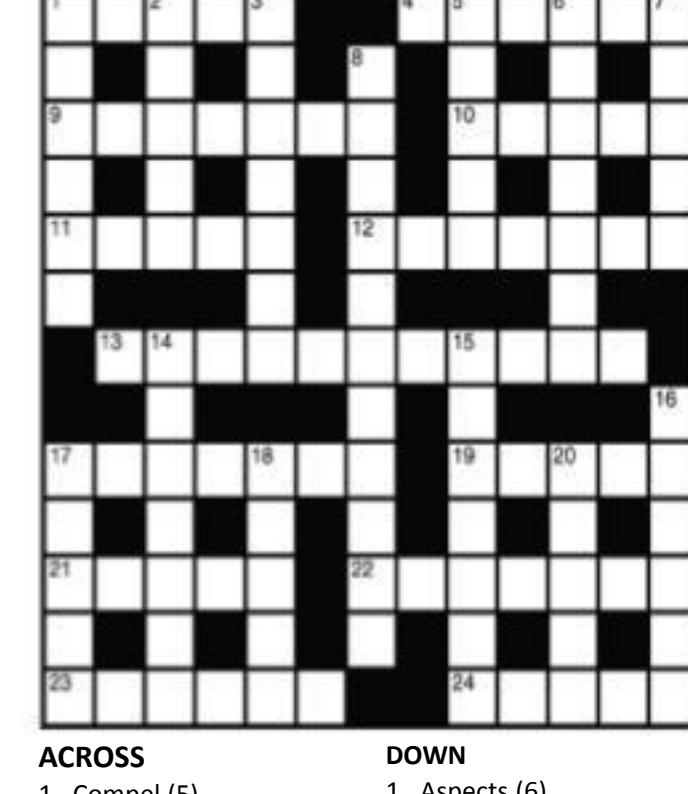
"Our sincere concerns and rejection of the unacceptable reference to Pakistan in the afore-mentioned joint Statement in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb terror financing by the end of 2019.

virtual meeting last week, India and the US also shared information about their priorities and procedures for pursuing sanctions and designations against terrorist groups and individuals, particularly in light of recent legislative changes in India.

The Paris-based global anti-money-laundering watchdog Financial Action Task Force put Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb terror financing by the end of 2019.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Compel (5)
- 4. Stature (6)
- 9. Finger food (7)
- 10. Culpability (5)
- 11. Gunlike device (5)
- 12. Along the way (2,5)
- 13. Prudish (6-5)
- 17. Cure-all (7)
- 19. Bird of prey (5)
- 21. Stadium (5)
- 22. Camp toilet (7)
- 23. Whole (6)
- 24. Actions (5)

DOWN

- 1. Aspects (6)
- 2. Ladder steps (5)
- 3. Large shops (7)
- 5. Glowing ash (5)
- 6. Small grain (7)
- 7. Topic (5)
- 8. Basically (11)
- 14. Divergent course (7)
- 15. Tipped off (7)
- 16. Gems (6)
- 17. Stage (5)
- 18. Seat (5)
- 20. Move smoothly (5)

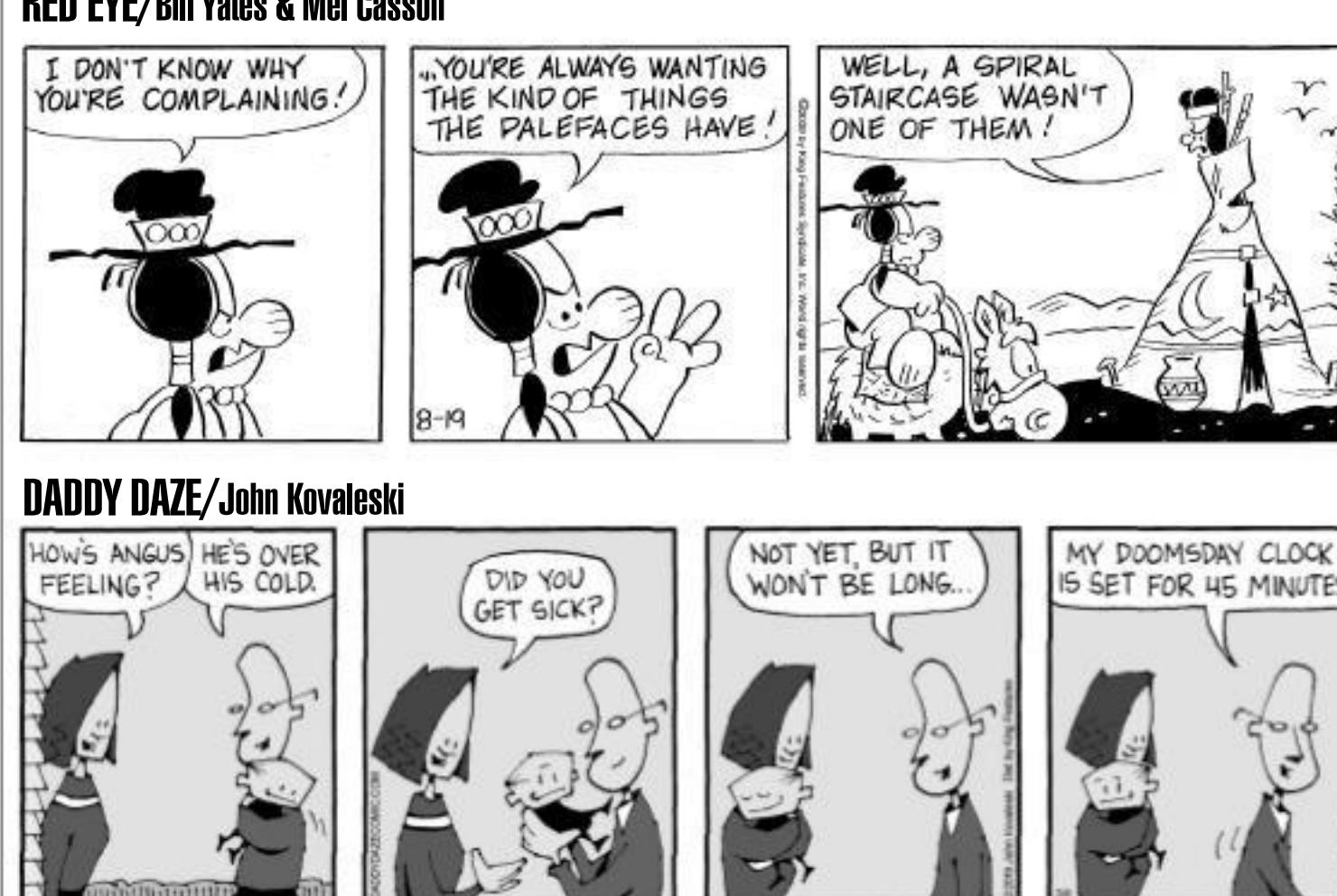
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moonland Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 21714743, 23235230

RAILWAY INQUIRY

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

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- Haryana Roadways 23861262
- Himachal Pradesh 01772220000, 01772220000

FLIGHT INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001803838
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Center 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 23462262 (City)
- Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181
- Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23453437

SCRABBLE® BRAND



PAR SCORE 160-170
by JUDD

JUDD'S TOTAL 217

FIVE RACK TOTAL 25 MIN

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

RACK 5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku



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

paper.thestatesman.com



We can be glad of flourishing Jewish life, that is only one part of today's reality. The other part is that many Jews don't feel safe and respected in our country, and it causes me great concern.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL

SLAMMING ANTI-SEMITISM 'DISGRACE ON JEWISH GROUP'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY'

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	22°C	15°C
LONDON	29°C	19°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C
NEW YORK	17°C	08°C
MOSCOW	15°C	09°C

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

THUMBNAILS



People gather outside the Berlin Cathedral illuminated as part of the yearly Festival of Lights in Berlin on Tuesday. AFP

Migrants rescued: A smuggling boat sank off the southern Greek island of Crete, leaving three dead, while a large rescue operation managed to save 56 others from the sea, authorities said on Tuesday. The Greek coast guard said efforts continued deep into the evening to locate other people who might be in the water. AP

Portuguese wildfire: Portuguese authorities said on Tuesday they are close to bringing under control a major wildfire, with just a handful of hot spots being targeted by water-dropping aircraft. Just over 1,000 fighters, more than 330 vehicles and eight aircraft were attending the blaze in thick woodland in Portugal, some 200 km north of Lisbon. AP

Legos to ditch plastic bags: Lego said Tuesday that it will stop using plastic bags inside its boxed sets and replace them with paper ones. The Danish toymaker said it will start making the switch next year and expects plastic bags to be completely phased out in the next five years. AP

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Tender Notice (Through E-Tendering)	
Name of work with its location	Provision of IP Phones Exchange for Mechanical Branch HQ Office.
Approx. Cost of the work	₹34,95,196.78 only
Earnest Money Deposit	₹69,900/-
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055
Date & time for upload the tender/ closing of tender	Tender uploading/closing date & time 14.10.2020 up to 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.irps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055
Tender no. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-920 Dated: 14.09.2020	2000/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

e-Tenders are hereby invited from the bona fide contractors by the Block Development Officer, Rajganj Development Block, Rajganj, Jalpaiguri, under 4th S.F.C. Fund for e-NIT WBPS / 05 / BDO / RAJ / 2020-2021, Memo No: 1962 / 1(11) / Raj Date: 15-09-2020. Last date of submission bids: 22-09-2020, Own Fund for e-NIT WBPS / 06 / EO / RAJ / 2020-2021, Memo No.: 18 / 1(11) / Raj Date: 15-09-2020. Last date of submission bids: 28-09-2020, BSK Fund for e-NIC WBPS / 01 / BDO / RAJ / 2020-2021, Memo No.: 1963 / 1(09) / Raj Date: 15-09-2020. Last date of submission bids: 25-09-2020. Other details can be seen from the office Notice Board of the office of the undersigned in any working day and working hours also as well as in www.wbtenders.gov.in. Norbu Chewang Sherpa W.B.C.S. (Exe.) Block Development Officer Rajganj Block

On Monday, the hospital said he had been removed from mechanical ventilation and was able to leave his bed for short periods of

time. In the photo, Navalny is being given a hug by his wife Yulia and is flanked by his two children as he sits upright in his bed in a hospital gown.

His statement even had the ring of his well-known sarcastic humor.

Just on my own, no extra help, I didn't even use the simplest valve in my throat, he said of being able to breathe without ventilation. "I liked it very much. It's a remarkable process that is underestimated by many. Strongly recommended. Despite his recovery, doctors have said they cannot rule out long-term health issues associated with the poisoning. Navalny's spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh, tweeted that once he had recovered, Navalny plans to return to Russia. No other option

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Tuesday that Russia is puzzled by the German refusal to share Navalny's analyses and other medical data, or compare notes with the Russian doctors who found no trace of poison in his system while he was at a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk. Russia has been absolutely open for cooperation in determining what happened, Peskov said.

UP-GRADATION OF CIVIL HOSPITAL FROM 200 BEDDED TO 300 BEDDED AMBALA CITY IN AMBALA DISTT. (PGD, MEDICAL GAS PIPE LINE & MODULAR OTS SYSTEM), CONSTRUCTION OF FOOT OVER BRIDGE TO CONNECT TRUJA VILLAGE TO HANSHI-II DISTT. IN HANSHI-II DISTT. (CM ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 2370 DATED 14-06-2019/2020 DATED).

CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. COLLEGE RITHOD – SONHA IN DISTRICT GURUGRAM (PGD, 30 HODIGRAM, VIRTUAL REALITY BASED EDUCATIONAL MODULES).

PROVIDING 1 NO. THREEWELL TOWER OF 10 FLOORED TW, FHCT AND LYING DI PIPELINE IN URBAN STREETS UNDER JEEVAN MISSION IN VILLAGE KAULAPUR, DISTT. KURUKSHETRA UNDER JJM EMD AMT, RS. 15500/-

PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE BLOCK HANSI-II DISTT HISAR

SUPPLY OF VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS IN ALL VILLAGES OF BLOCK HANSI-II DISTT HISAR. (GROUP-1 TO GROUP-12)

PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE BLOCK AGROHIA DISTT HISAR

SUPPLY OF VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS IN ALL VILLAGES OF BLOCK AGROHIA DISTT HISAR. (GROUP-1 TO GROUP-12)

PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE BLOCK HISAR-I DISTT HISAR

SUPPLY OF VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS IN ALL VILLAGES OF BLOCK HISAR-I DISTT HISAR. (GROUP-1 TO GROUP-12)

HARYANA IRRIGATION RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (HRMI), KURUKSHETRA

SUPPLY OF MANPOWER THROUGH OUTSOURCING POLICY ON D.C. RATES FOR THE YEAR 2020-21

IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA LOHARU

CONSTRUCTION OF V.R. BRIDGE SYPHON AT RD 10200 BARALOO MINOR + 2 OTHER WORKS

PANCHAYATI RAJ, BDO JULANA

SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK JULANA DISTT. JIND

ADC, OFFICE KARNAL

PURCHASE OF 112 TRICYCLES/ GARBAGE RICKSHAW REHRI.

We can be glad of flourishing Jewish life, that is only one part of today's reality. The other part is that many Jews don't feel safe and respected in our country, and it causes me great concern.

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SLAMMING ANTI-SEMITISM 'DISGRACE ON JEWISH GROUP'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY'

US to rejoin Paris climate deal if Dems voted to power: Biden

WASHINGTON, 15 SEPTEMBER

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged to rejoin the historic Paris Agreement on climate change, if elected to power in the November presidential election, and set new standards towards reducing carbon emissions.

Claiming that the 2015 Paris climate deal puts an "unfair economic burden" on Americans, President Donald Trump's administration notified the United Nations in November last year that the US would withdraw from the agreement.

The notification begins a one-year process of exiting the global climate change accord, culminating the day after the 2020 US election on November 3.

"While he (President Donald Trump) turned against our allies, I'll bring us back into the Paris Agreement. I will put us back in the business of leading the world on climate change and I will challenge every other country to up the ante on climate commitments," Biden said in a major policy speech on climate change.

"Now that we have left the EU, and the transition period is about to elapse, we need the armature of our law once again to preserve the arrangements on which so many jobs and livelihoods depend. That is the fundamental purpose of this bill, he told the MPs.

I regret to have to tell the House that in recent months the EU has suggested that it is ready to go to extreme and unreasonable lengths using the Northern Ireland Protocol in a way that goes well beyond common sense, simply to exert leverage against the UK in our negotiations for a free trade agreement, he claimed.

I understand how some people will feel unease over the use of these powers. And I share that sentiment myself and I have absolutely no desire to use these measures. They are an insurance policy, he added.

The prime minister also held a call with his Tory party members of the parliament- Sir Roger Gale and Andrew Percy- voted against the bill on Monday night, while a further 30 abstained, which includes general absences from the House.

During a five-hour debate ahead of the vote on Monday evening, Johnson claimed the EU's current approach could lead to excessive checks and even tariffs on goods

UK PM's Brexit bill clears first hurdle in Parl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON, 15 SEPTEMBER

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's controversial bill that aims to override parts of the Brexit divorce agreement struck with the European Union (EU) cleared its first parliamentary hurdle by winning the first House of Commons vote by 340 to 263 votes.

The Internal Market Bill, which has faced strong criticism from the Opposition parties and senior members of Johnson's own Conservative Party, is set for rebellions as it progresses through further stages in its parliamentary process despite Johnson's 80-seat majority in the Commons.

The Kremlin has bristled at calls from German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other leaders to answer questions about the poisoning, denying any official involvement. French President Emmanuel Macron's office said he had expressed deep concern over the criminal act that targeted Navalny directly with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday.

The Kremlin has underlined the improbability of unfounded accusations against the Russian side and emphasized Russia's demand for Germany to hand over analyses and samples.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Tuesday that Russia is puzzled by the German refusal to share Navalny's analyses and other medical data, or compare notes with the Russian doctors who found no trace of poison in his system while he was at a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk.

Russia has been absolutely open for cooperation in determining what happened, Peskov said.

Democrats to probe whether officials meddled with CDC data

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 15 SEPTEMBER

A House subcommittee examining President Donald Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic is launching an investigation into reports that political appointees have meddled with routine government scientific data to better align with Trump's public statements.

The Democrat-led subcommittee said Monday that it is requesting transcribed interviews with seven officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services, including communications aide Michael Caputo.

It traces a line from lynchings of old killings outside the law where Black people were killed in an effort to assert social control during slavery and Jim Crow, and how that eventually translated into state-ordered executions.

It comes as the U.S. grapples with criminal justice and police reform following George Floyd's death and the deaths of other Black people at the hands of police and in the wake of mass protest. Across the country, 30 states have a resistance unit to undermine Trump, according to *The New York Times*. His page has since been made private.

According to a report in Politico, Caputo, along with scientific adviser Paul Alexander, pressured officials to alter the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports, a long-running weekly journal that features the latest science-based research and data on infectious diseases. Known as MMWR, the report has long been a sacred government information resource for doctors, scientists and researchers tracking outbreaks. The officials pressured CDC to change the reports, at times retroactively, to better align them with Trump's often-rosy public statements about the virus, Politico reported.

The report found that

rally at the Xtreme Manufacturing facility in Henderson, Nevada, on Sunday night. The state restricts gatherings to 50 people — based on White House reopening guidelines — but thousands of supporters packed into the warehouse nonetheless. Few people wore masks. "This is an insult to every Nevadan who has followed the directives, made sacrifices," said Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak, a Democrat. The city of Henderson announced that it was fining Xtreme Manufacturing \$3,000. Sisolak slammed the rally as "shameful, dangerous and irresponsible."

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The prime minister also held a call with his Tory party members of the parliament- Sir Roger Gale and Andrew Percy- voted against the bill on Monday night in anticipation of the bill eventually moving to the Lords.

Report: US death penalty cases show history of racial disparity

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 15 SEPTEMBER

Black people have been overrepresented on death rows across the United States and killers of Black people are less likely to face the death penalty than people who kill white people, a new report found. The report from the Death Penalty Information Center is a history lesson in how lynchings and executions have been used in America and how discrimination bleeds into the entire criminal justice system.

It traces a line from lynchings of old killings outside the law where Black people were killed in an effort to assert social control during slavery and Jim Crow, and how that eventually translated into state-ordered executions.

It comes as the U.S. grapples with criminal justice and police reform following George Floyd's death and the deaths of other Black people at the hands of police and in the wake of mass protest. Across the country, 30 states have a resistance unit to undermine Trump, according to *The New York Times*. His page has since been made private.

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New eye to scan the night sky

After radio waves and UV, it's back to visible light with a cutting-edge telescope in Chile

S ANANTHANARAYANAN

The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, being set up in Chile, South America, is an 8.4-metre-wide reflector that focuses images of a wide swathe of the sky onto a 189 segment, 3,200 megapixel detector. Once in action, it would be able to image a golf ball from 24 kilometres away and its sensitivity would be a 100 million times greater than that of the human eye.

This is a long way from the best optical telescopes that we have made so far. To get the best of both magnification as well as detail, the optical telescope needs lenses of the finest quality and of the largest diameter possible. Deficiencies that are inherent in glass lenses become serious when the lenses become very large. This fact brought in the mirror, or reflecting telescopes, with very large aperture, and faint images were made visible with high-grain photographic film and long exposures.

However, there are limits, both to the detail and the sensitivity, when we use visible light. Detail is limited by the wavelength of visible light, given the dimensions of lenses or mirrors that are practical. And for sensitivity, much of the visible light from distant objects gets scattered before it reaches the Earth. The most distant objects are thus too dim to be seen.

A way to overcome sensitivity was to spot the most distant objects by the radio waves they emit, rather than light. As radio waves have wavelengths thousands of times greater than light, they are scattered much less, and it is by radio telescopes that the farthest objects have been observed. In place of the photographic plate or the eye, the detection of radio images is by an array of radio antennas that is spread over a large area. The timing of the waves that each antenna receives helps work out where the waves would have focused, if there had been a lens, and this helps develop the image.

While the larger wavelength of radio waves helps detect faint signals, the same large wavelength reduces the detail that can be detected. This, however, is compensated by the large area over which signals are collected, which has the effect of a very large lens or mirror, in the visible range.

As for the limit to detail that visible light presents, a way around was by using ultraviolet light, or even X rays. Now, the atmosphere is opaque to UV or X-rays. These telescopes hence had to be stationed outside the atmosphere, which became practical with satellites placed in orbit around the Earth. The celebrated Chandra X-ray telescope has been in orbit around the Earth since 1999 and has provided detailed images of high-energy processes, like supernovae and the surroundings of black holes.

The earliest telescopes, naturally, were visible light telescopes where the detector was the human eye. Galileo is credited with the first astronomical observation, using the newly invented device, when he saw the four largest satellites of Jupiter. Telescopes rapidly improved in quality, with lenses that compensated for the splitting of light into component colours, when it passed through glass, as well as the non-uniform magnification, because the lenses were not the ideal, "thin" lenses. The limitations of lenses found an answer in using mirrors in their place and the largest telescopes we have are now the "reflectors".

Along with the development of telescopes, was the progress in cameras. Cameras, of course, even when they are used at the focus of a telescope mirror, must use lenses. While the lenses were improved, for larger diameter, or aperture, to admit more light, the quality of the film on which the image was captured was also refined. While we are yet to have a medium that separately captures each photon of light, the grains of chemical, which capture the presence of light, were made finer, to capture more detail. And with long times of expo-

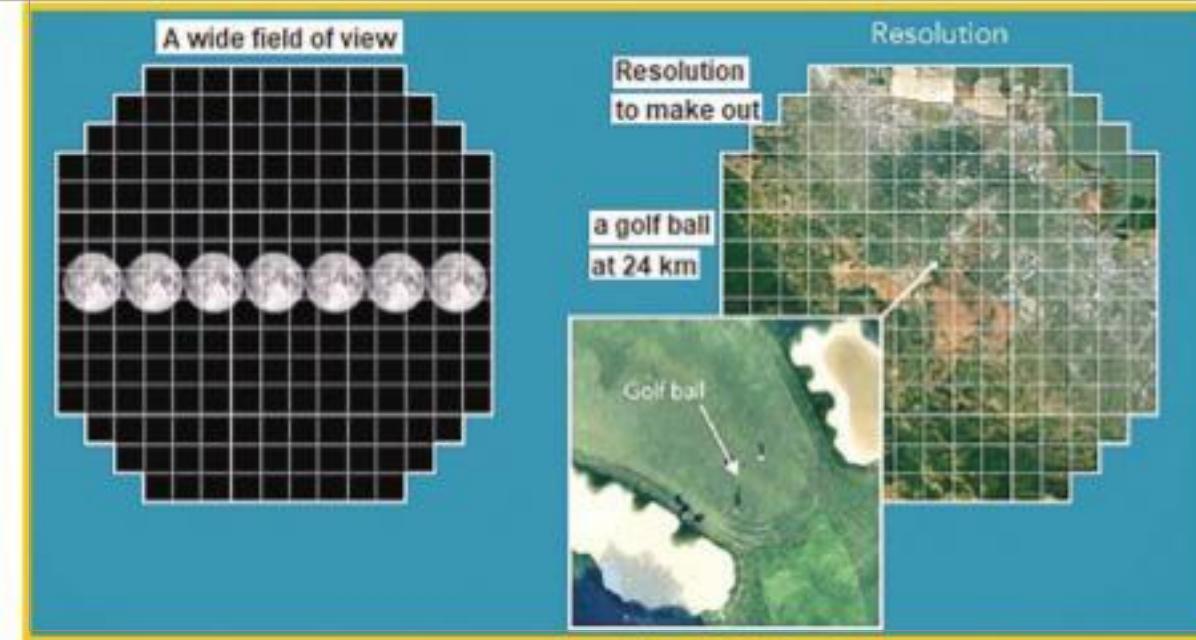
The LSST sensor array being assembled - with close-up of broccoli showing, to the right ■ SLAC NATIONAL ACCELERATOR LABORATORY

sure, even dim images can be made visible.

Photo film has now made way for the array of electronic, light sensitive specks of silicon oxide on a sliver of silicon. In the photo film, the bright spots of an image cause chemical change, and the image is recorded on the film. With the electronic sensor, the bright spots of the image cause build-up of charge, in the specks on the sliver of silicon. These charges are then transferred to a collector, which creates a digital record of how much light fell on each of the specks in the silicon screen. The record can then be used to display the image for the user of the camera to frame the picture, or to save the record, when the picture is clicked.

The resolution, or the detail, in the photo film depended on the fineness of the chemical specks deposited on the film. In the digital camera, the equivalent is the number of light sensors that act to capture the image. If the device has 1,000 rows and 1,000 columns of sensors, there would be a million sensors in all, and we would speak of a megapixel camera. We are familiar with modern mobile phones that sport eight megapixel cameras - their pictures are as good as excellent conventional photographs. The resolution of professional digital cameras goes as high as 50 megapixels.

In the context, the camera of the LSST would take pictures with 3,200 megapixels. The resolution actually works out to 3,024 megapixels, but this is the equivalent of an array with 55,000 pixels in each direction. The imaging is to happen over 189 separate sensors, each capable of 16 megapixels ($189 \times 16 = 3,024$). While the sensor of a normal digital camera is about 1.4 inches across, the panel of 189 sensors stretches to more than two feet. The sensitivity and detail



then equal what is feasible with much longer and shorter wavelengths - and over a range from the near infra-red to the ultra-violet.

The LSST itself is planned to be in action in 2022, but the sensor array, for the camera, has been assembled and was recently tested. As the sensors are so sensitive, they need to be protected from all kinds of stray radiation, or "noise". To this end, the array is cooled to 100°C below freezing. As the telescope is yet to be built, the camera was tested by taking a picture of a head of broccoli - and the picture it took showed the amazing detail that it is capable of.

From its position in the Vera C Rubin Observatory currently under construction in Chile, the LSST will survey the entire Southern Hemisphere sky every few days, and go on for the next 10 years. Data amounting to 15 terabytes would be collected every night, and within a month, the LSST would have recorded more detail of the cosmos than all previous astronomical surveys.

The field of astronomy is teeming with puzzling phenomena, like dark matter and dark energy. "With

Vera C Rubin & dark matter

Vera Florence Cooper Rubin (1928-2016) was an American astronomer who pioneered work on galaxy rotation rates. The periphery of a galaxy is found to move as fast as portions deeper within. This is unlike motion around a gravitational centre (the outer planets of the solar system, for instance, move slower than planets closer to the sun) and more like the movement of a disk. The anomaly is explained by invoking dark matter, as filling the space within the galaxy.

the huge data that would become available with LSST, we could build a 3D of dark matter in the universe, and how it changes with time," said a participant of a round table discussion of the difference the project is going to make.

The writer can be contacted at response@simplescience.in

PROMISING DISINFECTANT

Ultraviolet light can make indoor spaces safer during the pandemic - if it's used the right way

KARL LINDEN

Ultraviolet light has a long history as a disinfectant and the Sars-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, is readily rendered harmless by UV light. The question is how best to harness UV light to fight the spread of the virus and protect human health as people work, study, and shop indoors.

The virus spreads in several ways. The main route of transmission is through person-to-person contact via aerosols and droplets emitted when an infected person breathes, talks, sings or coughs. The virus can also be transmitted when people touch their faces shortly after touching surfaces that have been contaminated by infected individuals. This is of particular concern in health-care settings, retail spaces where people frequently touch counters and merchandise, and in buses, trains and planes.

As an environmental engineer who studies UV light, I've observed that UV can be used to reduce the risk of transmission through both routes. UV lights can be components of mobile machines, whether robotic or human-controlled, that disinfect surfaces. They can also be incorporated in heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems or otherwise positioned within airflows to disinfect indoor air. However, UV portals that are meant to disinfect people as they enter indoor spaces are likely ineffective and potentially hazardous.

What is UV light?

Electromagnetic radiation, which includes radio waves, visible light and X-rays, is measured in nanometres, or millions of a millimetre. UV irradiation consists of wavelengths between 100 and 400 nanometres, which lies just beyond the violet portion of the visible light spectrum and are invisible to the human eye. UV is divided into the UV-A, UV-B and UV-C regions, which are 315-400 nanometres, 280-315 nanometres and 200-280 nanometres, respectively.

The ozone layer in the atmosphere filters out UV wavelengths below 300 nanometres, which blocks UV-C from the Sun before it reaches

Earth's surface. I think of UV-A as the suntanning range and UV-B as the sun-burning range. High enough doses of UV-B can cause skin lesions and skin cancer.

UV-C contains the most effective wavelengths for killing pathogens. UV-C is also hazardous to the eyes and skin. Artificial UV light sources designed for disinfection emit light within the UV-C range or a broad spectrum that includes UV-C.

How UV kills pathogens

UV photons between 200 and 300 nanometres are absorbed fairly efficiently by the nucleic acids that make up DNA and RNA, and photons below 240 nanometres are also well absorbed by proteins. These essential biomolecules are damaged by the absorbed energy, rendering the genetic material inside a virus particle or microorganism unable to replicate or cause an infection, inactivating the pathogen.

It typically takes a very low dose of UV light in this germicidal range to inactivate a pathogen. The UV dose is determined by the intensity of the light source and duration of exposure. For a given required dose, higher intensity sources require shorter exposure times, while lower intensity sources require longer exposure times.

Putting UV to work

There is an established market for UV disinfection devices. Hospitals have been using robots that emit UV-C light for years to disinfect patient rooms, operating rooms and other areas where bacterial infection can spread. These robots, which include Tru-D and Xenex, enter empty rooms between patients and roam around remotely emitting high-power UV radiation to disinfect surfaces. UV light is also used to disinfect medical instruments in special UV exposure boxes.

UV is being used or tested for disinfecting buses, trains and planes. After use, UV robots or human-controlled machines designed to fit in vehicles or planes move through and disinfect surfaces that the light can reach. Businesses are



also considering the technology for disinfecting warehouses and retail spaces.

It's also possible to use UV to disinfect air. Indoor spaces like schools, restaurants and shops that have some air flow can install UV-C lamps overhead and aimed at the ceiling to disinfect the air as it circulates. Similarly, HVAC systems can contain UV light sources to disinfect air as it travels through duct work. Airlines could also use UV technology for disinfecting air in planes, or use UV lights in bathrooms between uses.

Far UV-C - safe for humans?

Imagine if everyone could walk around continuously surrounded by UV-C light. It would kill any aerosolised virus that entered the UV zone around you or that exited your nose or mouth if you were infected and shedding the virus. The light would also disinfect your skin before your hand touched your face. This scenario might be possible technologically someday soon, but the health risks are a significant concern.

As UV wavelength decreases, the ability of the photons to penetrate into the skin decreases. These shorter-wavelength photons get absorbed in the top skin layer, which minimises DNA damage to the actively dividing skin cells below. At wavelengths below 225 nanometres - the Far UV-C region - UV appears to be safe for skin exposure at doses below the exposure levels defined by the International Committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection.

Research is confirming these numbers

using mouse models. However, less is known about exposure to eyes and injured skin at these Far UV-C wavelengths and people should avoid direct exposure above safe limits.

The promise of Far UV-C for safely disinfecting pathogens opens up many possibilities for UV applications. It's also led to some premature and potentially risky uses.

Some businesses are installing UV portals that irradiate people as they walk through. While this device may not cause much harm or skin damage in the few seconds walking through the portal, the low dose delivered and potential to disinfect clothing would also likely not be effective for stemming any virus transmission.

Most importantly, eye safety and long-term exposure have not been well studied, and these types of devices need to be regulated and validated for effectiveness before being used in public settings. The impact of continuous germicidal irradiation exposure on the overall environmental microbiome also needs to be understood.

As more studies on Far UV-C bear out that exposure to human skin is not dangerous and if studies on eye exposure show no harm, it is possible that validated Far UV-C light systems installed in public places could support attempts at controlling virus transmission for Sars-CoV-2 and other potential airborne viral pathogens, today and into the future.

The writer is professor of environmental engineering and the Mortenson Professor in Sustainable Development, University of Colorado Boulder, US. This article first appeared on www.theconversation.com

PLUS POINTS

Minimising flood risk



Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras have studied flooding in and around Chennai and proposed the construction of "straight training walls" at the mouth of Ennore Creek in order to minimise the flood risk significantly on its upstream.

The study focused on extreme storm surge scenarios and high tide levels along with flooding in the river. It found that heavy siltation in the creek mouth and narrow opening in the mouth posed a flood threat to the areas adjoining the river.

The study showed straight training walls at the creek mouth and some regular de-silting of the river will improve the situation and minimise the flood risk significantly in North Chennai. It also showed that an alternative proposal of curved training walls proposed earlier will worsen the situation, by blocking the free exchange of seawater with the creek, thereby, increasing the flood risk.

The study was commissioned by Kamarajar Port (formerly Ennore Port) in Chennai to propose solutions to reduce flooding around Kosathalaiyar riverbanks. It was undertaken by K Murali, SA Sannasiraj, and V Sundar, faculty in the department of ocean engineering, IIT-Madras.

In the history of flooding in and around Chennai, the three creeks - Adyar, Cooum and Ennore - remain as major bottlenecks due to sand bar formation at their mouths, this results in significant flooding over the settlement along its banks, impact on coastal villages, disruption in fishing activity, industrial network on the upstream, road encroachments and illegal waste disposal.

The comprehensive report by IIT-Madras examined different possibilities of extreme event cases both from the land and the sea. A detailed study for the Adyar and Cooum estuaries will also be taken up for investigation by IIT-Madras.

Lunar commerce



Nasa will pay companies to bring rocks back from the Moon. The space agency will buy rocks, dirt and other bits of the lunar surface from companies who can make the journey to the Moon and back. The plan is part of Nasa's broader plan to encourage private space exploration, which includes the extraction of materials from objects elsewhere in space.

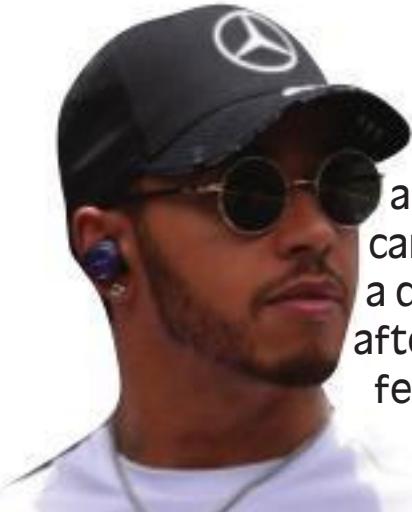
Nasa administrator Jim Bridenstine wrote in a blog post accompanying the announcement that the plans would not violate a 1967 treaty that holds that celestial bodies and space are exempt from national claims of ownership. The initiative, targeting companies that plan to send robots to mine lunar resources, is part of Nasa's goal of setting what Bridenstine called "norms of behaviour" in space and allowing private mining on the Moon in ways that could help sustain future astronaut missions. Nasa said it views the mined resources as the property of the company, and the materials would become "the sole property of Nasa" after purchase.

Under Nasa's Artemis programme, President Donald Trump's administration envisions a return of American astronauts to the Moon by 2024. Nasa has cast such a mission as a precursor to a future first human voyage to Mars. "The bottom line is we are going to buy some lunar soil for the purpose of it demonstrating that it can be done," Bridenstine said during an event hosted by the Secure World Foundation, a space policy organisation.

Bridenstine said Nasa eventually would buy more types of resources such as ice and other materials that may be discovered on the Moon. Under the initiative disclosed last week, Nasa offered to purchase limited amounts of lunar resources and asked companies to offer proposals. Under contracts whose terms would vary, a company mining on the Moon would collect lunar rocks or dirt to sell to Nasa without having to bring the resources back to Earth.

-The independent





'KNOW YOUR LIMITS'

Lewis Hamilton (in photo, left) has been told by Formula One's governing body that his accusation they endangered lives in the Tuscan Grand Prix is "offensive." The FIA has taken a dim view of Hamilton's remark made in the aftermath of Sunday's Mugello race. Hamilton felt the lights on the safety car were turned off too late to back up the field and spice up the restart.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Record set: Olympic champion Ryan Crouser continued his unbeaten 2020 campaign at the Hanzekovic Memorial, winning the shot put at the World Athletics Continental Tour Gold meeting with a Croatian all-comers' record of 22.74m. David Storl took a brief lead.

Badminton setback: The Badminton World Federation on Tuesday said that the Thomas Cup and the Uber Cup tournaments had been postponed following withdrawals owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was to be held in Denmark from 3 October to 11 October.

Wild card: Former world No 1 Andy Murray has received a wildcard entry into the French Open slated to begin on 27 September. Last month, Murray was given a wild card for the US Open where he reached the second round in his first Grand Slam after hip surgery.

Bubble tips: The Pakistan Cricket Board has sought advice from the England and Wales Cricket Board on creating a bio-secure environment for a series against Zimbabwe starting next month. The Zimbabwe team are scheduled to reach Pakistan on 20 October.

Cut punch: After England won the second one-dayer to level their three-match series against Australia, Shane Warne said Australia's defeat was a punch in the guts. "Australia hadn't played cricket for quite a long time so you sort of excuse them," he added, though.

Neymar's regret: Neymar said his only regret was not hitting Alvaro Gonzalez after he was one of five players sent off in a stormy ending to Paris Saint-Germain's defeat against rivals Marseille on Sunday. A late challenge from Leandro Paredes prompted a brawl.

Chelsea win: Chelsea got their Premier League campaign on track after Reece James helped them to a 3-1 win at Brighton with a spectacular goal on Monday. New signings Timo Werner and Kai Havertz made their debuts, coming over from the Bundesliga.

Wolves triumphant: Wolverhampton manager Nuno Espirito Santo has hailed his "brave and aggressive" side, who showed no weariness as they blew Sheffield United away with goals in the first six minutes to claim a 2-0 Premier League win at Bramall Lane on Monday.

Best player: After three tournament wins and a FedEx Cup title, Dustin Johnson added more hardware to his trophy case on Monday when he was named Tour Player of the Year for a second time. He missed the start of the season while recovering from a knee injury.

National camp: The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has received a request from the chief coaches in rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines to organise a one-month national camp for the Olympic core group to ensure better preparation.

ECB to cut workforce: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is set to reduce its workforce by 20 per cent as it grapples with a whopping 100-million-pound loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount could rise to 200 million pound if the pandemic disrupts the 2021 summer as well, stated the ECB's chief executive officer Tom Harrison.

Messi, with \$126 million, tops Forbes list ahead of Ronaldo

AGENCIES
LONDON, 15 SEPTEMBER

Lionel Messi (in photo, left) was denied a potentially money-spinning move away from Barcelona this month after a contract dispute but the Argentinian maestro remains the world's richest football player.

According to a list compiled by Forbes, his total earnings this year are \$126 million -- \$92 million from his salary and \$34 million in endorsements. It also said that he has now earned \$1 billion in "pre-tax career earnings," making him the sport's second billionaire after Cristiano Ronaldo.

In June, Forbes had declared the Portuguese the world's first footballing billionaire on its list of the top five highest-grossing athletes of 2019.

Not surprisingly, Ronaldo comes in second on the latest Forbes list, although earnings of \$117 million will soften the blow for the Juventus forward, as will his status as the most-followed football player in the world on social media.

Neymar comes in third on the



Forbes list (\$96 million) with his Paris St Germain team mate, 21-year-old Kylian Mbappe, up in fourth spot (\$42 million).

The Premier League remains the

world's richest domestic football league but only two of its outfield players feature in the top 10 of the wealth table - Liverpool's title-winning striker Mohamed Salah in fifth spot (\$37

million) and Manchester United's midfielder Paul Pogba (\$34 million) in sixth. Pogba's team-mate, goalkeeper David de Gea (\$27 million) is 10th. Barcelona's Antoine Griezmann was seventh and Real Madrid's Gareth Bale eighth. Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, the only Bundesliga player, is ninth.

Messi reluctantly agreed to stay at Barcelona for another season this month, despite saying in the wake of an 8-2 Champions League defeat by Bayern Munich that he wanted out. He argued that a clause in his contract stating that a 700 million release fee would need to be met for him to join another club was no longer active and that he could leave on a free transfer - a situation that would have allowed him to command astronomical wages from the likes of Manchester City.

Messi, 33, is in the final year of his contract so could leave for free next summer. By staying with the Catalan club, Messi is in line for a \$83 million loyalty bonus so it is likely he will continue to top the money chart.

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KKR need consistency to win 3rd IPL title

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 15 SEPTEMBER

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will look to the make the most of an efficient leadership group coupled with world class performers in their bid to bounce back after the two-time champions flattered to deceive last season, crashing out of the play-off zone for the first time since 2015.

As part of the preparations for the 13th edition, beginning in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on September 19, KKR snapped up star Australian seamer Pat Cummins for a record Rs 15.5 crore, the most expensive overseas purchase in the history of the IPL. But it was the signing of England's ODI World Cup winning skipper Eoin Morgan that further added to their arsenal, not only for the left-hander's batting exploits but also his skills as a leader, besides captain Dinesh Karthik (in photo). Karthik was not at his best donning the skipper's hat last time as the team finished fifth. The wicket-keeper-batsman's decisions were frowned upon by sceptics and the team suffered from inconsistency.

KKR's chief mentor David Hussey said at a recent media interaction from Abu Dhabi that Morgan would be a great ally to Karthik and his calm demeanour can help the team. This time the middle order will get the much-needed support from Morgan besides Karthik and Nitish Rana. The hugely talented Shubman Gill will be expected to open the batting along with Sunil Narine who had a strike-rate of 150-plus last time opening the batting. For fire-power there is the dashing Eng-



win matches. Batting wise, KKR were over-reliant on Andre Russell with the big-hitting West Indies all-rounder scoring 510 runs in 13 innings despite batting lower down the order, something which was not to his liking.

This time the middle order will get the much-needed support from Morgan besides Karthik and Nitish Rana. The hugely talented Shubman Gill will be expected to open the batting along with Sunil Narine who had a strike-rate of 150-plus last time opening the batting. For fire-power there is the dashing Eng-

land opener Tom Banton who can bat anywhere as seen in the England-Australia T20 series recently. KKR's bowling was abysmal last season with Russell topping the list of wicket-takers with 11 scalps. The spin trio comprising Sunil Narine, Kuldeep Yadav and Piyush Chawla failed miserably, though the West Indian had found some form at the back end of the league stage and finished with 10 wickets in 12 games with an economy rate of 7.82. Lockie Ferguson, Prasidh Krishna and Harry Gurney were expected to be the X-factor but could not

Strengths:

KKR's strength will be the balance in all departments. From a leadership point of view, Morgan and Cummins will be there to assist Karthik. There is fire-power and talent across the batting and bowling arsenals and on a given day, KKR has match winners who can blow any opposition away.

Weaknesses:

KKR can tread an inconsistent path and at times their decision making leaves much to be desired. Karthik drew flak for his leadership last season and although he has Morgan by his side, the seasoned campaigner would do well to be more flexible this time and cut the coat according to the cloth. The spinners floundered last time and if the same happens this season, there could be pressure on Cummins and Co. to deliver in warm conditions where they need to manage their workload.

Delhi Capitals certainly have the firepower: Axar Patel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, 15 SEPTEMBER

Delhi Capitals all-rounder Axar Patel (in photo) on Tuesday said he has "ticked all the boxes" in every department and reckoned the franchise has the firepower this time to win the IPL title, which has so far eluded them.

Moved out of India due to a surge in COVID-19 cases, the 13th edition of the world's biggest T20 league will be held in the three venues of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the UAE from September 19 to November 10.

Delhi Capitals will enter the tournament as one of the top contenders.

Commenting on the team that comprises some fine players, Axar said, "With the new changes, I think the squad looks good. With fast bowlers, spinners and all-rounders, we have covered all the bases and I think we can become champions this time."

"Everyone looks positive in the nets and we are all in good shape." The 26-year-old left-arm spinner, who is slowly adapting to the new normal amid the pandemic, spoke about the challenges that lay ahead and the experience of training while staying in a bio-bubble.

"Obviously, with no crowd, we'll feel empty. Then, the saliva ban is going to make a big difference for the bowlers.

"During initial practice ses-



sions, I was being conscious of not using saliva or sweat on the ball. So, these are the challenges which we will have to be wary of." Nevertheless, the positive thing is that at least we will have a strong team after failing to live up to their potential last season and will look to improve on that showing in the upcoming edition.

Speaking on how he is preparing for the first match against Kings XI Punjab on Sunday, Axar said, "First of all, it feels really good to be back playing on the ground after being off from cricket for a long time due to lockdown."

"Since we are in the tournament week, it feels really good and the boys are in a positive frame of mind which will be really exciting," he said.

As part of the guidelines framed by the BCCI, the players and support staff will be tested every five days throughout the league.

"We are feeling a little bad that we can't enjoy the matches with our friends. After every two days, tests are being conducted. "We can't go out anywhere and we can't sit for more than 15 minutes in any-

Salah eager for Barcelona move as club bid for Alcantara

ALEX PATTLE
LONDON, 15 SEPTEMBER



carino believes Zaha would fit nicely at Anfield.

"It is difficult to see where Wilfried Zaha could go. I think he would be perfect for Liverpool," Cascarino told The Times. "He would put pressure on the frontline trio of Sadio Mane, Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino, but the champions are unlikely to want to pay for a back-up player like the kind of fee Palace are demanding."

Zaha's contract at Palace expires in June 2023. The Premier League champions have only added one player so far, Kostas Tsimikas of Olympiacos, with Jurgen Klopp conscious of not overreaching in a summer market like no other. But with their rivals strengthening, fans are desperate for the Reds to press on.

The Reds are interested in signing Borussia Monchengladbach midfielder Denis Zakaria, according to German newspaper Bild. Zakaria, a Swiss international, operates in a defensive midfield role, and Bild states that Klopp has been impressed by his performances for the German side last season. His contract with Gladbach expires in June 2022, and it's reported that the Bundesliga outfit will keep the 23-year-old until next summer and then sell him with a year remaining on his current deal. Bild reports that a fee in the region of £37 million would satisfy the club.

THE INDEPENDENT

'Dhoni set to rule the roost in desert battles'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 15 SEPTEMBER



India's Mahendra Singh Dhoni (in photo) may have signed off from international duties but he'll be at the heart of the action in the Indian Premier League -- a tournament he helped inspire, and where he remains a towering figure.

Dhoni, who has led the Chennai Super Kings to three titles and five runner-up finishes in the IPL's 12 editions, will feature in the opening match on Saturday against the Mumbai Indians, the defending champions.

The game comes more than a year after the 39-year-old last played for India in their semi-final loss to New Zealand in the 2019 World Cup. After much speculation, the wicketkeeper-batsman finally announced the end of his 16-year international career last month.

And without the pressure of having to play well to keep his place in the national team, the flamboyant Dhoni is expected to shine in the UAE, the IPL's temporary home as India battles a rampant coronavirus problem.

"He is very fit and I believe he is working very hard on it. Plus he has stopped playing international cricket so there will be less burden on his body," Saba Karim, another former India wicketkeeper, said. "Global cricket still needs an icon like MS Dhoni to continue."

Dhoni's captaincy began with India winning the inau-

gural Twenty20 World Cup title in 2007, a success that triggered the birth of the IPL -- the world's most popular and richest cricket league -- a year later.

"Dhoni played an instrumental role in kick-starting the IPL because of the way he brought a different dimension to the shorter format of the game because of his aggressive side with the willow," Karim said.

Chennai chief executive Kasi Viswanathan says Dhoni

remains key to the team's plans and they expect him to keep playing till the 2022 edition.

The team have been under scrutiny after arriving in the UAE last month with two players testing positive for the coronavirus.

Senior batsman Suresh Raina and veteran spinner Harbhajan Singh later opted out of the competition. "I swear if Dhoni pulls out of IPL, there's no IPL for me this year," a Twitter user wrote after the withdrawals.

Cricketer-turned-commentator Aakash Chopra said Dhoni was "the biggest strength of the team and the entire franchise is dependent on him."

"He is the soul of Chennai Super Kings. As long as he is there, CSK's heart keeps beating and they move forward. MS Dhoni, the player and the captain, has a great impact," Chopra said on his YouTube show.

"Dhoni is going to rule the roost once again as a captain, as a batsman." Chennai and Dhoni were plunged into controversy in 2015, when the team were banned from the IPL for two years for match-fixing. But Dhoni and his team -- which includes many players aged over 35, including Australia's Shane Watson and South African Imran Tahir -- came back with a bang.

Labelled "Dad's Army" by the media, Chennai returned to lift the title in 2018 and establish themselves as one of the most consistent teams in IPL history.