

'IAF DEMONSTRATED
CAPACITY ALONG
NORTHERN BORDER'

P5



TRUMP REFUSES TO
PARTICIPATE IN
VIRTUAL DEBATE

P10



POPE COMMITS TO
CLEAN FINANCES
AMIDST SCANDAL

P10



KNIGHTS DON'T
LET YADAV RIDE
WITH THEM

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 35 and 19 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 91% Min: 39%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 35.6°C (+2) Min: 19.1°C (-2)

SUN RISES

06:19 hrs

MOON RISES

23:08 hrs

SUN SETS

17:58 hrs

MOON SETS

13:33 hrs

THUMBNAILS



A vendor demonstrates the sterilisation process with an ultraviolet light device on auditorium seats in Bangalore on Thursday as cinemas prepare to reopen on October 15. AFP

Domestic flights: Airlines may be permitted to operate maximum 75 per cent of their pre-Covid scheduled domestic flights if the passenger numbers continue to remain healthy during the next 7-10 days, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday. "Our internal thinking is that we will watch it for another week or 10 days... If the figures (of passengers travelling) continue to be healthy, we would open domestic civil aviation to 75 per cent of the pre-COVID levels," Puri said.

NCR pollution action plan: A Supreme Court-mandated body on Thursday said stricter measures to fight air pollution will come into force in Delhi and its neighbouring cities from October 15 as part of the Graded Response Action Plan, as air quality in the region hit poor levels. It, however, told the governments of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to "try and avert" the need to take emergency measures, such as a ban on construction and industries using fuels other than piped natural gas, as the economy is already under stress.

Freedom of speech most abused right: SC

Centre pulled up for evasive affidavit on media coverage of Tablighi meet

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 8 OCTOBER



Freedom of speech and expression is the most abused right in recent times, the Supreme Court said on Thursday as it pulled up the Centre for filing an affidavit short on details in a plea seeking strong action against media houses for demonizing the Muslim community in connection with the Tablighi Jamaat event.

The bench, comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde, Justice A S Bopanna and Justice V Ramasubramanian, told the Solicitor General Tushar Mehta: "You cannot treat the court the way you are treating it in this case."

The bench noted that the Centre's affidavit has been filed by a junior officer, and it is also extremely evasive and does not provide details

on the aspect of bad reporting about the Tablighi Jamaat event. "How can you say there was no incident (of bad reporting)?" the bench asked.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for the petitioners, contended before the bench that Centre's response seems like an attempt to muzzle the freedom of speech. The Chief Justice said the Centre is entitled to make an argument, but "this freedom of speech may be the most abused freedom in recent times".

The bench asked for information on Acts, which

have exercised similar powers in the past, and had a brief discussion on the implication of the Cable Television Networks Act.

The bench also said that it wants to know if the government have any powers to ban or question the TV broadcast and insisted the Centre should file an affidavit detailing steps it had taken to stop broadcasts in TV channels which targeted a single community.

The observations came during the hearing of a plea from Jamait Ulama-i-Hind seeking action against media reports indulging in communalising the Tablighi Jamaat meeting in Delhi in March. The congregation at Markaz Nizamuddin was accused of accelerating the spread of the coronavirus, with its attendees allegedly carrying the infection to different parts of the country.

Is it media's job to advise on probe, asks HC
MUMBAI, 8 OCTOBER

Bombay High Court asked on Thursday if it was the media's job to proffer advice to an investigating agency about how it should conduct a probe.

The remark was made by a bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice GS Kulkarni during the hearing of public interest litigations (PILs) against the "media trial" in the actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case. The judges made the comment when advocate Malvika Trivedi, representing a news channel which has been made a respondent, opposed the PILs.

Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 OCTOBER



Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, one of the most prominent Dalit leaders of the country, died on Thursday at the age of 74.

Announcing the minister's demise, his son Chirag Paswan tweeted, "Papa, you are no more in this world but I know you are with me wherever you are."

The Lok Janshakti Party founder and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution was admitted to a private hospital here for several weeks and had recently undergone a heart operation.

President Ram Nath Kovind said: "The nation has lost a visionary leader. He was among the most active and longest-serving members of parliament. He was the voice of the oppressed, and championed the cause of the marginalized."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was saddened beyond words. "Shri Ram Vilas Paswan Ji's demise is a personal loss. I have lost a friend, valued colleague and someone who was extremely passionate to ensure every poor person leads a life of dignity," he said in a condolence message.

Born in Khagaria in 1946, Paswan became an MLA for the first time in 1969 on a Samyukta Socialist Party ticket. He was elected to Lok Sabha eight times and also held the record of winning his constituency, Hajipur, with the highest margin for several years.

Always at the forefront of raising issues concerning the disadvantaged sections of society, he was a skilful grassroots politician who enjoyed good equations with leaders across the spectrum, and his dedicated following in his state ensured that every national party courted him in his over-five decades career. He was a minister in central governments headed by parties of contrasting ideological persuasions, ranging from the Janata Dal to the Congress and the BJP, since 1989. His demise comes days before Bihar goes to Assembly polls in three phases beginning October 28.

TRP manipulation racket busted: Mumbai police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 8 OCTOBER

Mumbai police on Thursday said they have busted a Television Rating Points (TRP) manipulation racket, arresting four persons in the case.

TRP is a tool to judge which TV programmes are viewed the most and also indicates the viewers' choice and the popularity of a particular channel.

Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh told reporters that Republic TV channel, facing flak over its attack on Mumbai police and the Maharashtra

arrested.

Republic TV, in a statement, rubbished Singh's claims. Arnab Goswami, editor-in-chief of the channel, said the Mumbai police chief made false claims against Republic TV as the channel had questioned him in the Sushant Singh Rajput case investigation.

He said the channel will file a criminal defamation case against the police commissioner.

Singh said bank accounts of these channels are also being probed and people responsible for the TRP racket are being summoned by police for further investigation.

Manipulated TRP ratings result in miscalculated targeted audience for the advertisers, he said, adding this results in losses of hundreds of crores of rupees.

TRP is calculated on the basis of TV channel viewership in a confidential set of households. Singh said those involved in the racket would bribe people in these households and ask them to keep some channels switched on even when they weren't watching or not at home.

The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) releases weekly

rating points for TV channels in India and its officials are also being questioned in connection with the case.

There are 2,000 barometers installed in Mumbai to monitor TRPs, he said, adding BARC gave the contract to Hansa for monitoring these barometers. Hansa had filed a complaint regarding the TRP racket. "During the investigation it came to light that some former employees of the agency were involved in compromising the data and they were sharing it with some television companies," he said.

78K new cases take India's Covid-19 tally past 68 lakh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 8 OCTOBER

FACT FILE	
TOTAL CASES	68,35,655
ACTIVE CASES	9,02,425
NEW CASES	78,524
NEW RECOVERIES	83,011
TOTAL DEATHS	1,05,526

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M.
THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2020

7 Indians kidnapped in Libya, efforts on for their release

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 8 OCTOBER

The Indian nationals, hailing from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, were kidnapped at a place called Assherif in Libya in September while travelling to Tripoli airport to catch a flight to India

Seven Indians working in Libya have been kidnapped and the government is in touch with relevant authorities to secure their safe release, the External Affairs Ministry said today.

"Seven Indian nationals, hailing from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, were kidnapped at a place called Assherif in Libya on 14 September. They were working at a construction and oil field supplies company and were kidnapped on their way to the Tripoli airport to catch a flight to India," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

He said the Indian Embassy in Tunisia, which handles mat-

ters relating to the welfare of Indian nationals in Libya, has reached out to the Libyan authorities, as also international organisations present there, to seek help in rescuing the Indian nationals.

The employer of the abducted Indians has been contacted by the kidnappers and shown photographs as proof that they were safe and

keeping well.

"The government is in touch with their family members and would like to assure them that we are making all possible efforts, in consultation and coordination with the Libyan authorities and the employer, to trace our nationals and secure their release from captivity at the earliest," the spokesperson said.

He pointed out that in September 2015, an advisory

had been issued by the Government of India for Indian nationals to avoid travelling to Libya in view of the security situation there.

Later, in May 2016, the government imposed a complete travel ban irrespective of the purpose in view of the much deteriorated security situation. This travel ban was still in force.

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Same sex couple moves HC for getting married under SMA

PTI
NEW DELHI, 8 OCTOBER

A same sex couple has moved the Delhi High Court seeking they be allowed to get married under the Special Marriage Act saying they have been living together as a couple for 8 years, in love with each other sharing the highs and lows of life, but unable marry as they are both women.

A similar plea has been moved by two men, who got married in the United States, but their marriage was not registered under the Foreign Marriage Act of 1969 by the Indian consulate as they were a same sex couple.

Both the petitions came up for hearing before Justice Navin Chawla who directed the registry to list them before the bench of the Chief Justice of the High Court which is already hearing a PIL seeking a declaration that same sex marriages be recognised under the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) and Special Marriage Act (SMA).

The petitioners are being represented by senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy and advocates Arundhati Katju, Govind Manoharan and Surabhi Dhar.

The two women, aged 47 years and 36 years have said that simple things -- like opening a joint bank account, buying family health insurance, or securing address proof -- which a married couple takes for granted are a struggle for them.

"Marriage is not just a

relationship between two individuals it brings two families together. But it is also a bundle of rights. Without marriage, the petitioners are strangers in law. Article 21 of the Constitution of India protects the right to marry a person of one's choice and this right applies with full force to same-sex couples, just as it does to opposite-sex couples," they have contended in their plea.

The women are part of the team that built north India's leading clinic specializing in mental health and learning disabilities for children and young adults.

They have sought that the SMA be declared as unconstitutional to the extent that it does not allow solemnisation of marriage between same sex couples.

They have also urged the court to declare that the SMA ought to apply to all couples regardless of their gender identity and sexual orientation and also issue a direction to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kalkaji, who is also the Marriage Officer of South East District of Delhi to register their marriage under the Act.

The two men, in their plea, have contended that Indian consulate at New York refused their application for registration on the ground of their sexual orientation alone.

"The Indian consulate would have registered the marriage of any similarly placed opposite sex couple," they have contended.

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"Marriage is not just a

Classified

SITUATION VACANT

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
SOUTH CAMPUS,
NEW DELHI-110021
Phone : 24119430

Applications are invited for several posts in the following DBT funded project :

1. "Mainstreaming rice... genome-wide association studies :

Project Scientist 1 (1 post), Project Scientist 2 (1 post), Principal Project Associate (1 post), Project Associate 1 (2 post), Lab Attendant (1 post).

2. Predictive detection of Osteoporotic...Artificial Intelligence Implementation

Project Associate 1 (1 post). Please visit <http://www.genomeindia.du.ac.in/jobportal/> for applying online. Only online applications would be accepted.

Last date of application 21 days from the date of advertisement in the news paper.

Dr. Saurabh Raghuvanshi
Principal Investigator
Department of Plant
Molecular Biology
(Email: saurabh@genomeindia.org)

LEGAL NOTICES

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 645/19
City Bank NA

— Applicant
Mr. Shriram & Anr.
— Defendant

To,
Defendant
1. Mr. Shriram, s/o Sh. Narayan Jat, Ward No. 2, Dhanai Badai Garh Taknet Sikar-332701 Rajasthan.

2. Mr. Ramji Lal Khaiwa, s/o Sh. Pokhar Mal, Ward No. 8, Dhanai Badai Garh Taknet Sikar-332701 Rajasthan.

Whereas the abovenamed applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 17,59,64/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Six hundred and Forty Six only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 07-01-2021 at 10.30 a.m.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By order of the Tribunal
For Registrar
DRT-II, Delhi
Seal of the Tribunal

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

REF: PREMISE / Flat No. C-4, 4th floor at 11/1, Sunny Park, Kolkata-700019, Assessee No. 11-069-44-0037-1.

Notice is hereby given that the my client Anita

Jhunjhunwala being the

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

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We started coding project in January this year in collaboration with SheCodes foundation where 870 girl students have been given training till now.

MANISH SISODIA

DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

THUMBNAILS



A man winnows paddy grains at a wholesale grain market in Amritsar on Thursday. AFP

400 more test +ve for Covid in U'khand, toll crosses 700: Uttarakhand's COVID tally rose to 53,359 on Thursday with 400 more people testing positive while 14 more infected people died at different hospitals, the daily health bulletin showed. Haridwar reported 76 cases, Dehradun 70, Chamoli 64, Nainital 58, Udham Singh Nagar 32, Uttarkashi 23, Pithoragarh 22, Rudraprayag 19, Pauri 13, Champawat 10, Bageshwar 10 and Tehri 3, the state health department bulletin said. Meanwhile, 14 more COVID patients died at different hospitals in the state taking the toll to 702, the bulletin said. So far, 44,535 infected people have recovered from the disease with 273 having migrated out of the state while there are 7849 active cases, it said. PTI

Restricted functioning of Delhi HC to continue till Nov 30

PTI
NEW DELHI, 8 OCTOBER

The Delhi High Court on Thursday decided to extend its restricted functioning till November 30 in view of the persisting coronavirus pandemic in the national capital.

The Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court decided to extend the restricted functioning on the same terms as earlier orders, the office of Registrar General Manoj Jain said. The office order also said that the cases instituted in the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 shall also be taken up, as per roster, from November 17.

It further stated that the cases already listed before the high court from October 9 to October 20 shall be adjourned en bloc to corresponding dates between December 15 to December 24.

"With effect from October 12, two courts of Joint Registrars (Judicial) shall take up the matters through physical mode while the others shall continue to hold court through videoconferencing as per roster to be notified on the website."

The number of benches was later scaled down to one division bench and two single judge benches in view of the rise in COVID-19 cases in Delhi and a majority of the lawyers indicating their preference for virtual hearing of cases.

Sukhbir goes after Capt over Centre's farm laws

SAD chief charges that Punjab CM is playing a 'fixed match by purposely delaying' holding a special Assembly session to negate the Modi-led central govt's controversial agriculture laws

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 8 OCTOBER

A day after Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh rejected the one-week ultimatum given by the farmers' unions for holding a special Assembly session to negate the Centre's contentious farm laws, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today charged that Capt Amarinder was playing a "fixed match by purposely delaying bringing in legislation to negate the agriculture sector laws".

Stating that there was more to the CM's refusal on the matter, the SAD president said, "Amarinder Singh is again asking for time to bring the legislation despite the fact that the SAD was the first to make this demand more than ten days back. We had asked the CM to call a special session and bring in legislation making the entire State a single market yard. The farm organizations are also making a similar demand."

Badal also lambasted the CM for adopting an "arrogant attitude" vis-a-vis the farmers of the state and refusing to either listen to their grievances or taking any step to redress them.

He said Capt Amarinder subsequently announced that he would call a special session on the matter. "Now when the farmer organisations have tried to pin him down he is again trying to escape by rejecting the ample time

of one week given to him by the farm organisations. All this points to the fact that the CM is simply playing out a fixed match and has no interest whatsoever in ensuring the rights of farmers of the state are protected at the earliest," he charged.

Badal also lambasted the CM for adopting an "arrogant attitude" vis-a-vis the farmers of the state and refusing to either listen to their grievances or taking any step to redress them.

The farmers and farm labourers will never forget that you continued to be more loyal to the Gandhi family than to the farmers of the State by refusing to annul the amended APMC Act of 2017 which provides for all the provi-

sions contained in the farm laws including private mandis, e-trading and contract farming," the SAD leader said.

"We will compel this anti-farmer government to not only repeal its amended Agriculture Produce Markets Committee (APMC) Act 2017 but also bring in legislation to make the entire state one 'Mandi' (market) so that the three agriculture marketing laws are no longer applicable in Punjab," Badal added.

Last month, the SAD, the BJP's oldest ally, quit the Narendra Modi government and subsequently the BJP-led NDA in protest against the Modi government's controversial farm legislations. Capt Amarinder had earlier said that the SAD had "completely lost any political credibility or standing after their antics on the new laws".

Amid the continuing war of words between the ruling Congress and the Opposition SAD in Punjab over the Modi government's agriculture laws, Capt Amarinder and Sukhbir-led Akali camp have continued to trade firecrackers, even though both camps have been up in arms against these "anti-farmers and anti-Punjab" legislations.

Slamming the Akalis for "actively supporting" the Union government in "selling off the farmers' rights to the monopolistic corporate houses through the unconstitutional and undemocratic farm legislations", Capt Amarinder had earlier said that the SAD had "completely lost any political credibility or standing after their antics on the new laws".

EKING OUT A LIVING



Labourers at work in Sector 26 in Chandigarh on Thursday. PARDEEP SAINI

IIT Mandi develops eco-friendly catalyst for hydrogenation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 8 OCTOBER

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi on Thursday claimed to have developed an environment-friendly heterogeneous catalyst based on easily available carbon for hydrogenation – a class of reactions extensively used in the chemical industry.

The IIT Mandi research team led by Associate Professor Dr Venkata Krishnan in collaboration with researchers from IIT Ropar had developed the environmentally safe and cost-efficient catalysts that enable industrial chemical reactions.

The results of the work have been published in the prestigious journal, Green Chemistry, published by the Royal Chemical Society and it has co-authored by Dr Venkata Krishnan, Dr C M Nagaraja of IIT Ropar along with their research scholar.

"We cannot underestimate the practical importance of catalysis as almost all synthetic



Dr Venkata Krishnan (middle) with the newly-developed 'environmentally safe and cost-efficient' heterogeneous catalysts for industrial applications. SNS

products we use in civilized life now rely on industrial preparations, which in turn make use of catalysts," Dr Venkata Krishnan said.

Krishnan said catalysts hasten or enable otherwise difficult reactions and help in increasing the yield or rate of

formation of the needed products.

With increasing concerns about the environmental effects of industrial chemical reactions, there is a heightened need to develop green catalysts – catalysts that do not add significantly to the environ-

mental pollution issues that are usually associated with industrial processes, he said.

He further stated that hydrogenation reactions are commonly used to produce compounds such as aromatic alcohols that are extensively used in perfumes, phar-

Jayant, Oppn leaders urge people to oust 'anti-democratic' BJP from power

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MEERUT, 8 OCTOBER

Buoyed by a massive turnout of supporters, Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) leader Jayant Chaudhary, while addressing the 'Loktantra Bachao' rally in Muzaffarnagar today in the presence of Congress and Samajwadi Party leaders, appealed to the Jat community to return to the RLD and ensure the exit of the BJP governments in Uttar Pradesh and at the Centre.

Evidently, the RLD sought to display its show of strength through its 'Loktantra Bachao' rally on the ground of Government Inter College in Muzaffarnagar. Thousands of RLD supporters, mainly those belonging to the Jat community, had turned up for this rally, which was also supported by the Congress, SP and Shiv Sena. Senior leaders of these parties were also present at this rally and appealed to the people to oust the "double-engine BJP governments" in the next elections. The Bhartiya Kisan Union also extended its support to the rally.

Addressing the rally, Jayant Chaudhary, a former MP, said that in 2019 there were 3065 cases of rape which had been registered in the state. But the government has failed to give justice to the victims, he said, adding that "instead every possible method is adopted to silence voices raised against it, including the voices from the Opposition".

"I am also father of daughters, so how could I sit quite at home when daughter of a poor was subjected to such atrocities," the RLD leader said, blaming the Yogi government for "silencing dissent".

Referring to the Centre's controversial farm laws, Jayant



During the RLD's 'Save Democracy' rally in Muzaffarnagar on Thursday. SNS

said that these have been brought only to benefit corporates and that "farmers will become slaves of these corporates in next five years". While appreciating the farmers of Haryana and Punjab for fighting collectively against these legislations of the Modi government, Jayant appealed to farmers of west UP to come forward and join the fight against these "anti-farmer laws".

Congress MLA from Haryana, Abhay Chautala, Congress MP Dependra Hudda, former MP Harendra Malik, and SP leader Dhamendra Yadav also addressed the rally. The leaders attacked the BJP governments and appealed to farmers to unite and fight back against farm laws and atrocities against the poor. They also paid their homage to former PM and farmer leader late Chaudhary Charan Singh.

Heavy security arrangements were made in the town for the rally. ADG of Meerut zone, Rajeev Sabharwal, along with commissioner of Saharanpur division, Sanjay Kumar, camped in Muzaffarnagar to keep a close watch on the situation.

PGIMER warns against indiscriminate use of steroids by initial-stage, mild Covid patients

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 8 OCTOBER

India's premier health institute, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh, on Thursday warned against indiscriminate use of steroids by the initial-stage, mild or asymptomatic Covid-19 patients.

"Hence, it is advisable not to use these drugs. Steroids should be started in Covid patients only when they are requiring oxygen therapy and that also preferably after admission to the hospital under the supervision of an experienced physician," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the PGIMER said the second phase of human clinical trials of Covishield, the potential vaccine developed by the Oxford University, is going well here at the institute, which is listed as one of the 17 trial sites for conducting the second and third phases of human clinical trials of the Covishield vaccine.

Till date, 97 volunteers have been screened. Of them, 65 volunteers have already been vaccinated since 25 September when PGIMER started administering the first dose of the vaccine to the volunteers.

Among 65 volunteers given first dose, 53 participants have already completed seven days post vaccination without any major side effects.



mental issues. Besides, the recovery of these metal catalysts is difficult.

"Traditional hydrogenation methods involve the reaction between hydrogen gas and various precursors such as acids, aldehydes and ketones, collectively called carbonyl compounds.

More recently, to avoid the exposure and cost issues associated with hydrogen, hydrogenation reactions make use of a safe hydrogen donor chemical. And this is where catalysts come in," he added.

Krishnan explained that hydrogenation catalysts are specialised chemicals that can assist the transfer of hydrogen from cheaper and non-dangerous hydrogen donors to the substrate to be converted to the product of interest.

The catalysts that are now used for hydrogenation reactions involve precious metals such as rhodium, iridium, platinum and ruthenium, which naturally add to the cost of the synthesis method, in addition to having environmental

issues. Besides, the recovery of these metal catalysts is difficult.

Recently, simple, specialised carbon-based materials have been recognised world-over as easily available, cheaper alternatives to precious metal-based catalysts for a variety of reactions. Such carbon-based materials exhibit significantly high stability and eco-friendly performance.

Of many carbon-based materials that are being explored for catalysis, the IIT Mandi team has chosen graphitic carbon nitride (GCN) as a metal-free catalyst for the chosen reaction due to its interesting chemical and physical properties.

The team investigated a wide range of precursors for the hydrogen transfer reactions using 2-propanol both as a hydrogen donor and a solvent.

The nanosheets resulted in high yields and high turnover numbers demonstrating the versatile catalytic potential of the as-synthesised catalyst.



A heinous crime has been committed at Hathras, leaving a 20-year-old Dalit woman dead... She deserves justice not slander

CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

ACCUSING BJP OF BUILDING A NARRATIVE TO DEFAME THE HATHRAS VICTIM

India

CBI terms LIFE Mission's project deal 'underbelly transactions'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOCHI, 8 OCTOBER

The CBI probing the FCRA violations and alleged irregularities in the Kerala government's LIFE Mission housing project, on Thursday made shocking revelations in the Kerala High Court in connection with the project.

It stated in the court that interventions by rackets exist in the project, due to which a

thorough probe is necessary in the case. Terming the deal with Unitac as 'underbelly transactions' CBI counsel Sasthamangalam Ajith Kumar said the MoU was an 'eye wash'. He said it is wrong to say that Unitac got the contract after a tender process. They got it through Swapna Suresh and other accused smugglers after agreeing to pay commission to them.

The CBI counsel further submitted that M Sivsankar, for-

mer principal secretary to the chief minister, was also actively involved in the discussions. Sivsankar hijacked the MoU that was signed between Life Mission and Red Crescent. Sivsankar called Life Mission CEO UV Jose and an officer named Geethu into his office, it was then that UV Jose came to know about the contract, CBI counsel submitted.

As regards the competence of the CBI to probe the ca-

se, Sasthamangalam submitted that the Central government has notified CBI as the authority to investigate the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) offences. He said the Kerala government notified in 2017 that the CBI can investigate FCRA offences. He further submitted government of Kerala had in 1989 notified that CBI had sanction to probe corruption allegations against government officials.

TENDER

HPPWD NOTICE INVITING TENDER BHARWAIN DIVISION HPPWD BHARWAIN TEHSIL AMB DISTRICT UNA (H.P.)

Sealed tenders on item rates basis are hereby invited on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh by the Executive Engineer Bharwain Division, HPPWD, Bharwain Tehsil Amb District Una (HP) from the experienced contractors/ firms enlisted in appropriate class with Himachal Pradesh PWD for the following works. The tender shall be received in his office on or before **19.11.2020** up to 10.30 A.M and shall be opened on the same day at 11.00 A. M in the presence of contractors / firms or their authorized representatives , who wish to be present at the time of opening of tenders. The tender applications shall be entertained and tender form shall be sold up to two days before the date of opening of tender i.e. **17.11.2020** up to 12.00 Noon. Draft Notice Inviting Tenders/ Drawing/ Specifications can be seen in the office of the Executive Engineer on any working day between 11.00 A. M to 4.00P. M. Ambiguous / Telegraphic / Conditional tenders or tender by Fax shall not be entertained/ considered in any case. The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate / Time Deposit Account / FDR in any of the Post Office in H.P/ Nationalized Bank duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer must be accompanied with the application. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will not rightly be rejected. The contractor shall accompany his enlistment/ renewal orders with his application for obtaining the tender documents. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reasons. The work will be completed by the contractor within the stipulated period. The contractor will have to submit his registration under the H. P. General Sale Tax Act 1968 and also labour license under the contractor within the stipulated period. The contractor shall remain valid up to 45 days after the opening of tender. If any of the date mentioned above happens to be Local / Gazetted Holidays the same shall be process on next date.

Sr No	Name of work.	Estimated cost.	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Form No.	Cost of Form.
1	C/O & M/T link road from Bharwain Duhat Bangwalaan road near House of Sh: Suresh Kumar to vill: Thankpura up to Guga Mandir & Radhey Shyam Mandir km 0/0 to 1/500 (SH:- Providing & laying 900mm dia RCC Hume pipe culvert at RD 0/310, 0/405 & 0/530 & 600mm dia Hume pipe at RD 0/947) under MNP	33769/-	6800/-	Three months	PWD-B	350/-
2	C/O Boundary wall of PHC Chack Sarai Tehsil Amb Distt:Una:	278088/-	5570/-	Three months	PWD-B	350/-
3	Restoration of rain damages on Bhaloun Sohari Chouli road km 0/0 to 12/675 (SH:- C/O protection work in wire crates/ PCC at RD 11/223 to 11/248)	498706/-	10000/-	Three months	PWD-B	350/-
4	4TR & M/O Talimhra Deedar Rajpura road km 0/0 to 4/500 (portion km 0/0 to 1/0) (SH:- C/O U-shape drain at RD 0/330 to 0/355 RHS, 0/720 to 0/845 LHS, 0/695 to 0/732 RHS & 0/590 to 0/600)	490759/-	9850/-	Three months	PWD-B	350/-
5	A/TR & M/O Diara to Mohalla Gujran km 0/0 to 1/600 (SH:- Providing & laying interlocking concrete paver block flooring from km 0/10 to 0/10)	499386/-	10000/-	Three months	PWD-B	350/-
6	C/O link road from NH-70 Kartihi to Mandholi km 0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- C/O 900mm dia RCC Hume pipe culvert at RD 3/970 i/c wing wall and C/U shape drain km 3/940 to 3/970) under MNP	197921/-	4000/-	Three months	PWD-B	350/-
7	Restoration of rain damages on Bhaloun Sohari Chouli road km 0/0 to 12/675 (SH:- C/O Gabriowall along with PCC pusha between km 11/223 to 11/248)	498750/-	10000/-	Three months	PWD-B	350/-
8	4TR & M/O Talimhra Deedar Rajpura road km 0/0 to 4/500 (portion km 0/0 to 1/0) (SH:- C/O U-shape drain at various RDs between km 0/0 to 1/0)	490759/-	10000/-	Three months	PWD-B	350/-
9	Restoration of rain damages to NMT road from Mubarikpur to Marwan (Punjab boundary) km 54/375 to 72/555 (SH:- Extension of Hume pipe culvert at RD 60/630 RHS, Extension of slab culvert at RD 62/250 RHS & U-shape drain at RD 69/680 to 69/715 LHS)	490241/-	10000/-	Three months	PWD-B	350/-

3588/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT "E-Procurement Notice" Invitation for Bids (IFB)

No : PW/EDP/CB/TA/NIT/2020-21/5488-92

The Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD Palampur, Distt. Kangra, HP on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids in Two Covers system in Electronic Tendering System from approved and eligible contractors/firms registered with HPPWD(E) fulfilling the qualifying criteria along with the documents for the works as detailed below in the table:

Sr. No	Name of Work	Tender Value	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Tender Fee	Form No.
1	Construction of Govt. I.T.I. building at Gangath in Tehsil Indora, Distt. Kangra, (SH:- Providing E.I. and Power wiring therein);	35,49,398/-	60,800/-	Two Years	1500/-	8
2	Providing 125kVA DG Set along with generator supply at Civil Hospital Dhalhousie in Tehsil Dhalhousie Distt. Chamba (HP);	14,17,884/-	28,400/-	Three Months	500/-	8
3	Providing, Installation, Testing & commissioning of One No. Thirteen (13) Passengers Electric Traction Elevator in the building of Mini Secretariat at Dehra in Tehsil Dehra, Distt. Kangra (HP);	19,00,000/-	36,000/-	Three Months	500/-	8

1. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online on website <http://htptenders.gov.in> and bid should be submitted online mode along with scanned copies of all documents pertaining to TQC/Eligibility Criteria, cost of bid document and bid earnest money in prescribed form.

2. Bidder would be required to register on website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user of ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website htptenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key/Critical Dates:

1. Publish Date/Time	15/10/2020	5:00 PM
2. Document Download Start Date/Time	15/10/2020	5:00 PM
3. Bid Submission Start Date/Time	15/10/2020	5:00 PM
4. Bid Submission End Date/Time	29/10/2020	5:00 PM
5. Physical Bid Documents Submission Date/Time	30/10/2020	Up to 11:00 AM
6. Bid Opening Date/Time	30/10/2020	11:30 AM

4. Tender Details: The tender document shall be uploaded online in two covers.

a) Cover-1 shall contain scanned copy of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information/TQC".

b) Cover-2 shall contain BOQ/Financial bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. Submission of original documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid and (b) Original bid security/earnest money deposit (EMD), (c) Affidavit of correctness of submitted documents and other technical documents in the office of Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD Palampur, Distt. Kangra, HP as specified in key dates as Sr. No.3, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. Bid Opening Details: The "Cover-1" of the bid shall be opened on 24/10/2020 at 11:30AM in the office of Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD Palampur, Distt. Kangra, HP by the authorized officer/committee and Cover-2 may be opened on the same date or a date later after technical evaluation which will be intimated separately. In the interest of tenders they are advised to be present at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids the bids will be open on the next working days at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period not less than 120 days after the dead line for submission.

8. Certificate of bid validity can be obtained on the website htptenders.gov.in.

9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tenders shall not be held liable for any delay due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify bidders of any bids update the employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder responsibility to verify the website for latest information related to tender.

10. The Executive Engineer reserve the right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons thereof.

The bidders are advised to note other details and terms & conditions of tenders from the departmental website [www.htptenders.gov.in](http://htptenders.gov.in)

3594/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HPPWD TENDER

Sealed item rate tender on the prescribed form, terms and conditions mentioned in form-6&8 are hereby invited for the following works by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No.II,HPPWD Shimla-171 003 from the firms/contractors enlisted with PWD(Electrical), so as to reach in the office of the XEN (1)Tender documents consisting of plans classes of work to be done and set of terms and conditions of contract to be complied with by the contractor/firms whose tender may be accepted and other necessary documents can be seen in the office of the XEN between hours of 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM except on Sundays and public holidays. (2) The firm /contractor who are not registered under H.P.General Sale Tax Act,1968 and have not cleared all the dues on account of sale tax shall not be issued the tender documents(3) The contractor who has no registration certificate with Excise and taxation department of HP will not be issued the tender documents (4) Tenders placed in sealed envelope with name of work and due date written on the envelope will be received by the XEN and will be opened by him or his authorized representative in his office in the presence of contractors, present if any. (5)The earnest money in the shape of NSC/Time deposit account /saving account in any of the post offices of HP duly pledged in favour of XEN must accompany with the tender in the separate envelope. The tenders without earnest money will summarily be rejected. (6) In case of holiday, the tenders shall be sold/received and opened on the next working day.(7)Tenders of contractors who quote two or more than two rates for any item of work shall be rejected. (8) The competent authority on behalf of Governor of H.P reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason. (9) Tender forms shall be sold to only those contractors who deposit earnest money in any of the prescribed modes simultaneously at the time of sale of tender documents.

(i) Last date of receipt of application: 26.10.2019 Up to 1.00 PM

26.10.2020 Up to 2 PM to 5.00 PM

28.10.2020 Up to 10.30 A.M

28.10.2020 AT 11.30 A.M

Work No. (1) C/O Additional floor New Trauma Centre at IGMC Shimla (SH: Providing fir alarm panel) Estimated cost Rs.4,92,760/-Earnest money Rs.9900/- Time: 6 months. Cost of form .350/NR

Work No. (2) Replacement of old defective corridor of Kamla Nehru state hospital for mother and Child at Shimla. Estimated cost Rs.4,92,500/-Earnest money Rs.9900/-Time: 6 months. Cost of form Rs.350/NR

Note: Tender appearing at Sr.No.1&2 , will be issued to only those contractors/firms who have already executed similar nature of work, proof of which should be attached with the application.

Executive Engineer,
Elect. Division No.II
HPPWD Shimla-2

3603/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

A heinous crime has been committed at Hathras, leaving a 20-year-old Dalit woman dead... She deserves justice not slander

CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

ACCUSING BJP OF BUILDING A NARRATIVE TO DEFAME THE HATHRAS VICTIM

Violent clashes erupt in Kolkata, Howrah during BJP's 'march to Nabanna'

WB minister Firhad Hakim says BJP is not a political party but a party of hooligans and rogue whose cadres carry pistols, bombs and bricks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA/HOWRAH, 8 OCTOBER

Parts of Kolkata and adjoining Howrah resembled a battle zone on Thursday as BJP workers and supporters clashed with police, hurling stones and blocking roads with burning tyres, to protest a string of killings of its party workers.

Clashes erupted at several places during the march called by Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of the BJP, to Nabanna, the state secretariat, when they tore down barricades, police burst tear-gas shells.

Failing to quell the rampaging crowds of BJP workers, personnel of Rapid Action Force (RAF) baton-charged them, resulting in injuries to some of the protesters.

Police personnel in riot gear burst teargas shells, baton-charged agitators and used water cannons to disperse protesters which were still raging in the two cities.

Several BJP activists, including some senior leaders, were injured.

State chief secretary informed that several police personnel were injured during the rally.

Thick plumes of smoke from discarded tyres that the protesters set ablaze to block traffic clouded the sky and streets were littered with stones. Shops and other business establishments hurriedly closed their shutters during

Farm challenges

Agriculture is the only sector in India looking up in this year of coronavirus pandemic when the economy is slated to see Gross Domestic Product fall by a whopping 23.9 per cent. The monsoon rains have been bountiful so far and the rabi harvest has been above average. Kharif sowing has exceeded expectations. In this situation, the NDA government at the Centre has pushed through Parliament three agricultural legislations ~ the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 ~ and obtained the President's assent in the quickest possible time. Agriculture is a State subject under the Constitution. The Union government invoked Entry 33 in the Concurrent List, inserted through the Constitution (Third Amendment) Act, 1954, which was passed amidst stiff opposition by the agriculture lobby. Encroachment on the rights of the States would transform our quasi-federal constitution into a unitary one and reduce powers of the States to that of glorified municipalities. The Congress, DMK, RJD, and the Bhartiya Kisan Party have already moved the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of these Acts. According to Article 246 (4) of the Constitution, Parliament has no power to pass legislation relating to the Seventh Schedule of List II ~ State entry No 14 (Agriculture), 18 (Land), 30 (relief of agricultural indebtedness), 46 (taxes on agricultural income), 47 (duties in respect of succession to agricultural land) and 48 (Estate duty in respect of agricultural land). They contend that the three Acts violate the Supreme Court ruling in the case titled ITC Limited and others v the State of Karnataka and others, 1985. The new legislations permit the sale of agricultural produce outside mandis registered by the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees constituted by different State legislatures, providing for, among other things, contract farming and deregulated production, supply and distribution of food items like cereals, pulses, potatoes, onion and edible oilseeds. Removing these items from the list of essential commodities will deregulate their production, storage, movement and distribution. It could lead to hoarding, black-marketing and food inflation and throw the farmers, particularly the small and medium ones, to the wolves. APMCs were set up with the objective of ensuring fair trade between buyers and sellers for effective price discovery of farmers' produce. The Price Assurance Act does not prescribe any mechanism for price fixation. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce Act allows middlemen or traders or private companies to bypass the APMCs and buy directly from farmers or other trading centres. The APMCs may not shut immediately but will eventually waver away as most of the trade will happen outside these. The Price Assurance Act does not prescribe any mechanism for price fixation. There is apprehension that the free hand given to private corporate houses could lead to exploitation of farmers. Opposing these "reforms," farmers are up in arms across the country and have hit the streets. The Government has a task on its hands ~ it must assuage farmers and defend its position in the apex court.

Tourism travails

In many ways the dilemma confronting Thailand is common to countries which depend on foreign tourists but cannot find a way of letting them in without risking the health of citizens. Thus, while its authorities examine ways to reopen doors, many people in the Southeast Asian nation are worried enough to say that this should not be done. As many as 57 per cent of respondents in a survey conducted by the Bangkok-based National Institute of Development Administration expressed concern that reopening the country would increase risks of infection and thus opposed it. Sixty-two per cent were not confident that the government could avoid re-emergence of the virus if it was opened to tourists. Last week, Thailand had unveiled plans to allow in a limited number of tourists each month, in a bid to revive a industry which depends on foreigners for two-thirds of its revenues. But this plan will likely preclude short-term visitors from countries such as China, Japan and India and those from Asean nations because it mandates a 14-day quarantine. As such, it will possibly benefit only retirees and longer-term visitors. The results of the random survey, which are said to have a confidence level of 97 per cent, are likely to be buttressed by reports this week that 15 people in quarantine had tested positive for Covid-19. Nine of them were Thais, among them six soldiers who had just returned from a UN mission in South Sudan, while six were foreigners, including two Indians and two Bangladeshis. Tourism contributes almost a fifth to Thailand's Gross Domestic Product and as such the government's anxiety to open borders is understandable. But apart from tourism, the country's business sector also needs interactions with overseas partners and this week the country's Centre for Economic Situation Administration is reportedly considering ways to allow business visitors into the country without the mandatory, 14-day quarantine. One of the proposals under consideration is to insist on a Covid-19 certificate from the country of origin and a second test on arrival in Thailand. With under 4,000 cases overall, less than 200 active ones and less than 60 deaths in a population of about 70 million, the country is widely acknowledged to have done a commendable job in containing the virus, even though its testing rate ~ at least 11,000 per million population ~ has been low and about a sixth of the number reported by India or a fifth of the number reported by neighbouring Malaysia. It is easy therefore to understand the concern of its citizens that opening borders for business and tourism may open the doors to disease as well.

Covid Waiver

The protection of the undisclosed information clause under TRIPS requires member countries to ensure that the data (including clinical trial data) submitted by the holder of the rights is not used for unfair commercial use (like approving a generic product on the basis of the data)



India and South Africa have requested the World Trade Organization (WTO) to waive certain key provisions under the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement to speed up prevention, containment and treatment efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The two countries argue that in the absence of a waiver, existing protection for intellectual property rights (IPR) such as patents, industrial designs, copyright, and protection of undisclosed information, may create barriers to timely access to affordable medical products including vaccines and medicines or to scaling-up of research, development, manufacturing and supply of medical products essential to combat Covid-19.

In a joint submission to the TRIPS Council on October 2, the countries wanted the Council for TRIPS to recommend, as early as possible, to the General Council of the WTO, a waiver from the implementation, application and enforcement of Sections 1, 4, 5, and 7 of Part II of the TRIPS Agreement in relation to prevention, containment or treatment of Covid-19.

While Part II of the Agreement defines the standards concerning the availability, scope and use of IPR, the sections specifically talk about copyright and related rights (Section 1), industrial designs (Section 4), patents (Section 5) and protection of undisclosed information (Section 7). The TRIPS agreement provides for 50 years of copyright protection, 10 years of protection from unauthorised use of industrial design by third parties and 20 years of patent protection.

While medical device and diagnostic equipment makers use protection on industrial design to ward off competition, patents allow medicine makers exclusive rights to prevent third parties from making, using, offering for sale, selling, or importing their patented protected products. The protection of the undisclosed information clause under TRIPS requires member countries to ensure that the data (including clinical trial data) submitted by the holder of the rights is not used for unfair commercial use (like approving a generic product on the basis of the data).

"There are several reports about intellectual property rights hindering or potentially hindering timely provisioning of affordable medical products to the patients. It is also reported that some WTO Members have carried out urgent legal amendments to their national patent laws to expedite the process of issuing compulsory/government use licenses".

Compulsory licensing is when a government allows someone else to produce a patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner or plans to use the patent-protected invention itself. It is one of the flexibilities in the field of patent protection included in the WTO's agreement on intellectual property — the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement. For compul-

sory licensing is when the generic copy is produced mainly for the domestic market, not for export.

Normally the person or company applying for a licence has to have tried, within a reasonable period of time, to negotiate a voluntary licence with the patent holder on reasonable commercial terms. Only if that fails can a compulsory licence be issued, and even when a compulsory licence has been issued, the patent owner has to receive payment; the TRIPS Agreement says "the right holder shall be paid adequate remuneration in the circumstances of each case, taking into account the economic value of the authorization", but it does not define "adequate remuneration" or "economic value".

Compulsory licensing must meet certain additional requirements: the scope and duration of the licence must be limited to the purpose for which it was granted, it cannot be given exclusively to licensees (e.g. the patent-holder can continue to produce), and it should be subject to legal review.

"Beyond patents, other intellectual property rights may also pose a barrier, with limited options to overcome those barriers. In addition, many countries, especially developing countries, may face institutional and legal difficulties when using flexibilities available in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of

Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement)," the joint letter from India and South Africa said.

India and South Africa also say that for countries with insufficient or no manufacturing capacity the requirements of TRIPS and the cumbersome and lengthy process for the import and export of pharmaceutical products that follow are a major concern.

"Internationally, there is an urgent call for global solidarity, and the unhindered global sharing of technology and know-how in order that rapid responses for the handling of COVID-19 can be put in place on a real time basis," the letter said.

The two countries want the waiver to continue until widespread vaccination is in place globally, and the majority of the world's population has developed immunity. They have proposed that the waiver shall be reviewed by the General Council not later than one year after it is granted, and thereafter annually until the waiver terminates.

Incidentally, 16 global pharmaceutical and medical device makers and the philanthropic Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have recently come out with a joint commitment to fight Covid-19 and address the access issues. The signatories to the partnership are AstraZeneca, Bayer, bioMerieux, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eisai, Eli Lilly, Gilead, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Merck & Co (SD), Merck KGaA, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The industry attempt is seen as an effort to dissuade WTO members from taking the TRIPS waiver route as it can impact their business interests in Covid-19 care.

doctor immediately due to lack of communication systems those days. But our physician, on hearing of the incident, rushed to our house and helped shift her to a safer place and started her treatment.

The second incident happened during the Durga Puja festival in 1941, in our ancestral home located in a remote village of Jessor district. There was an outbreak of malaria right after the festival ended. There was a single doctor available in the region and his tireless service throughout the entire period provided relief to patients of the village. The doctor himself, however, fell victim to the disease.

Alas, such commitment is seldom seen these days.

Biman Mukherjee, Kolkata, 6 October.

RESEARCH VITAL

SIR, The entire world must honour American scientists Harvey Alter and Charles Rice, and Briton Michael Houghton, for their contributions for the groundbreaking discovery of the hepatitis-C virus.

A serious global health problem that causes cirrhosis of liver, liver cancer and allied disorders of critical nature in people around the world will now be treated. For the first time in history hepatitis-C can be cured.

This achievement by the three scientists reminds people there is hope mankind will discover an antidote to the deadly coronavirus. Hundreds of scientists and researchers in as many as 200 countries including India are reported to be on the job.

It is pertinent to add that a peculiar idea persists among a section of people in our country. Many prefer a swift 'political-scheme' rather than a study ~ or research-oriented scheme.

It is time to realise that emphasis on research is a must and spending on this can never be wasteful.

Yours, etc., Rupam Guha, Kolkata, 6 October.

kind of help the Government of India is extending to the above institutions?

Yours, etc., Arun Gupta, Kolkata, 6 October.

CHECK THE DRAGON

SIR, Subrata Mukherjee's article "Lessons of the past" (5 Oct) is excellent. Times

have changed although the mindset of Pakistan and China towards India has remained the same. Discrenible is a sea-change in the American mindset towards India following the end of the Cold War.

India had fought against China in 1962 and fought three major wars and a mini war against its estranged neighbour. Despite this, their enmity towards

India has not decreased an inch while bonhomie between the once anti-India USA and India is now on the rise.

India's time-tested ally Russia is now in the Dragon's net and both are trying to counter USA's global dominance; hence much help is not expected of Russia.

In such a scenario, the largest democracy has no other option but to come closer to the oldest democracy ~ the sole superpower of the globe. Both should leave no stone unturned to bring like-minded nations into their fold to counter an assertive and ominous dragon, hell-bent on expansionism.

Yours, etc., Aranya Sanyal, Siliguri, 6 October.

Judicial probe a must

SIR, This refers to the editorial, "Upper in name" published today. The UP government is stooping to new lows in its gross mishandling of the Hathras case in which a 19-year-old Dalit woman was gang-raped by four upper caste men.

It looks the other way when a large upper caste gathering in support of the accused takes place, even when Section 144 is in force.

Even as the probe has been referred to the CBI, the state authorities are leaving no stone unturned to exert pressure on the victim's family. Citing a forensic report based on samples received over 10 days after the victim was hospitalized, the ADGP (Law and Order) jumped to the conclusion that there was no evidence of rape.

It seems the Yogi Adit-

yanath government has its own interpretation of the law. After the victim died, state officials went to extraordinary lengths to prove that she was not raped.

Every time a woman is abused or anything wrong happens, her parents are deemed responsible for it. They are blamed for not imbibing in her "good qualities".

Barricading Hathras and putting an entire district under Section 144 to quell protests and stop politicians from meeting the victim's family, and newsmen from covering the incident, show the Yogi government's eagerness to hide its failures.

Why should a strong government feel so insecure as to cut off access to the village of a young Dalit girl brutalized by upper caste

men? The government and the law and order machinery seem to be working in tandem to suppress the truth. A judicial probe by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court or High Court seems like a better option.

Yours, etc., SS Paul, Nadia, 6 October.

SELFLESS

SIR, The article "Many roles of the Doctor", published in *The Sunday Statesman* of 27 September reminded me of two incidents which I witnessed during my childhood. Sometime in the year 1940, a fire broke out in a building which housed a printing press next to our house in Dhaka. The two buildings shared an exit. On seeing the fire, my ailing grandmother fainted. It was not possible to inform a



THEY NEED HELP

SIR, Apropos Sumit K Das's letter "Help the Needy" (6 October), I would like to comment that our Chief Minister, despite facing a financial crunch, has at least

shown a good gesture in helping out Imams, Priests and every Puja Committee. I do not know the financial stability of Imams, but I can say for sure that priests in general certainly deserve financial help.

The Missionaries of Charity and the Ramkrishna Mission get regular help from abroad and seldom depend on government help. Now may I ask what

kind of help the Government of India is extending to the above institutions?

Yours, etc., Arun Gupta, Kolkata, 6 October.

ASIAN VOICES

An assembly of vandals

Five years of the constitution that transitioned Nepal into a federal democratic republic, and two and a half years since the assemblies in the seven provinces came into place, there seems to be little understanding among our elected representatives as to why they are there. What happened on Monday in the Province 5 assembly just leaves a bad taste. As a proposal to name Province 5 Lumbini and declare Deukhuri Valley as its capital was tabled in the assembly, some assembly members of the opposition party Nepali Congress resorted to vandalism. They flung their chairs and smashed them on the tables as they chanted slogans in protest.

What has so far been apparent, though, is that Nepali politicians are still refusing to commit themselves to federalism even though they are not tired of boasting that they fought hard to achieve it. Despite having people's representatives of their own in the provinces, the central leaders still continue to bulldoze their ideas and orders on the assemblies. The ruling Nepal Communist Party chairs' instruction to Province 5 Chief Minister Shankar Pokharel on the provincial name and capital is the root cause of this problem. If the leaders are committed to federalism, they should allow the institutions under the federal set-up to function independently. The constitution says the name and capital of each province must be endorsed by a two-thirds vote in the respective provincial assembly. The Kathmandu Post

ruling party, however, has undermined this basic constitutional provision so as to address its internal conflict and placate some leaders. Even as a section of the Nepal Communist Party in the provincial assembly opposed the party high command's directive on the name and capital of the province, the Nepali Congress jumped into the fray. In a democracy, any party holds the right to protest and register its dissenting views, but resorting to vandalism ~ that too in the hallowed chambers ~ is condemnable and beyond justification. The assemblies of the elected people's representatives are the highest law-making bodies. Their role in shaping democracy and nurturing a democratic culture is immense. It's true that they are also a forum for politics, and so the elected representatives do use them to communicate to their electorate. But that in no way means that the elected representatives can turn into hooligans. Such an act does not only undermine the assembly but also comes as disrespect to the electorate. The constitution bestows immense power on lawmakers. As elected representatives, they are accountable to the people who voted for them. But the representatives do not seem to recognise the power they possess by which they can change things through informed debate and discourse.

Shed no crocodile tears

SUNIL SHARAN

Some newspapers are conveying bestwishes to Donald Trump all the while carrying scathing articles about him. If the speed limit is 70 miles an hour, and a man drives at 140 miles an hour and crashes into three other cars, should one feel sympathy towards him?

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta in the US projects that there could be another 200,000 Covid-related deaths by the end of the year. It says that if mask-wearing was made compulsory across the nation, that death toll could be cut in half.

One man, an alpha-male, has made a mockery of wearing masks. That man is the president of the United States. Yes, in the initial stages of the pandemic, when medical experts like Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Sanjay Gupta of CNN didn't understand the pandemic well, they counseled against wearing masks. But they reversed course as soon as they got a better handle on the pandemic.

In no other country of the world has mask-wearing become as politicised as the United States. And the man who's been singularly responsible for the politicisation has been none other than Donald Trump. He has made fun of his prime adversary, Joe Biden's propensity to don masks.

Biden has rigidly adhered to the norms of fighting the pandemic while running his campaign. He has addressed very small gatherings. He has been willing to lose the race but not play with people's lives. Biden is a decent, empathetic man.

Trump has flouted all the rules in the book, and then some more. Behind in the polls, and for the very reason for playing around with a pandemic, he has amped up his foolhardiness. At a time when a pandemic has gripped the nation, he has been holding choc-a-bloc rallies of thousands, most not wearing masks, outdoors, and worse still indoors.

His underlings have taken cues from him. The health secretary, Alex Azar, shows up at White House gatherings without a mask. The right-wing nominee for the Supreme Court, Amy Barrett, too refuses to wear a mask in front of the president. Oh Lord, what if he drops me as the



nominee for the court were I to wear a mask?

The first lady, Melania Trump, has counseled people to wear a mask, but in front of her domineering, boorish husband, she too has had to buckle. Now Trump has infected her too.

Trump likes to surround herself with women. There was the former counselor to the president, Kellyanne Conway. There is the current press secretary, Kayleigh McEnany. And then there is a mysterious 31-year old. She is called Hope Hicks. She formerly served as the communications director in the White House. Now she's senior counselor to the president.

What exactly her role is no one seems to know. She had left the White House but Trump forced her to return. She has the ear of the boss, and a lot of it. She is found regularly in the Oval Office hanging out with the president. She accompanies him on many of his campaign rallies.

Like her boss, she too disdains masks. She likes pressing the flesh, Trump tweeted, implying that she got the virus from members of law enforcement and the military, many of whom wanted to hug her and kiss her. Well, she's an attractive young lass, which red-blooded male would mind hugging her and kissing her?

Trump apparently got the virus from Hicks. Everybody is wondering

what that means for America. The Biden campaign, already about 10 points ahead nationwide of Trump, must be licking its chops. Trump knows that he's a goner if he doesn't recover soon. He is forcing his doctors to try radical, unproven therapies upon him.

Trump made a fool of himself during the first debate with Biden. He desperately wants to have at least another chance to make amends. But he was airlifted to hospital. There is no prognosis as to when he'll recover.

Even if he does recover, he will get no sympathy from anyone outside his base. His base is not large enough for him to win. He needs

swing votes to win. But swing voters have been waiting for him to better handle the pandemic before they make up their minds. His falling sick will only convince them that he has brought the illness upon himself.

If he cannot keep himself safe, despite all sorts of safety protocols in place to protect himself from the virus, swing voters will wonder how can he be expected to keep them safe. It may be time to bid sayonara to Donald Trump. It was a four-year long tumultuous party. It was roller-coaster fun at times, until it got to be old. And deadly.

The writer is an expert on energy and contributes regularly to publications in India and overseas.

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The Independent Labour Party in Great Britain have received another disillusioning shock from Russia. It appears that the executive committee of the body known as the Moscow Internationale has informed them in plain terms that "communism necessitates revolution and bloodshed," and that "to achieve communism in Britain the workers must prepare for heavy civil war." It need hardly be said that this is a good deal too much for any sane Labour man in Great Britain. One can hardly imagine any British-born man or woman, to whatever section they may belong, moderate or extremist, meekly accepting this sort of guidance from Russia. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's comment is that "the Third Internationale and the Independent Labour Party, like oil and water, will never mix." It can only be hoped that the eyes of the Independent Labour Party will be opened to the danger of dallying with the revolutionary elements which have wrecked Russia and would fain wreck the rest of the world. The Abyss has been revealed plainly enough, and the extremists know now, if they had failed to realise before, whether the agents of unrest and revolution are leading them. The Fortnightly Review lately has published some interesting "Facts and Documents" which illustrate the Bolshevik regime in Russia. Amongst these are reports issued to the seventh "Congress of Soviets" at Moscow in December, 1919.

NEWS ITEMS

CONNAUGHT RANGERS

The Pioneer says the report which has found currency that the Court of Enquiry appointed to consider the case of the Connaught Rangers is still sitting is entirely erroneous. The facts that the committee has completed its investigations and its finding is that the outbreak was a prearranged and organised movement, and its cause was unquestionably Sinn Feinism. The General Commanding the 16th Division has concurred in the conclusion of the court and recommended the trial of the ringleaders by a general court martial. These men have been removed to Dagsai, where a summary of the evidence legally necessary as a preliminary to the trial by court martial is being prepared. The court martial itself will commence its proceedings in about a fortnight's time.

COMMONS SCENE

There was a wild scene in the Commons today during the Committee stage of the Restoration of Order in Ireland Bill. Mr. Devlin lengthily denounced the proceedings as a humbug and sham. He was called to order for irrelevance but declined to sit down and continued speaking. As the House was in Committee the Speaker was summoned and a motion for the suspension of Mr. Devlin was carried by 229 votes to 43. The Speaker then asked Mr. Devlin to leave the House, and Mr. Devlin, without demur, walked out, followed by the other Nationalists, a great majority of the Labour party, and some Independent Liberals, amid the jeers of the Ministerialists. The occupants of the Front Opposition Bench, both Liberal and Labour, remained in their seats, and did not participate in the demonstration.

ITALY ADVOCATES FREE RELATIONSHIP

In the course of a debate in the Chamber on the ratification of the Treaty of St. Germain, Count Sforza, discussing the Allied policy towards Russia, pointed out that what M. Clemenceau called the barbed wire cordon had given way everywhere, while the blockade gave the Bolsheviks moral advantages far more important than the material damage they suffered. He advocated the freest relationship with Russia, announcing that an agreement had been concluded with Moscow to admit a Russian representative to Italy, and an Italian representative to Russia. He hoped that the Soviet Government would realise it was to its interest to conclude an honourable peace with independent Poland.

INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Mr. D.R. Bhandarkar, Carmichael Professor of Ancient Indian History, Calcutta University, delivered an interesting lantern lecture on Indian Archaeology last evening before a large audience in the Bar Library Hall under the auspices of the Dacca Social Service Exhibition. Mr. J.H. Lindsay, District Magistrate presided. The lecturer said that Calcutta University had brought the subject more and more to the attention of the people. Indian Archaeology, he said was divided into four main sections:- (1) Epigraphy and Palaeography, (2) Numismatics, (3) Iconography and (4) Architecture. After explaining these four divisions and illustrating each of them by means of lantern slides, the lecturer said that Palaeography and Epigraphy were the most extensive of the sections of Indian Archaeology. He made a historical survey of the different scripts in which various ancient documents were written.

World must agree on adaptation goal

SALEEMUL HUQ

The historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change, agreed at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris, France in 2015, was a major outcome that all vulnerable developing countries strongly fought for. We achieved an important target for the mitigation agenda with the setting of the long-term temperature goal at less than two degrees Centigrade, with a promise to try and keep it below 1.5 degrees if possible. This was one of the most important achievements of the vulnerable developing countries, in getting other countries to agree with this temperature goal.

This has in turn led to further operationalising of this global goal into targets like net zero emissions of greenhouse gases, globally and in each country, by 2050. At the same time, at the upcoming COP26 - which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021, with the Government of the United Kingdom as the official host - there is a plan to start a "race to zero emissions" in order to encourage all countries, as well as provinces and cities, to aim to achieve by 2030 wherever possible.

On the other hand, on the issue of adaptation to climate change, the Paris Agreement agreed to have a Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) as well. However, adaptation is much more complicated than mitigation, since it requires local level actions in every country, which are extremely difficult to aggregate across countries towards a global goal.

However, as we approach COP26, over the coming months it is very



important that we come to an agreement on a global goal on adaptation. This should be something that all countries can agree on while also being simple enough for the people of the world to understand easily. How can we achieve this?

We need to first decide what should be our target on adaptation by 2030. The equivalent of the 1.5 degree Centigrade global temperature target for mitigation may work towards

helping all countries to become resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change by 2030. There could also be a race to zero vulnerability of every country by 2030 as an equivalent to the race to zero emissions.

The means to achieve such a goal would be to support adaptation planning and actions in every country over the next ten years, with an additional emphasis on financing the most vulnerable developing countries

to achieve the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) with financial support from the developed countries. These aspects of the global adaptation agenda are already agreed upon and are taking place, but the financing part is still lagging behind.

When it comes to providing finance to support both mitigation as well as adaptation actions in the developing countries, the developed countries had promised in the Paris

Agreement to provide \$100 billion per year, starting from 2020 onwards. So far, it is not yet certain how much of that amount will be delivered by the end of the year, but it is already clear that the proportion of finance for supporting mitigation is around 80 per cent of the total and only 20 per cent is allocated for adaptation.

One of the easiest aspects of the global goal on adaptation should be that at least half of the \$ 100 billion per year should be allocated to adaptation and only 50 per cent should be for mitigation. Also, priority for allocating the finances on adaptation should be given to the most vulnerable developing countries. This should be an easy goal to agree on.

With regards to the utilisation of the adaptation finances, it should be for all countries to implement their respective NAPs as they aim to achieve resilience by 2030, with the start of a race to zero vulnerability in every country, province and city from COP26 onwards.

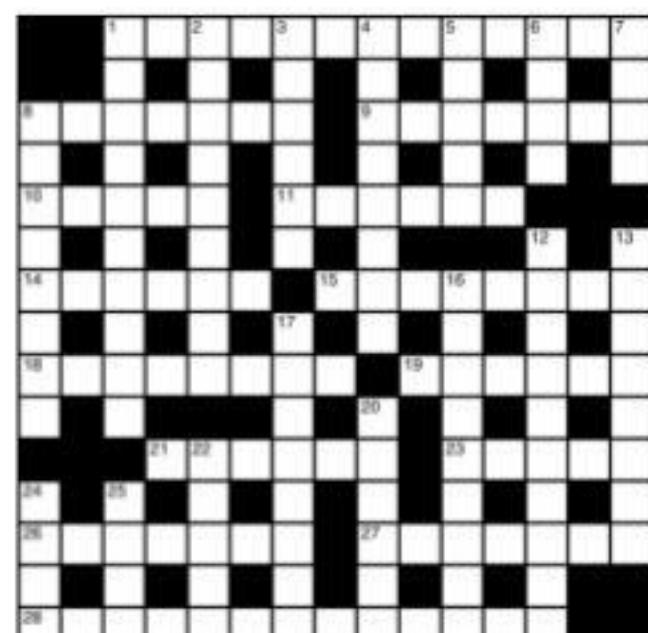
Finally, we must acknowledge that both adaptation and resilience are not easily implemented or measured, but at least the terms can be easily understood by the leaders and the public, and setting clear goals and starting a competition to achieve the goals is in itself is worth agreeing upon at COP26.

In the meantime, the scientists, planners and implementers involved in adaptation and resilience can work on the details of how to implement and measure the progress over time. It is important not to miss the opportunity to kick off the ten-year journey at COP26 in 2021 and not keep this issue pending any longer.

The Daily Star/ANN.

NO 28098

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- 1 Huntsmen lost while wandering round Eastern volcano (5,2,6)
- 8 Job cut not entirely doing for researcher (7)
- 9 Brutal defeat – front of face scratched (7)
- 10 Weapon brand seeing investment by Prince (5)
- 11 Pea-plant and tree in shelter (6)
- 14 More than one large animal represented in horse? Not entirely (6)
- 15 Make reference to having quantity of current flowing through holiday spot (8)

- 18 Horse active in elevated region (8)
- 19 Brewery tap, with drunk embracing someone guzzling (6)
- 21 Seafood racket attracting detective (6)
- 23 European story, probed by Times, backing person living elsewhere (5)
- 26 Is inquisitive mostly about attitude in central American region? (7)
- 27 Abuse Stradivarius, perhaps, and trombone's case (7)
- 28 Material for courses beginning to detail less visible military force (6,7)

- 1 Your items getting rearranged by poltergeists ultimately? Very curious (10)
- 2 Ruled by France excessively, after uprising at ground level (9)
- 3 Try raising two different types of mammal (6)
- 4 Got upset about facilities on a new downhill ride (8)
- 5 Surrey town records acknowledgement of merit (5)
- 6 Be upstanding? Wrong (4)
- 7 Aria, say, very much for bass? Not quite (4)
- 8 Former source of mutton! (4)

- 9 Perceived as form of beef (8)
- 12 Resolute, 20, going through fortune to make significant journey (10)
- 13 Art lover worried about moving these (8)
- 16 Energy in old salesperson after elevating sausage (9)
- 17 Determination shown by Marine aboard excellent vessel (8)
- 20 Metal shard I moved forward (6)
- 22 Sorceress left out of magic group? (5)
- 24 Dig succeeded, turning up bit of debris (4)
- 25 Obtain article in spirit (4)

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

THUMBNAILS

PNB Housing Finance: The demand scenario for housing loans is likely to improve gradually in the months running up to 31 March 2021, said Hardayal Prasad, MD & CEO of PNB Housing Finance, adding that the company expects retail disbursements of Rs 13,000 crore in financial year 2020-21.

Corrugated box industry: The corrugated box industry is reeling under the twin blows ~ four massive price increases in a short span of two months or one hand by kraft paper mills and cascading hikes in other conversion input costs on the other hand. The industry is staring at huge losses on account of these hikes during Covid-19 pandemic, said a statement issued by Indian Corrugated Case Manufacturers Association.

Taparia Tools: Taparia Tools Limited, a Mumbai-based hand tools manufacturing company, has launched a variety of home tool kits for housewives and kids and utility sets for vehicles. "We see a huge market for these products. The company has already started showcasing these products in shopping malls and utility home product stores," it said in a Press release.

AirTamer: AirTamer, one of air cleaning appliances, helping people to fight against air-borne viruses due to Covid pandemic, claims a survey conducted by the Kitasato Research Centre in Japan and Intertek Laboratory in Cortland, New York, which confirmed that it reduces virus and smoke by 98.9 per cent from air, according to a Press release statement.

Audi booking: Audi has commenced bookings for Audi Q2 in India. The car can be booked at all Audi India dealerships and on the official company website www.audi.in with an amount of Rs 2 lakh, the company said. Audi Q2 will be the fifth product launch of the company this year, it added.



Jio was conceived to provide the key ingredients needed to lead the fourth industrial revolution

MUKESH AMBANI
CHAIRMAN, RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LTD

business

Sensex regains 40,000 level after 7 months

The BSE benchmark has closed above 40,000 mark after 25 February this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 8 OCTOBER

The BSE Sensex rallied for the sixth straight day to reclaim the 40,000-mark today, with IT shares hogging the limelight after robust results from TCS indicated that the worst may be over for the software services industry.

After soaring over 400 points during the day, the 30-share benchmark ended 303.72 points, or 0.76 per cent, higher at 40,182.67 points. The Sensex has closed above the crucial 40,000-mark after 25 February this year.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 95.75 points, or 0.82 per cent, to finish at 11,834.60 points.

On the other hand, ONGC, ITC, Reliance Industries, L&T, PowerGrid and Asian Paints were among the major laggards, shedding up to 2.84 per cent. RIL came under selling pressure after Amazon.com Inc slapped a legal notice on Future Group over its Rs 24,713 crore asset sale to the Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate.

"A good start to Q2 resulted by the IT and banking sector, along with positive

IT SHARES HOG LIMELIGHT

► IT shares hogged the limelight after robust results from TCS indicated that the worst may be over for the software services industry.

► After soaring over 400 points during the day, the 30-share benchmark ended 303.72 points, or 0.76 per cent, higher at 40,182.67 points.

► The broader NSE Nifty climbed 95.75 points, or 0.82 per cent, to finish at 11,834.60 points.

2020 quarter, and also announced a share buyback plan of up to Rs 16,000 crore.

announcements like buyback has lifted the market. At the same time, expectation of a stimulus in India and the US has improved.

"Initially, the thought was that the domestic stimulus will be small due to weak fiscal position, which changed positively post few comments from government officials, and now the expectation has become bigger."

"In the US, an intermediary aid has been provided before the final stimulus which is expected post the election. The market is moving posi-

tively in line with the enhancement of easy money policy and the corporate results," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sector-wise, the BSE IT, tech, healthcare, telecom and bank indices spurted up to 2.99 per cent, while energy, oil and gas, capital goods and industrials closed in the red.

In the broader markets, the BSE mid-cap index gained 0.29 per cent, while the small-cap gauge tumbled 0.26 per cent.

Global equities were boosted by hopes of a piecemeal stimulus package in the US, even as President Donald Trump has called off negotiations for a wider pandemic relief deal.

In Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended higher, while Hong Kong closed with losses. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading positive in early deals.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.62 per cent higher at \$42.67 per barrel. In the forex market, the rupee strengthened by 9 paise to settle at 73.24 against the US dollar.

GDP expected to contract by 9.6% this fiscal: World Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 8 OCTOBER

The World Bank today said that India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent this fiscal which is reflective of the national lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and firms due to the Covid-19 pandemic, noting that the country's economic situation is much worse than ever seen before.

The Washington-based global lender, in its latest South Asia Economic Focus report ahead of the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, forecasts a sharper than expected economic slump across the region, with regional growth expected to contract by 7.7 per cent in 2020, after topping six per cent annually in the past five years.

India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent in the fiscal year that started in March, the World Bank said in the report released here.

Regional growth is projected to rebound to 4.5 per cent in 2021, it said.

Factoring in population growth, however, income-per-capita in the region will remain 6 per cent below 2019

estimates, indicating that the expected rebound will not offset the lasting economic damage caused by the pandemic, it said.

The situation is much worse in India than we have ever seen before, Hans Timmer, World Bank chief economist for South Asia, told reporters during a conference call. It is an exceptional situation in India. A very dire

outlook, he said.

There was a 25 per cent decline in GDP in the second quarter of the year, which is the first quarter of the current fiscal year in India.

In the report, the World

bank said that the spread of the coronavirus and containment measures have severely disrupted supply and demand conditions in India.

According to the World Bank, monetary policy has been deployed aggressively and fiscal resources have been channelled to public health and social protection, but additional counter-cyclical measures will be needed, within a revised medium-term fiscal framework.

Despite measures to shield vulnerable households and firms, the trajectory of poverty reduction has slowed, if not reversed, it said.

Amazon sends legal notice to Future over deal with RIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 OCTOBER

US online retailer Amazon.com Inc has slapped a legal notice on Future Group, alleging that the retailer's Rs 24,713 crore asset sale to Reliance Industries violated an agreement with the e-commerce giant.

"We have initiated steps to enforce our contractual rights," a spokesperson for the Seattle-based e-commerce giant said. "As the matter is sub-judge, we can't provide details."

Amazon last year bought a 49 per cent stake in one of Future's unlisted firms, Future Coupons Ltd, with the right to buy into flagship Future Retail after a period between 3 and 10 years. Future Coupons owns a 7.3 per cent stake in Future Retail.

The development comes at a time when Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd - run by India's richest man Mukesh Ambani - has been on a fund raising spree, bringing in well over Rs 37,700 crore in less than

four weeks from global investors including Silver Lake, KKR, General Atlantic, Mubadala, GIC, TPG and ADIA.

The source also pointed out that Future Group had made an offer to Amazon, along with other potential buyers, and the deal with billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led RIL was signed only after the e-commerce behemoth declined it.

Moreover, as per Amazon's contract with Future Coupons, the US entity has first right to invest in Future Retail after three years and before ten years.

The deal with Amazon was also conditional based on the government's FDI policy permitting foreign multi-brand retailing firm. Given that there is no policy, they can't invest, the source said.

Two-wheeler sales, however, declined by 12.62 per cent to 10,16,977 units last month, as compared to 11,63,918 units in September 2019.

Commercial vehicle sales also declined by 33.65 per cent to 39,600 units, as com-

Passenger vehicle sales up 9.81%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 OCTOBER

Automobile dealers' body Fada today said passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales in September witnessed year-on-year increase of 9.81 per cent to 1,95,665 units, amid shift in customer preference for personal mobility over public transport.

According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (Fada), which collected vehicle registration data from 1,254 out of the 1,461 regional transport offices (RTOs), PV sales stood at 1,78,189 units in September 2019.

Two-wheeler sales, however, declined by 12.62 per cent to 10,16,977 units last month, as against 11,63,918 units in September 2019.

Commercial vehicle sales also declined by 33.65 per cent to 39,600 units, as com-

REPORT CARD FOR SEPTEMBER

1) Passenger vehicle retail sales in September witnessed year-on-year increase of 9.81 per cent to 1,95,665 units compared to 1,78,189 units in September 2019.

2) Two-wheeler sales, however, declined by 12.62 per cent to 10,16,977 units last month, as compared to 11,63,918 units in September 2019.

3) Commercial vehicle sales also declined by 33.65 per cent to 39,600 units, as compared to 59,683 units a year ago.

pared to 59,683 units a year ago.

Similarly, three-wheeler sales fell by 58.86 per cent to 24,060 units last month, as against 58,485 units in the year-ago period.

"With social distancing in customer's mind coupled with the government's push to further normalise business conditions and banks becoming more considerate to finance

year. Total sales across categories declined by 10.24 per cent to 13,44,866 units, last month as against 14,98,283 units in the year-ago period.

Tractor sales grew by 80.39 per cent to 68,564 units last month, as compared to 38,008 units in the same month last

vehicles, entry-level passenger vehicles saw good demand thus indicating a preference for personal mobility over public transport," Fada president Vinkesh Gulati said.

New launches and availability of vehicles played their part as a catalyst while a lower base during the last fiscal also helped the cause, he added.

Tractor sales continued its dream run as kharif sowing witnessed record progress of area covered till date when compared to last year, Gulati said.

With good rabi season resulting in good disposable income, the rural market also saw its rub-off effect on two-wheeler, small passenger vehicles and small commercial vehicle sales, he added.

Till recently, the economic revival was mostly limited to rural India and the impact of Covid-19 was still felt on larger states and urban centres, Gulati said.

Paytm aims at 1 million apps on its app store

NEW DELHI, 8 OCTOBER

Paytm is aiming for a million apps on its "mini-app store" before March 2022 as it looks to challenge Google's dominance in the country's mobile app business.

Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma, who had called Google "judge, jury and executioner" after his app was temporarily taken down from the Android app store last month, today called Google a "toll collector" as he kicked off his firm's "mini-app developer conference".

Sharma emphasised that the burgeoning Internet ecosystem in India should not be held at "ransom" by international companies whose policies are arbitrary.

"We stand for India's developing Internet ecosystem. No company, from east or west, should be controlling our destiny. It does not matter which country you are, Indian technology ecosystem should not become ransom of international companies. And they (companies) should not have policies which are arbitrary and policy implementation which is even more arbitrary," he noted.

He added that Paytm will invest Rs 10 crore for the app developers on its platform.

Google's Android operating system powers most of the over 500 million smartphones in the country.

"Our intention is that people should be able to develop apps easily, fast...They (developers) don't have to put so much of cost and they get their customers. In our case, the charges are so minuscule...We are giving power to the developers, the torch bearers of technology," he said.

Sharma said the company is focussed on offering all the help possible to Indian app developers.

FAITH: Tourism going to be next growth driver for India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 8 OCTOBER

The tourism sector is going to be the next growth driver for India but to achieve that, it needs to survive the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and revive, the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) said on Thursday.

Currently, each vertical of the tourism industry is under deep stress, it added.

"Our first goal is to move India into the top-20 ranks in global tourism competitiveness in 5 years post COVID-19 and then make our place in the top-10 in five years after that," FAITH Chairman Nakul Anand said.

Indian tourism is estimated to contribute 9-10 percent to India's gross domestic product (GDP) on a direct and

indirect basis, he added while addressing the virtual conference on the India Tourism Vision Day.

"In the post-COVID-19 normal as our country moves towards the stated goal of becoming a USD 5-trillion economy, our vision is to have a tourism economic footprint of USD 500 billion. That would more than double the economic footprint of tourism from what it is today," Anand said.

He added that this would unleash major employment growth for India. "Our industry has the potential to double the jobs that tourism influences from around five crore currently to over 10 crore,"

Each segment of the Indian tourism industry is committed to this goal. The way forward will entail contribution from each member association, he added. "While we

remain optimistic of the growth in Indian tourism and its role in serving national priorities, the question today is of the industry's survival in the post-COVID-19 normal," Anand said.

He added that this is the worst crisis ever to hit the tourism and hospitality industry, a crisis worse than the economic depression, the world wars and 9/11.

As an industry, tourism was the first to be affected and will be the last to recover, he added. "Each vertical of our tourism industry is under deep stress — travel agents, hotels, tour operators, tourist transporters, restaurants, guides, and destinations. The list is endless. The RBI risk survey, the income tax and GST collections data and the GDP data all have repeatedly highlighted our industry's plight," Anand said.

PTI

Diversified conglomerate ITC will focus on the eastern regional markets of the country for its new dairy business vertical, a company official said.

The company is now offering its dairy products in the two eastern markets of West Bengal and Bihar. "We are to focus on eastern markets of the country for our new dairy business. However, plans are there to expand the range and footprint also," Sanjay Singhal, COO of dairy and beverage business of ITC, said.

Speaking to reporters virtually, he said the company's dairy business is receiving good response in West Bengal where its market share is growing. ITC launched its dairy products in the state two years ago, a year after Bihar.

PTI

ITC to focus on eastern market for dairy biz

KOLKATA, 8 OCTOBER

IT services major Infosys today said it has inked a pact to acquire Blue Acorn iCi, a digital customer experience, commerce and analytics services provider, for up to \$125 million (about Rs 915 crore).

The move further strengthens Infosys' end-to-end customer experience offerings and demonstrates its continued commitment to help clients navigate their digital transformation journey, Infosys said in a statement.



We've got to harness our ingenuity and our ability to invent.
Time is of the essence, which is why we believe this very ambitious global prize is the only way forward

BRITAIN'S PRINCE WILLIAM

LAUNCHING THE EARTHSHTOP PRIZE TO FUND ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C H
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C H
TOKYO	14°C	10°C H
LONDON	16°C	9°C S
DUBAI	30°C	25°C S
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C C
NEW YORK	10°C	07°C S
MOSCOW	17°C	09°C H

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

THUMBNAILS



A woman stands in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in downtown Moscow on Thursday.

Delta heads for US: Hurricane Delta emerged into the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday and headed toward Louisiana after making landfall just south of the Mexican resort of Cancun, toppling trees and cutting power to residents of the Yucatan peninsula's resort-studded coast.

Pulitzer-winning photographer dies: Karsten Thielker, a Pulitzer Prize-winning German photographer with The Associated Press who covered human suffering in conflict zones around the globe, has died. He was 54. Thielker died on 3 October in Berlin of esophageal cancer, his wife Janna Ressel said on Tuesday.

Pence, Harris spar over Covid in VP debate

The debate, which was far more civil than last week's chaotic faceoff between Trump and Biden, unfolded against Covid hitting the highest levels of govt



Democratic vice presidential nominee Senator Kamala Harris of California and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence participate in the vice presidential debate moderated by Washington Bureau Chief for USA Today Susan Page at the University of Utah on Thursday in Salt Lake City, Utah.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SALT LAKE CITY, 8 OCTOBER

Trading barbs through plexiglass shields, Republican Mike Pence and Democrat Kamala Harris turned the only vice presidential debate of 2020 into a dissection of the Trump administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, with Harris labeling it "the greatest failure of any presidential administration."

Pence, who leads the president's coronavirus task force, acknowledged that "our nation's gone through a very challenging time this year," yet vigorously defended the administration's overall response to a pandemic that has killed more than 210,000 Americans.

The meeting, which was far more civil than last week's chaotic faceoff between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, unfolded against an outbreak of coronavirus now hitting the highest levels of the U.S. government.

Trump spent three days at the hospital before returning to the White House on Monday, and more than a dozen White House and Pentagon

officials are also infected, forcing even more into quarantine.

With less than four weeks before Election Day, the debate was one of the final opportunities for Trump and Pence to reset a contest that could be slipping away. They're hoping to move the campaign's focus away from the virus, but the president's infection — and his down-playing of the consequences — are making that challenging.

Trump and Biden are scheduled to debate again on 15 October, though the status of that meeting is unclear. The president has said he wants to attend, but Biden says it shouldn't move forward if Trump still has coronavirus.

Republicans desperately want to cast the race as a choice between two candidates fighting to move the country in vastly different directions.

Biden and Harris, they say, would pursue a far-left agenda bordering on socialism; the Democrats say Trump's administration will stoke racial and other divides, torpedo health care for people who aren't wealthy and otherwise undercut nation-

retical or technical expertise.

Democratic Party leaders on

Wednesday flayed the Donald Trump administration for bringing major changes in the H-1B visa programme

just before the presidential polls without public scrutiny.

Reacting to the criticism,

ruling Republicans said the move will address abuses in the high-skilled guest worker programme used to displace American workers with low-paid foreign labour.

The H1B visa is a non-

immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theo-

retical or technical expertise.

A day earlier, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had announced an interim final rule that narrows down the definition of specialty occupation.

It will require companies to make real offers to real employees by plugging loopholes and preventing the displacement of the American workers.

With less than 30 days to go before the elections, the

Trump Administration announced that it will implement the most sweeping changes to the H-1B visa

programme we have seen in decades and will do so by

skirting the normal notice and

comment process required by the Administrative Procedure Act, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said.

The powerful Democrat from New York said while the programme can certainly benefit from reforms, the US laws require that the public be provided with adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to comment before such reforms are implemented. This simply cannot be accomplished to the degree required through an interim final rule and the administration knows this. This is clearly an attempt to score the last minute political points, Nadler said.

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Dems flay admin for changes in H-1B visa programme sans public scrutiny

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 8 OCTOBER

Democratic Party leaders on Wednesday flayed the Donald Trump administration for bringing major changes in the H-1B visa programme just before the presidential polls without public scrutiny.

Reacting to the criticism, ruling Republicans said the move will address abuses in the high-skilled guest worker programme used to displace American workers with low-paid foreign labour.

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The powerful Democrat from New York said



As a rapidly evolving sector, digital banking offers a variety of roles and jobs to aspiring candidates

AMIT GOYAL

Since demonetisation, the spread of digital banking in India has increased on a large scale. Due to lack of cash in the country since the time of demonetisation, people started and shifted to digital banking. And let us tell you that in the case of digital payment in India, Corona virus did that job that could not happen in demonetisation four years ago.

In fact, digital payments increased significantly during the Corona crisis. To prevent the spread of the corona virus, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also issued a notification urging people to use digital banking and online payment facilities as much as possible. Due to which the value of transactions reached its highest-level last month on Unified Payments Interface (UPI), a platform designed by India's largest banks in 2016. Thus, know how a person interested in banking sector can

make his future bright in digital banking field.

What is a digital bank?

Simply put, a digital bank offers the same type of banking services such as a traditional bank except it operates entirely online without any single physical infrastructure, such as a bank branch. So, customers of a digital bank can control their finances entirely from their smart phones and computers.

These banks are seen as the next frontier in terms of innovation in the financial services sector, which is traditionally dominated by large, well-established banks. This includes internet banking, mobile banking, UPI, ATM etc. In digital banking, your bank is always with you and you can avail its services anytime.

Industry analysis

According to a survey, since the corona virus crisis, three-fourth of Indian consumers have started using more digital payments. Almost 78 per cent of people expected to continue digital payments over the next five months. The Reserve Bank of India said last year that it aims to increase digital transactions from about 10 per cent to about 15 per cent by 2021. The Indian Government also aims for one billion digital transactions every day as consumers in the world's fastest growing smart phone market i.e. India can transact at the click of a button. If we talk about the existing banks or traditional banks like IndusInd Bank and Yes Bank, they too have completely stepped into the digital banking market.

Course and qualification

To become a digital banker, candidates who have completed 10+2 from commerce field can make their future in this field by taking a three-year advanced diploma in Banking and Finance Course or graduate students from any field, by taking one-year global PG diploma in Banking and Finance course.

During these courses, subjects such as Score Based Lending, e-KYC, Digital Payments, Collaborate office, Virtual Meetings, API Banking, Crypto Currency, Cyber Frauds, AI in finance are taught to prepare students. Since all the work is related to technology, it is very important to have technical knowledge and skills. Apart from this, communication skills, interpersonal skills, in-depth understanding of sales process, numeric and analytical skills and skills to influence customers are also very important.

Job opportunities

As a rapidly evolving area, digital banking offers a variety of roles

and jobs in banking and finance. Millions of transactions take place online each day, and banks need top-notch digital teams to help them in all matters of their digital product development and management. Due to which many commercial banks as well as many Fintech companies are working in the market, which provides services like online banking, digital payment, mobile banking, UPI, digital wallet etc. By completing these courses, the candidate can find a job in any such company or banks.

Remuneration

The salaries can be very healthy in digital banking work - especially in development and project management roles. The digital banker can earn Rs 25,000 to 30,000 per month in the initial period. At the same time, after the experience in this field, many new opportunities also open up in which you get promotion on the basis of experience as well as a good increase in salary.

The writer is director, TKW's Institute of Banking and Finance

JITENDRA K DAS

Covid-19 is changing the working landscape drastically. Though the situation currently seems grim, it's still not bad. The crisis has exposed emerging areas of opportunity in the tech and management spaces. Executives from leading tech vendors are now going to weigh in more on the job roles and skills that will be needed in a post-pandemic world.

Keeping up with the pace in change, education has undergone a consistent transformation over recent years. But it has evolved a lot more drastically in the last few months of this year alone. This has made it mandatory for educational institutions to re-invent themselves to stay in line with the changing phenomena. They need to enable students to future-proof themselves and become the change-makers of tomorrow.

As the world is going digital, here are seven career choices that are most likely to trend in the post-Covid-19 world:

Cloud computing

Since everybody has been working remotely in the past few months, more companies are transitioning to the cloud and employing secure cloud storage. The operation of many companies has entirely focused on moving as many applications as possible to the cloud. Therefore, this has increased the demand for cloud architects and cloud IT admins.

Data science

The heavy consumption and utilisation of data have led to a spike in extracting, processing, and analysing data into information that can be duly optimised. As a result, the demand for data science professionals has risen exponentially in the last few years. The domain has vastly expanded and organisations are willing to pay three-fold of the average salary to newly-recruited skilled talents.

Artificial intelligence

AI is focused on creating smart machines that imitate human intelligence. There has emerged a growing

BE THE CHANGE-MAKER OF TOMORROW

Here are some of the trending options in management during the Covid crisis

demand to understand how a machine learns, how it receives data information from its environment, and decides its response without any human intervention. Hence, there is an increasing requirement for professionals with skills and specialised knowledge to develop, assess, and implement AI-enabled applications and strategies into business processes.

Risk management

We are living in extraordinary times, replete with turmoil and uncertainty owing to the pandemic. Risk management, thus, plays a vital role amidst such a crisis. This will be one of the most in-demand skills to have in post-Covid workplaces to understand the different circumstances, analyse and forecast the ramifications, and eventually prepare for its impact on the company.

Business analytics

Post pandemic, the majority of businesses will need competent data modelling professionals to make profitable, efficacious, and data-driven business decisions. These professionals will use data sampling techniques to select and analyse different data points to identify patterns and trends. Business analysts contribute to solving complex business problems and optimize different business situations.

Healthcare management

Due to the pandemic, another

new career is opening as healthcare at home. During the pandemic, the Government has screened and kept under home quarantine to all mild cases which are more than 50 per cent. This career opportunity will also fill the shortage of doctors to some extent, wherever the standard processes are in place. A couple of start-ups already started to capture this opportunity.

Re-skilling: the need of the hour

The coronavirus pandemic poses special challenges for skill development. In today's time, promoting education, special education, employment-enhancing vocational skills constitute the need of the hour. There is a dire need to push skilling, re-skilling, and upskilling. In addition, we are also required to meet the dynamic needs of the employers by offering flexibility in the courses being designed, certifications being offered, and how we train our resources. Organisations need to tap into technology to leap-frog the youth of today to render them job-ready.

The pandemic has brought to the fore the need to undertake skilling programmes that would help restart the economy. A renewed focus on the educational curriculum with activities aimed at skill-building will play a central role in creating an ecosystem that leads to a sustainable future.

The writer is director, FORE School of Management, New Delhi



PLUS POINTS

Creating opportunities



Nazrul Tirtha in partnership with British Council announced the launch of a resource centre, which would be housed in the state-of-the-art New Town Library at Nazrul Tirtha, a cultural and educational centre run by the West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO) in Rajarhat, Kolkata.

This partnership supports the memorandum of understanding (MOU) the British Council signed with the Government of West Bengal in 2018, to further educational and cultural cooperation between Britain and Bengal.

The collaboration would allow young learners access to a curated collection of books from the British Council library. Working professionals, college students, children, families and individuals who live and work in and around New Town and Salt Lake will be able to attend various events and activities being planned through the year.

Spreading happiness



In keeping with the present situation, students of South Point High School will carry out the assessment for the M P Birla Puja Utkarsh Samman 2020 virtually this year. The samman will be awarded under one category namely "Puja with a Heart" and the other categories will be kept in abeyance this year. Puja committees have been requested to file in their nominations for this award along with all relevant papers. These papers will be assessed by the student judges online and through virtual meetings using an assessment format developed for this purpose and thereafter the recipient will be identified. The award will be announced on Sashthi.

Worthy agenda



In the run up to COP26 to be hosted by the UK at Glasgow, Scotland in 2021, the British Deputy High Commission Kolkata in partnership with Asian Confluence organised a virtual Young Thinkers' Conference on "Climate action and resilience in east and north-east India" recently.

In the session "Governance and Climate Action", members of parliament, Dr Amar Patnaik from Odisha, Nadimul Haque from West Bengal and Gaurav Gogoi from Assam and former MP Kalikesh Singh Deo from Odisha discussed policies and climate action in the eastern and north-eastern states. The session was moderated by Richard Barlow, head, political and bilateral affairs, British High Commission, New Delhi. A video message by Jadav Payeng, winner of HMTQ's 128th Commonwealth Points of Light Award was also played.

Reviving the economy



One of the largest affected sectors during this pandemic is Logistics industry. According to the industry body Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), due to lockdown, the logistics sector lost at about Rs 50,000 crore.

Recently, a report by Global Consultants states that around 122 million people lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic in India, and 40 per cent of those are from blue-collar jobs.

To solve this problem and to help revive the economy, Gxpress – a logistics company in India took to create job opportunities. It conducted a mega walk-in drive, where jobs were offered to skilled workers who were either jobless or left without a job because of the economic slowdown and businesses shutting down. It launched a platform for assessment and hiring of the available skilled workforce.



THE WORLD'S UNFAIR

Kieran Tierney (*photo, left*) has revealed his frustration at having to self-isolate for 14 days – ruling him out of Scotland's next three fixtures and Arsenal's Premier League trip to Manchester City – after his Scottish team-mate Stuart Armstrong tested positive for Covid-19.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Panenka afflicted: Former Czech footballer Antonin Panenka, best known for his trick penalty kick, is in intensive care in hospital with Covid-19, his former club Bohemians said. "Panenka was taken to the ICU hospital today in a serious condition," said the club.

Pay cuts: Barcelona have begun reducing the pay of players, coaches and non-sporting staff to adapt to the huge losses suffered owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, a club source said on Wednesday. Staff have been notified by the club of the need to reduce costs.

Account vanishes: Manchester City's Twitter account disappeared on Wednesday morning, with the profile of the club inaccessible to its millions of followers. It is not clear what triggered the disappearance but it's understood it was not removed by Twitter.

Debut delayed: Edinson Cavani's Manchester United debut could be delayed due to coronavirus regulations. Cavani, a free deadline-day signing following his exit from Paris St Germain in June, went into self-isolation for a 14-day period when arriving from France.

Spain held: Portugal had to settle for a 0-0 draw at home to Spain in a heavyweight friendly on Wednesday after hammering the crossbar twice and missing a last-gasp open goal. Cristiano Ronaldo sent a shot crashing against the underside of the bar.

Giroud's feat: Olivier Giroud became France's second top scorer when he netted a double to take his international tally to 42 goals as the world champions crushed an injury and Covid-19-ravaged Ukraine 7-1 in a friendly in Stade de France on Wednesday.

3-3 draw: Germany coach Joachim Loew bemoaned his side's inability to hold on to a lead after they had conceded a last-gasp equaliser in a thrilling 3-3 friendly draw against Turkey on Wednesday. Kenan Karaman hit a late leveller against the country of his birth.

Tokyo Games: The International Olympic Committee is working towards the 2021 Tokyo Olympics on the assumption that there will be international spectators, president Thomas Bach said on Wednesday. He met the media in a conference call after a board meeting.

Narrow win: Wolverhampton striker Raul Jimenez converted a penalty to give Mexico a 1-0 victory over the Netherlands in a friendly that marked Frank de Boer's first match as the Dutch coach. Jimenez scored from the spot on the hour mark after a foul on him.

Neymar injured: Brazil striker Neymar left Wednesday's training session early with back pains, which could force him to miss Friday's opening World Cup qualifier against Bolivia. Neymar has started getting treatment but that it was too soon to say whether he'll be fit.

New partnership: The Esports Club, a Bangalore-based esports platform today announced its partnership with Lenovo in the ongoing Valorant tournament, 'LG UltraGear TEC Challenger Series'. Powered by AMD which started on 15th August 2020. The new partnership comes after 2 successful editions of the TEC Challenger Series that saw over 400 teams competing for INR 1.5 Lakhs each month.

Rajasthan Royals require instant solutions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHARJAH, 8 OCTOBER

Stuggling to figure out their best 11, Rajasthan Royals will need to come up with some quick-fix measures to snap their three-match losing streak when they take on a formidable Delhi Capitals in an Indian Premier League match here tomorrow.

The Royals had been off to a flying start, winning both their games at Sharjah, but they struggled to adapt to the bigger grounds of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, slipping to three successive defeats.

Now back at Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Rajasthan will take inspiration from their two big wins here to turn things around against a dominant

Delhi. Led by Shreyas Iyer, Delhi have looked solid in all three departments, winning four of their five matches.

For Rajasthan, time is running out as they still have not been able to find their best XI.

While the return of Ben Stokes gives them hope, the England all-rounder is currently in quarantine and will be available only after 11 October.

RR vs DC: Match begins at 7.30 pm IST.

The sudden loss of form suffered by skipper Steve Smith and Sanju Samson, who did most of the scoring in the team's first two match-



es, is as much a reason for their failure as the lack of runs from the Indian batsmen in the team.

RR rejigged their line-up

against Mumbai Indians by

including young batsman

Yashasvi Jaiswal and paceman

Kartik Tyagi and Ankit Rajput

in the playing XI but it didn't

change their fortune.

While Jaiswal was out for a second-ball duck at the top, Rajput went for 42 in his three overs though young Tyagi showed promise with his one for 36.

The good news for RR is the return to form of opener Jos Buttler (*in photo*), who scored a fine 44-ball 70 in their previous game.

In bowling, Jofra Archer and Tom Curran have been asked to do the heavy lifting. Delhi have been a well-oiled machine, boasting a solid bowling unit well-supported by competent batsmen.

While skipper Iyer has

been in good form, opener

Prithvi Shaw and Rishabh Pant

have done their job well.

Marcus Stoinis has produced

two smashing fifties so far.

Rajput, Shreyas Gopal, Rahul Tewatia, Jaydev Unadkat, Mayank Markande, Mahipal Lomror, Oshane Thomas, Riyam Parag, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Anuj Rawat, Akash Singh, David Miller, Manan Vohra, Shashank Singh, Varun Aaron, Tom Curran, Robin Uthappa, Aniruddha Joshi, Jofra Archer.

Delhi Capitals: Shreyas Iyer (captain), Ravichandran Ashwin, Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw, Shiron Hetmyer, Kagiso Rabada, Ajinkya Rahane, Amit Mishra, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ishant Sharma, Axar Patel, Sandeep Lamichhane, Keemo Paul, Daniel Sams, Mohit Sharma, Anrich Nortje, Alex Carey, Avesh Khan, Tushar Deshpande, Harshal Patel, Marcus Stoinis, Lalit Yadav.

Bhawanipore FC, Mohammedan Sporting win



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, 8 OCTOBER

City-based Bhawanipore FC defeated FC Bengaluru United 2-0 in the opening match of I-League qualifiers played behind closed doors here on Thursday, marking the resumption of sporting activity in the country after a seven-month coronavirus-forced hiatus.

The game seemed to be headed for a goalless draw, with Mohammedan Sporting's Willis Plaza missing a penalty in the second half.

However, Mummun came to the rescue in the dying moments to snatch a dramatic victory and begin his side's campaign with three points.

The first half began with half chances for either side, with Garhwal FC earning a free-kick in a dangerous position in the very first minute.

However, Muhammed Shafeer's delivery was collected by Mohammedan's captain and custodian Priyant Singh.

In the fifth minute, Plaza was played in on goal with a wonderful long pass but his first-time shot from a tight angle went wide of the target.

It was the Kolkata-based side that dominated possession for most parts of the first half, with wingers Himanshu Jangra and Vanlalbia Chhangte looking dangerous down the flanks. Both

entered the penalty area on a number of occasions but could not help their team open the scoring as the Garhwal FC defence was up to the task. The Black Panthers dominated possession throughout the first 45 minutes but were unable to find the breakthrough, with Garhwal creating chances on the counterattack and goalkeeper Sayak Barai looking confident in his handling.

Mohammedan earned a golden chance in the 67th minute to take the lead as Ganesh Ahamed latched on to a slide-rule through-pass by Plaza and was brought down by Sayak Barai, with the referee booking the goalkeeper and pointing to the penalty spot. It was Plaza who stepped up to take the resulting kick but he failed to convert the opportunity as the ball hit the upright and went out of play.

Five minutes later, Plaza was to be denied by the woodwork yet again -- this time the crossbar. Faiaz played in a chipped ball from the left side of the penalty box and the Trinidadian saw his headed attempt come back off the bar.

The Ghanian kept Bengaluru skipper Rana Gharami at bay and then thumped a powerful volley right across the face of goal, leaving the keeper with no chance as the ball bounced in off the far post.

Earlier in the day, Bhawanipore head coach Shankar Lal Chakraborty showed his tactical acumen, starting with a three-man defence which withstood a bright start by FC Bengaluru United. Richard Hood's team put its opponents under pressure with good movement around the penalty box but were unable to find that final touch.

The first clear opportunity fell to FC Bengaluru United in the 21st minute when Bhawanipore custodian Shilton Paul came off his line while trying to punch the ball for a corner but could not connect cleanly. However, Bengaluru failed to capitalise as Azharuddin Mallick was only able to head over the bar.

Paul did not let that minor mishap trouble him though as he commanded his box impressively, keeping the Bengaluru forwards at bay with a string of impressive collections.

FC Bengaluru continued to press for the opener but much against the run of play, Bhawanipore broke the deadlock in the final minute of the first-half added time.

Ghanian forward Philip Adjah was sent through on goal and his shot was only parried onto the feet of an onrushing Pankaj Moula, who was at hand to tap in the rebound.

As expected, FC Bengaluru United came out all guns blazing in the second half but were met by a well-drilled Bhawanipore defence.

With Bengaluru committing men forward, Bhawanipore doubled their lead in the 60th minute with a lightning-quick counter-attack. Altaf Hashim picked up the ball just outside his penalty box and played a long ball in search of Adjah.

The Ghanian kept Bengaluru skipper Rana Gharami at bay and then thumped a powerful volley right across the face of goal, leaving the keeper with no chance as the ball bounced in off the far post.

SRH score 201/6 despite KXIP's brilliant comeback



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, 8 OCTOBER

Kings XI Punjab made a brilliant comeback in the final five overs by taking six wickets but a 160-run opening stand between Jonny Bairstow (*in photo*) and David Warner still took Sunrisers Hyderabad to an imposing 201 for six in an IPL match here on Thursday.

Bairstow smashed 97 off just 55 balls -- during which he hit seven fours and six sixes -- while Warner made 52 off 40 balls as KXIP bowlers did not have a clue how to get a breakthrough till the 15th over.

At that stage, SRH were 160 for no loss.

Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (3/29) then removed both Bairstow and Warner in the space of three balls in the 16th over before Arshdeep Singh (2/33) dismissed Manish Pandey for 1 in the next over to trigger a brilliant turn-

around.

For a team which has been leaking a lot of runs in the death overs, it was a welcome change for KXIP to concede just 41 runs in the last five overs and take six wickets in the process. But the flying start provided by Bairstow and Warner ensured SRH cross the 200-run mark.

Kane Williamson remained not out on 20 off 10 balls.

Bairstow was dropped on 19 in the fifth over by KXIP skipper KL Rahul off the bowling of Mohammed Shami and he made them pay for the mistake.

He was clearly the domi-

nant partner of the opening duo, reaching his fifty in 28 balls in the 10th over at the end of which SRH were 100 for no loss. This was his third half-century of the season in his sixth match.

Warner reached his third fifty of the tournament in the 14th over but got out in the first ball of the 16th over when he miscued a slog sweep to Glenn Maxwell at long-on off Bishnoi.

Three balls later, Bairstow departed after Rahul opted to review the field umpire's decision and the third umpire ruled the England wicket-keeper batsman out LBW.

SCOREBOARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad Innings
Warner c Maxwell b Bishnoi 52
Bairstow lbw b Bishnoi 97
Abdul Samad c Arshdeep Singh b Bishnoi 8
Manish Pandey c and b Arshdeep Singh 1
Williamson not out 20
Priyam Garg c Pooran b Arshdeep Singh 0
Abhishek Sharma c Maxwell b Shami 12

Rashid Khan not out 0
Extras: 11 (1 b, 1 w, 9 nb 1)
Total: 201/6 (20 Overs)
Bowling
Cottrell 3-0-33-0, Mujeeb 4-0-39-0,
Shami 4-0-40-1, Maxwell 2-0-26-0,
Bishnoi 3-0-29-3, Arshdeep Singh 4-0-33-2

The little things that leave Yadav out of the reckoning

AGENCIES
ABU DHABI, 8 OCTOBER



Kolkatta Knight Riders' Kyle Mills has justified benching star Indian spinner Kuldeep Yadav (*in photo*) for the past couple of Indian Premier League matches, citing the small size of the grounds here and the 'make-up' of the side.

Defending a modest 168, KKR claimed a 10-run win over Chennai Super Kings. On a slow pitch, it was felt that the left-arm wrist-spinner could have made some impact.

Mills, however, defended him being kept out as they returned to winning ways to jump to the third spot in the points table.

"Kuldeep is one of the best spinners in the world. But just with the make-up of the group at the moment and the size of grounds, it's the reason we went for this XI today and Kuldeep was left out," the former New Zealand paceman said in the post-match Press conference.

Yadav, who had a forgettable last season, bowled just nine overs in three games before

being dropped against Delhi Capitals and Chennai Super Kings.

"I guess competition is good, isn't it? We've got a very big squad for certain spots within the group and Kuldeep has missed out on the last two games, but he has a presence within the group, he is still useful to the team."

"We have a team culture, and a team perspective within the group and this was asked of the players, and it's not easy for any cricketer to miss out on the starting XI. But Kuldeep is training the house down, he wants to get back into the starting XI and so competition within the group is certainly aiding our performance."

"As they say, a change is as good as a holiday... We have used him as a pinch-hitter, this hasn't quite worked for him at the top," Mills said, adding:

"So taking him down the order gave Tripathi an opportunity and he took that with both hands. Narine came in and played a little cameo, to be fair, and gave us a little bit of momentum at that time." KKR will face Kings XI Punjab on Saturday.

Djokovic deals with arm issue in Paris; gets Tsitsipas in SF

AGENCIES
PARIS, 8 OCTOBER

