



MEHBOOBA CHAIRS  
FIRST PDP MEETING  
AFTER RELEASE



'US HAS HAD ENOUGH  
OF 19 YRS IN  
AFGHANISTAN'

P5



BELARUS OPP LEADER  
GETS EU HUMAN  
RIGHTS AWARD

P9



'KNIGHTS GOOD  
ENOUGH TO  
RIDE HIGH'

P12

## WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 34 and 16 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 84% Min: 32%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 33.4°C (+2) Min: 17.2°C (-1)

SUN RISES

06:28 hrs

MOON RISES

13:56 hrs

SUN SETS

17:44 hrs

MOON SETS

23:43 hrs

## THUMBNAILS



Masks being distributed to visitors by the officials of Shakespeare Sarani Police Station at the Durga puja pandal. In Kolkata on Thursday.

ANAGHA BANIK

**US plans not to issue H-1B visas:** The US State Department has proposed not to issue temporary business visas for H-1B specialty occupations which allowed several companies to send their technology professionals for a short stay to complete jobs site in the US, a move which could affect hundreds of Indians. The move, made public on Wednesday, less than two weeks ahead of the 3 November presidential election, is likely to impact several Indian companies.

P10

**U**nion Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday released the BJP's manifesto for the Bihar Assembly polls which promised free Covid-19 vaccine once it has been cleared by the ICMR.

It also sought to reach out to the youth with the promise of 19 lakh jobs in the next five years and farmers with the assurance of bringing lentils under the MSP regime. "The NDA government in Bihar has set an example before the country in the fight against corona. It's our resolve that once the vaccine against the coronavirus has been cleared by the ICMR, we will make it available to the people of Bihar free of cost," said the manifesto.

The promise figured at the top of the BJP's election document.

Carrying the tagline 'BJP hai to bharosa hai', the party drew heavily upon the trust enjoyed by Prime Minister Modi among the masses by

pro-people measures like the Jan Dhan scheme and the Ujjwala Yojana. "Bihar is a politically sensitive state. Here people cannot be fobbed off with empty promises. Claims made by parties are likely to be weighed against their past track record. This is where the BJP scores," Sitharaman told a Press conference where she released the manifesto.

"We have the confidence that we can deliver on our promises. In the last six years, all the programmes announced by the Prime Minister have been implemented, be it electrification of villages, gas cylinders for poor women or financial inclusion of all citizens by

getting accounts opened in their name in banks," she asserted.

Speaking about the coronavirus vaccine, the minister said India has reached a point where it is on the verge of producing three vaccines after different stages of the trial.

"When we reach the stage where scientists give clearance for large-scale production of the vaccine, we will make it available to the people of Bihar free of cost," she said.

The highlights of the party's vision document, displayed through a powerpoint presentation, include recruitment of three lakh teachers in primary, secondary and

higher educational institutions. The manifesto also said a large number of people will be employed in the health sector which is in for a major facelift through projects like the AIIMS at Darbhanga.

Other attractive promises include self-reliance for one crore women through micro-finance, pucca houses for 30 lakh people, and a boost to fisheries making Bihar number one in the sector.

It also promised a fresh impetus to the dairy sector with the setting up of 15 milk processing units.

A boost to the production of maize, fruits, vegetables, betel leaves, honey and makhana etc. has been promised, and to facilitate these a conglomerate of 1,000 farm producer organisations has also been proposed.

Another promise made in the manifesto which is likely to find resonance among students is introducing Hindi as a medium of instruction for medical, engineering and other technical courses.

## Map distortion: Twitter faces govt's wrath



NEW DELHI, 22 OCTOBER

The government has shot off a stern letter to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, conveying its strong disapproval over misrepresentation of the Indian map, and asserted that any attempt by the micro-blogging platform to disrespect the country's sovereignty and integrity is unacceptable.

In a strongly-worded letter, IT Secretary Ajay Sawhney has warned the platform that such attempts not only bring disrepute to Twitter, but also raises questions about its neutrality and fairness as an intermediary.

IT Ministry sources said that Sawhney shot off a stern letter to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, conveying strong disapproval of the government over misrepresentation of map of India.

Earlier, Twitter had shown the geo-location of Leh in Jammu and Kashmir, People's Republic of China. The IT secretary, in his letter, has reminded Twitter that Leh is the headquarter of Union Territory of Ladakh and both Ladakh as well as Jammu and Kashmir are integral and inalienable parts of India, governed by the Constitution of India.

The government had asked Twitter to respect the sensitivities of Indian citizens, and has also made it clear that any attempt by Twitter to disrespect sovereignty and integrity of India, which is reflected by the maps, is totally unacceptable and unlawful.

Issuing a stern warning to Twitter, the IT secretary has said that such attempts not only bring disrepute to Twitter but also raises questions about its neutrality and fairness as an intermediary.

SNS

## Active Covid cases remain below 10 pc of total caseload

SNS&PTI

NEW DELHI, 22 OCTOBER

Covid-19 cases in India have remained below 10 per cent of the total caseload for the last three days suggesting that only 1 in 10 cases are active coronavirus patients, the Union Health Ministry said on Thursday. The daily positivity rate has also been maintained at less than 5 per cent over the past three days.

There are 7,15,812 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 9.29 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

"Registering another milestone, the daily positivity rate has also been maintained to less than 5 per cent over the past three days indicating that the spread of infection is being effectively contained through focussed strategies and actions of the Centre and the states and UTs," the ministry said.

The daily positivity rate is reported to be 3.8 per cent.

"The decrease in the daily positivity rate is simultaneously mapped by the falling active cases, which continue to be under 7.5 lakh as on date," the ministry said. "India's trend of steadily decreasing active cases of coronavirus infections continues and they have sustained below 10 per cent of the total caseload for the last three days suggesting only 1 in 10 cases are active Covid-19 patients across the country," the ministry said.

The total recovered cases are close to 69 lakhs and exceed active cases by 61,58,706. A total of 79,415 patients have recovered and discharged in 24 hours whereas 55,839 infections were reported during the period. The national recovery rate has progressed to 89.20 per cent, the Ministry said.

(SEE PAGE 2)



Govt to relax visa curbs in graded manner

NEW DELHI, 22 OCTOBER

Announcing a graded relaxation in visa and travel restrictions, the Home Ministry today said foreign nationals can now come to India for business, conferences, employment, studies, research and medical purposes.

The relaxations do not however include travel to India on tourist visas. All travellers will, however, have to strictly adhere to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regarding quarantine and other health/Covid-19 matters, the Home Ministry said.

The Home Ministry had imposed wide-ranging restrictions on inward and outward movement of international passengers because of Covid-19 since February.

After some initial relaxations, the Government has now decided to make a graded relaxation in visa and travel restrictions for more categories of foreign nationals and Indian nationals who wish to enter or leave India.

"Therefore, it has been decided to permit all OCA and PIO card holders and all other foreign nationals intending to visit India for any purpose, except on a Tourist Visa to enter by air or water routes through authorised airports and seaport immigration check posts," the Home Ministry said.

This includes flights operated by Vande Bharat Mission, Air Transport Bubble arrangements or by any non-scheduled commercial flights as allowed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The National Capital reported 3,882 positive cases of coronavirus, which took its caseload to 3,44,318, the health bulletin said. These fresh Covid cases were detected out of 58,770 tests. The positivity rate was 6.61 per cent.

The number of patients who recovered after getting infected by the deadly virus and were discharged during the past 24 hours from different health care facilities in the city was 2,787. This pushed the cumulative count of such recoveries to 3,12,918. The recovery rate dipped to 90.88 per cent.

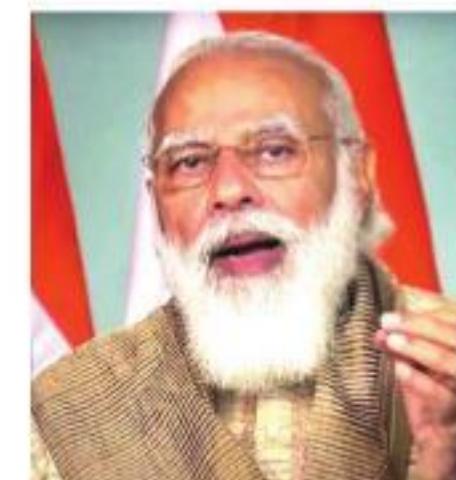
(SEE PAGE 2)

In Bengal, Goddess Durga was also worshipped as a daughter, he said, adding women must be treated with respect.

The prime minister's remark came in the backdrop of a string of incidents of rape and murder of women, including the Hathras incident that shocked the nation and triggered outrage against the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh.

The prime minister recalled the contributions of reformers from Bengal like Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, spiritual leaders Ramkrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda, cultural giant Rabindranath Tagore, and revolutionaries like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Khudiram Bose in shaping India's national identity.

Durga Puja, he said, was the epitome of pluralism and reflected the collective strength of India.



## Modi invokes Durga to reaffirm commitment to women's safety

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA, 22 OCTOBER

Invoking Goddess Durga, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday reaffirmed his government's irrevocable commitment to women's empowerment and safety.

Reaching out to the people of West Bengal during the state's biggest festival Durga Puja, the prime minister said though it was being celebrated on a limited scale due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the enthusiasm is still unlimited". Noting that Goddess Durga was worshipped as a symbol of 'Shakti' (strength), Modi said his government was consistently working for the empowerment of women.

"From opening Jan Dhan accounts for 22 crore women, giving soft loans to them under the Mudra Yojana, to launching Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao initiative, granting permanent commission to women in the armed forces

and extending maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks, we have taken a number of steps for their empowerment," he told a gathering at Durga Puja celebration organised by the BJP. He also said anti-rape laws were made more stringent to include death penalty.

"We are alert towards the security of women. We have strengthened laws against rape. Now, there is even provision for death penalty to the perpetrators," he said in his virtual address to the people of the state.

SNS

sion ready) on Dornier aircraft" by the Southern Naval Command (SNC) here today.

The spokesman said the three women pilots were part of the six pilots of the 27th Dornier Operational Flying Training (DOFT) Course, who graduated as Fully operational Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) missions on Dornier aircraft.

Lieutenant Divya Sharma, Lt Shubhangi Swaroop and Lt Shivangi are now ready to take on all MR missions on Dornier aircraft, a Defence spokesman said. They have been "operationalised (mis-

event and presented awards to the pilots who are now fully qualified to fly Dornier aircraft for all operational missions. While Lieutenant Divya Sharma hails from Malviya Nagar, New Delhi, Lieutenant Shubhangi Swaroop belongs to Tilhar, UP.

Lieutenant Shivangi hails from Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

These officers had initially undergone basic flying training with Indian Air Force and partly with the Navy prior to DOFT Course.

## Navy's first batch of women pilots ready for reconnaissance mission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOCHI, 22 OCTOBER

Scripting a new chapter, the Indian Navy has got ready its first batch of three women pilots for Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) missions on Dornier aircraft.

These officers had initially undergone basic flying training with Indian Air Force and partly with the Navy prior to DOFT Course.

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We restored peace in the Hills in 2017 and it should remain

ANIT THAPA, LEADER, GORKHA JAN MUKTI MORCHA

Minor girl raped in Delhi, accused held

## STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 22 OCTOBER

A 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her neighbour on pretext of friendship in south-east Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan area on Wednesday.

The incident came to light after family members of the victim girl registered a complaint with the local police station on Thursday. The victim was admitted to a nearby hospital on Thursday, police said.

The girl's condition was stated to be stable now, police said.

Police have apprehended the accused and were verifying whether he is a minor or an adult, said an officer. The accused has claimed that he is a minor, police said.

An FIR under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 has been registered against the accused on the basis of the statement made by the victim.

According to police, both the victim girl and the accused live in the same area. Both of them are neighbours and have known each other for over three years, according to police.

Police said that the accused teenager took the minor victim girl to a room on Wednesday evening on some pretext and allegedly raped her. He threatened her not to disclose the incident to anyone and then fled from the spot. The victim somehow managed to reach home.

Few hours later, she complained of pain in her abdomen and disclosed the incident to her parents.

Her family members rushed her to a nearby private hospital and informed police. She was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) after her condition turned serious. Her condition was now stable, police said, adding further investigation into the case was underway.

Rai, who visited the Tilak Marg-Bhagwan Das traffic signal crossing here on the second day of the campaign, reportedly told media persons that several MLAs were also participating in it to spread public awareness.

He said councilors joining the drive tomorrow and that from 26 October onwards the campaign will be implemented in all 70 assembly constituencies.

"Taking the campaign forward, Delhi MLAs are participating today and spreading awareness among people. Tomorrow at Barakhamba road traffic signal, councillors will participate. October 26 onwards, this drive will begin in all 70 constituencies where people will be urged to turn off their vehicle engines at red lights. It will be like a massive campaign across Delhi," Rai said.

The minister, who launched the campaign yesterday at the ITO traffic signal where he was seen asking people to turn off their vehicles at the red light traffic signal, appealed to the people of Delhi to actively participate in the fight against air pollution.

"This campaign is against vehicular pollution and it feels good to see that the people of the city are actively participating. I want to appeal to the people to show enthusiasm for the campaign beginning from October 26," he said.

They have reportedly Civil

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on this 15th day of October, 2020.

L.D. Addl. District Judge-02  
Room No. 605, 6th Floor  
Dwarka, New Delhi.  
Seal of the Court

FOR SUCCESSION  
CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN  
SUCCESSION ACT, 1925  
To,  
All concerned.

Wherein in the abovenoted petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, for grant of joint estate debt and securities of amount of 165 Shares of Dufferent Companies to be standing in the name of Smt. Promila Berera deceased.

Whereas the at 10 (Ten) O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for 30-01-2021 hearing on the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 19th day of October, 2020.

Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Commercial Civil Judge-cum-Addl. Rent Controller (West), Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF  
SH. H.S. JAGGI  
L.D. Addl. District Judge-02  
Room No. 605, 6th Floor  
Dwarka, New Delhi.  
GP No. 14/2020  
Mrs. Suman Solanki

Versus  
The State of Delhi  
—Respondent  
CITATION UNDER  
GUARDIANSHIP AND WARDS  
ACT, 1890

Whereas a petition under Section 8(2) of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, read with sections 8 and 29 of Guardianship Act, 1890 has been filed by Petitioner Mrs. Suman Solanki (Real Mother) w/o Late Mr. Chain Singh, r/o House No. 36, Vivanta Residencies, Matiala Extension Colony, Matiala, New Delhi-110059, for grant of Permission to sell the share of her minor Daughter, One Ms. Aishwarya Solanki. After death of her husband who died on 18-02-2017, with 1/4th share of minor namely (Ms.) Aishwarya Solanki, the minor property of the same. Plot No. 38, part of Khasra No. 31/22, admeasuring around 37 square yards, situated a Villaga Matiala, Matiala Extension Colony, South Block, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110099, have severed all relations with their son named Sh. Akshat Sri-

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.  
Seal of the Court

PUBLIC  
NOTIFICATIONS

Be it known to all concerned that our client Smt. Kusum Srivastava, aged about 59 years, w/o Sh. Naresh Srivastava Aged about 63 years, r/o R-79, Ground Floor, Model Town-3, Near Krishna Colony, South Block, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110099.

The 07th day of December, 2020 has been fixed for hearing of the case.

Notice is hereby given that any person having any interest in the Administration of the Estate of the said petitioner may file his/her desire to appear in this court on the above said date and see the proceedings of the Grant of Probate (or for Letter of Administration).

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court on this 05th day of October, 2020.

Addl. District Judge-02 (West)

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*Keeping in mind the total duration of the film, I will choose from immensely popular short stories.*

FILMMAKER SANDIP RAY

ON BRINGING FELUDA AND PROFESSOR SANKU IN THE SAME FILM

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2020

03

# Punjab CM playing with farmers' sentiments with invalid Bills: AAP

Bhagwant Mann's attack on Capt Amarinder comes a day after the latter tore into Arvind Kejriwal over his bid to question legality of Punjab Bills passed by its Assembly to negate the Centre's farm laws

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 22 OCTOBER

The president of Punjab's principal Opposition party Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bhagwant Mann, today accused chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh of playing with the sentiments of farmers and farm labourers by telling "lies" about the state Bills brought in by his Congress government to negate the Centre's controversial farm laws.

The Punjab Assembly had last Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution and three new state Bills to negate the Narendra Modi government's "anti-farmers" agriculture sector laws. Punjab thus became the first state in the country to formally reject the Centre's controversial farm laws.

The Punjab AAP chief, however, went after Capt Amarinder, saying "If the Bills passed in the specially-convened Punjab Assembly session were valid, the Amarinder Singh government would not have run away from including procurement of cotton crop and other crops at MSP in these Bills."

In a statement, Mann, who is also an MP, charged that the CM was playing "hide and seek



with the gullible farmers in collusion with Prime Minister Modi" by bringing in Bills in the Punjab Assembly to negate the laws passed by Parliament. He claimed it to be a "well thought-out ploy to torpedo the peasant struggle" against the Centre's controversial agri laws.

He lamented the minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the government for cotton and maize were completely floated in Punjab 'mandis', forcing farmers to sell their produce at Rs 1000

per quintal less as against Rs 5745 and Rs 1870 per quintal for cotton and maize, respectively.

The AAP leader asked the CM to tell the people at large, especially farmers of Punjab, whether the Punjab Assembly had the legal and constitutional right to go for amendments in the Bills already passed by Parliament.

He further asked if these laws guarantee the farmers the purchase of wheat and paddy crop at MSP.

Mann said the Amarinder

government was trying to "befool" farmers, adding that until or unless the Punjab government enacts its own law guaranteeing government procurement of all crops at MSP, the farmers would continue to suffer forever. He charged that the CM had played another "cruel joke" with the farmers by not including cotton, cottonseed, maize, sunflower and sugarcane in the Bills passed by the state Assembly.

Mann's attack came a day after Capt Amarinder tore

into his Delhi counterpart and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on this issue.

"Are you with the farmers or against them," Capt Amarinder yesterday asked Kejriwal after the latter questioned the legality and constitutionality of the state Bills.

The Punjab CM charged that his Delhi counterpart seemed to be working in "collusion with the BJP to ruin farmers".

Reacting to Kejriwal's tweet raising doubts about the effectiveness of the amend-

ment Bills passed by the Punjab Assembly, Capt Amarinder said it "smacked of total ignorance" on the part of the Delhi CM.

It was a different matter that he could not blame Kejriwal for such ignorance considering that Delhi is not really a state, as a result of which its CM did not know the legal nitty-gritty of running a state, Capt Amarinder quipped, taking a jibe at Kejriwal's alleged lack of knowledge on matters concerning states.

The Punjab CM said he thought the AAP supremo was aware of the Constitution, which says that under Article 254 (II) states can seek amendment to central laws for local and

contextual needs, as has been done in many cases, especially in CPC and CrPC laws.

"Maybe you could check it (the Constitutional provision) now!" Capt Amarinder told Kejriwal.

The Punjab CM also said that instead of questioning his government's Bills, it would be better for Kejriwal to "get out of your IT mindset" and ask the AAP's Punjab unit to back the Punjab government in its fight for the rights of the farmers, unless their support to our Bills was just a façade.

## Kedarnath receives first snowfall of winter season



Kedarnath after snowfall on Thursday.

SNS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN, 22 OCTOBER

Kedarnath received the first snowfall of the winter season on Thursday. The sudden change in weather forced the pilgrims to stay inside and wear woolen clothes. Light snowfall started at about 10

a.m. and continued till 1 p.m.

The temperature of the pilgrimage town, located in district Rudraprayag, dipped drastically after the snowfall. On normal days the temperature is about 15 degree at day time and 5-6 degree during night, but after the snowfall on Thursday chill-

## 'Cong acting as a lobbyist for anti-farmer forces'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 22 OCTOBER

Himachal Pradesh Urban Development and Cooperation Minister Suresh Bhardwaj on Thursday lashed out at the Congress party for "misleading" farmers on the Centre's farm laws.

He said that these agriculture laws would revolutionise the agriculture sector. He charged that the Congress party was acting as a "lobbyist for anti-farmer forces".

"Congress is misleading the farmers and is playing in the hands of a handful of people who had earlier been exploiting the agrarian community," said Bhardwaj.

The Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Central government has been working towards doubling farmers' income and has also initiated several schemes and programs. "After realizing the needs of these laws to make Agri schemes and policies a success, the government took the call. But Congress could not digest it. It seems the Congress party does not want farmers to come out of the shackles of a fragmented system," he said.

Bhardwaj said that the Congress party and others joining it to oppose these laws are not the well-wishers of farmers but are act-

## Man held for raping foreign national

NEWS DELHI, 22 OCTOBER

A 37-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly raping a foreign national in central Delhi's Karol Bagh area, police said on Thursday.

The man was arrested by the Jaipur police last month after two other foreign nationals accused him of raping them in Rajasthan's capital.

The Delhi police brought the accused to the national capital from Jaipur for their investigation in the Karol Bagh rape case, and placed him under arrest.

PTI

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 22 OCTOBER

Mandi bagged top position among 30 districts while Himachal Pradesh secured second position in the country for "successful implementation" of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur congratulated the Public Works Department and expressed satisfaction on Mandi district bagging top position in 30 districts of the country and Himachal securing second position at national level in PMGSY implementation.

Union Ministry of Rural Development had declared the list of top performing 30 districts in the country for implementing the PMGSY programme in India.

that remain in poultry. The product utilises the antimicrobial potential of phytoconstituents present in the peels of kinnnows and Punjab being the leading producer of kinnnow processes the same into juice, thereby generating a large quantity of peel, said the spokesperson adding that this technology sets an example of sustainable utilization of horticulture waste by converting it into a value added product.

The product, LimoPan, is a bio engineered nutraceutical derived from kinnnow peels. An official the spokesperson said that the unbridled use of antibiotics in poultry feed is one of the reasons that has been attributed to causing antibiotic resistance in humans, as humans become passive consumers through residues

It is worthwhile to mention here that PMGSY is a programme funded by Centre government to connect habitations having population of more than 250 in the state.

Thakur has expressed satisfaction on this achievement and for successfully carrying out the task in adverse weather and pandemic conditions.

He appreciated the efforts of Public Works Department and Principal Secretary PWD JC Sharma for regular day to day monitoring of the works.

"Mandi district has received top position among all 30 districts for constructing roads under PMGSY of maximum length in 2020-21.

"Seven more districts of Himachal Pradesh have also secured position among top 30 best performing districts which include Chamba, Shimla, Kangra, Una, Sirmour, Hamirpur and Solan.

Himachal Pradesh has also improved its performance under PMGSY programme by constructing 1104 Kilometres roads this year from April till date," Thakur said.

The Chief Minister further stated that due to Covid situation, the availability of labour and machinery was severely affected but the interventions of the government to bring back required resources to the state had helped in constructing maximum length till this month under the PMGSY programme.

He asked the public works engineers to maintain the same momentum in coming time so that another milestone in this field can be achieved by the state.

poultry through contract research. The safety of the product has been ascertained by National Toxicology Centre at NIPER. Only after which the technology was transferred to Juggernaut Hospital Services, Pune.

Managing Director, Punjab Agro Manjit Singh Brar, who has led the entire process, said this transfer will pave way for future industry-academia partnerships, which will strengthen the scientific acumen and business temperament in the region.

Punjab Agro has funded the research and development (R&D) and provided significant inputs in the application of this product.

Meanwhile, Dr Manju Wadhwa's team from Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Ani-

## Poultry feed based on kinnnow peels developed to replace antibiotics use

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 22 OCTOBER

Punjabi University, Patiala, and Punjab Agro, Chandigarh, in a joint collaboration, have developed a poultry feed supplement with the ability to replace the use of antibiotics in poultry feed.

The product, LimoPan, is a bio engineered nutraceutical derived from kinnnow peels. An official the spokesperson said that the unbridled use of antibiotics in poultry feed is one of the reasons that has been attributed to causing antibiotic resistance in humans, as humans become passive consumers through residues



nine years of R&D. Meanwhile, Dr Manju Wadhwa's team from Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Ani-

## Modi shows way to world during pandemic: Nadda



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 22 OCTOBER

**'In the beginning of pandemic, even the powerful nations were not able to decide whether to fight Covid and save humanity or focus on economy. Despite having good health systems, everything visibly crumbled in those nations and they were feeling helpless. However, PM Modi declared a war against Corona to save humanity and took timely decision on the lockdown to protect 130 crore Indians'**

Referring to agriculture reforms, Nadda said the Modi government brought Farm Bills to give freedom to the farmers for the first time. "The farmers can sell their produce in any part of the country on any price," he said. He said this will also benefit the fruit growers of Himachal Pradesh. He said in Atamnirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, the Modi government has kept the provision of Rs three lakh crore for small, micro and medium enterprises. "Himachal government and the BJP should work on getting the maximum benefit to the farmers and entrepreneurs in the state under this scheme," he said. He said the Atamnirbhar Abhiyaan will pave the way for branding of traditional Chamba Rumali, Kullu shawls, Lahaul Spiti and Shimla camps, stone carvings and Himachali cuisine.

Nadda was addressing the BJP workers after laying the foundation stones of party offices in six organisational districts in HP-Nurnpur, Kangra, Dehra, Palampur, Sundernagar and Kullu virtually.

He said while there was no dedicated Covid hospital in India when the lockdown started, there are over 1500 dedicated Covid hospitals in the country now. "Now we have 1800 labs for Covid tests, where 15 lakh tests are being done daily on an average. Initially we had the capacity to conduct 1500 Covid tests in the country," he said.

He said in the beginning of lockdown, India was totally dependent on imports for masks, PPE kits and ventilators for Covid.

"Now we are manufacturing four lakh PPE kits every day and ventilators too," he said.

The national BJP President said by providing Rs 1.70 lakh crore for Garib Kalyan Yojna and Rs 20 lakh crore for Atamnirbhar Bharat campaign, PM Modi not only gave new direction to the economy in the midst of Covid, but has taken a strong step to empower 80 crore poor people in the country. He said during Covid, over 8.5 crore farmers in India were given 20 instalments of 'Krishi Samman Nidhi' and the government also started Agriculture Infrastructure Yojna worth Rs one lakh crore. He said the PM has also announced to give relief to the migrant workers during Covid lockdown by providing them free ration till November. "Modi hai toh mumkin hai," Nadda said.

He said under the leadership of Modia as PM and Ami Shah as BJP President, the BJP office in state used to run from two flats. He said Modi had mentioned in those times that this system could not work in longer run.

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Himachal Chief Minister, Jai Ram Thakur, former CMs, Prem Kumar Dhumal and Shanta Kumar, state BJP Chief, Suresh Kashyap, Union Minister of state for finance, Anurag Thakur and other ministers from the state also attended the virtual foundation stone laying ceremony of BJP offices.

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Punjab Agro has funded the research and development (R&D) and provided significant inputs in the application of this product.



We should not forget that the Pakistani establishment was fully behind the wounds inflicted on Kashmir and Kashmireyat on 22 October

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LT GOVERNOR MANOJ SINHA

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ndia

ON WHY THE PRESENT GENERATION NEEDS TO BE EDUCATED ABOUT PROXY WARS AND PAKISTAN'S ULTERIOR MOTIVES

# Covid: Six die in Siliguri

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SILIGURI, 22 OCTOBER

Six persons who had tested positive for Covid-19 died in Siliguri today, sources said.

Two persons died at Dr Chhang's (Covid) Hospital, while two others died in the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital (NBMCH).

A senior administrative officer of Sitalkuchi block in Cooch Behar district also died in a pri-

vate hospital here today, sources said.

A 30-year-old resident of Matigara died at the hospital at Matigara in the wee hours today, along with a 74-year-old resident of Kalimpong.

A 63-year-old person of Lake Town and a 30-year-old of Shanti Para in Siliguri died at the NBMCH. A 38-year-old person of Jalpaiguri district also died in a private nursing home.

Meanwhile, Darjeeling district Trinamul Congress president Ranjan Sarkar has contracted the virus. He is undergoing treatment in a private nursing home, where his condition is stated to be stable.

## 134 fresh cases in Darjeeling district

Darjeeling district recorded a whopping 134 fresh cases of Covid-19 today, sources said. The fresh cases included 50 in the Siliguri Municipal Corporation, 11 in Darjeeling Municipality, four in Kharabari, four in Kurseong Municipality, five in Sukna, 28 in Matigara, one in Mirik, 20 in Naxalbari, four in Phansidewa, four in Pulbazaar/ Bijanbari, two in Sukhia Pokhari, and one in Takhda.

A total of 31 cases were also detected in the Jalpaiguri portion of the SMC, the sources

said. Officials, however, said that the fresh cases may contain some "repeat positive cases," and that they are being verified.

Also today, 77 Covid-19 patients in Darjeeling district were either discharged from hospitals or they ended their home isolation.

## Malda records 115 new cases

Malda recorded 115 fresh Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, sources said. The number of daily infection has now remained around 100 in the past 15 days, with 107 detected last night in tests conducted at the VRDL in the Malda Medical College and Hospital.

Another eight cases were found through rapid antigen tests. The total number of cases in Malda is now near the 9000 mark, with 73 deaths so far and around 1000 active cases, sources said.

## TENDER

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN/II/MB acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 91-DRM-MB-20-21 closing date 17.11.2020 16:00 hrs. Name of work: Restoration of level crossing in connection with CTTR/TRR in the section of ADEN/HR-1. Tender closing date/time- 17.11.2020 16:00 . Cost of work: Rs. 6153387.59. Earnest Money Rs- 123100.00. Tender Cost Rs- NIL. Bidding start date 03.11.2020 and Period of Completion: 06 Months. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For detail information please log into [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. Tender No. 91-DRM-MB-20-21 Dated: 21.10.2020. 2331/2020

#### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### Tender Notice

The Chief Administrative Officer/Constat.-II/Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-	
<b>Mode of Tender</b> E-Tender (E-Reverse Auction)	
<b>Tender Notice No.</b> 74-W/3/435/WAL/KO Dated - 21.10.2020	
<b>Full name of work</b> Shahganj-Akkarpur Section (Zone-II) Earth work in formation, supply and laying blanketing material on embankment, extension of existing minor bridges and Major Bridges No. 144, 151, 170, 177, 181 & 205 of different spans & other allied works between Shahganj and Akkarpur (excluding) in connection with "Proposed Doubling of Jaunpur-Akkarpur" of Lucknow Division on Northern Railway.	
<b>Approx. cost</b> Rs. 149.72 crores	
<b>Completion period</b> 24 (Twenty four) months	
<b>Earnest Money amount</b> Rs. 76,36,300/- only	
<b>Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website</b>	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 28.10.2020 to 18.11.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
<b>Last date/Time of upload of tenders</b>	18.11.2020 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 04.11.2020 to 18.11.2020
<b>Date and time of opening of tender</b>	18.11.2020 at 11.30 hours, (immediately after close of uploading tender) (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date & time to be notified later on 2331/2020
<b>Serving Customers With A Smile</b>	



### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

01905-272269 Fax: 272862, Email: ee-char-hp@nic.in

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

No: PWDP-CB-Tender/2020- 13647-9 Dated: 20/10/2020

The Executive Engineer, Dharmpur Division, HPPWD Dharmpur, Distt. Mandi (H.P.) on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering systems from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the work as detailed in the table.

S.NO.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money submission (In Rs.)	Deadline of Bid.
1	Performance Based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) of Parcha Chothla Paplog Khroh road Km 0/0 to 4/300	12,99,705/-	12/11/2020	26,000/-	25/11/2020
2	Performance Based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) of Chothla Kotli Rassain Bhawali Khoudha road Km 0/0 to 17/720.	16,37,065/-	12/11/2020	34,000/-	25/11/2020
3	Performance Based Maintenance Contract (PBMC) of Awadevi Tihra Gaddidar Road Km 0/0 to 15/0 in Tehsil Dharmpur Distt. Mandi (HP)	14,24,800/-	12/11/2020	29,000/-	25/11/2020

The bidders are advised to note other details of tender from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in)

Executive Engineer, Dharmpur Division, HPPWD Dharmpur, Distt. Mandi (H.P.) on behalf of Governor of H.P.

3859/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA		TENDER NOTICE	
SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE
1	PWD B&R , AMBALA	CONST. OF ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK (SDM COMPLEX) AT SHAHABAD IN DISTT. KURUKSHETRA (CM ANNOUNCEMENT CODE NO. 12621 DATED 04.06.2016) (PDG. 250KVA ELECT. SUB STATION) + 7 OTHER WORKS	28.10.2020 11.11.2020
2	BLOCK DEV & PANCHAYAT OFFICER BHawan	CONSTRUCTION OF PARK-CUM-VYASMAHALA	19.10.2020 27.10.2020
3	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KURUKSHETRA	LADNA : TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING SEWERAGE SCHEME IN REMAINING AREA / BALANCE STREETS OF LADNA TOWN DISTRICT. KURUKSHETRA + 1 OTHER WORK	21.10.2020 03.11.2020
4	FOREST DEPARTMENT,GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF 3 WATER POND AT PACIFIC JAHNAU-REINARI + 4 OTHER WORKS	21.10.2020 30.10.2020
5	FOREST DEPARTMENT,GURUGRAM	CREATION OF EATING LAWN FOR VISITORS FACILITY AT SULTANPUR NATIONAL PARK, DISTRICT GURUGRAM + 1 OTHER WORK	22.10.2020 30.10.2020

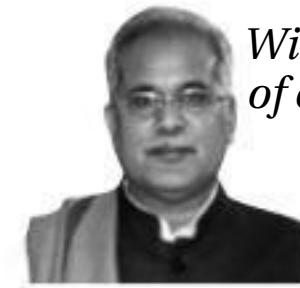
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etendehry.nic.in](http://www.etendehry.nic.in)



### \*H.P. PWD TENDERS\*

Sealed item rate tenders on form No. 6&8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Kotkhai Division, HPPWD: Kotkhai for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HP:PWD, so as to reach in his office on or before 13-11-2020 upto 10:30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 A.M. in the presence of the intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be had from his office against cash payment (Non-refundable upto 4:00 P.M. on 12-11-2020). The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate / Time deposit account / saving bank account / FDR in any of the Post Office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of the XEN must accompany with each tenders. Conditional tenders or tender received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The XEN reserved the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or to drop the proposal of the tenders without assigning any reasons. The officer of the tenders shall be kept open for 120 days. All the contractors will have to bring with them the attested copy of registration / renewal of their enlistment failing which their application shall not be entertained. The contractor must be registered under H.P. General Sales Tax Act 1968 and its proof must be submitted with application for tender, failing which tender will not be issued. If any date mentioned above happens to be a holiday, the same will be processed on the next day. The Firms / Contractors must quote the rate of each item in words as well as in figures, failing which their tenders are likely to be rejected.

**JOB No. 1.** C/o link road to Gumma Reoghati to Nagindri in K.M. 0/0 to 0/830 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at R.D. 0/719 to 0/725 and 0/725 to 0/736 and 0/736 to 0/747) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,60,516/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 9,300/- Time allowed: 2 Month, Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 2.** C/o Ghasigaon Dhanroti Purag Road in K.M. 0/0 to 3/930 (SH:- C/o B/Wall at R.D. 3/560 to 3/660) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,75,000/- Earnest Money: Rs. 9,500/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 3.** A/R & M/O Health Sub-Centre building at Rukhla in Tehsil Kotkhai, Distt. Shimla, H.P. (SH:- PCC / Stone Masonary protection wall in front of building) Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,80,403/- Earnest Money: Rs. 3,700/- Cost of form: 350/- **JOB No. 4.** Improvement of Gumma Jashia Reoghati Road in K.M. 0/0 to 29/00 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at R.D. 3/782 to 3/807) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,96,186/- Earnest Money: Rs. 10,000/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 5.** C/o Link road Lower Chewar to lower Galeha Harijan Basti in K.M. 0/0 to 3/0 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr in wide road at R.D. 2/285 to 2/285) Estimated Cost: 4,98,984/- Earnest Money: 10,000/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 6.** C/o link road to Village Kupri in K.M. 0/0 to 1/300 (SH:- HPC at R.D. 0/140 and 0/990 both side wing wall in 5mtrs) Estimated Cost: Rs. 6,68,570/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 7,400/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 7.** R/R damages on Chole Badroni Gahro Bari link road in K.M. 0/0 to 3/375 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at R.D. 1/610 to 1/620 and 2/862 to 2/880.70) Estimated Cost: Rs. 3,02,037/- Earnest Money: Rs. 6100/- Cost of form: 350/- **JOB No. 8.** C/o link road Harjan Basti Protidhar in K.M. 0/0 to 1/855 (SH:- F/C in 5/7 mtr wide road in K.M. 0/0 to 1/265) SH:- Providing and laying G-II in K.M. 0/0 to 1/265) Estimated Cost: 4,98,984/- Earnest Money: 10,000/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 9.** C/o Reoghati to Govindpur road in K.M. 0/0 to 1/265 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at R.D. 1/708 to 1/718 and 2/095 to 2/105) Estimated Cost: Rs. 2,39,087/- Earnest Money: Rs. 4,800/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 10.** C/o Reoghati to Govindpur road in K.M. 0/0 to 8/500 (SH:- C/o R/Wall in wire crate at R.D. 0/606 to 0/676 and 0/695 to 0/697) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,91,455/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 9,900/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 11.** A/R & M/O Dhali Dakhal Jakrari link road in K.M. 0/0 to 7/075 (SH:- C/o B/Wall at R.D. 0/015 to 0/030 and 0/050 to 0/090 & R/Wall at R.D. 6/310 to 6/325) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,98,500/- Earnest Money: Rs. 10,000/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 12.** Improvement of Black Spot on Himri Valley road in K.M. 0/0 to 17/600 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at R.D. 1/708 to 1/718 and 2/095 to 2/105) Estimated Cost: Rs. 3,37,803/- Earnest Money: Rs. 6,800/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 13.** Improvement of Tharola Balog Pajahi road in K.M. 0/0 to 8/500 (SH:- C/o R/Wall in wire crate at R.D. 0/328 to 0/348) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,80,799/- Earnest Money: Rs. 10,000/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 14.** R/R damages on Tillu link road in K.M. 0/0 to 1/195 (SH:- C/o B/Wall at R.D. 0/240 to 0/285) Estimated Cost: Rs. 3,37,803/- Earnest Money: Rs. 6,800/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 15.** Improvement of Koku Nallah Dharonk road in K.M. 0/0 to 8/500 (SH:- C/o R/Wall in wire crate at R.D. 0/606 to 0/676 and 0/695 to 0/697) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,91,455/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 9,900/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 16.** Improvement of link road to village Chajoli in K.M. 0/0 to 8/10 (SH:- C/o R/Wall in wire crate at R.D. 0/328 to 0/348) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,80,799/- Earnest Money: Rs. 10,000/- Cost of form: Rs. 350/- **JOB No. 17.** Improvement of Nehraghati Dakhla link road in K.M. 0/0 to 3/0 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at R.D. 2/477 to 2/490 and B/Wall at R.D. 0/405 to 0/43



*With this poll promise @bjp4india has implied that citizens of other non-election states will have to pay for the vaccine*

CHHATTISGARH CHIEF MINISTER BHUPESH BAGHEL  
HITTING OUT BJP OVER FREE VACCINE PROMISE

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2020



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA, 22 OCTOBER

# Bihar poll temperature set to go up with Modi, Rahul rallies today

PM will address three rallies to seek support for NDA nominees, Cong leader Gandhi will address two

A model showcases creations during a fashion show, 'Bride's Pride', at a store in Amritsar. ■ AFP

**Palghar mob lynching case:** The CID of Maharashtra Police on Thursday arrested eight more people in connection with the lynching of three persons by a mob in Palghar district in April this year, a police official said. With this, 186 people have so far been arrested and 11 juveniles detained in connection with the incident. PTI

**Allowance to husband:** A family court in Muzaffarnagar has ordered a woman, a government pensioner, to pay a monthly maintenance allowance to her husband, following a petition filed by the latter in this regard. The couple has been living separately for many years. PTI

**Illegal arms factory busted:** The police on Thursday claimed to have busted an illegal arms-manufacturing factory in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras following the arrest of a man and seizure of over a dozen firearms along with ammunition. PTI

**Road mishap:** Uttar Pradesh BJP Kisan Morcha vice-president Jay Vijay Singh was killed after his SUV collided with another vehicle in Chitrakoot. PTI

## Gujarat BJP suspends 3 rebels in bypoll fray

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, 22 OCTOBER

The ruling BJP in Gujarat has been hit by a little rebellion in the run up to the by-elections for eight Assembly constituencies to fill up the vacancies caused by resignation of their Congress legislators who have subsequently defected to the saffron party.

They had resigned on the eve of Rajya Sabha elections to ensure victory of BJP nominees to the Upper House. The BJP has given party ticket to five of these defectors for by-elections scheduled on 3 November.

As a result, the ruling party is facing rebellion in Morbi, Dhari and Gadhada seats, where BJP's local functionaries have entered the poll fray as independent candidates.

State BJP president C R Paatil suspended these three rebel candidates for defying party mandate in the three Assembly seats. More than the open rebellion in these three seats in Saurashtra region, what is troubling the BJP most is the Congress emphasis on "traitors" having been fielded by the ruling party.

## Nitish finds himself alone in battle field as BJP takes independent stand

MANOJ CHAURASIA  
PATNA, 22 OCTOBER

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar appears finding him alone in the middle of the poll campaign to retain power for the fourth time in a row as the BJP, his key ally, goes on taking an independent stand. At least poll two promises made by the BJP appear to be in complete contrast to Nitish's repeated observations at his election rallies, amply indicating the BJP is silently working on its own "game-plan".

The very first thing which deserves mention here is BJP's promise to give 19 lakh jobs to the people of Bihar. This comes amid the chief minister repeatedly ridiculing Grand Alliance chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav's poll promise of giving 10 lakh jobs to the people and asking as to

and Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath addressing public meetings at various places.

Besides them, BJP general secretary and in-charge of the state Bhupendra Yadav, Union minister Ravishankar Prasad, Union minister of state for home Nitayanand Rai, former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and state leaders such as deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi, state unit chief Sanjay Jaiswal are criss-crossing the state. From ally JD(U), its head Nitish Kumar is addressing 4-5 public meetings daily and also addressing virtual rallies to reach out to maximum number of voters.

In Gaya, JD(U) leader in the Lok Sabha Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lallan will share the dais with Modi along with former chief minister and president of Hindustani Awam Morcha Jitan Ram Manjhi.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is also slated to launch his campaign in Bihar elections on Friday. He will address two rallies at Hisua ~ at Hisua in Nawada and Kahalgaon in Bhagalpur district.

Sources at the Congress as well as in the RJD said Tejashwi Yadav, chief ministerial face of the Mahagathbandhan, will join Gandhi at Hisua, where Congress nominee Neetu Singh is taking on sowing BJP MLA Anil Singh.

In Kahalgaon, the former Congress president will be accompanied by Shaktisinh Gohil and other senior party leaders, besides some district-level office bearers, candidates of coalition partners.

The BJP has already launched "carpet bombing" campaign for the Bihar polls with Union ministers Rajnath Singh, BJP president J P Nadda



## 'BJP's job promise in Bihar gimmick'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA, 22 OCTOBER

In the Opposition camp, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav is holding the fort in the absence of father Lalu Prasad. Tejashwi is addressing 8-9 rallies daily cutting short their duration for 15-20 minutes to garner support for candidates of his party and those from allies Congress and others.

While the NDA in Bihar has the BJP, the JD(U), the HAM and the Vikashheel Insaan Party of former Bollywood set designer Mukesh Sahni, the rival grouping of five parties is spearheaded by the RJD, and the Congress, CPI, CPM and CPI-ML are its members.

The arrival of Modi and Rahul Gandhi on the campaign scene will heat up the poll temperature further.

With Bihar polls taking place at a time when Covid-19 is raging in the state as well as in the country and the world, adequate preventive measures are being taken at rally venues. With social media videos showing rampant violation of Covid-19 guidelines with people without face mask and not observing social distancing at rallies, measures are being taken for safeguarding the attendees at the meetings of the two leaders.



Surjewala said.

"Had they been able to deliver on their promises, 12 crore people would have got employment across the country in the past six years. Bihar, too, would have benefited in due course. Since they have failed, they cannot be trusted anymore," he said.

The Congress leader alleged the JD(U)-BJP combine has driven the state to the "brink of ruin" (badhaali ke kaggar par) in the past 15 years and said Kumar, who is called "sushasan babu" for his claims of ushering in good governance deserved the epithet "phasidai babu" (laggard).

"It is not just we who say that Nitish Kumar has been a non-performer. A recent report of the Niti Aayog, which functions under the Modi government at the Centre, speaks volumes about the woeful situation of Bihar where students' dropout rate is high, the number of qualified teachers is low, malnutrition exists on an alarming scale."

# Bimal appearance: 'Police authority undermined'

MANAS R BANNERJEE  
SILIGURI, 22 OCTOBER

A day after Morcha leader Bimal Gurung made a dramatic appearance after three years of hiding and swore allegiance to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, top administrative officials and intellectuals today said that the authority of the West Bengal Police was undermined when Mr Gurung, a "proclaimed offender" was allowed to hold a Press Conference in a hotel in the state Capital of Kolkata last evening.

According to them, the CM would have done better to not join hands with Mr Gurung and to arrest him.

"Being the chief minister of West Bengal, had Mamata Banerjee instructed the Police Commissioner to arrest Bimal Gurung from Salt Lake without compromising on anything, her political efficacy, administrative acumen and caliber would have gone far more brighter, and ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections, her position would have been more secured," former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Pankaj Datta said.

"Had the police arrested Bimal Gurung even during the Press Conference, the police department's glamour would have been saved. The developments yesterday have established the fact that she has compromised with a petty political leader whose stature is nowhere near Gorkha leader, the late Subash Ghisingh," Mr Datta said over the phone.

"The West Bengal police department has already lost its glory. Police should have arrested Gurung and produced him in the court today," the former IGP said.

People in the Hills and the Plains have now started criticising the role of the ruling Trinamul Congress on the Darjeeling Hill issue.

Recalling the violence that took place during Miss Banerjee's Cabinet meeting in Darjeeling in 2017, a group of intellectuals today discussed that police had to open fire, killing several Darjeeling youths, while the administration had to call in the Army and Miss Banerjee had to go down to Bagdogra with the help of Army after the Hill erupted, as Mr Gurung was against her.

"After the death of a police officer, Amitava Mallick, during an operation against Bimal Gurung (in 2017), the Trinamul Congress government earned huge Bengal sympathy across the state. The CM was successful as she took the decision to 'eliminate' Gurung and his political career. But the entire 'drama', by showcasing the death of Amitava Mallick, has backfired today, and the 'drama' misled the people and played with their emotions," said a political observer, associated with the state administration.

Party president Mehbuba Mufti chaired the meeting of party's top leadership in Srinagar to discuss and deliberate upon the prevailing situation in Jammu & Kashmir. It was the first such meeting after her release from over 14 months-long detention and was attended by top party office bearers and leaders.

The leadership unanimously endorsed the stance taken by the party president on the issue of 5 August events when the Article 370 was abrogated as well as her commitment to a united response to these events, Bukhari said.



while the state branded him a traitor.

An intellectual, who watched police inaction when Mr Gurung appeared at the Gorkha Bawhan in Kolkata yesterday, said: "The question now is how the Judiciary will react and how it will believe the police."

Former MLA from Kalimpang and Jan Andolan Party leader, Harka Bahadur Chettri, who was once close to Mr Gurung, however, said people should not draw conclusions right now.

"Bimal did not have an option as he understood that the BJP would not be able to do anything for him, as law and order is a state subject. As a result, he had to strike a deal with the state for his personal safety and return home. It was difficult to manage bail from the legal point of view," Mr Chettri said.

"But the question is, what will Bimal tell the people and how will he be able to keep his support base intact when a certain percentage of his support has already eroded. Now, the way for his comeback in politics is very tough," he added.

According to another Darjeeling district-based observer, around 75 percent of the Hill people have already started criticising Mr Gurung for "surrendering" before Mamata Banerjee.

"Bimal is now a liability in the political arena. The Morcha's Binoy Tamang faction may be a decisive factor, when GNLF leaders, keeping a close watch on the present developments with an escape route, expect more changes in the political equation in the Hills soon," he said.

A Kolkata-based journalist, who recently retired from a daily newspaper, said the CM has sent a message that she is the last word. "But in the question of benefit, Bimal is now simply a liability. BJP has gained at present as it has now thrown the Gorkhaland ball in the TMC's court. It is a blessing in disguise for the BJP. We cannot rule out if Bimal's return is BJP's game plan to have him return home in the Hills," he said.

"My reading is that Mamata Banerjee just surrendered before Bimal Gurung just to ensure a few seats in North Bengal region, but he cannot be used politically," a senior journalist, who covers Nabanna, said, adding, "The chief minister is now responsible for explaining the reason behind Gurung's return."

"How miserable she is politically, that she needs help from a traitor for votes and to retain power," he said.

## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an Unknown female was found dead at Bus stop Nangli Dairy, Near Arjun Park, Metro Station, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043 on dated 12.09.2020 at 10.02 AM. In this regard a DD No. 38A dated 12.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Najafgarh, Delhi.



The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Sunita, Dio: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 55 years, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Hair: Black & White, Identification Marks: A cut mark on left eye, Wearing: Suit & Salwar.

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

E-mail : cic@bjl.gov.nic.in  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
DP/320/DW/2020

SHO, P.S. Najafgarh, Delhi.  
Ph.: 011-25016200, 25016500,  
8750871027

to believe the BJP's promise since all their past promises have proved to be "jumlas". BJP's second promise to convert Bihar into an "IT hub" also appears to be mocking the CM who said investors are refusing to invest in the state for it being a landlocked state. The CM had recently told the media that no industry could be set up in Bihar as it is a landlocked state, not located close to the sea.

His observation invited sarcastic remarks from RJD president Lalu Prasad who asked the CM if Indian Ocean would have to be brought to Bihar to enable him to encourage investment for industrialisation to provide employment opportunities to youths. "BJP promise for industrialisation is a complete rejection of Nitish's stand," remarked political expert DM Diwakar.

The RJD, too, hit out at the BJP for taking a U-turn on its stand. "This is nothing but to deceive voters," tweeted RJD, asking masses to be on alert. The party said none was going

understanding between the two countries. "Often these violations happen from civilian areas to support infiltration of terrorists across LoC," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said at a media briefing.

He said: "We have witnessed that Pakistan's aid and abetment to cross-border terrorism, smuggling of arms and narcotic substances have spilled over to the International Boundary, including through the usage of drones and quadcopters." Such violations were regularly highlighted to Pakistan through diplomatic channels and at the regular DG Military Operations talks.

Srivastava said Islamabad has addressed 21 action items of the 27 given to the country under FATF action plan. Six important action items were yet to be addressed. Pakistan, he said, continued to provide safe havens to terrorist entities and individuals.

However, the BJP has come under fire for its promise of giving free Covid-19 vaccines to the people of Bihar should it come to power. The experts say the free vaccination is the right of the people and such promises should not be made to win votes. "Yah amaniya hai. BJP maut ka sauda kar rahi hain (It's inhumane. The BJP is selling death)," commented Diwakar, describing it as violation of people's fundamental rights.

The RJD reacted bitterly saying the BJP was selling the "fear of death". "Corona vaccines belong to the country, not the BJP. The political use of the vaccine shows they have no choice but to sell their fear of disease and death. Biharis are self-respecting, they do not sell their children's future for a small amount," said a statement issued by RJD.

**NOTICE**  
That my client Sri. Niranjan Goswami residing at Flat No. 3B, Balaji Apartment, 1271, Road Behadur Road, Kolkata: 700034, have lost Original Registered Deed of Conveyance Being No. 1781 for the year 1973 registered in the office of ADSR Chandpara, North 24 Parganas, and also lodged a General Diary in the Behala Police Station dated on 22.10.2020 vide GD Entry No. 2186. Any person having any claim, share, right, title, interest, concerning the matter and objection whatever must notify the same to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence, within 15 days from this date where after the claim shall be deemed to be waived and no further claim shall be entertained.

Sanjukta Sarkar Advocate  
Ph. no. 8100182297

**SHO,**  
**P.S. Najafgarh, Delhi.**  
**Ph.: 011-25016200, 25016500,**  
**8750871027**

be in sharp contrast to his public criticisms of Tejashwi for making job offers to youths.

"Till a day back, the party itself has promised to give 19 lakh jobs to the party but see today, the party has made a caricature of itself," said state Congress spokesperson Premchandra Mishra.

The RJD, too, hit out at the BJP for taking a U-turn on its stand. "This is nothing but to deceive voters," tweeted RJD, asking masses to be on alert. The party said none was going

## Rumblings in Sind

While Pakistan's Army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa may have mollified the police in Sind province by ordering an inquiry into the factors which led several senior police officers to jointly apply for leave (they have now deferred their applications for 10 days), the tensions in the country provoked by a joint Opposition campaign to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan and curtail the role of the Army in governance have not gone away. The provocation for the police action was the reported kidnapping by Army Rangers of an Inspector-General of Police, who was then coerced into signing orders for the arrest of Captain Mohammad Safdar, the son-in-law of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Following the arrest, the IG, two additional inspectors general, seven deputy inspectors general and six senior superintendents of Sind police applied for leave on identical grounds. All of them said that the manner the police high command had been "ridiculed and manhandled" had caused all ranks of Sind Police to feel "demoralized and shocked". Stating that in such a "stressful situation" it was difficult to discharge their duties responsibly, the officers sought 60 days earned leave, effectively threatening to paralyse policing in the important province. While it is normal for the Army in Pakistan to be heavy-handed, the police reaction was quite unexpected and appears to have sent the Establishment into a tizzy, forcing the Army chief to order a rare inquiry into the conduct of his officers. While two well-attended rallies of the Opposition ~ in Gujranwala and Karachi ~ have rattled the government, a third is planned on Sunday and may prove to be even more challenging, coming as it does in the wake of the shocking developments in Sind. For the focus is increasingly turning on officers of Pakistan's armed forces, with its top leadership being publicly named by Opposition parties for having propped up Mr. Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf party. The country's two main political parties ~ the Pakistan Peoples Party and the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) ~ consider Mr. Khan's outfit an interloper and believe that it has joined hands with the Army to snuff out democracy in the country under the guise of targeting corruption. While Pakistan's political class is with good reason accused of large-scale corruption, and the leaders of the PPP and the PML (N) are prime examples of the venality in public life, the Army and its officers are no saints. Just last month, Lieutenant-General (retired) Asim Saleem Bajwa, a key aide of the Prime Minister and Chairman of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor was exposed as owning a multi-million-dollar business empire in the United States, including a pizza franchise with 133 restaurants. His family was said to have spent \$52 million on their business and nearly \$15 million on buying properties. When the scandal broke, Bajwa offered to resign from his position in the Prime Minister's office (but not from the CPEC), but this was spurned by Mr. Khan. Pakistan's quest for good governance is unlikely to end soon; for now, its citizens can only hope the all-powerful military will be reined in.

## Bangkok blinks

By lifting on Thursday the emergency measures that had been promulgated to quell protests, and doing so even as protests showed no signs of letting up, the government of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha in Thailand would appear to have blinked first in a confrontation that has seen the country roiled by demonstrations. The government has sought to put on a brave face, saying "The current violent situation that led to the announcement of the severe situation has eased and ended to a situation in which government officials and state agencies can enforce the regular laws." That the "severe situation" has not ended by any stretch was made clear when late on Wednesday, thousands of protesters who had gathered outside Bangkok's Government House dispersed only after serving a stiff ultimatum. In a letter handed over to the city's police chief, the protesters said: "We have marched to Government House today to give the government an ultimatum. General Prayut must resign while the legal prosecution against arrested protest leaders must be stopped. We will give the government three days to comply or we will come back and increase the level of protest." To make sure the message was driven home, the demonstrators handed over a letter of resignation for the Prime Minister, a former Army officer who took control of government after a coup, to sign. The other development was that Mr Prayut's Cabinet gave the thumbs-up to an extraordinary session of Parliament on 26 and 27 October to seek a resolution to the conflict. Mr Prayut took to television on Wednesday to plead with all sides to take a step back. Asking parties to retreat from a "path that would lead the country to downfall", he said violence would lead to more violence and end up damaging the country. Prayut added that the only way out of the conflict without damaging the country was to talk, respect the law, and work together via the parliamentary process.

While the government may be trying to buy time to find ways to survive, it is clear that the protests ~ which have been largely spontaneous and apolitical ~ mark the extreme frustration of youth who are disgusted with the processes that brought Mr Prayut to power and have kept him there. This time, they have also targeted the monarchy, seeking reforms that will ensure the King keeps away from politics and the Palace curbs its profligacy. These demands may be more difficult to concede for Thailand's power elite ~ even when the country has been democratically ruled ~ has protected its institutions. Mr Prayut's appeal to protesters to be patient and accept the "middle path" is an attempt to ensure that the establishment does not lose the war to preserve itself, even if it is forced to

# Religion not to Blame

The Hinduism which is preached and propagated these days is crafty with political motives. It ostensibly sacrifices truth and morality at the altar of untruth and subterfuge



**R**eligion is not for tinkering and twisting. Neither is it for any racial or communal discord and discrimination. Nor is it a weapon of politics for winning an exclusive right to power. It is completely for self-purification and spiritual realization.

Emperor Asoka is a glowing example of what happens to a ruler when he becomes a serious seeker of religion. His respect for all other faiths is famously depicted in one of his proclamations. He says in it: "All sects deserve reverence for one reason or another. By thus acting a man exalts his own sect and at the same time does service to the sects of other people."

Asoka's is a clear case of "being and becoming" which is indeed the effect of religion on one, whether king or commoner, if one prefers to practise it with the heart.

There is a gulf of difference between Asoka before the Kalinga war and Asoka after the Kalinga war. It doesn't happen by fluke. Asoka's earnest desire to transform himself from a heinous autocrat to a compassionate monarch takes a lot of inner struggle. He assiduously believes in the words of Lord Buddha that one isn't invincible when he wins a hundred battles, but when one conquers oneself. Following this, he evidently emerges victorious in his fight against evil tendencies. A committed Buddhist, Asoka then obviously harbours a feeling of love and concern for all people, cutting across faiths and nations.

Becoming deeply religious in this way, he proves that "religion is not the outcome of the weakness of human nature". He also simultaneously proves, as Swami Vivekananda has said, "Religion as a science, as a study, is the greatest and the healthiest exercise that the human mind can have." Asoka's later demeanour is an object lesson as well as a perennial source of inspiration to those who aspire to be moral and inclusive rulers.

However, the moot question is: Could religion be always so reliable as Asoka thinks? Why not, if one understands properly what religion is actually and what its real consequence on man is? For our basic understanding Swamiji tells us first significantly: "The evils exist not with, but against religion. Religion therefore is not to blame, but men."

To show that it is foolish to quarrel over religion, he then says: "One infinite religion existed all through eternity and will ever exist, and this religion is expressing itself in various countries in various ways." But, ironi-

cally, whatever is being perpetuated by a section of priests and politicians today is travesty of religion brazenly bent upon bigotry and belligerency, though they claim themselves as followers of Swamiji! We have to remember here that like politics, priest-craft is also reprehensible to Swamiji for the miseries it has caused to man all through history. Swamiji reminds us emphatically that caste has no bearing on religion.

It has now lost all its relevance. It was there for a time, in view of a social need. He says it had its natural death after establishing an order in society in terms of individual

quality and competence. He argues citing the instance of a Brahmin selling shoes to show its impertinence in our time. He also points out how priests and politicians in collusion sometimes do not allow its purging from society. They instead keep society deliberately sick and weak to their benefit. Dividing people by caste to rule is an "evil", hence "against" religion. This is a blot on our country's character.

Hatred has no room in religion, for religion is love itself. Swamiji says, "Love opens the most impossible gates; love is the gate to all the secrets of the universe." He says this only to impress upon us the fact that if a man is truly religious, he can do nothing but love alone and contribute astoundingly for human progress. Swamiji saw his Master Sri Ramakrishna as religion personified and describes him as L O V E in blood and flesh. Sri Ramakrishna says: "One should not say, 'My religion alone is the right path and other religions are false.' ... Infinite are the paths and infinite the opinions."

Swamiji learnt this truth from him in the beginning. He heard his Master say how he had correctly known it by his sadhana. He said: "I had to practise each religion for a time ~ Hinduism, Islam, Christianity. Furthermore, I followed the paths of Saktas, Vaishnavas, and Vedantists. I realized that there is only one God towards whom all are travelling, but the paths are different." Swamiji subsequently scanned him to see that his words were in perfect agreement with his behaviour. Sri Ramakrishna's unequivocal reply against caste is embedded in his immortal saying: "A Brahmin without this love (of God) is no longer a

Brahmin. And a pariah with the love of God is no longer a pariah." Swamiji observed Sri Ramakrishna demonstrating the ideal of eternal religion to which India subscribed for millennia. It gave him to understand the fact that Sri Ramakrishna is indeed an embodiment of India's spirit which is ever accommodating and ever expanding.

He was therefore convinced that, if India wished, she could once again rise sitting at Sri Ramakrishna's feet. Some honestly religious politicians thought the same after him, Netaji being the foremost among them. Swamiji proclaimed: "He (Sri Ramakrishna) had lived in one life the whole cycle of the national religious existence in India."

Swamiji has said: "Only freedom can produce true morality." Freedom in ancient India was at its best because the kind of rational faith people practised in it had absolutely no place for parochialism. Its hallmark was an amazingly high moral standard, regarding which scholar travellers from Persia, Greece, China, Arabia and other countries had documented with great respect and praise.

India discovered that man "is born with religion in his soul". So she developed her civilization taking refuge in religion. She believed religion within resonating with religion without could fetch unprecedented prosperity spontaneously.

Therefore, religion was the tenor of her life. Its resultant effect was that she grew exponentially in social, intellectual and spiritual matters, for the kind of liberty her people enjoyed as given by the religion they practised. Due to it, she even became a safe and sound haven for the persecuted people from other parts of the world.

India then flourished in every walk of life ~ science, art, literature, music and other important things necessary to make a race advance spectacularly. Above all, she produced numerous spiritual giants who brought light to humanity. Making an in-depth study of India's past, the well-known, 19th-century British scholar Monier Williams writes: "Indeed, the Hindus were Spinozists 2,000 years before the birth of Spinoza, Darwinian centuries before the birth of Darwin, and evolutionists centuries before the doctrine

of evolution had been accepted by the Huxleys of our time, and before any word like evolution existed in any language of the world."

Indians received the name Hindu for their race from outsiders, resorting to which was given the nomenclature Hinduism to their distinctive civilization and culture based on the principle of unity in diversity.

Hinduism had, accordingly, colourfully flowered with a Universal Religion, having recourse to the essence of man. Swamiji says: "Temples or churches, books or forms, are simply the kindergarten of religion." He tells this in view of the non-sectarian religion of the creedless Upanishads, the beauty of which has been eulogized by thinkers of various faiths from all over the globe.

For instance, a deeply devout Christian Max Muller writes of the Upanishads that "human speculation" seems to him "to have reached its very acme" in them. He frankly confesses: "They are like the light of the morning, like the air of the mountains ~ so simple, so true, if once understood."

When Swamiji establishes religion as a science he also precisely defines that science intelligibly, employing minimum number of words for a robust and rich idea: "Religion is the science which learns the transcendental in nature through the transcendental in man."

Everything else is dispensable to him when he focuses on the religion of man, in order to make man rationally, intellectually, morally and spiritually powerful. For, he firmly believes, "Religion is the manifestation of the natural strength that is in man."

He believes "true civilization should mean the power of taking the animal-man out of his" personality. Watching the changing social scenario, he has sternly reminded us: "No civilization can grow unless fanaticism, bloodshed and brutality stop."

The Hinduism which is preached and propagated these days is crafty with political motives. It ostensibly sacrifices truth and morality at the altar of untruth and subterfuge. It is in naked contravention of the Hinduism Ramakrishna and Vivekananda advocate for.

We, who adore them as our pathfinders, must, therefore, punctiliously ponder to remain purposefully aloof from its detrimental influence. We can ill-afford to ignore Swamiji's exhortation: "A nation in India must be a union of those whose hearts beat to the same spiritual tune."

A MEMBER OF THE

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## Seven baffling things in Korea

There are a myriad of enigmatic things happening in Korea these days, whether in the North or the South. For example, North Korea confuses us by showing us a friendly gesture recently, while displaying deadly weapons that can strike the South in a military parade. In South Korea, too, we are witnessing a plethora of sphinx-like things of late

One of the inscrutable things in South Korea is the recent tendency of political parties to change their names continually. In fact, this phenomenon of political parties changing their names happens so frequently in Korea that people are now confused which is which. Take the conservative opposition party, for example. Just before the April election this year, it changed its name from the Liberty Korea Party to the United Future Party simply because voters did not like the stalemate connotations of being called the opposition party. In August, the United Future Party changed its name again to the People Power Party because despite the new name, the Party had lost the election. Ironically, the most recent name, the People Power Party, sounds like a radical progressive party, not a conservative party, thereby making it lose its identity inadvertently during the name changing process.

In fact, the opposition party has frequently changed its name, from the Grand National Party to the Saenuri Party and then to the Liberty Korea Party, the United Future Party, and most recently the People Power Party. The ruling party is not an exception, either and had a variety of different names in the past.

Consequently, many Koreans are confused and find all these name changes rather meaningless. The important thing is the change of the substance, not simply the name. Yet, our politicians only keep changing the name of their party without changing

**H The Korea Herald**

its substance.

Among other perplexing phenomena are the mottos of our governments, which often turn out to be a hollow mockery of themselves. During the military dictatorship of Chun Doo-hwan, for example, the government's motto was "Building a Society of Justice."

However, how can a military dictator who had seized power through a coup possibly build a just society? Thus, the motto became an object of derision. During the Noh Moo-hyun administration, the motto was "Everybody's Participating Government." Regrettably, however, those who did not support President Roh could not participate in the government.

Thus, people muttered, "It is Our Faction Only Participating Government." At that time, the Ruling Party was the Uri Party, which means, "Open to Everybody Party" in Korean. However, people derided the name by calling it, "Closed to Everybody Party" or "Open Only to Us Party." Currently, the Korean name of the Ruling Party is "Deobureo Minjudang," which means "Together Democratic Party." However, since the Party excludes those who are not in its faction, people call it sarcastically, "Wurkiri Deobureo Minjudang," which means "Our Faction Only Together Democratic Party."

It is also incomprehensible that some cabinet members are so arrogant and impudent at the National Assembly auditing in South Korea these days. Yet, if we look a little closer, the reason is obvious. Those conceited cabinet members are former National Assemblymen.

## PERSONAL

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the GNP (or in personal incomes) or industrialisation ~ important as they may be as means to the real ends.' (The Idea of Justice).

Yours, etc., Jaydev Jana,  
Kolkata, 20 October.

## TOPPLING GAME

**SIR,** The Central leaders of BJP are seriously contemplating to dislodge the government headed by Mamata Banerjee by falsely claiming a breakdown of law and order in the state.

The Governor of Bengal is trying to find fault with each and every action of the government, which is suggestive of the fact that he is interested in toppling the government. But in the process of doing so, he has probably forgotten that he is not doing justice to his chair. History will not forgive him.

Yours, etc., Arun Gupta,  
Kolkata, 20 October.

## Obsessed with GDP

**SIR,** Fahmida Khatun's article, 'Over-reacting to GDP numbers?' (*The Statesman*, 20 October 2020) prompts me to quote Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate in Economics: 'What we measure in

forms what we do. And if we're measuring the wrong thing, we're going to do the wrong thing.' When we use GDP as a lens through which to observe economic activity, we pay attention to what is



measured and tend to become oblivious to those things that are not measured at all. British mathematician and philosopher Alfred North Whitehead called the obsession with measurements 'the fallacy of misplaced concreteness.'

Indeed, amid our irresistible obsession with GDP, growth is mistakenly equated with development. To understand the difference of measurement of growth and development we may take the example of human beings. The term growth of human beings simply means the increase in the height and weight which is purely physical, but when we talk about development it takes into account both physical and abstract aspects like maturity level, attitude, habits, behaviours, feelings intelligence and so on. GDP leads us to a form of wilful blindness. However, to de-

fine 'development' we may quote Amartya Sen, another Nobel Laureate in Economics. 'The assessment of development can't be divorced from the lives that people can lead and the real freedom that they enjoy. Development can scarcely be seen merely in terms of enhancement of inanimate objects of convenience, such as a rise in

## TOPPLING GAME

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Yours, etc., Arun Gupta,  
Kolkata, 20 October.

# Civil society must play a role in governance

G RAMACHANDRA REDDY

The former President, the late Pranab Mukherjee was one of the wise persons of the Indian political establishment. During his lifetime, he made some important observations:

- A successful democracy does not necessarily involve successful governance;
- The fight against poverty is far from over;
- We must rediscover the virtue of self-scrutiny; and
- We need to prevent wastage of our precious resources.

In the light of these observations we need to scrutinise whether the Indian democratic experiment of the last seven decades has been ideal and successful.

Ours is basically an electoral democracy like others across the globe. Some are successful, others are a failure. We need to evolve electoral democracy into a participatory democracy where the voice of civil society, including the media, is heard and respected.

State power according to the constitutional and legal scheme is shared at present by elected political institutions and the unelected such as the bureaucracy, police, judiciary, Attorney-General, Comptroller and Auditor General, Election commission etc. There is no place for civil society in the decision-making process of elected and unelected institutions.

Participatory Democracy envisages legal recognition for civil society in the law-making process. It does not mean civil society members are conferred with voting rights. It only means that their voice is heard and respected in shaping the bill. It applies, particularly, to important legislations such as Lokpal and Lok Ayukta laws that are meant to fight corruption.

It would be equally true in respect of the stillborn Accountability law and the defective Right to Information Act of 2005. If labour laws are to be passed or amended, workers, labour unions and managements needs to be involved in debates and discussions in committees making recommendations for law-making.

Civil society's representation is the need of the hour in the various committees, commissions and Boards and Tribunals (public authorities) that take decisions while implementing laws. This would include bodies that make recommendations for grant of a license or for commutation of prison sentences, etc. Civil society needs to be represented in annual assessment of public officer. Similarly, it should be represented in the Cabinet's appointments committee which approves postings of officers above the rank of Joint Secretary and of public sector undertakings and in the Niti Ayog which is responsible for huge discretionary grants to states, so as to reduce discrimination.



ISSTOCK

Civil society must also be part of the decision-making process in appointments to the higher Judiciary, Inclusiveness in the decision-making process is important. In judicial administration, troubled in recent times by allegations of lack of democracy in managing the roster in the Apex Court and in the matter of granting stay orders indefinitely by High Courts, there is need for civil society oversight. Civil society also needs to be involved in social audit of public works under execution both for time limit and standard of work.

We also need to eliminate certain negative features of democratic poli-

cies to make the exercise successful.

• Party fund collection needs to be limited to members of the party. If 10 per cent of the population is affiliated to a party, a small donation from each member will ensure sufficiency of funds. Donations from capitalists, crony capitalists and mafia dons must stop. Party functionaries need to be defined as public servants falling under section 21 of the Indian Penal Code for accountability in managing the fund.

• "Election" to party positions needs to be the norm and not an exception.

• Chief Ministers of States should not be appointed using the sealed cover method devised by party high commands.

• Dynastic politics must end.

• Crime-tainted individuals should not be sent to Parliament and State Assemblies.

• Bribery, rigging polls and defections must stop.

• Only pre-poll alliances must be allowed.

To make governance more meaningful, we need a law on Accountability. It exists in neighboring Pakistan. Accountability would cover wrongful omissions, commissions and crimes of public officials and Ministers. It is at the heart of good governance. Any government that checks professional and organized crime, Maoists, terrorists, tax-evaders and corruption can be considered good. The experience of the common man when he approaches a police or revenue official or a Court of Law is the benchmark for good governance.

Political parties that shelter goons to intimidate, threaten, or cause physical harm to independent thinkers, authors, journalists and civil society activists are a threat to functional democracy. Many a time, police will be silent spectator or active participant in this nefarious game. Police possess the "soft power" of filing FIR or ignoring to file one, of pursuing honest investigations or going slow. The police also possess the "hard power" of using force including firearms that snuff out the lives and liberties of citizens. Unelected institutions like the Police, Bureaucracy, Judiciary and Army have a large role to play in ensuring rights and liberties of citizens. The elected polity is not the sole repository of State power.

The writer is a retired Inspector-General of Police.

## 100 YEARS AGO

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

If M. Clemenceau comes to India, as it is said that he will, he will receive a great welcome provided he permits any demonstration. The whole world watched with admiration the veteran who at the age of seventy-six undertook the immense task of concentrating the energies of France upon the winning of the war. When he was called upon to organise victory a pacifist movement had set in persons who were supplied with foreign gold were insinuating the expediency of ending the struggle by giving way to the seemingly overwhelming strength of Germany. "Treason and half-treason" were abroad in the land. The curious thing was that the man on whom was placed the burden of restoring unity was the most trenchant of controversialists and the least likely to secure harmony. But when M. Clemenceau took his work in hand his old enemies were forgotten. It was the anti-clerical Premier who called the devout Catholic Foch to the chief command, and he was equally indifferent to political and religious quarrels of other kinds. His visit to India is undoubtedly planned, like his tour in Egypt and the Near East, for entertainment. His mind is still active, and, though his recent literary work has had little to recommend it except a distinguished authorship, it at least reveals his undying energy.

## NEWS ITEMS

### MUNICIPAL WORK IN CALCUTTA

The year 1919 was, from the point of view of public health, one of the worst on record and the Health Officer's report on the subject is far from pleasant reading. The rate of mortality was as high as 42.2 per mille as against 35 in 1918, and a quinquennial average of 28 per mille. The epidemic of influenza in the previous year had largely lowered the vitality of the people and impaired their powers of resistance to disease, and an increase in the death-rate from ordinary causes was only to be expected. But over and above this Calcutta suffered from several severe epidemics. The spread of infection by pilgrims returning from the Saugor Mela, where there was a very virulent outbreak, intensified the annual recrudescence. In dealing with these epidemics a heavy strain was put on the Health Department.

### THE NETHERLANDS INDIA COMMERCIAL BANK

Mr. C. Woldringh, a Managing Director of the Netherlands India Commercial Bank has arrived in India with the purpose of opening branches of this Bank in Calcutta and Bombay. Mr. Woldringh is accompanied by Messrs. Podman and Kruseman, both Agents of the Bank, of whom the former is to be Manager in Bombay, whilst Mr. Kruseman is to take charge of the Calcutta Office. The Netherlands India Commercial Bank is one of the leading banking institutions in Holland as well as the Dutch East Indies and counts 22 branches in the Far East. Batavia is the seat of the General Manager for the overseas branches, Amsterdam being the Home Office. The Netherlands India Commercial Bank was established in the year 1863.

### MESOPOTAMIA

The appeal of the India Office for Indian ex-officers to rejoin for a year's service with the Eastern Expeditionary Force has roused a storm of criticism as indicating the prolongation of the Mesopotamia campaign which has already cost a hundred millions sterling. The newspapers demand that this adventure shall cease and that the Arabs shall be left to govern their own country. A mysterious feature of the situation is that neither the India Office nor the Foreign Office can explain who controls or sanctions the Mesopotamian policy. Colonel Lawrence declares that our local administration is "a disgrace to our own imperial record." He lays the responsibility on the British civil authorities there, especially three so-called Colonels who, uncontrolled by the India Office or the Foreign Office, contest every suggestion from London.

### PLEASANT CEREMONY AT SIMLA

A picturesque ceremony took place this evening at Mythe, the residence of the Hon. Rao Bahadur B.N. Sarma, who was "At Home" to the officers and assistants of the Revenue and Agriculture Department, when he took the opportunity of decorating Mr. Purna Chandra Dey, Senior Assistant, who has twenty-two years' service, with the badge of Rai Sahib, recently conferred on him. In a neat little speech Mr. Sarma said the efficiency of the department depended very largely upon the efficiency of the staff, and the more efficient and more contented and happy the staff were the greater would be the benefit which the Administration could confer on the country at large. The Government always sought opportunities of recognising merit where there was merit.

## A tale of two successes



tide began to recede after the US focused its attention on its southern 'backyard', but the MAS remained in situ. Until he decided to defy the result of a referendum in which he was narrowly defeated and seek a fourth term. By late last year, even former allies in the industrial and agricultural workers' unions had begun to resent his attitude and some of his policies. To the consternation of his foes, Morales won again.

The US-led and Washington-sponsored Organisation of American States, whose reactionary role in the continent straddles decades, was quick to call out electoral malpractices, provoking an upsurge in protests that enabled the military to 'suggest' that Morales must resign.

To that extent, the process followed a pattern that has commonly been witnessed in Latin America, although the implementation has occasionally faltered. It was therefore feared that this year's twice-postponed elections would be a stage-managed affair.

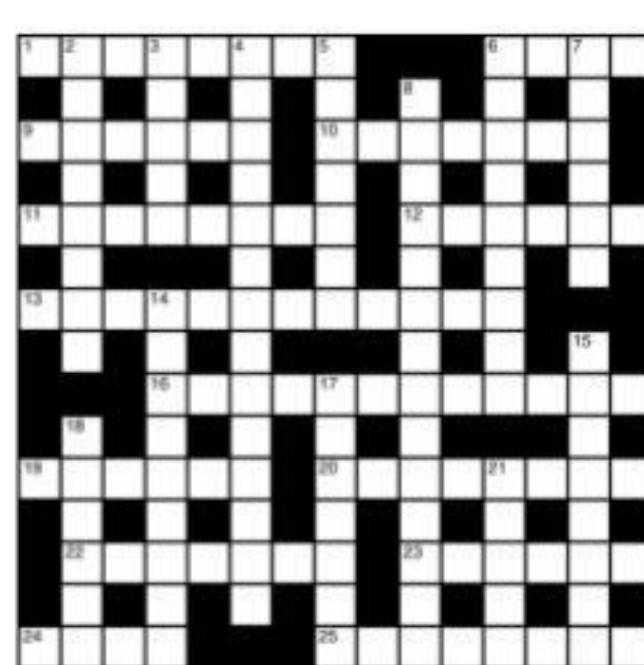
But one of the few advantages of the haphazard administration in Washington is its chronic inability to focus on such matters, and as far as one can tell the voting in Sunday's election and the counting thereafter have been above board, with both the incumbent regime and the conservative contender conceding that MAS candidate Luis Arce, a former finance minister under Morales, had clearly scored a triumph.

As in New Zealand, the final tally isn't as yet available, but the interim result is a hopeful sign that the Bolivian experiment in indigenous empowerment and reducing disparities of wealth can be restored, even if it doesn't represent a broader turning of the tide.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28113

### CROSSWORD



#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

**PAST CHECKPOINT**  
**R T U O I T A**  
**OBOE ESCARPMENT**  
**M N S T L E M A**  
**EGYPTOLOGIST**  
**T B E A O R S**  
**H I R E R D I S A F F E C T**  
**E O E N P A O**  
**U N K N O W I N G E N D O N**  
**S E P N A M E**  
**SH A V I N G C R E A M**  
**L A O O E E F A**  
**I N C E N D I A R Y M I S S**  
**S N I C I L L O**  
**P R E S C I E N C E N E O N**

#### ACROSS

- 1 British graduate brought in special information document - it retains some point (8)
- 6 Support provided when apprehended by officer (4)
- 9 One from Arabia, I will follow the old people (6)
- 10 Series about former king produces discomfiture (7)
- 11 Positive about me before first performance (8)
- 12 Encourage family hand-out, while giving nothing away (6)
- 13 Laws actioned in error? Very apprehensive (2,1,4,5)
- 16 Caunting in sauna there will give you an attack of nerves (12)
- 19 Problem in public transport when going round part of town (6)
- 20 Successful concern involves Republican, I see (8)
- 21 Ray's about right for fish (5)
- 22 Bone not yielding useful material initially (7)
- 23 Italian city wrong to imprison bridge opponents (6)
- 24 Former college having a

#### DOWN

- 2 Making 150 head away from audience (8)
- 3 Ray's about right for fish (5)
- 4 Play mate never getting up to mischief? (2,5,7)
- 5 Noblewoman, old, abandoning jet and ship (7)
- 6 Spectacles leg, rotten, twisted (9)
- 7 A lot of excellent beer in
- 14 Graceful when receiving crazy nut's insult (9)
- 15 Salt found in tree top (8)
- 17 Go to work for various employers, protected by attorney (7)
- 18 Think lake will contain small shellfish (6)
- 21 Mercenary likely to be pardoned after one escapes (5)

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



Bullish about 5G prospects in India based on positive market indicators, including large base of telecom subscribers

RAJEN VAGADIA

V-P & PRESIDENT, QUALCOMM INDIA AND SAARC

## THUMBNAILS

**Bajaj Auto profit:** Bajaj Auto on Thursday said its consolidated net profit declined by 21.62 per cent to Rs 1,193.97 crore for the quarter ended September. The two-wheeler major had posted a net profit of Rs 1,523.31 crore in the July-September period of the previous fiscal. The company's revenue from operations declined to Rs 7,155.86 crore during the period under review as compared with Rs 7,707.32 crore in the year-ago period, Bajaj Auto said in a regulatory filing.

PTI

**Amazon move:** Amazon has launched two new emporiums ~ West Bengal Khadi and Village Industries Board (Gramin) and West Bengal Handicrafts Development Corporation (Manjusha) ~ on the marketplace, in association with Govt of West Bengal. The launch of these sellers on Amazon will have a significant impact on the lives of more than 35,000 artisans and weavers from West Bengal, according to a statement issued by the e-commerce major.

PTI

**Wipro-SAP pact:** IT services firm Wipro on Thursday said it has entered into an agreement with SAP SE to deliver SAP Enable Now ~ a custom enablement platform. With this agreement, Wipro can offer its clients tailor-made industry and line-of-business-specific learning tutorials and training assets, in addition to existing contextual help and guided tours delivered by SAP, according to a statement from the company.

PTI

**Sebi framework:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India on Thursday came out with a framework for creation of a recovery expense fund by an issuer company proposing to list debt securities. The creation of such a fund will enable a debenture trustee to take prompt action for enforcement of security in case of a default, the capital markets regulator said.

PTI

**Volta's offer:** Volta has unveiled a host of attractive consumer offers for this festive season. In order to make the process of owning a new product easier for customers, the company has launched its Mahotsav Offer, through which customers can avail attractive cash back offers through various credit & debit cards, easy finance schemes through NBFCs, and extended warranty schemes, on all their products, said a Press release.

SNS

**Mi India:** Mi India on Thursday announced the launch of 5th edition of "Diwali with Mi", unveiling an array of exciting offers and discounts. Consumers can purchase their favourite Mi and Redmi products during the Great Indian Shopping Festival on Amazon.in, Big Billion Days on Flipkart.com and Diwali With Mi on mi.com, according to a Press release.

SNS

# ONGC wins 7 oil & gas blocks, Oil India 4 in latest bid round

Government had offered 11 blocks for exploration and production of oil and gas in the fifth round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 22 OCTOBER

## BID DETAILS

► A total of 12 bids ~ seven bids by Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and four by Oil India Ltd (OIL) ~ were received for the 11 blocks on offer at the close of bidding on 30 June. Invenire Petrodyne Ltd was the only private bidder for one block.

► While ONGC was the sole bidder for six blocks, OIL was the lone bidder for all the four blocks it bid for.

► ONGC won all six blocks



where it was the sole bidder and also the one block where Invenire Petrodyne had bid.

► In the latest bid round,

ONGC won all six blocks where it was the sole bidder and also the one block where Invenire Petrodyne had bid.

The previous bid round, OALP-IV, too had seen just eight bids coming in for seven blocks on offer. ONGC had walked away with all the seven oil and gas blocks on offer.

Prior to OALP-V, the government had awarded 94 blocks in four OALP bid rounds in the last two and a half years. These 94 blocks cover

an exploratory area of about 1,36,800 square kilometres over 16 Indian sedimentary basins.

In the latest bid round, about 19,800 sq km of the area was offered for bidding, according to DGH.

OALP-V was the first round on revamped terms approved in February 2019.

Unlike previous rounds, where blocks were awarded to companies offering a maximum share of oil and gas to the government, blocks in

little or unexplored Category-II and III basins are now awarded to companies offering to do maximum exploration programme.

The 11 blocks under OALP-V are spread across eight sedimentary basins and include eight on-land blocks (six in Category-I basin and one each in Category II and III basins), two shallow-water blocks (one each in Category-I and II basins) and one ultra-deepwater block (Category-I basin).

Under OALP companies are allowed to carve out areas they want to explore oil and gas in.

Companies can put in an expression of interest (EoI) for any area throughout the year, but such interests are accumulated thrice in a year. The areas sought are then put on auction.

At the time of the launch of OALP-V, DGH had stated that the round is expected to "generate immediate exploration work commitment of around \$400-450 million".

"An area of 1,36,800 sq km has already been awarded under OALP bid round I, II, III, and IV. These OALP bid-round blocks would add a further 19,800 sq km. Overall exploration acreage of India would then increase to 2,36,600 sq km," it had said at that time.

Of the 94 blocks awarded in the first four rounds of OALP, Vedanta has won the maximum at 51. Oil India Ltd has got 21 blocks and ONGC another 17.

After OALP-V, ONGC's tally has gone up to 24 and that of OIL to 25.

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Companies can put in an expression of interest (EoI) for any area throughout the year, but such interests are accumulated thrice in a year. The areas sought are then put on auction.

# Equity indices snap 4-day rising streak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 22 OCTOBER

Domestic equity indices snapped four sessions of gains today as investors trimmed their exposure to IT, banking and energy stocks amid a negative trend in global markets.

"Market is expected to consolidate for sometime at these levels. While Q2 earnings have so far been decent enough, investors might be keenly watching heavyweights results in coming days and management commentaries. Additionally, progress on ongoing talks for fiscal stimulus will be a crucial factor for global markets including India," said Arjun Yash Mahajan, head, institutional business at Reliance Securities.

BSE IT, bankex, healthcare, finance, energy and teck indices slid up to 0.70 per cent, while telecom, power, utilities, capital goods and industrial indices rose as much as 2.53 per cent.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices outperformed the benchmark, spiking up to 0.85 per cent.

Global equities stayed on the backfoot as the rising Covid-19 cases and protracted US stimulus negotiations hit investor sentiment.

"Domestic equities finished lower after four consecutive days of gains amid mixed global cues. Barring metals, FMCG and realty,

most of sectoral indices ended in red. Among stocks, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel and NTPC were among top gainers, while Hero MotoCorp, IndusInd Bank and Infosys were top losers.

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BSE IT, bankex, healthcare, finance, energy and teck indices slid up to 0.70 per cent, while telecom, power, utilities, capital goods and industrial indices rose as much as 2.53 per cent.

In rest of Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul ended in the red, while Hong Kong settled on a positive note.

# Record FDI inflow in past 6 years: Commerce ministry

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, 22 OCTOBER



stry officials said.

"It has been the endeavour of the government to put in place an enabling and investor friendly FDI policy, and remove policy bottle-necks hindering investment inflows into the country."

"The steps taken in this direction during the last six years have borne fruit as is evident from the ever increasing volumes of FDI inflows being received into the coun-

try," the ministry informed. "Continuing on the path of FDI liberalisation and simplification, the government has carried out FDI reforms across various sectors," it said.

For the financial year 2020-21 (April to August 2020), the total FDI received was \$35.73 billion. It is the highest ever for the first five months of a financial year and 13 per cent higher compared to the first five months of fiscal 2019-20 (\$31.60 billion), according to ministry data.

FDI equity inflow received during fiscal 2020-21 (April to August 2020) of \$27.10 billion was also the highest ever for first five months of a financial year, and 16 per cent more compared to first five months of fiscal 2019-20 (\$23.35 billion).

# Move to boost shipbuilding industry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 22 OCTOBER

In a major boost to shipbuilding in India, the government has amended existing norms and now the first priority in chartering of vessels will be given to ships built and flagged in India as well as owned by Indians, Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya said today.

The move in alignment with the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission will promote "make in India" initiatives and give a strategic boost to domestic shipbuilding industries and generate employment, the minister said.

"To boost shipbuilding activities in India, the ministry of shipping has amended right of first refusal (ROFR) licensing conditions. Now, it has been decided that for any kind of charter of a vessel undertaken through a ten-

der process, the first priority for RoFR would be given to Indian built, Indian flagged and Indian owned vessels," shipping minister Mandaviya said.

The second priority will be given to foreign built, Indian flagged and Indian-owned vessels while the third priority will be given to Indian built, foreign flagged and foreign-owned ships, he said and termed the policy change a "bold step" in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to promote the domestic industry.

The ministry of shipping has reviewed the RoFR licensing conditions for chartering of vessels/ships through tender process for all types of requirements in pursuance of "make in India" policy of the government.

"The revision of RoFR licensing conditions is a giant step towards Atmanirbhar Shipping. It will promote



"make in India" initiatives through self-reliance and will give a strategic boost to domestic shipbuilding industries, contributing towards long-term economic growth of India," Mandaviya said.

"India mostly handles four types of EXIM cargo ~ crude, gas, coal and fertiliser. Government of India floats tenders for bringing these from foreign. So far Indian flags were given priority in tender irrespective of where the ship is built. Now we have changed that in addition to Indian flag it should be 'made in India'."

Government PSUs used to give priority to Indian flags till

# UCO Bank reports ₹30-cr net profit for Sept quarter

NEW DELHI, 22 OCTOBER

State-owned UCO Bank today reported a net profit of Rs 30.12 crore for the second quarter ended 30 September 2020. The bank had posted a net loss of Rs 891.98 crore during the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year.

Sequentially, the profit during the second quarter of fiscal 2020-21 was higher from Rs 21.46 crore in the first quarter ended June 2020.

Its total income was down at Rs 4,326.14 crore during the September 2020 quarter, from Rs 4,533.51 crore a year ago, UCO Bank said.

Interest income fell to Rs 3,614.61 crore from Rs 3,804.64 crore in the year-ago period.

The bank improved on its asset quality significantly by bringing down the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) to 11.62 per cent of the gross advances as on 30 September 2020, from 21.87 per cent as of September 2019. In absolute value, the gross NPAs were down at Rs 13,365.74 crore as against Rs 25,665.14 crore.

Similarly, the net NPAs decreased to 3.63 per cent (Rs 3,831.88 crore) as against 7.32 per cent (Rs 7,238.33 crore). Provisioning for bad loans also fell to Rs 1,032.14 crore, from Rs 2,034.07 crore a year ago. The overall provisioning for bad loans and contingencies stood at Rs 1,300.20 crore.

UCO Bank also said that as per a Supreme Court order and necessary guidelines issued by the RBI, it has kept Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt Ltd as a standard account. However, necessary provision of Rs 77.54 crore has been held by the bank against the amount of Rs 194.14 crore which has not been treated as NPA as per required norms.

# Smartphone market hits record 50 million units

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 22 OCTOBER

for smartphone shipments in a quarter in India," Canals said in a statement.

Xiaomi remained the market leader with 26.1 per cent share, shipping 13.1 million units. Samsung reclaimed the second place from Vivo, with 10.2 million units (20.4 per cent share) - helped by its aggressive product portfolio and pricing strategy, it added.

Xiaomi remained the market leader with 26.1 per cent share, shipping 13.1 million units. Sam-

## CHINESE COS' SHARE AT 76%

► Chinese companies, collectively, comprised 76 per cent of total smartphone shipments in the July-September quarter of this year, which has grown from 74 per cent a year ago.

Xiaomi remained the market leader with 26.1 per cent share, shipping 13.1 million units. Sam-

pions had around 80 per cent cumulative share.

Ongoing tension between India and China has been a hot topic in the past few months, but we are yet to see a significant impact on pur-

chase decisions of mass market customers," Canals research analyst Varun Kan-

nan said.

However, the tensions have caused Chinese smartphone brands to act more conserv-

atively in recent months, reducing their marketing spend, and carefully trying to project the image that they are important contributors to, and stakeholders in, the economic future of India, he added.

Canals analyst Adwait Mardikar noted that smartphone vendors are bullish on the Indian market.

"The government, slowly but surely reducing restrictions on movement after a three-month lockdown, has created the perfect atmosphere for sustained growth. While almost all vendors have shown positive shipment growth, the true winners are the online channels, who have been buoyed with a huge influx of devices ahead of the festive

season," he said.

Ongoing sales at Amazon and Flipkart are a clear indication that despite the economic downturn, India's penchant for a good smartphone, and a good bargain, remains intact, he added.

"The impact of Covid-19 in India has been a dichotomy of sorts. The lockdown forced most of working India to stay at home and refrain from big-ticket spending on travel, food and beverages, increasing the overall dispensable income," Mardikar said.

On the other hand, unemployment has risen, impacting the lowest rungs of society most, and affecting the long-term outlook of India's smartphone market, he added.

cent of total smartphone shipments this quarter, which has grown from 74 per cent a year ago, Canals said.

This is, however, slightly lower than the June 2020 quarter, when Chinese vendors comprised 76 per



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Chinese vaccines R&D indeed spoken off highly by various countries.  
Vaccines of China are currently in phase three clinical trial stage

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ZHAO LIJIAN  
DEFENDING ITS COVID VACCINE AFTER BOLSONARO'S GUINEA PIG JIBE

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2020

09

## 'US has had enough of 19 yrs in Afghanistan'

Trump has repeatedly said that he would bring home all the US troops from endless wars



ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 22 OCTOBER

The US has had enough of 19 years in Afghanistan, President Donald Trump has said, reiterating that American troops, who are the greatest soldiers in the world but acting as a "police force" in the strife-torn country, are returning.

Trump has repeatedly said that he would bring home all the US troops from "endless wars". It was also one of the promises he made during his 2016 Presidential campaign.

Last month, he said that the United States will reduce the number of its troops in Afghanistan to 4,000 in a very short period of time.

We never had anything like it - and sacrificing American blood and treasure in endless foreign wars in countries that you've never even heard of. And they're all coming back. You know that, right? I hope nobody objects, Trump told his supporters on Wednesday at an election rally in Gastonia, in the battleground state of North Carolina.

I think 19 years in

### China calls for orderly withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan to avert escalation of conflict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BEIJING, 22 OCTOBER

China, which has stepped up its engagement in Afghanistan in recent years, on Thursday called on the US to withdraw its troops in an orderly manner to prevent further escalation of violence following US President Donald Trump's recent announcement that he will bring all soldiers back from the war-torn nation by year-end.

The US and the Taliban signed a landmark deal in Doha on February 29 to bring lasting peace in war-torn Afghanistan and allow US troops to return home from America's longest war.

"The Afghanistan issue is complex and difficult to solve," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said when asked about China's stand on the deep-

ening conflict in Afghanistan between Afghan government and Taliban amid the US-led negotiations to restore peace in the country.

Internal and external factors must work in concert towards the same direction, otherwise it will be counterproductive, Zhao said.

The US is the biggest external factor in the Afghan issue. It should withdraw its troops in an orderly and responsible manner to prevent further escalation of violence in Afghanistan and create a favourable external environment for intra-Afghan negotiations, not the other way around," he said.

China which shares a border with Afghanistan through the narrow Wakhan corridor besides Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is closely monitoring the evolving situation in Afghanistan amid its own

concerns over the situation in Xinjiang, where it is battling the separatist East Turkistan Islamic Movement, (ETIM). Beijing is averse to ETIM, an al-Qaeda backed militant group regrouping in Afghanistan to carry out attacks in Xinjiang.

China is also trying to work out a reconciliation between Pakistan and Afghanistan over the Afghan government's allegation of Islamabad's support to the Taliban through tripartite talks. Trump early this month announced on Twitter that he wants to bring all US troops home from Afghanistan by Christmas.

The announcement came as a surprise as it puts the peace negotiations between the Afghan government and Taliban in jeopardy amid stepped violence by Taliban militants.

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I think 19 years in

## Mixed Philippine reaction on pope nod on gay civil unions

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MANILA, 22 OCTOBER

Pope Francis' endorsement of same-sex civil unions drew mixed reactions Thursday in the Philippines, Asia's bastion of Catholicism, with a retired bishop saying he was scandalised by it while an LGBT group welcomed the pontiff's remarks with relief.

President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman said the Philippine leader has long expressed support to same-sex civil unions but added it needed to pass through Congress.

Retired Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes said he had very serious doubts about the moral correctness of the pontiff's position. He said it ran against long-standing church teachings, which explicitly permit only the union of man

The pontiff's position was a huge thing and should lead to changes in the Philippine family code to recognize such unions  
LGBTQ GROUP BAHAGHARI

and woman whether in civil, legal or church sacramental unions. This is a shocking statement coming from the pope, Bastes said. At least three other bishops expressed disbelief, saying they would verify if it's the Vatican's official position and if the pontiff was accurately quoted in context in a documentary, where he made the remarks.

It is just a documentary film so it is not official and should first be verified, Balanga Bishop Ruperto Santos said, adding there could have been editing alterations or the documentation was just for propaganda

so that it could be talked about or patronised. The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the largest group of bishops in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation, has yet to issue any reaction. LGBTQ group Bahaghari told ABS CBN News that the pontiff's position was a huge thing and should lead to changes in the Philippine family code to recognize such unions.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Duterte has long supported same-sex civil unions and the papal endorsement may finally convince legislators to give their approval.

In the past, such proposals have been opposed or avoided by conservative legislators or those who feared earning the ire of influential church leaders.

### Bangla court issues death warrant against 1971 convict

DHAKA, 22 OCTOBER

A special Bangladeshi tribunal on Thursday issued a death warrant for executing an opposition party leader for committing crimes against humanity by siding with Pakistani troops during the 1971 Liberation War. Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal issued the death warrant against opposition Jatiya Party leader Syed Mohammad Qaiser, six years after his conviction in the crime.

The move comes a day after Qaiser lost his final appeal in Supreme Court's apex Appellate Division.

Qaiser had independently raised an armed militia group having uniforms and named it after himself in northeastern Habiganj. PTI

Under the US-Taliban pact signed in Doha, the US has agreed to reduce its troops in Afghanistan from 13,000 to 8,600 in the next 130 days and withdraw all its soldiers in 14 months. US President Trump, 74, a Republican, is seeking another term in the White House. He is being challenged by former Vice President Joe Biden, 77, of the Democratic Party in the November 3 presidential election.

### BACK TO SCHOOL



Yemeni pupils attend class on the first day of the new academic year in the capital Sanaa, on Thursday. ■ AFP

## Deport Sharif: Pak requests UK for 3rd time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, 22 OCTOBER

Pakistan has requested the UK for a third time to deport former prime minister Nawaz Sharif from London to serve his prison term in the country after being sentenced in corruption cases, according to a media report on Thursday.

Sharif, the 70-year-old supremo of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) who was ousted from power in 2017 by the Supreme Court on corruption charges, is in London for medical treatment.

A letter for the deportation of the three-time prime min-

ister was handed over personally to the British High Commissioner here some three weeks ago, Dawn newspaper reported.

Through the letter, the Pakistani government asked the British authorities to consider cancelling Sharif's visit visa, which has allowed him to live in London on medical grounds since November.

The letter has cited Britain's own immigration laws of 1974 under which any person sentenced to imprisonment of more than four years had to be deported to the country of his/her origin. When contacted, Shahzad Akbar, Adviser to Prime Minister Imran

Khan on Accountability and Interior confirmed that the government has made three requests to the UK authorities to deport Sharif, with the last being on October 5. The previous letter, he said, had been dispatched after the cancellation of Sharif's bail by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) last month.

In the latest letter, the government has pointed to a possible way out of the issue of specific deportation of the former premier, Akbar said, adding that the ball is now in the court of British government. The IHC on September 15 issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Sharif in the

Al Azizia case while hearing three applications filed by him, including the ones about forgoing the requirement of his surrender before the court and exemption from personal appearance. He left for the UK in November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for medical treatment.

He had submitted an undertaking to the court that he would return within four weeks or as soon as he was declared healthy and fit to travel by doctors. Sharif criticised the military establishment in recent speeches at gatherings of the opposition Pakistan Democratic Movement.

## Hariri is back as PM in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 22 OCTOBER

Lebanon's president tasked former Prime Minister Saad Hariri with forming a new government Thursday, bringing back the veteran politician a year after he was toppled amid nationwide protests against widespread corruption and a flunking economy.

President Michel Aoun designated Hariri to form the next government after a slight majority of votes from lawmakers, securing the return of an old name to lead the country desperate for change.

He takes the helm with a sense of urgency and more involvement by international leaders who have warned Lebanon is on the verge of collapse. Hariri pledged to quickly form a new government his fourth in the last decade to halt the economic collapse, calling it the last opportunity. As if nothing happened at all this whole year. Hariri is back and the (political class) is pleased, said a protester. AP

## Sri Lankan Parliament passes 20A with two-thirds majority

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, 22 OCTOBER

September 2 gazetted 20A to replace the 19th Amendment introduced in 2015 that curtailed the powers of the president and strengthened the role of Parliament.

The 20A is meant to annul the 19A which was seen as a pro-democracy, good governance amendment and called for checks and balances in the presidential system while making Parliament more powerful.

The 20A proposes to restore full legal immunity to the President, removing the provisions made in the 19A to take legal action against the President.

Throughout the debate, the ruling party leaders insisted that 19A was an impediment on the smooth functioning of the state as two political power houses being built around both the president who heads the executive and the prime minister who heads the Parliament. The 19A was

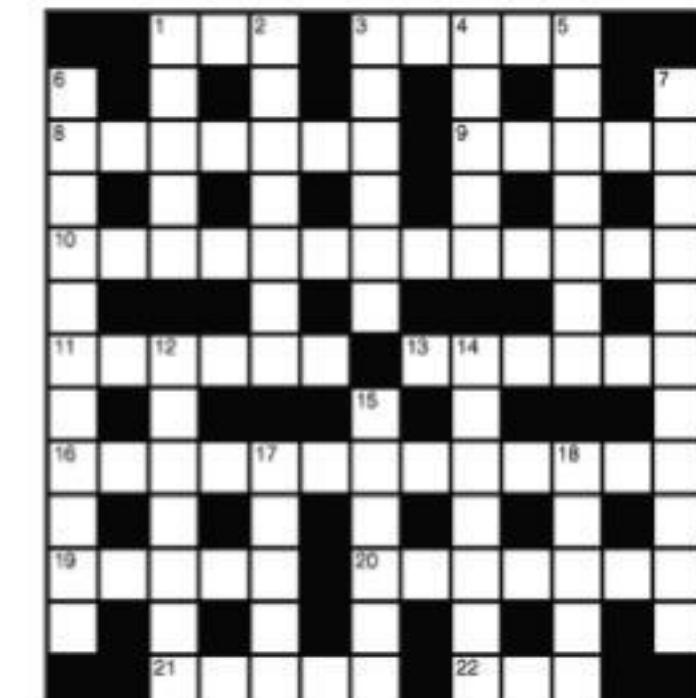
also branded as one adopted to target the powerful Rajapaksa family to subject them to politically whipped up charges of wrongdoing and to prevent some of the family members from staking a claim to high profile political offices. The 20A was needed to preserve national security and to effect rapid economic development through an efficiency based state administration.

The government on Wednesday had said it would move as many as five amendments to the bill during the parliamentary debate.

The SC had ruled that the 20A as a whole was not unconstitutional except for the 4 clauses which needed a referendum. It said that Clauses 3, 5, 14 and 22 in the amendment in their present form are inconsistent with Article 4 of the Constitution and requires a referendum.

### LEISURE

#### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**

- Tavern (3)
- Ship's floors (5)
- Go on too long (7)
- Spin (5)
- Confidence (4-9)
- Edit (6)
- Foibles (6)
- Calculation aid (5,8)
- Leg bone (5)
- Write music (7)
- Tending to flow (5)
- Golf peg (3)
- Aspect (10)
- Foster (13)
- Boarding school (15)
- Pass (3)
- Scavenger, pass (19)
- Rely, 20
- Scavenge, 21
- Storey, 22
- Ply, 23

**DOWN**

- Perfect (5)
- Recount (7)
- Type of pastry, in short (6)
- Crouch down in fear (5)
- Slow bowler (7)
- Thoughtful (11)
- British journalism, figuratively (5,6)
- Compartment (7)
- Dishevelled (7)
- Irritable (6)
- Long (5)
- Hanger's halter (5)
- Thirsty, 12
- Yardage, 14
- Rinse, 16
- Glad, 17
- Wings, 18
- Saggy, 19
- Wants, 20
- Lots, 21
- Galore, 22
- Storey, 23
- Ply, 24

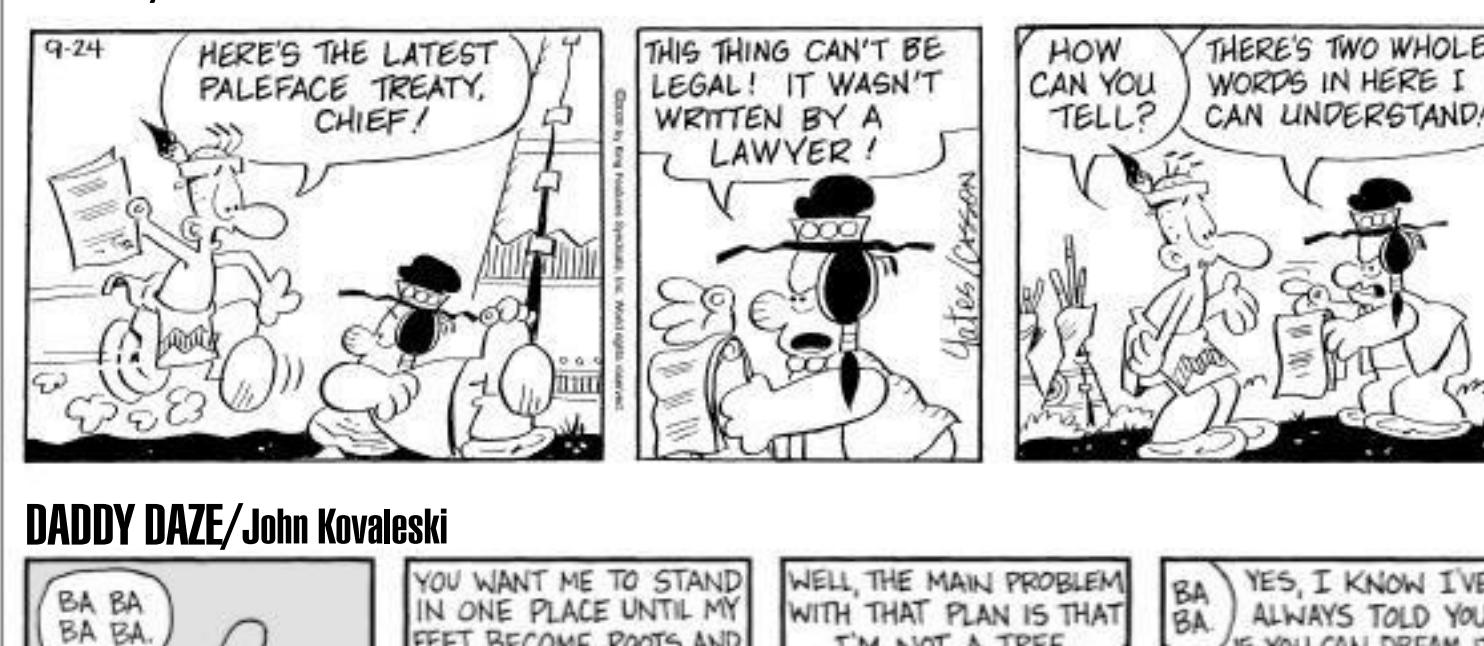
**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD**

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

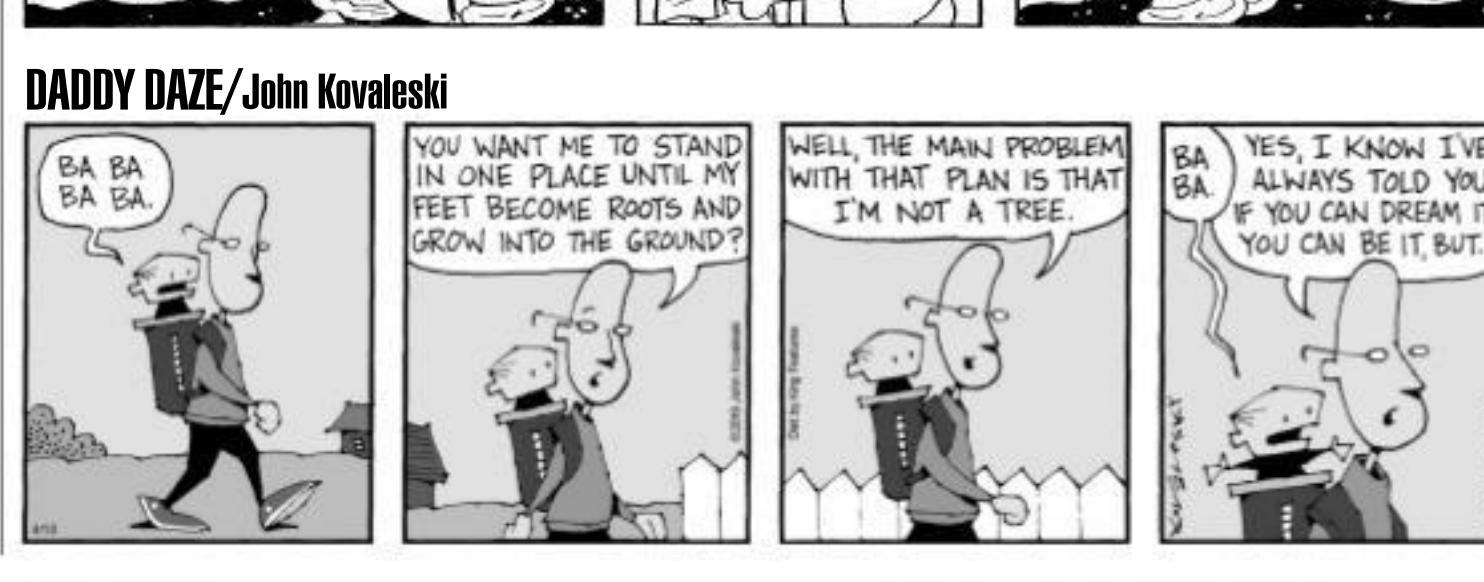
#### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



#### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



#### DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



#### NEED TO KNOW

##### HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

##### RAILWAY INQUIRY

Punjab Roadways 23867842, Port 011-25671580; Terminal I-25671576, Palan Road 25671579, 1800180388

Rajasthan Roadways 23864470

U.P. Roadways 23868709

##### ROADWAYS INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

##### FLIGHT INQUIRY

Air India Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Center 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservatio

n 43513186; Indigo Airlines Air

port 011-25671580; Terminal I-25671576, Palan Road 25671579, 1800180388

JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111

EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377

Air Canada Flight Inquiry and Reservation 21528181

Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

##### SCRABBLE BRAND

Y, T, L, C, I, H, A, M, S, I

3rd Letter Triple

A, E, Z, C, R, Y, I, B

4th Letter Triple

H, O, I, M, S, W, A

5th Letter Triple

B, T, A, D, O, R, A



US deserves to have a president who understands the dignity of people & guides the country in a way that Americans can regain their standing

DEMOCRATIC VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE KAMALA HARRIS  
IN HER REMARKS DURING A VIRTUAL FUND RAISER

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C H
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C H
TOKYO	18°C	12°C CL
LONDON	17°C	9°C S
DUBAI	30°C	25°C S
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C C H
NEW YORK	19°C	10°C C H
MOSCOW	06°C	02°C R

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

## THUMBNAILS



A Mario figurine from the video game franchise owned by Nintendo outside a Tokyo shop on Thursday. ■ AFP

**Poland abortion row:** Poland's top court has ruled that a law allowing abortion of fetuses with congenital defects is unconstitutional. The decision effectively bans terminating pregnancies in cases where birth defects are found and will further limit access to abortions in Poland. ■ AP

**Belgian FM hospitalised:** Belgian Foreign Minister and former PM Sophie Wilmes has been hospitalised in intensive care with the Covid. Belgium, a country of 11.5 million inhabitants, has been severely hit by the Covid and is currently seeing a sharp rise in new cases. ■ AP

**Golden Dawn party leaders:** A Greek court ruled on Thursday to imprison the leadership of Golden Dawn following their convictions for running the party like a criminal organisation, but granted suspended sentences to five of the party's 18 former lawmakers who were convicted of lesser charges. ■ AP

**Trio who lived on space station return to Earth safely**

MOSCOW, 22 OCTOBER

A trio of space travellers safely returned to Earth on Thursday after a six-month mission on the International Space Station. The Soyuz MS-16 capsule carrying NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy, and Roscosmos' Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner landed on the steppes of Kazakhstan southeast of the town of Dzhezkazgan at 7:54 a.m. (2:54 GMT) Thursday.

After a brief medical checkup, the three will be taken by helicopters to Dzhezkazgan from where they will depart home.

Cassidy will board a NASA plane back to Houston, while Vagner and Ivanishin will fly home to Star City, Russia.

The crew smiled as they talked to masked members of the recovery team, and NASA and Roscosmos reported that they were in good condition. As part of additional precautions due to the coronavirus, the rescue team members meeting the crew were tested for the virus and the number of people involved in the recovery effort was limited.

Cassidy, Ivanishin and Vagner spent 196 days in orbit, having arrived at the station on April 9. They left behind NASA's Kate Rubins and Roscosmos' Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchikov, who arrived at the orbiting outpost a week ago. Cassidy, returning from his third space mission, has now spent a total of 378 days in space, the fifth highest among U.S. astronauts. While serving as the station's commander, Cassidy welcomed SpaceX Demo-2 crew Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley, the first NASA astronauts to launch to the space station on an American spacecraft from American soil since the retirement of the space shuttle fleet in 2011. ■ AP

## US officials link Iran to emails meant to intimidate voters

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 22 OCTOBER

US officials have accused Iran of being behind a flurry of threatening but fake emails sent to Democratic voters in multiple battleground states after he was criticized for failing to unequivocally denounce the group during the first presidential debate.

Reportedly from far-right, pro-Trump groups like the Proud Boys, the fake emails were apparently aimed at intimidating voters.

John Ratcliffe, the government's national intelligence director, said the aim was to hurt President Donald

Trump in the contest against Democrat Joe Biden, though he did not elaborate on how.

One possibility is the messages may have been intended to align Trump in the minds of voters with the Proud Boys after he was criticized for failing to unequivocally denounce the group during the first presidential debate.

The threatening emails officials did not lay out specific evidence for how they came to pinpoint Iran, but the activities attributed to Tehran would mark a significant escalation for a country some cybersecurity experts regard as a second-rate player in

The allegations underscored the US government's concern about efforts by foreign countries to influence the election by spreading false information

online espionage. The announcement was made late Wednesday at a hastily called news conference 13 days before the election.

The allegations underscored the US government's concern about efforts by foreign countries to influence the election by spreading false information meant to suppress

voter turnout and undermine American confidence in the vote. Such direct attempts to sway public opinion are more commonly associated with Moscow, which conducted a covert social media campaign in 2016 aimed at sowing discord and is again interfering this year, but the idea that Iran could be responsible suggested that those tactics have been adopted by other nations, too. These actions are desperate attempts by desperate adversaries, said Ratcliffe,

who, along with FBI Director Christopher Wray, insisted that the U.S. would impose costs on any foreign countries

that interfere in the 2020 U.S. election and that the integrity of the vote remains sound.

The two officials called out Russia and Iran for having obtained voter registration information, though such data is sometimes easily accessible and there was no allegation either country had hacked a database for it or had altered any vote tallies.

Ratcliffe sent spoofed emails designed to intimidate voters and sow unrest and also distributed a video that falsely suggested voters could cast fraudulent ballots from overseas, Ratcliffe said.

Wray and Ratcliffe did not

describe the emails linked to Iran, but officials familiar with the matter said the US has linked Tehran to messages that Democratic voters in multiple states, including Alaska and battleground locations like Florida, have received.

The emails falsely purported to be from the far-right group Proud Boys and warned that we will come after you if the recipients didn't vote for Trump. A security researcher who examined dozens of the emails It would not be the first time that the Trump administration has said Tehran is working against the Republican president.

Regulators, experts take up thorny vaccine study issues

The Food and Drug Administration may have to decide by year's end whether to allow use of the first vaccines against the virus.

WASHINGTON, 22 OCTOBER

The US regulators who will decide the fate of Covid vaccines are taking an unusual step: Asking outside scientists if their standards are high enough. The Food and Drug Administration may have to decide by year's end whether to allow use of the first vaccines against the virus.

Thursday, a federal advisory committee pulls back the curtain on that decision process, debating whether the guidelines FDA has set for vaccine developers are rigorous enough.

We will not cut corners, and we will only use science and data to make that determination, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn pledged at a meeting of the Milken Institute Wednesday.

Exactly how much data his agency needs to be sure a vaccine is safe and effective is a key question for the advisers. An even bigger one: If the FDA allows emergency use of a vaccine before final testing is finished, will that destroy chances of ever learning just how well that shot -- and maybe competitors still being studied -- really work?

We can't lose sight of the fact that it is in our societal interest to see these trials to completion, said Dr. Luciana Borio, a former FDA acting chief scientist who will be watching the advisers' debate. Plus, multiple vaccines are being studied -- shots made with different technologies that each have pros and cons.

The first vaccine is not necessarily the best vaccine, cautioned Dr. Miles Braun, a former FDA scientist now with Georgetown University School of Medicine. If the trials aren't allowed to finish, it may be difficult or impossible to ever know for sure.

It's a critical moment in FDA's 114-year history.

The government has spent billions to race a vaccine through a research process that usually takes years, and FDA faces unprecedented pressure from the Trump administration, fueling public skepticism that politics could overrule science. ■ AP

## US to restrict business visa for H-1B workers

To impact several Indian companies which send their professionals on B-1 visas for a short stay

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 22 OCTOBER

The State Department has proposed not to issue temporary business visas for H-1B specialty occupations which allowed several companies to send their technology professionals to the US for a short stay to complete jobs on site in the US, a move which could affect hundreds of Indians.

The proposal, if finalised, will eliminate any misconception that the "B-1 in lieu of H" policy provides an alternative avenue for foreign professionals to enter the US to perform skilled labour that allows, and potentially even encourages them and their employers to circumvent the restrictions and requirements relating to the H non-immigrant classification established by Congress to protect the US workers, the State Department said.

The move, made public on Wednesday, less than two weeks ahead of the November 3 presidential election, is likely to impact several Indian companies which send their technology professionals on B-1 visas for a short stay to complete jobs on site in the US.

On December 17, 2019, the Attorney General of California announced a USD 800,000 settlement against Infosys Limited to resolve allegations that approximately 500 Infosys employees worked in the state on Infosys-spon-

ored B-1 visas rather than H-1B visas, the State Department said. "The proposed changes

and the resulting transparency would reduce the impact of foreign labour on the US workforce of aliens performing activities in a specialty occupation without the procedural protections attendant to the H-1B classification," it said.

In its federal notification issued on Wednesday, the State Department said the US architecture firm seeking protection from rising labour costs in the country might believe it could lay off its US architects and contract for the same professional architectural services to be provided

by a foreign architecture firm. If the foreign firm sought H-1B visas for its architects, it would be required to pay the prevailing wage for architects in the area of intended employment in the United States, presumably the same wage the US architects had been paid, and meet the other requirements enacted by the Congress to protect US workers.

But under the B-1 in lieu of H policy, the foreign architects could ostensibly seek B-1 visas and travel to the US to fill a temporary need for architecture services, as long as they retained a residence in the foreign country and continued to receive a salary, perhaps significantly lower than what is customary for US architects, dispersed abroad by the foreign firm (or under the auspices of a foreign parent or subsidiary), the State Department said.

Under the Department's guidance, visas could be issued for multiple architects planning temporary work in the US in certain situations. However, a foreign employer may succeed in undermining the US immigration law and policy by rotating architects between the US and the foreign country to effectively fill the position of one US architect at a significantly lower cost, the notification said.

"If the architects who intended to perform skilled labour were 'of distinguished merit and ability... seeking to perform (temporary architectural services) of an exception-

tional nature requiring such merit and ability, one might argue the current regulatory language suggests this type of labour is a permissible basis for B-1 non-immigrant visa issuance," the State Department said.

This potential outcome is harmful to the US workers and contrary to the policies of the Trump administration, it said.

The State Department said the application process for a B-1 visa does not include similar procedural requirements to protect the US workers like that of H-1B visas.

Also, the fees for the B-1 visas are far less than that of H-1B visas.

While Congress required H-1B employers to pay significant fees to fund assistance to the US workforce as well as prevention and detection of fraud related to skilled labour, employers are not required to pay comparable fees to employ skilled workers under the B-1 in lieu of H policy, it said.

According to the notification, the State Department estimates that this proposal will affect not more than 6,000 to 8,000 foreign workers per year, specifically aliens intending to provide services in a specialty occupation in the US.

As per its estimate, up to 28 per cent of the approximately 8,000 annual B-1 visa issuances under the B-1 in lieu of H policy were to foreign workers who applied for a visa to perform services in a specialty occupation for a small entity in the US.

## Senate GOP to push Barrett forward over Dem boycott of vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 22 OCTOBER

Despite a Democratic boycott, Republicans are powering ahead to confirm Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court by Election Day with the Senate Judiciary Committee set to recommend President Donald Trump's nominee to the full Senate.

Never before has the Senate confirmed a Supreme Court pick so close to a presidential election. Thursday's Judiciary Committee vote is expected to launch a rare weekend Senate session to push Barrett's nomination forward, as millions of Americans are casting early ballots.

Senate Democrats are planning to boycott Thursday's meeting. But the Republican majority is prepared to vote swiftly, changing the panel's rules if necessary, to ensure Trump's choice to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is on track.

Judge Barrett deserves a vote and she will receive a vote, said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., the committee chairman, in a statement. Barrett deserves to be on the Supreme Court and she will be confirmed.

Trump's Republican allies in the Senate are counting on the 48-year-old federal judge's ascent to the high court to improve their standing with voters, as they lock a 6-3 conservative majority on the court for the foreseeable future. The court could open a new era of rulings on the Affordable Care Act, abortion



Protestors wearing Handmaid's Tale outfit stand outside the SC on Thursday in Washington, DC. ■ AFP

access and even the results of the presidential election. A final Senate confirmation vote on Barrett is expected Monday. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer announced the planned boycott in a speech late Wednesday on the Senate floor.

We should not be moving forward on this nomination, Schumer said, calling Barrett's views so far out of the mainstream. Unable stop the confirmation, Democrats have been trying unsuccessfully to stall the process until after the Nov. 3 election, so the winner of the presidency could name the new nominee. These are all such violations of American norms, values, decency and honor, Schumer said. With Republicans holding a 53-47 majority in the Senate, Trump's pick for the court is almost certain to be confirmed.

Committee rules say at least two members of the minority party, Democrats, would need to be present to constitute a quorum for doing business.

## Trump & Biden set to square off in final debate ahead of election

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NASHVILLE, 22 OCTOBER



A picture shows Catalan ceramic figurines called "caganers" depicting US President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden in Barcelona on Thursday. ■ AFP

Road to 270: Trump's best path to victory hinges on FL: PA: President Donald Trump still has a path to the 270 Electoral College votes he needs to win reelection. But it requires everything to break in his direction a second time. Persuadable voters in battleground states will need to overwhelmingly swing in his favour. He'll have to win back crucial voting blocs. And his turnout operation will need to dramatically outperform Democrat Joe Biden's in an extraordinarily turbulent year.

The president has promoted an unconfirmed New York Post report published last week that cites an email in which an official from Ukrainian gas company Burisma thanked Hunter Biden, who served on the company's board, for arranging for him to meet Joe Biden during a 2015 visit to Washington.

The Biden campaign has rejected Trump's assertion of wrongdoing and noted that Biden's schedule did not show a meeting with the Burisma official. Some former national security officials and other experts said the episode raised multiple red flags of a possible foreign disinformation effort, especially given the involvement of Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal attorney, and Giuliani's active role in promoting an anti-Biden

Oxford vaccine trial continues amid death report

LONDON, 22 OCTOBER

The University of Oxford says the late-stage trial of its Covid vaccine in Brazil will continue following reports of a participant's death.

The university said it can't comment on specific incidents but an independent review found no reason to be concerned about the safety of the Brazilian trial.

It says an independent review, in addition to the Brazilian regulator, have recommended that the trial should continue. The Oxford vaccine is being developed in conjunction with the international pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. Trials are underway in the US and the UK, as well as Brazil. ■ AP

## ICONIC



The sculpture of 'Worker and Kolkhoz Woman' is pictured in front of an apartment building in Moscow on Thursday. The giant 24.5 meter stainless steel sculpture was created by artist Vera Mukhina for the 1937 World's Fair in Paris. ■ AFP

## EU awards human rights prize to Belarus Opp

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BRUSSELS, 22 OCTOBER

The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to the Belarus opposition movement and its leader, Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya, for their challenge to President Alexander Lukashenko's long hard-line reign.

It is an honour to announce that the women and men of the democratic opposition in Belarus are the 2020 Sakharov Prize laureates, European Parliament president David Sassoli said.

They have on their side something that brute force can never defeat

# Changing phase of entrepreneurship

**As traditional marketing strategies stand curtailed due to the pandemic, businesses are moving quickly to embrace digital marketing**



NARENDRA SHYAMSUKHA

The Covid-19 pandemic has turned out to be the most significant disruptive event witnessed by this generation. From mainstreaming remote working, cutting global travel to a comprehensive digital shift, the outbreak has changed the way businesses are executed. This transformational effect is not momentary; it is significant and is here to stay.

One of the most notable elements of this transformation is the way organisations have been forced to embrace digital marketing to be able to survive the crisis. As traditional marketing strategies stand curtailed due to the pandemic, businesses have moved quickly to embrace digital marketing and transform the way they attract and engage customers and clients.

As people stay indoors, malls and roads stand deserted there has been a shift to a space where businesses and customers interact less physically and more through the online route. Digital services providers will tell you how there has been a surge in organisations seeking to create new websites or update existing ones, creating elaborate social media campaigns and launching new e-commerce channels. Intelligent content creation and SEO are other elements that are receiving a fresh focus from companies. Truth be told, organisations that embrace this transformation quickly and more comprehensively are the ones that are more likely to survive as compared to those who are resistant to change. Here are some more changing phases of entrepreneurship.

**The age of webinars**  
As live conferences and face to face engagement activities take a backset, organisations are working out new ways to engage with customers. Webinars have emerged as a very popular way of achieving digital thought leadership and getting quality leads. At the same time, customer engagement is also taking place with these digital discussions. That's why there is a sea of webinars everywhere to

spread the message. Even when the crisis ebbs, people are likely to continue to conduct a part of their thought-leadership events through webinars as more and more people realise that they serve the same purpose at a fraction of the cost. Webinars that have now filled the gap of traditional conferences are likely to become a mainstream marketing strategy in the new normal.

#### Increased usage of data analytics

In a digital age, data analytics has always been a valuable proposition. However, as organisations increase their digital presence, the importance of creating useful databases has only increased. With more people spending longer time on social media, their chances of seeing ads on such platforms or coming in touch with content marketing blogs are greater. This is why organisations now need to create valuable databases, analyse them and use this information intelligently to reach out to the target audience.

Tracking pattern of consumer behaviour, tracking online traffic patterns, analysing which content retains the customer, and getting a break up of which products are enticing what type of customers are essential elements of data analytics that organizations need to use more to boost their online sales.

#### Content is the king

Businesses must focus on expanding social media presence by creating intelligent and attractive content. With the shift from outbound marketing to inbound marketing, it becomes essential to engage consumers in subjects they might find interesting.

However, it is important to understand that content distributed on social media should not be totally promotional in nature as it kills consumer interest. Your content must be knowledge and awareness-based. It must engage consumers emotionally through human interest stories rather than blatantly promoting the product.

The writer is founder and chairman, ICA Edu Skills

#### PLUS POINTS

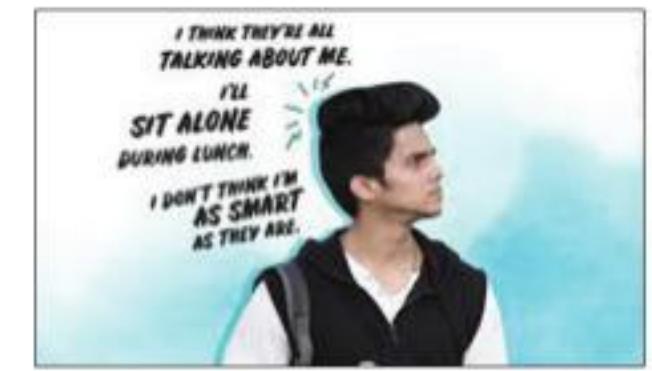
#### Distinct opportunity



The British High Commission organises the "High Commissioner for a Day" competition annually since 2017 inviting young Indian women aged 18 to 23 to take over as their most senior diplomat. This year, Chaitanya Venkateswaran, an 18-year-old girl from New Delhi had the unique opportunity to spend a day as the UK's senior most diplomat in India. Venkateswaran's day included handing out tasks to the High Commission's department heads, interacting with senior female police officers, meeting the press, and launching a study tracing the impact of British Council STEM scholarships on Indian women participants.

She is the fourth young woman to take over as British High Commissioner in an annual competition run by the UK mission, aiming to empower the next generation of women as leaders and trail-blazers, and to highlight some of the challenges women and girls around the world still face.

#### Effective pathway



The Live Love Laugh Foundation (TLLLF), a charitable trust launched "Investing in Hope" – a campaign to mark this year's World Mental Health Day. With this, TLLLF tried to create nuanced awareness about India's mental health crisis while contributing to the creation of a mental health investment roadmap in the country.

The first phase of the campaign featured a series of video conversations with leading voices on mental health. Over the course of October 2020, the conversations will cover India's mental health landscape, funding models for mental health, impact measurement, and the role of individual stakeholders in driving systemic change. As part of the campaign, TLLLF would profile select NGOs operating in the mental health domain, highlight journeys of TLLLF donors, and analyse case studies of successful mental health interventions.

#### Diversity at workplace



Great Learning, an EdTech company announced its association with organisations including AGS Health, Diageo, Maersk, Nielsen, OCWEN Financial as their preferred diversity hiring partner recently. With this collaboration under their "Power Ahead" series, Great Learning aims to provide a platform for women in technology and help organisations achieve their diversity at workforce goals.

Understanding the significance of addressing the gender disparity in technology roles, the company collaborated with these organisations to host a series of activities and provide a knowledge sharing platform to women learners in the form of webinars, panel discussions, hackathons and career fairs. It also hosted a panel discussion "Diversity and Inclusion in Technology" recently. Broad topics covered during this discussion included the importance of diversity in driving business performance, how to build a network of diverse candidates, overcoming diversity-related challenges, et al.

#### Encouraging creativity

A few students of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (MAKAUT), WB has utilised their spare time in the midst of this pandemic and created short films. To motivate them a short film festival "MAKAUT Chitra Manjari" is arranged, which would start from 26 October. The films will be telecasted in the portal of Bangla Worldwide – a first-of-its-kind online-offline initiative to link Bengalis across the world. The objective of this festival was to create awareness on many contemporary issues besides providing entertainment.

## CREATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Indian pharmaceutical sector is increasingly becoming a hub for all professionals associated with the industry**

SAJAL KUMAR JHA

The colossal rise of the pandemic Covid-19 was the stimulus for the gradual fall of all industries related to diverse operational sectors. The global economy witnessed a steep downfall and the only industry, which not only survived but thrived under the current extreme conditions was the pharmaceutical or drug industry.

The demand and supply ratio of the healthcare sector is never equal in a country like India having the second highest global population with a major fraction below the poverty level. The thrust from the governmental and non-governmental sources was focused on two healthcare aspects. The primary one was affordable treatment of Covid-19 patients irrespective of their societal class or financial strata. The second one was to control the pandemic spread by infusing awareness through high voltage media campaign. Pharmacy professionals were among the frontline healthcare workers who actively contributing to provide successful outcome to both the ventures.

India is major contributor of both bulk and finished drugs in order to cater to the healthcare needs across the globe. The pandemic era is witnessing a shift of multinational manufacturing units of drugs or their raw materials from China to the other parts of the globe. India would be the most probable home for all such companies due to easy availability of skilled and unskilled manpower, a huge consumer base along with an already developed pharmaceutical industry having the second highest number of US FDA approved manufacturing units. Pharmaceutical research would occupy the top tier



of the priority list of all countries in order to come up with new vaccines and drugs for effective management of Covid-19.

This drive would create immense employment opportunities for pharmacy professionals especially those settled in India. Additionally, there would be huge demand for community and hospital pharmacists to mitigate any such

pandemic situations, which may arise in future. Expected development of the Indian Pharmaceutical sector would also enjoy the advanced technological support from all countries across the globe thereby producing a significant transformation in the healthcare management of the country.

This would definitely lead to affordable

therapeutics, which is the need of the hour to cater the healthcare needs of a densely populated country like India. Post Covid era would enthroned India as the pharmacy hub of the world and would make it go to destination for all professionals associated with the drug industry.

The writer is associate professor & head, School of Pharmaceutical Technology, Adamas University, Kolkata



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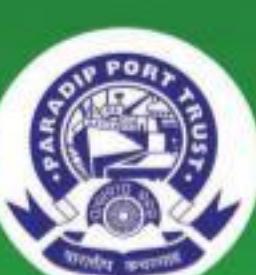
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## Impressive Holder restricts RR to 154/6

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI, 22 OCTOBER



Jason Holder (*in photo*) led a disciplined bowling display by Sunrisers Hyderabad to restrict Rajasthan Royals to 154 for six in an Indian Premier League match here on Thursday. Sunrisers, who are struggling at the penultimate spot in the points table with only three wins from nine outings, opted to bowl after winning the toss at the Dubai International Stadium.

Playing his first match of the tournament, Holder (3/33) came up with an impressive bowling effort while also affecting a run out to destabilise the RR innings. Rashid Khan (1/20) and Vijay Shankar (1/15) picked a wicket each. For RR, Sanju Samson (36 off 26 balls) was the top scorer. Put in to bat, Robin Uthappa looked in rapping form, hitting the first four and six of the innings. He quickly raced to 19 off 13 balls.

However, his time in the middle was short lived. After Ben Stokes (32) hit Holder for back-to-back boundaries in the fourth over, the West Indies skipper effected Uthappa's run out as the Indian was late to turn back at the non-striker's end. The powerplay overs yielded 47 runs, including six fours and a maximum, for the loss of one wicket. The big-hitting Stokes was dropped on 17

in the eighth over by Shankar off a Rashid delivery. Alongside Samson, he kept the scoreboard ticking. A 56-run stand between the two was broken in the 12th over by Holder. Samson, who had reached his highest score since the 85 against Kings XI Punjab in RR's second match of the tournament, was bowled by a slow off-cutter, after pulling the previous delivery over midwicket for a huge six. Stokes' stay came to an end when the World Cup winning all-rounder was bowled by Rashid in the beginning of the 13th over, with the Sunrisers bowlers making a strong comeback in the middle overs. RR went lost wickets at regular intervals. Jos Buttler, too, fell quickly as he was sent back by Shankar in the 16th over with skipper Steve Smith (19) also failing to make an impact.

### SCOREBOARD

Rajasthan Royals Innings:	
Robin Uthappa run out (Holder)	19
Ben Stokes b Rashid Khan	30
Sanju Samson (wk) b Holder	36
Jos Buttler c Nadeem b Vijay Shankar 9	33-3
Steven Smith c Pandey b Holder	19
Ryan Parag Warner b Holder	20
Rahul Tewatia not out	2
Jofra Archer not out	16
Extras: 3 (0, 1b 0, w 3, nb 0, p 0)	
Total: 154 (6 wkt, 20 Ov)	
Fall of Wickets: 30-1, 86-2, 86-3, 110-4, 134-5, 135-6	
Bowling: Sharma 4-0-31-0, Holder 4-0-33-3, T Natarajan 4-0-46-0, Khan 4-0-20-1, Shankar 3-0-15-1, Nadeem 1-0-9-0	

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'Just a little improvement is all that Knight Riders need'

ABU DHABI, 22 OCTOBER

on ensuring our morale doesn't drop while at the same time having those honest conversations around how we improve," McCullum said after the eight-wicket loss to RCB in an Indian Premier League game here last night. "But still firmly believe that we have a side which can be there later on in the tournament, come the finals. We just need to improve slightly." "We're still fourth in the tournament, which is very fortunate for us. Destiny is still very much in our hands. We have just got to tighten up some of those areas where we were deficient tonight," he said.



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