



LALU GETS BAIL  
IN CHAIBASA  
TREASURY CASE

P5



'TARGET CHINA  
BEYOND THE  
BORDER'

P7



U.S. GOVERNOR  
LINKS TRUMP TO  
KIDNAP PLOT

P10



MESSI PIVOTAL  
FIGURE IN  
EASY GAME

P12

WEATHER

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

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 89% Min: 42%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 35.2°C (2) Min: 19.2°C (-2)

SUN RISES

06:20 hrs 17:57 hrs

MOON RISES

00:05 hrs 13:33 hrs

THUMBNAILS



The mortal remains of Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan on the way to his native place in Bihar, after his demise on Thursday evening. At Janpath in New Delhi on Friday.

SUBRATA DUTTA (P5)

**Goyal given additional charge:** Railway Minister Piyush Goyal was on Friday given additional charge of the Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution ministry, a portfolio held by the late Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan. A Rashtrapati Bhawan communiqué on Friday said President Ram Nath Kovind, on the advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, directed that Goyal be assigned the ministry in addition to his existing portfolios.

**HAL staff held for passing secrets to Pakistan:** A Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) employee has been arrested for supplying sensitive details to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency, Maharashtra police said. Police said Deepak Shirsat (41), an assistant supervisor at HAL, was "honey trapped" by a Pakistani national posing as a woman on social media. The man was supplying information about Indian fighter aircraft and their sensitive details, along with information related to HAL's unit at Ojhar near Nashik.

## HDIL promoters booked for loan fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

The CBI has booked HDIL promoters Rakesh Wadhawan and Sarang Wadhawan, along with former PMC Bank chairman Waryam Singh and other directors of the firm, in an alleged Rs 200-crore loan fraud in Yes Bank involving Mack Star company, officials said Friday.

It is alleged that loans taken for Mack Star were transferred to settle HDIL liabilities to Yes Bank without intimation to its majority stakeholder and investor Ocean Deity Investment Holdings Ltd (ODIL) in a conspiracy orchestrated by the HDIL promoters, directors and auditors.

Sources in the agency said

the role of former Yes Bank promoter Rana Kapoor and other senior executives of the bank, not named as accused in the FIR, is likely to come under scanner in the case.

After registering the case, the CBI on Friday searched the residences of Rakesh Wadhawan and his son Sarang and former PMC Bank chairman Singh in Mumbai, they said.

The agency also carried out searches at nine other premises in Mumbai, including two offices of HDIL, auditor company Ashok Jayesh and residences of other HDIL Directors Lakhminder Dayal Singh, Amanpreet Singh and Senior Vice President Venkatawaran N Iyer, all named accused in the FIR, they said.

## Bhima Koregaon: NIA files charge-sheet against eight; Fr Stan Swamy arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 9 OCTOBER

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a charge-sheet against eight people, including activists Gautam Navlakha and 82-year-old Father Stan Swamy, for their alleged involvement in inciting a mob to violence in Bhima Koregaon near Pune on January 1, 2018, officials said.

Swamy, who said he has never been to Bhima Koregaon, was arrested from his home in Ranchi on Thursday evening and brought to Mumbai where he was produced before a court on Friday and remanded to judicial custody till October 23. He is possibly the oldest person to be charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

Act (UAPA), officials said.

NIA officials said investigations established Swamy was actively involved in the activities of the CPI (Maoist).

Barring one person - Milind Teltumbde, who is absconding - all other named in the charge-sheet for allegedly conspiring against the government are in judicial custody.

NIA spokesperson and De-

puty Inspector General of Police in the agency, Sonia Narang, said the charge-sheet was submitted before a designated court here.

Besides Navlakha and Swamy, the others named in the charge-sheet are Delhi University associate professor Hany Babu, Goa Institute of Management professor Anand Teltumbde, and Jyoti Jagtap, who

were arrested during the course of the investigation into the violence on January 1, 2018 in which one person was killed and several injured after clashes at the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Koregaon near Pune.

Navlakha and Teltumbde had surrendered before the NIA in April this year.

The NIA charge-sheet against the eight does not mention human rights activist Sudha Bharadwaj, who has been in jail since 2018. She was arrested by Pune Police in the case along with Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira in August 2018.

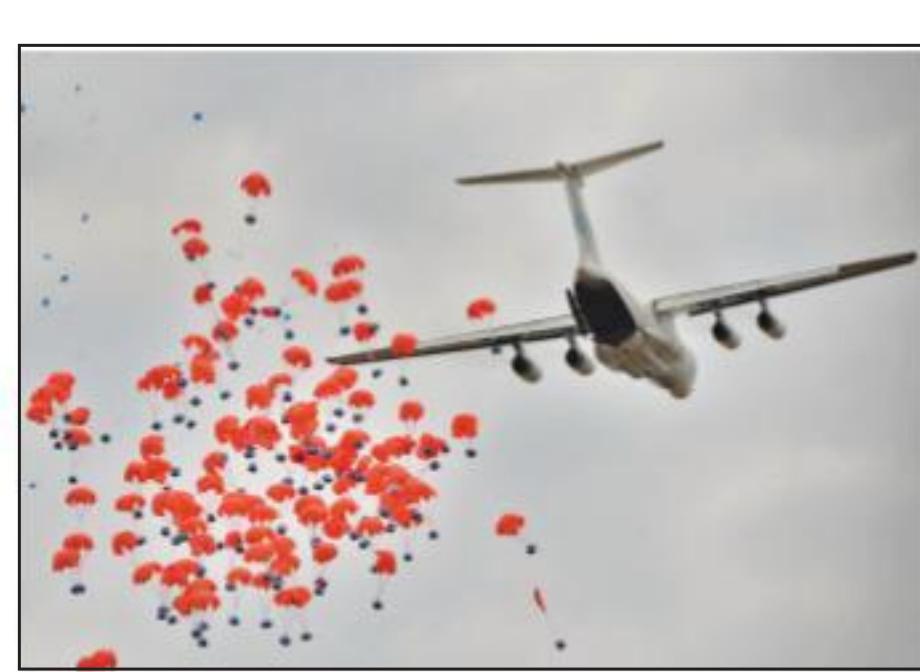
## WFP wins Nobel Peace Prize as world hunger surges

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ROME, 9 OCTOBER

The United Nations' World Food Programme won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for its efforts to fight hunger in regions of conflict and hardship around the globe.

From air-dropping food in South Sudan to creating an emergency delivery service to keep aid flowing despite coronavirus travel restrictions, the Rome-based organisation has long specialised in getting assistance to some of the world's most dangerous and precarious places. It provided assistance to almost 100 million people in 88 countries last year.

"With this year's award, the (committee) wishes to turn the eyes of the world to the millions of people who suf-



In this file photo taken on February 06, 2020, a World Food Programme (WFP) aircraft makes a drop of food aid near a village in Ayod county, South Sudan.

food security an instrument of peace. The head of the organisation said his entire team deserved the award.

"I know I'm not deserving of an award like this, but all the men and women around the world in the World Food Programme and our partners who put their lives on the line every day," David Beasley told The Associated Press by phone from Niger. Beasley said he found out about the award from a WFP media officer who had just been informed by the AP.

The organisation has long been headed by an American, and US President Donald Trump nominated the former Republican governor of South Carolina for the post in 2017. The Nobel Committee said that the problem of hunger has again become more acute in recent years, not least because

of the coronavirus pandemic that has added to the hardship already faced by millions of people around the world.

In 2019, 135 million people suffered from acute hunger, the highest number in many years, it said. Most of the increase was caused by war and armed conflict. The coronavirus pandemic has contributed to a strong upsurge in the number of victims of hunger in the world. In total, WFP estimates that 690 million people suffer some form of hunger in the world today. The Nobel Committee called on governments to ensure that WFP and other aid organisations receive the financial support necessary to feed millions in countries such as Yemen, Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan and Burkina Faso.

A logistics juggernaut, WFP this year created a global em-

ergency delivery service for humanitarian aid. Officials said the unprecedented effort involved nearly 130 countries and was key in ensuring that aid for the pandemic kept flowing in addition to assistance for other crises, like the drugs and vaccines needed to combat other diseases.

There was no shortage of causes or candidates on this year's list, with 211 individuals and 107 organisations nominated ahead of the 1 February deadline. The award comes with a gold medal and a 10-million krona (\$1.1 million) cash prize that is dwarfed by the funding that WFP requires for its work. So far in 2020, the organisation has received almost \$6.4 billion in cash or goods, with more than a third, over \$2.7 billion, coming from the United States.

## Coronavirus did not start in Wuhan, it was only reported there first: China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BEIJING, 9 OCTOBER

China on Friday claimed that the coronavirus broke out in various parts of the world last year but it was the only one to have reported and acted first, refuting the widely-held view that the deadly contagion originated in Wuhan before turning out to be a pandemic.

China, besides denying US allegations that Covid-19 emerged from a bio-lab in Wuhan, also rejected that it emanated from a wet market in the central Chinese city from bats or pangolins before infecting humans.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing that "the coronavirus is a new kind of virus as more and more facts emerge as reports reveal, we all know that the epidemic broke out in various places in the world at the end of last year, while China was the first to report the outbreak, identified the pathogen and shared the genome sequence with the world."

Hua's comments came in response to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's allegations of a cover-up by the ruling Communist Party of China. The statement also came as the World Health Organisation (WHO) is gearing up to probe the origin of the coronavirus.

According to Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, the contagion has infected over 36 million people and killed more than 1 million across the world.

We all know that the epidemic broke out in various places in the world at the end of last year, while China was the first to report the outbreak, identified the pathogen and shared the genome sequence with the world

HUA CHUNYING  
CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY  
SPOKESPERSON

The US is the worst affected country with over 7.6 million cases and more than 21,200 deaths. China has reported 90,736 cases and 4,739 deaths due to Covid-19.

The WHO has given to Beijing a list of global experts to be sent to China to probe the origin of the coronavirus, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Thursday. The WHO is awaiting its approval.

In August, a two-member team from the WHO, which visited China, completed the groundwork for the probe into the animal source and reservoirs of the Covid-19 which first emerged in Wuhan in December last year.

Hua, while refuting Pompeo's charge of a cover-up, said that Chinese scientists first identified the person-to-person transmission due to coronavirus on January 19. After thorough research and investigation, China closed Wuhan city to the outside world and placed rigorous measures in isolating Wuhan city and Hubei province, she said.



*Allocation of beds should take place within half an hour of making the phone call. Medical kits should be available to those who are home isolated*

**Y S JAGAN MOHAN REDDY**  
ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

# Kejri Cabinet okays tree transplantation policy

It is said to be 'first-of-its-kind' in the country to save old trees from being felled for any devp project; Delhi Cabinet also decides to set up a 'world-class' smog tower in Connaught Place to curb air pollution

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

**D**elhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced the launch of a tree transplantation policy as part

**Addressing an online press conference, Kejriwal pointed out that there are old, big shady trees across Delhi that are like blessings, but sometimes, due to various development works, trees have to be removed.**

of his government's anti-pollution campaign, "Yuddh Pradushan Ke Viruddh".

This was said to be the first such policy to have been finalised anywhere in the country to save old grown-up trees besides going in for a fresh tree plantation drive. Kejriwal made the announcement after this policy was approved by the Delhi Cabinet headed by him.

Addressing an online press conference, Kejriwal pointed



out that there are old, big shady trees across Delhi that are like blessings, but sometimes, due to various development works, trees have to be removed.

Under this new policy, the CM said, it will be mandatory that old trees ~ when they have to be necessarily removed

in the process of implementation of any development project ~ would be uprooted carefully with the help of advanced technology to be transplanted at some other place. Besides this, the department or the agency concerned will have to ensure the plantation of 10 trees in place of

one old tree to be removed as has been the practice earlier.

The CM also made it clear that the payment for the task would be done only after a report from a dedicated transplantation cell to be set up for the purpose. The total payment would be cleared only when the panel's report would have

it that over 80 per cent of the transplanted old trees had survived. The survival of less than 80 per cent of the uprooted trees would lead to a deduction in the payment to be made accordingly.

Kejriwal said a panel of established agencies with a good track record for the job

of tree transplantation would be constituted for the final selection of these agencies.

The government will also reportedly form local committees, which will include citizens, for checking, monitoring and certification of the tree transplantation exercise.

The Kejriwal Cabinet also cleared a proposal to set up a world-class smog tower at Connaught Place to tackle air pollution. Another such smog tower was being set up by the central government at Anand Vihar in the city, Kejriwal said.

The government has sanctioned Rs 20 crore for this smog tower which will come up in 10 months, the CM reportedly said, claiming that it will be the first of its kind in the world.

The technology of this tower will be different from the one in China. It will suck polluted air from the top and release clean air from the bottom part of the tower. In China, the tower releases clean air from the top," he said.

The CM also said that the smog tower will be installed on a pilot project basis and that more such towers will be set up in Delhi if it proves to be successful.

**N-E Delhi riots: Court says witnesses' silence casts doubt, gives bail to man**

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

A Delhi court has granted bail to an accused in a case related to north east Delhi riots in February, saying silence of the witnesses about the incident for two weeks casts "serious doubt" on their credibility.

The court noted that witnesses recorded their statements about incident with the police two weeks later.

It further said though two police constables were eyewitnesses and had identified the accused resorting to rioting in the case, they did not make any complaint on the date of the incident or reported it to their seniors.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav granted bail to Irshad Ahmed on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 20,000 with one surety of like amount in the case wherein a shop was looted and vandalised by the riotous mob on February 25 in Dayalpur area due to which complainant Zeeshan incurred a loss of about Rs 20 lakh.

The court said in its order passed on September 8, that Ahmed has also not been named in the FIR and there were no specific allegations against him in the case.

"In the present matter, as per the statements of Constable Vikrant and Constable Pawan (both are eye witnesses and were present at the

scene of crime on the date of incident), they had identified the applicant (Ahmed) and other co-accused persons resorting to rioting. However, they neither made any complaint on the date of incident, that is February 25, 2020 nor reported about the same to senior police officers.

"Till the recording of their statements under section 161 (examination by police) CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) by the IO (investigating officer) they remained completely silent about the incident and blew the lids only on March 6, 2020 when their statements were recorded by the IO. It casts a serious doubt on the credibility of witnesses," it said in its order.

It further noted that Ahmed has not been captured in any CCTV footage/viral video of the incident.

"The investigation in the matter is complete and a charge sheet has already been filed. The trial in the matter is likely to take a long time. The applicant (Ahmed) cannot be made to incarcerate in jail for infinity merely on account of the fact that other persons who were part of the riotous mob have to be identified and arrested in the matter," the court said.

It directed him to not tamper with evidence, maintain peace and harmony in his locality and install "Aarogya Setu" app in his mobile phone.

## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

### PUBLIC NOTICE

### LOST & FOUND

IT IS notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate-cum-Marksheet of 10th of year 2017, Roll No. 6107977 issued by CBSE has been actually damaged. Name:- Neeraj Keshari Nayak, near Omkarnath Temple, Kopanda, Jaipur Road, Jaipur-755019. Mob.: 8327778972.

### EDUCATIONAL

### UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

### P.O.: NBNU Darjeeling-734013 B.Sc. (HONOURS)

### ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

### Online applications are invited for admission to the first Semester of 3 years B.Sc. (Honours) in Anthropology Course for the Session 2020-21 from 13.10.2020 to 14.10.2020 (please visit our website: https://www.nbnu.ac.in for details of online Admission procedure).

### Registrar University of North Bengal

### Advt. No.: 332/R-2020 Date: 10.10.2020

### CHANGE OF NAME

### I, URMI Purkayastha, by the affidavit of Srempore Executive Magistrate on 13.07.16 declare that Urmi Purkayastha, Urmi Saha, Urmi Saha Purkayastha & Urmi Purkayastha Saha, W/o. Somnath Saha is the same & one identical person.

### I, KANCHNA Kumari, spouse of JC-659549W Sub/Clerk, Hari Nibasam, resident of Vill: Satlakha, P.O.: Rahika, Dist.: Madhubani, State: Bihar, PIN-847238, have changed my name from Kanchna Kumari to Kanchana Sharma, vide affidavit dated 05 Oct., 20 before the Notary Public at Siliguri.

## The Statesman

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Ph: 0353-2524077

### SHIMLA

Cabin No. 305, P. C. Chambers

Near Jodha Niwas

The Mall Shimla-171001, H.P.

AIR-SURCHARGE: Kathmandu - Rs. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1

All other stations in India - Re. 1

## Will take action against construction sites violating dust control rules: Rai

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER



Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai inspecting a construction site at Pragati Maidan as part of the government's anti-dust pollution drive. In the Capital on Friday.

DU may release 1st cut-off list today

DU received over 3.54 lakh applications this year, the highest till now, and officials have said that the cut-offs are likely to be higher than the last year

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

The Delhi University is likely to release its first cut-off list on Saturday for admission to nearly 70,000 seats up for grabs.

Varsity officials warned students against visiting colleges for the admission process, saying no one will be allowed entry. The admission process this year will be entirely online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Students will be able to apply for admission on October 12 from 10 am onwards but the entire process will be online. They should not visit colleges or departments since they won't be allowed entry," an official at the university said.

DU received over 3.54 lakh applications this year, the highest till now, and officials have said that the cut-offs are likely to be higher than the last year as more students have scored over 90 per cent in CBSE Class 12 examinations and the majority of the applicants are from the Board.

Last year, Hindu College had pegged the highest score of 99 per cent for Political Science Honours. Lady Shri Ram (LSR) College came a close second with a cut-off of 98.75 per cent for BA programme and Psychology Honours.

At 98.3 per cent, Hindu College also had the highest cut-off for Physics Honours. College principals said they are in the process of finalising cut-offs.

Last month, St Stephen's College released its first cut-off list for undergraduate courses, with the highest cut-off being announced at 99.25 per cent for BA (Hons) Economics.

Since classrooms will be able to accommodate a select number of students due to social distancing norms, the cut-offs will have to be higher, the principal said.

According to a principal who requested anonymity, DU has asked all the principals to finalise and upload cut-offs by 1 pm on Saturday.

The new session is scheduled to commence on November 18.

## Delhi's air pollution level dips

PTI

NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

"moderate" category by Saturday.

A gradual increase was observed in farm fires around Punjab, Haryana, and neighbouring border regions, it said.

The boundary layer wind direction and speed are favorable for the transport of pollutants towards Delhi but a shift in the wind direction is predicted which will keep air quality in the "moderate" category, SAFAR said.

On Friday morning, Delhi's minimum temperature settled at 19.2 degrees Celsius. The maximum wind speed was 15 kilometers per hour and the direction was northwesterly.

Low temperatures and stagnant winds help in accumulation of pollutants near the ground, affecting air quality.

High levels of air pollution in Delhi is a year-round problem, which can be attributed to unfavorable meteorological conditions, farm fires in neighbouring

regions and local sources of pollution.

According to an analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, a Delhi-based think tank, transportation contributes the most - 18 to 39 percent -- to Delhi's air pollution.

Road dust is the second largest source of air pollution in the city (18 to 38 percent), followed by industries (2 to 29 percent), thermal power plants (3 to 11 percent) and construction (8 percent).

The Delhi government on Monday launched a massive anti-air pollution campaign.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said he himself will review the situation daily.

A "green" war room was also inaugurated by Environment Minister Gopal Rai at the Delhi Secretariat to monitor the steps being taken to deal with high levels of air pollution in winters.

The government will also start the spraying of 'Pusa

'bio-decomposer' solution in non-Basmati rice fields in the national capital, starting October 11.

The solution, experts say, can turn stubble into manure in





Rahul Gandhi created a facade of being a supporter of farmers' rights but was exposed, as he conducted the protest sitting on a sofa atop a tractor.

MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUDHARI

ACCUSING CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI OF MAKING A MOCKERY OF A PROTEST FOR FARMERS' RIGHTS



## Bengal staring at tsunami of Covid-19 infections?

SUBHENDU MAITI  
KOLKATA, 9 OCTOBER

Bengal stares at the prospect of a 'tsunami of Covid-19 infections' after the Durga puja festival leading coronavirus-affected patients with moderate and severe symptoms to die at homes if proper precautionary measures are not taken immediately.

These fears were expressed by none other than Dr Sukumar Mukherjee, veteran general medicine expert and a prominent member of the Global Advisory Board (GAB) formed by Mamata Banerjee government, to guide the latter on how to fight the pandemic ravaging Bengal since the end of March.

There has been a regular surge in the number of Covid-19 affected cases and deaths since last week raising eyebrows of the medical community and state administration led by the chief minister Miss Mamata Banerjee hardly two weeks ahead of Durga puja in the state.

According to the daily bulletin released by the state health department on Thursday, Bengal has recorded the highest spike in the number of 3556 Covid-affected patients in a single day since the end of March.

While speaking to The Statesman Dr Mukherjee said today, "We are awaiting a 'tsunami' of Covid-19 infections in our state immediately after the Durga Puja and it will be very difficult to manage the situation."

The situation may lead patients with moderate and severe symptoms to die at their homes if they don't get hospital care.

"Political rallies, pre-Puja shopping and irresponsible crowd without following any social distancing are aggravating the 'tsunami of infections' here in the state."

All of us have seen what is happening in Kerala, a state with the highest literacy rate in the country.

It had garnered worldwide appreciation after commendable prevention and control of the pandemic. But the pandemic is getting worse in Kerala after the Onam festival there," the veteran general

**According to the daily bulletin released by the state health department on Thursday, Bengal has recorded the highest spike in the number of 3556 Covid-affected patients in a single day since the end of March.**

medicine specialist said.

"Serious Covid patients are waiting to get a berth in the critical care unit (CCU) in a private hospital for two to three days nowadays. Just try to understand the situation after the Puja when the situation will worsen."

We on behalf of the GAB have briefed the chief minister everything urging her to arrange more ICU facilities.

We need at least 2000 ICU beds against the existing 1200 only in both government and private healthcare facilities," according to Dr Mukherjee.

"The pandemic is also ravaging other districts apart from Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, South and North 24 Parganas. Massive awareness campaign on using masks, hand sanitization and social distancing during and after the festival should be launched to fight the disease," he added.

Different doctors' bodies like Association of Health Service Doctors (AHSD), West Bengal Doctors' Forum etc have already requested the chief minister urging her to take strong precautionary measures during the festivals to prevent the spread of the killer virus otherwise the healthcare system will collapse in the state.

"The Covid situation in our state is very alarming. Doctors and other medical staff like us who are getting exposed to coronavirus patients since March are also feeling fatigued.

I don't know how we will be able to attend patients," said Dr Rahul Jain, a critical care expert, who attends to around 40 to 45 Covid patients daily at Belle Vue Clinic.

Around 50 doctors have succumbed to Covid infections so far in the state.

## TENDER

### EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer-(E)-II SSZ  
1Ind Floor, Technical Laboratory  
Disaster Management Centre, Ghazipur, Delhi-99

NIT No.16/EEE-II/SHAHS/-2020-21/370 Dated: 09-10-2020

#### PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

East Delhi Municipal Corporation

The Executive Engineer EE (Elect.)-II Shd. (S) Zone on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites online tender for the following work:-  
**Tender No: 319269, Name of work:** 1. Provision of Smart Class in MC Primary School, Bhikam Singh Colony, Anandvihar, Ghazipur Village, East Laxmi Market, Dilshad Garden, Circular Road Jhilmil road, Vishwakarma Nagar in AC-59 and AC-62 under Shahdara South Zone **Tender amount:** Rs. 97400/- **Time of Completion:** 6 Months.

**Tender No: 319270, Name of work:** P/o of fire fighting arrangement in community hall tejab mill chowkshahda in ward no. 31E under shahdara south zone: Rs. 4769796/- **Earnest Money:** Rs. 95,400/- **Time of Completion:** 6 Months or in phase with civil work

The last date of re-encryption of online bid for item No. 1 and 2 will be 26.10.2020 up to 2:00 PM. Other details/ Information can be seen on website [www.mcdtenders.com](http://www.mcdtenders.com)

Sd/-  
R.O. No. 55/DPI/EDMC/2020-21  
Executive Engineer (E)-II Shd. (S)

EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

### HIMACHAL PRADESH e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer Seraj Division HP PWD Janjehli Dist. Mandi on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender or Contractor	Class C&D
1.	C/o Chowkidar quarter for Govt. Degree Collage Lambathach in Tehsil Thunag Dist. Distt Mandi (SH:- C/o Building portion i/c WS & SI)	10,22,612/-	21,500/-	500/-	Class C&D
2.	C/o Additional accommodation Govt. Senior Secondary Sechool Bara Distt. Mandi(SH:- C/o Laboratory , art and craft room i/c stair case)	15,64,2465/-	31,500/-	1500/-	Class C&D
3.	Balance work M/T on Baga said to Thunag road via Raindhra road Km 0/000 to 9/500 (SH:- P/L M/T, R/Wall, V-shape drain)	90,58,587/-	1,21,500/-	2000/-	Class C&D

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hpentrants.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website <https://hpentrants.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 Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	17.10.2020 1100 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	17.10.2020 1100 HRS up to 30.10.2020 09:00 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	17.10.2020 1100 HRS up to 30.10.2020 09:00 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD Cost of Tender Document and original technical document	30.10.2020, 1030 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	30.10.2020 1100HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:  
i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".  
ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in/o Executive Engineer Seraj Division HP.PWD Janjehli Dist. Mandi as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 30.10.2020 at 11:00 HRS in the office Executive Engineer Seraj Division HP.PWD Janjehli Dist. Mandi H.P by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenders are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. The Bidder are advised to quote rates inclusive of GST as applicable. GST shall not be paid extra

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

3619/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

## Governor slams Bengal law and order situation

MANAS R BANNERJEE  
SILIGURI, 9 OCTOBER

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has expressed unhappiness over the Trinamul Congress-led state government for allegedly not following protocol after no state government official turned up when he met family members of Indian Army man Bipul Roy, who made the supreme sacrifice at Galwan Valley in Ladakh, in his village in Birbhum district.

Mr Dhankhar and his wife, Sudesh Dhankhar, were accompanied by Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan, the Commander of the Eastern Command of the Indian Army and his wife Anupama Chauhan, to Roy's house where they paid homage to the martyr, offered condolences and expressed heartfelt gratitude for his sacrifice in the line of duty.

The Governor, on behalf of Raj Bhawan, handed over financial assistance of Rs 5.5 lakh each to Roy's widow and his mother.

"The Indian Army prides itself on being a close knit family bound by camaraderie and considers it as its bounden duty to look after its personnel and their families," the Army later said in a release.

On his return journey, Mr Dhankhar interacted with media persons in Siliguri.

"It is unexpected. There



concerned about governance and rule of law," the Governor said, adding, "A rape incident is happening every hour in Bengal."

"All opposition parties want free and fair polls in Bengal without violence," he said, when he was asked to comment on whether President's rule is needed to conduct violence-free polls.

He also hinted at a plan to conduct polls "systematically" in Bengal "so that the image of the state is not maligned in the international arena."

Expressing shock over the absence of the District Magistrate and the Police Chief, Mr Dhankhar did not hesitate to sat that they had been working there politically and violating protocols. He cited examples of how he had sought few clarifications from Nabanna.

"I invoked Article 266 and asked the CM; nobody listened. I did not get a single reply," he said.

Mr Dhankhar also expressed doubts on the 'freedom of Press' in West Bengal, categorically differentiating the positive role of journalists, and raised questions on such freedom.

He also pointed out how a Hindi daily interviewed him and later did not publish his interview. On the Hill affairs after the Union Home ministry called a tripartite meeting in Delhi on 7 October, where the state did not take part, Mr Dhankhar said: "Bharat badal raha hai. India is changing under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. When Article 370 has been abrogated and Ram Temple issues have been sorted out, all issues will be resolved gradually under the leadership of PM Modi."

The Governor will be visiting Darjeeling soon, it is learnt.

Mr Dhankhar also said that a portrait of Prince Chila Roy, the younger brother of King Naranarayan of the Koch Dynasty, will be unveiled at Raj Bhawan soon after the portraits of Syama Prasad Mukherjee and Atal Bihari Vajpayee were unveiled after he was appointed the Governor.

## Priest dies after being attacked by land grabbers

Rajasthan CM condemns the act, main accused has been arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR, 9 OCTOBER

A priest died after being set on fire allegedly by five people who wanted to encroach on temple land in Rajasthan's Karauli district, police said on Friday.

The chief minister termed the incident extremely unfortunate and condemnable, and said the guilty would not be spared.

"The Rajasthan government is with the grieving family. The main accused in the incident has been arrested, while the opposition BJP attacked the government saying the law and order has deteriorated and people are under fear in the state.

The incident occurred on Wednesday in Buksa village where five accused caught the priest Babu Lal Vaishnav near an agriculture farm and set him on fire after pouring petrol on him.

He was admitted in a crucial condition to SMS hospital in Jaipur where he died on Thursday night.

"The main accused, Kailash Meena, has been arrested, while another accused was rounded up," Superintendent of Police, Karauli, Mridul Kachhwaha said.

The SP said a case of attempt to murder was registered at Sapotra police station and it was converted into a murder case after the death of the priest.

The accused wanted to encroach upon the land of the temple, the police said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Kaila Devi, Mahaveer Prasad, said that the body was handed over to family members.

The BJP leaders in the state charged that the law and order situation has worsened in the state under Congress rule.

**The main accused, Kailash Meena wanted to encroach upon the temple land**

"There is no fear of law among criminals who are roaming freely under Congress rule. People are living in fear while criminals have no fear. This is the situation when the chief minister himself is holding the home portfolio," BJP state president Satish Poonia told reporters.

Poonia also formed a three-member committee which will visit Sapotra.

The fact-finding committee comprises Jaipur MP Ramcharan Bohra, party's national secretary and former MLA Alka Gurjar and former state president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Jitendra Meena.

Condemning the incident, former chief minister and AIADMK party member S Swaminathan had approached the Madras High Court on Monday alleging that his daughter had been abducted by the Dalit MLA and was forced to marry him. He further stated in his petition that he was threatened by the MLA's family when he questioned and filed the petition asking for his daughter to be produced before the court.

The court ruled that the 19-year-old woman is an adult who has willingly chosen to marry the 35-year-old legislator and that the case of abduction filed by her father does not hold.

The court on Thursday directed the respective police to produce Soundarya, the wife of Prabhu after the girl's father moved petition.

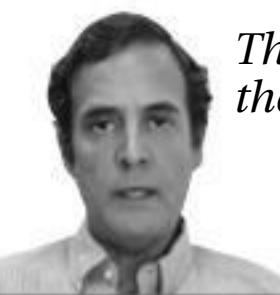
A temple priest and AIADMK party member S Swaminathan had approached the Madras High Court on Monday alleging that his daughter had been abducted by the Dalit MLA and was forced to marry him. He further stated in his petition that he was threatened by the MLA's family when he questioned and filed the petition asking for his daughter to be produced before the court.

The two-member bench of Justices MM Sundresh and D Krishnakumar issued the instructions to the public prosecutor based on the plea.

Soundarya came to court with her husband and told the bench that she is an adult and nobody compelled her to get married.

## 'High profile suicides give disturbing cues to the predisposed'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 9 OCTOBER</



The real danger to India isn't that our PM doesn't understand. It's the fact that nobody around him has the guts to tell him.

CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

TAKING A DIG AT PM NARENDRA MODI ON HIS WIND TURBINES SUGGESTION

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2020

05



Resident doctors and nursing staff of the government-run Hindu Rao Hospital hold placards during a demonstration demanding for their salaries to be paid on time, in New Delhi on Friday.

PTI

**SC on CLAT:** The Supreme Court on Friday refused to either cancel the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT)-2020 or stay the court-selling process and asked the five candidates, who were seeking quashing of the exam alleging technical glitches, to give their grievances within two days to the redressal committee.

PTI

**Gold smuggling case:** Kerala chief minister's former principal secretary M Sivasankar on Friday appeared before the Customs, investigating the Kerala gold smuggling case for interrogation. The interrogation which started at 11 a.m. on Friday, lasted till around 10 in the night. SNS

# Ram Vilas Paswan to be accorded state funeral

Paswan's mortal remains to be flown to Patna for his funeral, Ravi Shankar Prasad to represent Central govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

**U**nion Minister Ram Vilas Paswan would be accorded a state funeral, and Law and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad would represent the Central government at the ceremony in Patna, an official statement and sources said on Friday.

Paswan (74) died at a private hospital here on Thursday evening after recently undergoing a heart surgery. The funeral is likely to take place in Patna on Saturday. His mortal remains would be flown to Patna in a special aircraft, the sources said.

At a specially convened meeting of the Union Cabinet this morning, it was decided that Prasad would represent the government of India and the Union Council of Ministers at the funeral of the veteran leader, they

said.

The Cabinet condoled the demise of the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and observed a two-minute silence in his memory, according to the statement.

"The Cabinet approved a state funeral to be accorded for Shri Ramvilas Paswan," the statement said.

The Cabinet also passed a resolution which said, "The Cabinet expresses profound sorrow at the sad demise of Shri Ramvilas Paswan, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. In his passing away, the nation has lost an eminent leader, a distinguished parliamentarian and an able administrator."

"The Cabinet extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family on behalf of the Government and the entire nation," it added.

Thereafter, he was elected as a member of the sixth Lok Sabha from Hajipur constituency in 1977 with

a record margin. He was re-elected to the seventh Lok Sabha in 1980 and the eighth in 1984.

Paswan was re-elected to the ninth Lok Sabha in 1989 and appointed as the Union minister for labour and welfare. In 1996, he became the minister for railways and continued to hold the post till 1998.

He later served as the minister for communications from October 1999 to September 2001, when he was made the minister of coal and mines, a portfolio he held till April 2002.

After the 2004 Lok Sabha elections, Paswan joined

## Athawale sole representative of NDA allies in Modi govt after Paswan's demise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

Following the death of LJP leader and Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, Ramdas Athawale of Republican Party of India (RPI) is the lone member from the BJP allies in the NDA government at the Centre.

However, there is no representation from BJP allies in the Union Cabinet. Athawale is Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment.

Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena), Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Shromani Akali Dal) and Ram Vilas Paswan (Lok Janshak-

Born on July 5, 1946, in Shaharbani in Bihar's Khagaria district, Paswan was educated at Kosi College, Khagaria and Patna University. He obtained degrees in Master of Arts (MA) and Bachelor of Law (LLB). He was also conferred the Degree of D.Litt. (Honoris Causa) by Bundelkhand University, Jhansi.

Paswan was one of the most popular leaders from Bihar and enjoyed strong mass support. He was elected to the Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1969 as a member of the Samyukta Socialist Party.

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... TRANSFEROR/APPLICANT NO.1 COMPANY  
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INFOGAIN SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED  
... TRANSFEROR/APPLICANT NO.2 COMPANY  
AND  
JOBCURRY SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED  
... TRANSFEROR/APPLICANT NO.3 COMPANY  
WITH  
INFOGAIN INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED  
... TRANSFEREE/APPLICANT NO.4 COMPANY

INFOGAIN INDIA BPO PRIVATE LIMITED,  
a Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956  
and having its Registered Office at I-25, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi, India.

ti Party) were from the BJP-led NDA alliance in the Union Cabinet when the Modi 2.0 government returned to power in 2019 following Lok Sabha elections.

While the Shiv Sena quit the NDA in late 2019, SAD left the alliance recently over farm bills.

Another key NDA ally, the JD (U) had kept itself out of the government.

Besides Prime Minister Modi, a total of 57 ministers -- 24 Cabinet, nine Ministers of State (with Independent charge) and 24 Ministers of State -- had taken oath as members of the Union Council of Ministers on May 30,

Following the resignations of Sawant and Badal and the death of Paswan, there are 21 Cabinet ministers.

With the recent death of Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi, the number of ministers of state has also come down to 23.

As per the Constitution, the total number of Union ministers, including the Prime Minister shall not exceed 15 per cent of the total number of members in the Lok Sabha.

PM Narendra Modi can have as many as 80 ministers in the 543-member Lok Sabha.

the United Progressive Alliance government and was made the minister of chemicals and fertilisers and minister of steel.

He was elected to the 16th Lok Sabha in 2014 and served as the minister of consumer affairs, food and public distribution. In 2019, he was elected to Rajya Sabha and continued as the minister of consumer affairs, food and public distribution.

Paswan was considered the voice of the oppressed and always championed the cause of marginalised sections of the society, the resolution said.

The Roshni Act was formed

## Death of Dalit leader Paswan brings element of uncertainty in Bihar polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

The death of Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan introduced another element of uncertainty in the Bihar Assembly poll matrix after his Lok Janshakti Party's decision to fight the election independently had already opened up the race.

Political watchers believe that it will depend on how LJP's core Dalit voters relate with his son and political heir Chirag Paswan at a time when the demise of his father is bound to trigger sympathy among them. A Bihar leader, who did not wish to be named, said the lack of any rival young Dalit leader with state-wide visibility may help the 37-year-old Lok Sabha MP, also the LJP president.

"Much will depend on how Chirag Paswan positions himself. His father had a grassroots appeal and spoke the lingo of the

masses. They will now pay more attention to him than ever," he said.

One party which will be wary of any likely impact of the veteran Dalit leader's death on its fortune is chief minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U), which was already in the line of LJP's fire over a range of issues.

On Thursday, hours before Ram Vilas Paswan breathed his last, the LJP had released a letter his son had written to BJP president J P Nadda in which he had accused Kumar of "insulting" his father and claimed that there is a "wave" of disaffection against him among voters in Bihar. The JD(U) chose not to react to the allegations. The death of the 74-year-old leader, who was identified with the state's Dalits for over five decades, so near the polls will mean that none of the LJP's rivals will like to attack the party and its young president.

Chirag Paswan, serving a second term from Jamui, has already announced that his party will contest on all the seats where the JD(U) is in contention but not against the BJP.

For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

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**INTRODUCTION OF NEW SPECIAL TRAINS**

This is notified for the information of passengers that Railways have decided to run following Special trains as per details given below:-

Train No.	From-To	Frequency	Date of Commencement	Stoppages & Timings Accommodation
02171	Lokmanya Tilak T.- Haridwar Spl. AC Exp.	Bi-weekly	15.10.2020	Same as 12171/12172 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Haridwar- Lokmanya Tilak Terminus AC Express 1 AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC
02172	Haridwar-Lokmanya Tilak T. Spl. AC Exp.		16.10.2020	Same as 12171/12172 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Haridwar- Lokmanya Tilak Terminus AC Express 1 AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC
02121	Lokmanya Tilak T.- Lucknow Spl. AC Exp.	Weekly	17.10.2020	Same as 22121/22122 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Lucknow- Lokmanya Tilak Terminus AC Express 1 AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC
02122	Lucknow-Lokmanya Tilak T. Spl. AC Exp.		18.10.2020	Same as 22121/22122 Lucknow- Lokmanya Tilak Terminus AC Express 1 AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC
02025	Nagpur-Amritsar Spl. AC Exp.	Weekly	17.10.2020	Same as 22125/22126 Nagpur-Amritsar- Nagpur AC Express 1 AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC
02026	Amritsar-Nagpur Spl. AC Exp.		19.10.2020	Same as 22125/22126 Nagpur-Amritsar- Nagpur AC Express 1 AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC
09047	Bandra T.-Nizamuddin Spl. Yuva Exp.	Weekly	16.10.2020	Same as 12247/12248 Bandra Terminus-Nizamuddin- Bandra Terminus Yuva Express 3 Tier AC & AC Chair Car
09048	Nizamuddin-Bandra T. Spl. Yuva Exp.		17.10.2020	Same as 12247/12248 Bandra Terminus-Nizamuddin- Bandra Terminus Yuva Express 3 Tier AC & AC Chair Car

**NOTE : All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.**

For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

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**THE STATESMAN**

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05

## Jammu and Kashmir HC directs CBI probe in Roshni Land scam

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 9 OCTOBER

on the plea to earn revenue for constructing hydroelectric power projects in J&K and the name was "Roshni". However, the collection was very small.

The Act provided transfer of ownership rights of state land to its occupants, subject to the payment of a cost as determined by the government. It was expected that state government would earn Rs 25,000 crore by transferring 250,000 acres of state land to existing occupants at market rates. Several amendments made in the Act from time to time to benefit influential persons.

Initially the cutoff during the Farooq Abdullah government was 1990. In 2005, Mufti Sayeed's PDP-Congress coalition government relaxed the cutoff year to 2004. During the Congress tenure of Ghulam Nabi Azad, SK Bhalla in 2011 and it is almost after ten years of twists and turns that the High Court has ordered the CBI to investigate the scam.

The court ordered that the CBI will constitute a special team headed by an officer of the rank of SP to probe the scam and file the status report in the court after every eight weeks.

The court also ordered the chief secretary, revenue secretary and divisional commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir valley to submit the relevant record to the CBI without any delay.

The court took a serious view on the reported more than 2,50,000 acre of government land under illegal occupation in J&K.

The investigating agency of J&K had been going slow in investigating the scam and out of 17 FIRs filed in the matter, challan was presented in the court in only two cases.

The Roshni Act was formed

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI  
COMPANY PETITION NO. (CAA)-57(PB)/2020

Connected with  
CA(CAA)-22(PB)/2020

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 230 - 232  
OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013

AND  
IN THE MATTER OF SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT AND  
AMALGAMATION  
OF

INFOGAIN INDIA BPO PRIVATE LIMITED  
... TRANSFEROR/APPLICANT NO.1 COMPANY  
AND  
INFOGAIN SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED  
... TRANSFEROR/APPLICANT NO.2 COMPANY  
AND  
JOBCURRY SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED  
... TRANSFEROR/APPLICANT NO.3 COMPANY  
WITH  
INFOGAIN INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED  
... TRANSFEREE/APPLICANT NO.4 COMPANY

INFOGAIN INDIA BPO PRIVATE LIMITED,  
a Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956  
and having its Registered Office at I-25, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi, India.

Transferor No. 1 Company

Notice of Hearing of Petition

A Joint Petition under sections 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013, for obtaining sanction to the Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation of Infogain India BPO Private Limited, Infogain Systems Private Limited and Jobcurry Systems Private Limited with Infogain India Private Limited was presented by the Applicants above named on the 01st Day of August, 2020 and the said petition is fixed for hearing before the Principal bench of National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi, on Monday, 26th October, 2020. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition/application/reference should send to the Hon'ble Tribunal and to the Petitioner's Advocate, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address so as to reach them not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the petition/application/reference. Where he seeks to oppose the petition/application/reference, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition/application/reference will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Dated: 10.10.2020  
Place: New Delhi

Adv. Umesh Singhai  
(Advocate for petitioners)

Address: Sigma Lexjurix LLP, 407- 408, GD-ITL Tower, B-08, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura New Delhi-

## Dissent restrained

While there will be many, especially commuters between Delhi and Noida who were inconvenienced by the blockade that formed part of the Shaheen Bagh protests early this year, who will welcome the manner in which the Supreme Court has sought to circumscribe street protest within the bounds of civic duty, there are aspects of the judgment that merit serious consideration. While the court is quite right to assert that the right to dissent - and to protest - is part of the Constitutional scheme, its effort to use the doctrine of reasonable restraint to delineate the form this dissent may take raises eyebrows. On the face of it, the Court's observation that the method of protesting against colonial rule cannot be equated with dissent in a self-ruled democracy may seem unexceptionable. However, in making this observation, their Lordships appear to have overlooked an important point - the laws used to regulate protest belong to colonial times; they are therefore loaded in favour of the state, and against the conscientious objector. For instance, Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code that proscribes unlawful assembly is over a century and a half old and was brought on the statute book to quell dissent. When juxtaposed with the Court's observation that protest should be carried out only in designated spots, it boils down to circumscribing dissent to those spots where the administration chooses not to enforce Section 144, and only when it chooses not to do so. A prime example of this is New Delhi's Boat Club, which was the capital's pre-eminent protest site for the first few decades of the republic until the government of P V Narasimha Rao decided the Central Vista lawns were too sensitive to be used for this purpose. When the Supreme Court disagreed some years ago, the government promptly clamped Section 144 in the area, as it did in the area around India Gate. While central squares of every major city in the world, including some that are not even true democracies, are protest sites, New Delhi's protesters have been elbowed aside to a cul-de-sac behind Jantar Mantar, with alternate sites offered at Ramila Grounds and at Burari on the city's outskirts. The rules governing use of these sites are amorphous enough to be tweaked by administrations to discomfit protestors, with the ultimate weapon in the form of Section 144 always being available to stop them. It is these facts the apex Court appeared to have overlooked when in upholding the right to protest, it sought to shrink the space available for it to "designated spots".

The other, more worrisome, feature of the Court's ruling is that it appears to suggest a shift from a centrist-liberal approach in judicial thinking on the right to dissent to a conservative-rightist one. In considering the weight they gave to restraint vis-à-vis a Constitutional right, their Lordships would have done well to recall the words of a great jurist, Oliver Wendell Holmes, who famously said: "It there is any principle...that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other it is the principle of free thought - not free thought for those who agree with us but freedom for the thought we hate."

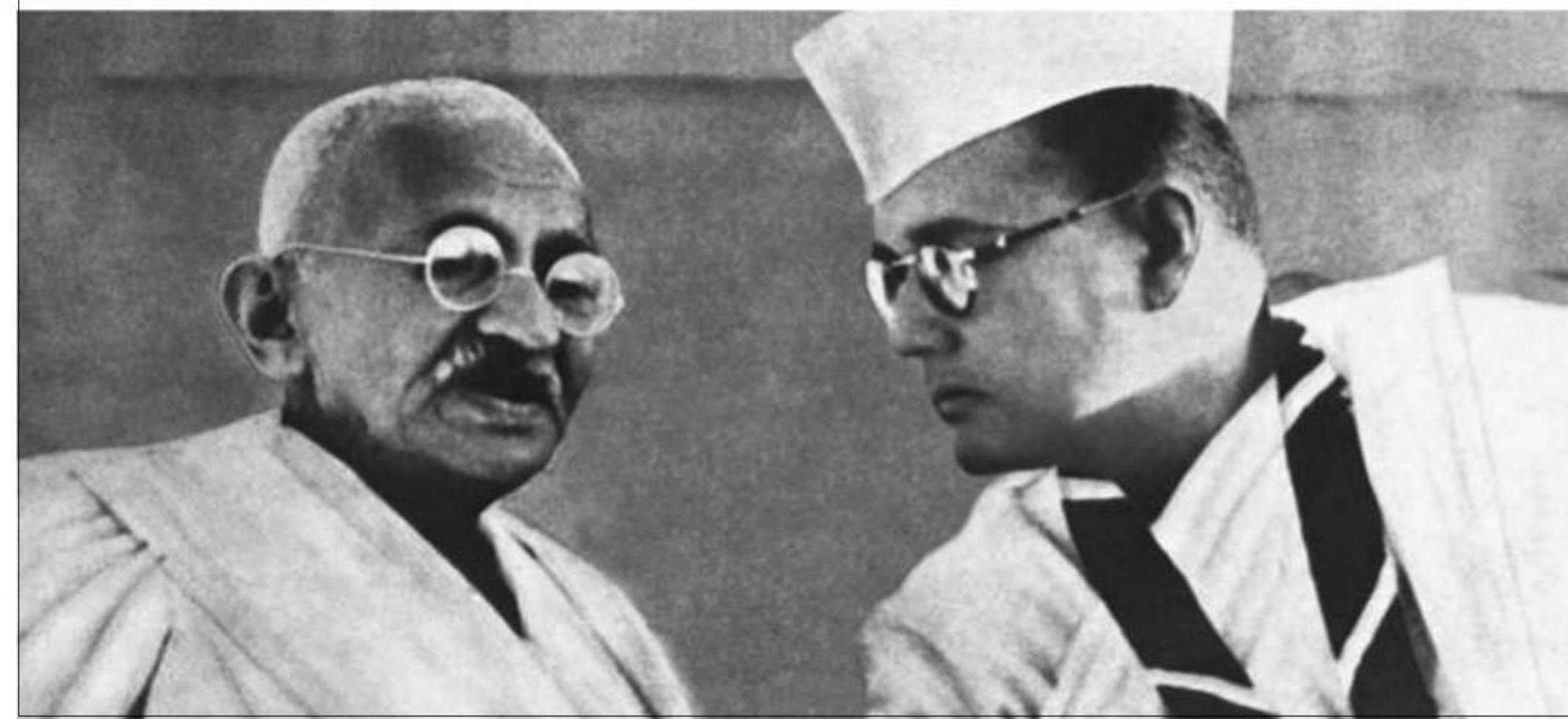
## Anwar's turn?

Malaysia's fractious politics seem destined for another twist with opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim claiming he has been granted an audience by the country's monarch - and constitutional head - to evaluate his claim that a "substantial majority" of legislators support his bid for Prime Ministership. Reports suggest that the King had sought assurances of support before agreeing to an audience, and the fact that he has granted one suggests Mr Anwar may have the numbers that he claims. If so, this development will come as a severe setback to incumbent Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, who came to power last March after a coalition led by Dr Mahathir Mohamed and formed with Mr Anwar's support collapsed due to defections. Under Malaysia's Constitution, the King has absolute power to appoint as Prime Minister the person who he believes enjoys a majority in Parliament. Mr Ibrahim's aides say the monarch is a meticulous person and would not have granted an audience without being reasonably certain that the claimant had the numbers. While Mr Anwar has not spelt out whose support he enjoys and exactly how he has made up the numbers to claim a majority in the 222-member House, reports suggest his support has been in place since last month but could not be presented to the King because of the latter's indisposition. While Mr Muhyuddin had not reacted to the political developments, his ability to fight back to save his government has been affected because he was forced to quarantine himself after a Cabinet colleague tested positive for Covid-19.

Should the 73-year-old Mr Anwar succeed in proving his majority, the victory will be bittersweet. For he is a man many Malaysians believe should have been Prime Minister decades ago, and certainly after Dr Mahathir, under whom he served with considerable distinction as Deputy PM from 1993 to 1998. Instead sharp differences erupted between the two men at the height of the Asian financial crisis, leading to Mr Anwar's removal from office and subsequent arrest on multiple charges including sodomy. After fighting off legal challenges and prosecutions, Mr Anwar returned to active politics and agreed to support Dr Mahathir for interim Prime Ministership in 2018 on the condition that the office would later come to him. But that did not happen, and the crafty nonagenarian stayed on as Prime Minister for nearly two years. While Dr Mahathir at 95 remains active in politics, his many efforts to return to power since March have been thwarted by potential allies who accuse him of going back on his word. Next week may well decide if his former deputy will finally head Malaysia's government.

# Facts vs Falsehood

Despite many contradictions, the relationship between Gandhi and Bose was marked by deep love, affection and respect



**E**very leading personality runs the risk of being misinterpreted and criticized. Mahatma Gandhi had been enmeshed in controversies ever since he put his hand to the racial politics of Natal in South Africa and until he was assassinated. There have always been critics who have viewed Gandhi's approach as naïve, apolitical, escapist, negative and irrelevant. Critics hardly consider the fact that Gandhi lived and expressed his philosophy through his actions and his writings. As he was a practical idealist, he never did or said or wrote anything that he had not practiced, and he also never expected another person to do anything which the man did not believe in.

Mahatma Gandhi was essentially a dynamic person who went through an evolutionary process of change in his life. His policy was never static. He once said: "I am not at all concerned with appearing to be consistent. In my search after Truth I have discarded many ideas and learned many new things. Old as I am in age, I have no feeling that I have ceased to grow inwardly, or that my growth will stop at the dissolution of the flesh." Gandhi often learnt from his critics - changing, improving and modifying his position time to time. He modified action in accordance with his expanding view of Truth. His character lay in his refusal to change unless convinced.

Some of his critics also learned from Gandhi. Among those personalities Narendra Deva, Subhas Chandra Bose and B R Ambedkar reassessed their positions during Gandhi's lifetime. Others, like Jinnah, did so later to some extent. Gandhi recorded his contradiction with any personality without expressing any wrath. But in some cases his contradictions with some personalities were subjects of public discussion.

Relation of Subhas Chandra Bose with Gandhi was more complex than that of a mere critic. Gandhi and Bose, two worthy sons of Mother India, were legendary personalities, gigantic in their political, moral and ethical stature. Though their dream was to free India from the British, they differed in the means they wanted to adopt. Young Bose, deeply influenced by the Russian revolt and rise of the Japanese empire, was a firebrand nationalist who believed in the tradition of Tilak and Aurobindo. Gandhi, on the contrary, belonged to the

tradition of discussion and talks with British like his mentor Gokhale and Tagore. Bose was a left oriented leader. Gandhi had a moralistic approach towards nation building.

The biggest divergence was about India's stand with respect to world politics. Gandhi had a moralistic stand of opposing the Nazi regime. Bose, on the contrary, was more pragmatic and wanted to work with Germany and Japan to destabilize the British. Bose was not averse to the idea of violence for independence. He was a deep believer in aggressive nationalism. But Gandhi never subscribed to the principle that the end justified the means. To him, the means were as important as the ends. In his words: "They say 'means are after all means'. I would say 'means are after all everything.' As the means, so the end. There is no wall of separation between means and end."

Gandhi used the tools of Satyagraha and Non-Violence to mobilize the masses as he believed that only mass participation could bring the British down. The Netaji Research Bureau, Kolkata, has brought out an invaluable publication entitled Crossroads. The book provides a great deal of information on the Gandhi-Bose debate.

However, despite wide difference, the two retained a sense of appreciation for one another. In the words of Professor Sugata Bose, the noted historian and grandnephew of Subhas Chandra Bose: "The difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Subhas Chandra Bose is highly exaggerated by the people of India and more particularly by the people of Bengal. The parting that took place in 1939 was a temporary one and if we study the relationship between Gandhi and Netaji, we will find that it was one that was marked with deep mutual respect."

In 1939, Bose was elected president of the Indian National Congress (INC) by defeating Patabhiramayya who was supported by Gandhi himself. That was the first time in the past two decades that Gandhi's authority had been challenged within the INC. When Gandhi started his anti-untouchability programme on a nationwide scale in 1913,

that was not supported by Bose. Despite many contradictions, the relationship between them was marked by deep love, affection and respect towards each other. Bose admired Gandhi and called him Bapu. He also hailed Gandhi as the 'Greatest Indian' who aroused the mass movement.

Bose's broadcasts from S-E Asia often invoked Gandhi's name and sought his blessings for the struggle. It was in the forties that Bose addressed Gandhi as the 'Father of Nation' in a broadcast from Azad Hind Radio on 6 July 1944. Obliviously delighted at the 'Quit India' Movement, Bose said in his Azad Hind

Radio message from Berlin on Gandhi's birthday in 1943 that, "The service which Mahatma Gandhi has rendered to India and to the cause of India's freedom is so unique and unparalleled that his name will be written in gold in our national history for all times." Bose's broadcast on the occasion of Kasturbai's death in prison was deeply moving. The INA formation which entered to fight in Myanmar and N-E India bore names such as Gandhi, Nehru and Azad.

During an interaction, American journalist Louis Fischer asked Gandhi what he thought of Bose's action to seek help from Germany during WW-2. Gandhi had replied that 'Bose was a patriot among patriots.' Gandhi wrote in Harijan: 'Netaji was like a son to me.'

Bhagat Singh was an Indian socialist revolutionary whose acts of dramatic violence against the British in India and execution at the age of 23 made him a folk hero. In the words of Jawaharlal Nehru: "Bhagat Singh did not become popular because of his act of terrorism but because of he seemed to vindicate, for the moment, the honour of Lala Lajpat Rai, and through him of the nation. He became the symbol, the act was forgotten, the symbol remained, and within a few months each town and village of the Punjab, and to a lesser extent in the rest of the northern India, resounded with his name."

It is wrong to say that Gandhi viewed those who took to arms in the fight for India's freedom with venomous and hateful eyes. Rather, he had respect for them

though he had also no hesitation in telling them that they were wrong. It is a fact that many fugitive revolutionaries felt free to meet and hold talks with him and argue with him fearlessly. Ever after the death sentence for three young heroes - Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev - in the Lahore conspiracy case was pronounced on 7 October 1930 by a controversial three-member special tribunal established by the British, the imperative to save their lives became a national issue.

The general perception was that Mahatma Gandhi, who was thought to be the tallest national leader of India at that time, could have achieved that imperative. Gandhi tried his best to save their lives, but in vain. Subhas Chandra Bose wrote in his book - *The Indian Struggle* - 'Pressure was brought to bear upon the Mahatma to try to save the lives of these young men (Bhagat Singh and his two comrades); and it must be admitted that he did try his very best. On this occasion, I ventured the suggestion that he should, if necessary, break with the Viceroy on the question, because the execution was against the spirit, if not letter, of the Delhi Pact (Gandhi-Irwin pact). However, Gandhi was greatly distressed by his failure.

Gandhi was misunderstood. His failure provided a potent weapon in the hands of his critics who used it to malign him. They charged Gandhi with the allegation that he did not play his role in this case and for not stipulating the revocation of the death sentence against Bhagat Singh at the time of the Delhi Pact. But they failed to understand that Gandhi had more to gain by saving the lives of Bhagat Singh and his comrades.

Salute to the great People's Republic of China, and salute to the great Chinese people. Time records history and heralds future direction. In the past, the Chinese people have made numerous struggles and realized incalculable dreams; today, the country is going through a series of remarkable fights with the strong leadership of the CPC and the solidarity of the people.

Thanks to long-term and unremitting efforts, the Chinese nation will put an end to absolute poverty, a problem that has bothered it for thousands of years, and finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

This is a result of the perseverance of the Chinese people, and will inspire the nation to sail for farther goals.

The closer the country gets to its goal of national rejuvenation, the more difficulties and challenges it will encounter. At a time when the two centenary goals converge, the country must understand and grasp domestic and international situations in a dialectical manner, enhance the awareness for opportunities and risks, cherish present development results and consolidate development momentum, and pool resources and concentrate on managing its own affairs well, so as to progress courageously on the great journey in the new era.

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

**ASIAN VOICES**

**China to advance on great journey in new era**

**C**hina has embraced its 71st anniversary of founding, after winning a series of remarkable fights against the COVID-19 epidemic and floods, which helped it turn crises into opportunities and successfully responded to changes. Withstanding the tests, China is now standing on a new point of history, from which billions of Chinese people, with confidence and pride, will embark on a great journey in the new era.

Human history, like a river, runs forever, witnessing both peaceful moments and great disturbances. The heroic Chinese people is never afraid of rains and storms, and will always proceed against challenges.

Since this year, facing a severe situation and unprecedented challenges, the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core has led the Chinese people from all ethnic groups to tackle difficulties, with strong leadership and brilliant governance, nurturing new opportunities in crises, and seeking chances among changes.

As a result, China secured stable performance of reform and opening-up, and a successful ending of its 13th Five-Year Plan. It is expected to achieve a final victory over poverty, and finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

In face of the sudden COVID-19 outbreak, billions of Chinese people launched a breathtaking war against the virus under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee, withstanding an arduous test of history, achieving major strategic results, making another magnificent feat in the history of human beings' fight against diseases, and building a great spirit of combating the COVID-19 epidemic, which features putting people's lives

**CHINADAILY**

first, nationwide solidarity, sacrifice, respecting science, and a sense of mission for humanity.

China has become the first major economy to return to growth since the COVID-19 pandemic, and is leading the world in both epidemic prevention and economic recovery, which demonstrates the outstanding efficiency of the country's governance system. The indomitable Chinese people once again defeated hardships and left a glorious page in the history. Salute to the great People's Republic of China, and salute to the great Chinese people. Time records history and heralds future direction. In the past, the Chinese people have made numerous struggles and realized incalculable dreams; today, the country is going through a series of remarkable fights with the strong leadership of the CPC and the solidarity of the people.

Thanks to long-term and unremitting efforts, the Chinese nation will put an end to absolute poverty, a problem that has bothered it for thousands of years, and finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. This is a result of the perseverance of the Chinese people, and will inspire the nation to sail for farther goals.

The closer the country gets to its goal of national rejuvenation, the more difficulties and challenges it will encounter. At a time when the two centenary goals converge, the country must understand and grasp domestic and international situations in a dialectical manner, enhance the awareness for opportunities and risks, cherish present development results and consolidate development momentum, and pool resources and concentrate on managing its own affairs well, so as to progress courageously on the great journey in the new era.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Tame the dragon

**SIR**, Your editorial "Troubled strait" (7 Oct) is brilliant. On the one hand, China does not recognise Taiwan as an independent nation and, on the other, it has with its economic might, virtually compelled many other countries not to recognise Taiwan as a separate nation. Taiwan, according to China, is its renegade province and must be brought under control of

the mainland, if needed by force. China has desisted from direct onslaught on Taiwan - although threats are being made - as the USA has stood solidly by the island nation. It is an act of blatant Chinese expansionism. Not only Taiwan, India and Bhutan are also targets of such expansionism. It claims a large territory of Bhutan to be its own, views

India's Arunachal Pradesh as southern Tibet and above all deems the whole of the South China Sea as its fiefdom where small littoral states also stake their justified claims. A tense situation is prevailing in this part of the world as an outcome of China's evil designs. That must stop. A collective effort is direly imperative to tame the Dragon.

Yours, etc., Aranya Sanyal,  
Siliguri, 8 October.

### LONG OVERDUE

**SIR**, In terms of Adv No. 2(2a)/2016 of West Bengal Public Service Commission for the appointment of Pass Graduate Teachers for Arts (Bengali Medium) in Government high schools under the School Education department, we passed the examination on 15 March 2018.

The police verification and medical test were completed by December 2018. The School Education Department was supposed to issue the appointment letter within 15 days of completion of the medical test. But it has not been issued. I would like to request the Honourable Education Minister and other officials through your esteemed daily to kindly take necessary action to issue us appointment letters at the earliest.

Yours, etc., Lokanwita Adhikary, Village Thuba,  
North 24 Parganas,  
7 October.

### PUZZLING

**SIR**, To err is human and we crossword addicts now have to accept that *The Statesman* (and the person in charge of the daily crossword puzzles)

is very human.

Once again, in today's paper (8 October) the clues published and the grid don't match. The clues in fact were from Tuesday's crossword.

The last time this happened was not even a mon-

### KUDOS, BRICKBATS

**SIR**, Apropos the report "Anarchists out to create communal frenzy, caste violence: Adityanath", I would like to say that the UP Chief Minister is supposed to give protection to all citizens, poor or rich living in UP under his administration. While he deserves credit for any thing good that happens in his State, he must equally accept responsibility for all the bad things that are happening increasingly under his rule. If Yogi Adityanath wants to make UP a decent state, free from all criminal activities, he has to do it the same way others do. Merely becoming a good boy in the eyes of the Prime Minister will not be suffice as he has to be an ideal Chief Minister in the eyes of the people of his own state.

Yours, etc., A K Deb Biswas, Hooghly, 6 October.



## 'Target China beyond the border'

**A**n expert on China and Tibet affairs, **VIJAY KRANTI** is an author, traveller, photographer, media educationist, and former staffer of BBC World, Deutsche Welle (German) and Radio Voice of America. Between 2003 and 2010, Kranti travelled incognito on a tourist visa deep into Tibet and China on eight separate occasions. Equipped with his camera, he captured vivid details of Chinese suppression of Tibetan people, arts, culture, and religion besides their development of military infrastructure along borders with India. While doing so he narrowly survived the scrutiny of suspicious Chinese authorities on many occasions. He has penned about a dozen books. In an interview with **DIPANKAR CHAKRABORTY**, Kranti talks about China and Tibet, his association with Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, and the current standoff between India and China in Ladakh and its impact on global strategic equations. Excerpts:

**Q. You are among very few Indians who have toured incognito deep into Tibet and in some parts of China. How easy or difficult was it to do so?**

As the beginning of this century, China got keen to make billions of dollars through tourism in Tibet. So I planned my tours in a way to cover almost entire Tibet and some parts of China as an ordinary tourist who had the keen eyes of a journalist. In all I have travelled about 5,000 kms within Tibet and China. It was a perfectly legal way every time, but still there was a great risk of meeting similar fate as that of Sarabjit or Jadhav.

**Q. Do you find any correlation between what you saw in Tibet then and what is happening today at Galwan or all along the LAC?**

A. Sure. All through these eight years of my travels inside Tibet, my one consistent observation was that China was desperately developing roads and military establishments all over Tibet, especially along borders with India. They were also developing new townships and railways. But one could easily make out that it was not for the convenience of the colonised Tibetan subjects. It was too obvious to miss that the entire exercise was to create facilities for other military purposes and to develop new towns for settling millions of new citizens from China to change the demography of Tibet. On one of my early visits I saw dozens of Tibetan labour groups digging a trench parallel to the 500 km long road from Dram (Nepal) to Shigatse in Tibet. It must have been for optical fibre. Unfortunately India remained sleepy along its Himalayan borders in the past seven decades.

**Q. Why has China started this confrontation with India at this juncture? Where is the present standoff between India and China heading to?**

A. To me this all appears more related to China's internal political situation, especially the fresh power struggle within the Chinese Communist Party, rather than any major dispute with India. In his hurry to install himself as lifelong supreme leader of China like late Chairman Mao, Xi Jinping has started a campaign of purging his opponents in the CCP. In recent months he has dismissed and arrested over 200 senior functionaries of the party as well as military officers. All of them are known supporters of senior and rival leaders like Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Zhu Rongji. Mao achieved the same goal by using youths and school-level 'Red Guards' in a decade-long 'Cultural Revolution'. This ended up with almost every potential opponent of Mao in CCP either dead, arrested or politically demolished, unable to pose any threat to his leadership. Today, Xi is using the legal machinery under his official control as the General Secretary of CCP, Chairman of Central Military Commission and President of China in the name of 'fighting corruption'.

**Q. If Xi is involved so deeply in an internal power struggle then why do we see PLA's misadventure on Indian borders, especially in Ladakh?**

A. His plans of confronting India in Ladakh and other places along the LAC went haywire as his assessment of India's military capabilities proved to be wrong. He was hoping to emerge as a victorious 'national hero' after 'winning back' China's 'lost land' from India. His fresh aggressive actions in the South China Sea, East China Sea and Hong Kong etc. were aimed at diverting attention of the people of China from his misadventures in the CCP and economic failure due to the Wuhan virus Covid-19.

**Q. Many global players like the USA, Australia, Japan and other nations like Taiwan, Vietnam etc. have started challenging the might of China in the wake of Beijing's aggressive attitude. What international implications do you see for China and India in near and long future?**

A. China's belligerence on the military front against all these countries and the enormous damage caused by the Wuhan virus on the life and economy of these countries has brought them together. Earlier China used to threaten them separately and could get away with it. Soon you will start seeing the impact of economic, political and military decisions which these and many other countries have already started taking against China independently or in tandem with



each other.

**Q. How is this going to impact Xi Jinping's position?**

A. First, the resolve of most countries world over to reduce their dependence on business with China and Chinese products has already led to cancellation of business orders in China. Hundreds of thousands of production sites have either stopped production or are working in minimal production mode. Process of laying off labour has already started. As a result 10 to 30 million migrant workers have already left for their homes in remote areas. This is result of non-coordinated efforts among various countries. You just wait for an orchestrated economic push from some newly forming anti-China blocs of countries and you will see the 'Red Pie' crumbling. The very first victim is going to be Xi Jinping himself whom the CCP and public opinion is going to lynch — at least politically.

**Q. Any chances of a public uprising in China in a situation like this?**

A. No one should be surprised if a 1989 Tiananmen Square-type uprising happens in a very new form all over China. In 1989, it happened despite the fact that there was no internet and Chinese people relied exclusively on Party-controlled information. Moreover that youth generation was made up of poetic revolutionaries who would paste hand written poems on walls to express their anger. But the new Chinese generation is internet-savvy and has tasted blood of prosperity, luxury and personal comfort. Their aspirations come from Deng's dictum 'Being Rich is a Virtue'. Their uprising will crush anyone — even Xi Jinping or the CCP - who comes in the way of their personal and collective interests.

**Q. Today Chinese think tanks are warning India of 'repeating 1962' and the Indian establishment is repeatedly saying that 'today's India is different**

**from India of 1962'. What does it mean?**

A. We must understand that when China attacked India in 1962, not only was India militarily unprepared and weak, it also had no friends who could stand by her in the war. Even USA that could have helped India in a big way due to its strong allergy to Communism, could not do much because of the Cuban nuclear crisis at its own door step. Today not only is India well prepared militarily, it has a slew of friends across the globe who will join hands with India to settle their own scores with China.

**Q. Do you think the stalemate at Galwan and the subsequent occupation of vantage positions by Indian forces on top of the hills overlooking Chinese deployments can be the game-changer?**

A. Yes, sudden drop in China's arrogance vis-à-vis India in Ladakh following occupation of vantage heights in Ladakh by Indian Army gives that impression. By occupying these heights, the Indian Army has practically undone most of advantages that PLA had acquired by quietly advancing in Galwan and most other areas. These occupations have practically brought almost entire fortifications of PLA on the front as well as backup positions under direct scrutiny and hitting capability of Indian Army. This practically means freezing PLA in current positions at least until a full-blown war takes place. Actually Xi's PLA was so overconfident about their military superiority over India that they were hoping to conquer Galwan and adjoining Ladakhi areas in a jiffy. They had plans to further secure their grip on already occupied Aksai Chin and to make fresh advances towards Siachen to make it difficult for Indian forces to maintain their hold on it. But they are stunned by the Indian Army's resolute response. This has turned the tables on PLA and Xi, who were hoping to use their Ladakh victory to score points vis-a-vis India's political rivals inside China. Now Xi will surely have to face music on this and many other accounts in the forthcoming 20th Congress this October.

**Q. Why is there not much discussion on a nuclear-China and a nuclear-India? Are there chances of a nuclear faceoff between the two in the light of present conflict?**

A. Let us not forget that in present world situation, nuclear weapons have become too prolific to be an asset. They are useful only till they are not used. No sensible leader, who cares even an iota for the future of his country, will make the first strike. India has already graduated its nuclear policy from 'no use' to 'no first use'. And China cannot afford to make a first strike on India, or for that matter, on any other country like Japan or Taiwan. Doing so will be like issuing

an open license to all those nuclear powers who just can't afford to live in a world where China comes victorious over another country after a nuclear attack. If China fires one, it will get back a shower from India and many others who are not even directly provoked.

**Q. You have closely worked with the Dalai Lama for almost five decades. What future do you see for him and the Tibetan people in the changing India-China relations?**

A. Dalai Lama has been making all possible efforts to establish peace and understanding between China and Tibet while no government of the world stood by him. But the havoc created by the Chinese Wuhan virus on people's safety and the world economy and the Beijing leader's decision to pick up a fight with so many countries across the world has changed the world in a big way. You may soon see a host of countries standing up for the freedom of China's colonies like Tibet, East Turkistan (Xinjiang), South Mongolia and Hong Kong only to ensure an utterly weak China. Dalai Lama can now hope for a free Tibet sooner than he could anticipate.

**Q. If you were to advise the Indian government on China affairs, what major points would you suggest to ensure that the border dispute is settled once and for all?**

A. One basic suggestion is that GOI and people of India should stop remaining focused only on the border dispute and confrontation. At best, India can only defend its current positions by remaining vigilant, tense and paying ever increasing costs. In the new emerging world scenario, India must identify China's vulnerable points and hit where it hurts China most and costs India less. One area is raising cases of human rights of people of Tibet, East Turkistan, South Mongolia and Hong Kong on world forums. Second, India should stand up and join hands with countries like Taiwan, Japan, Australia, Vietnam, Thailand and all others who feel threatened by China and are willing to have India as a leading partner in challenging China on all possible fronts. Third, join hands with other countries to stop China from usurping most UN and other international forums. Fourth, take QUAD seriously and develop Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a joint military hub to tame China in the Malacca Strait and high seas. Fifth, challenge China on the diplomatic table by demanding parity and reciprocity on issues like opening Indian Consulate office in Lhasa, equal freedom for Indian media within China, Tibet, Xinjiang etc. and in the field of import-export. India only needs to shed its inertia and change its gears. Doors of a new, assertive, self-confident and self-respecting India will open up.

expected to make progress in the coming days.

Long-term energy cooperation between Nepal, India and Bangladesh could prove to be an attractive prospect for all three countries. For landlocked Nepal, it offers a lucrative market and opportunity to balance its trade deficit while for both India and Bangladesh, it offers a secure line of supply amid uncertainties in their domestic energy markets. But mere technical feasibility and complementary needs will not be sufficient. There has to be a political environment of trust among the participating countries that can encourage the private sector to invest in such a project.

Recent diplomatic tensions between India and Nepal over disputed border territories certainly do not help this cause. Both India and Nepal need to bilaterally resolve any irritants that could jeopardise their mutual economic and strategic interests.

Robust energy trade between Nepal, India and Bangladesh will not only reduce the carbon footprint in South Asia, but it will also help to create many clean jobs that can contribute to reverse out-migration of thousands of people from these countries. India and Bangladesh have an opportunity to come clean on their energy dilemma, and the good news is they need not look further than Nepal for an answer.

The Kathmandu Post/ANN

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The know-all in the Labour party at Home are at loggerheads with the Labour men in Poland. Messrs. Henderson and Co. are issuing manifestoes urging Labour to refuse to assist the Poles against the Bolsheviks - because, presumably, the latter are considered to be Labourites. The Polish working-men very properly want to know why they are not entitled to English labour support and the Henderson group will find themselves hard pressed to furnish an answer. It is to be hoped that the continuous attempt to grapple, in however unsatisfactory a manner, with foreign problems will ultimately conduce to the growth of a more reasonable spirit in regard to them on the part of English Labour. At present the more impressionable Labour leaders are always open to capture by one party or the other to non-English disputes. Often - as in the case of the Dyer controversy in India - it is the party which takes the trouble to obtain their ear and pour into it a distorted version of the facts. Only time can rectify this impressionability and promote that sense of fairness which, to do them justice, is in general characteristic of the older English political parties in regard to great controversies of which they know, and admit they can know, very little.

NEWS ITEMS

BOMBAY SHOPS CLOSED

Mills, factories and workshops were all closed today out of respect to the memory of Mr. B.G. Tilak, today being the tenth day after his death. Millhands and factory labourers were seen bathing in the sea at Chowpatty at all hours of the day. After their baths they proceeded in large batches to the spot where the body of Mr. Tilak was cremated and a good deal of demonstration of their reverence for the deceased was seen. The public condolence meeting at Madhav Baug was very largely attended and special prayers were offered at Hindu temples by Hindus and at mosques by many Mahomedans. Several bazars and most of the shops in the Indian quarter of the town were closed. No business was transacted at Share-bazars, Javer Bazaars, and the cotton market. All the demonstrations were peaceful in character.

INDIAN TELEGRAPH ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting and dance of the Indian Telegraph Association was held at the Dalhousie Institute on Monday night. There was a large gathering. Reading the report the Secretary said that the Association membership stood at 1,857 against 1,620 of the previous year. In the Mutual Benefit Fund there were 1,348 members over last year's membership of 1,280. The question of federating with the All-India Railway Workmen's Association had been under the consideration of the Central Committee for some time and the General Secretary had already discussed the matter with the Managing Committee of the Railway Workers' Association. The Association felt that federation may even be extended to the Postal Union after it had sufficiently established itself.

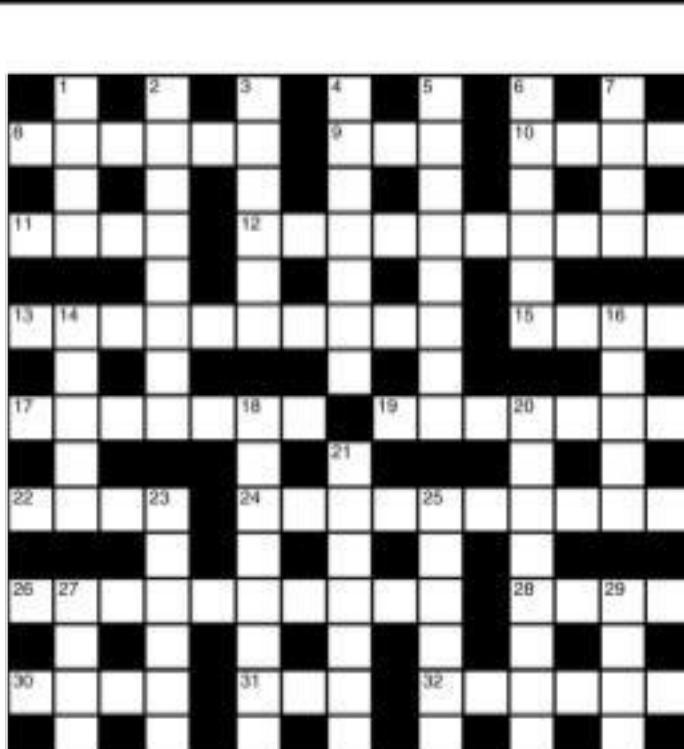
AUXILIARY MILITARY FORCE IN INDIA

The Pioneer understands that a Bill to provide for the creation of an Auxiliary Military Force in India will shortly be published. It is proposed to invite Europeans to enrol themselves voluntarily, but it will be obligatory on those who join to undergo certain specified training. The belief prevails among the authorities familiar with the facts that substantially a smaller force will be forthcoming than would have been secured but for Mr. Montagu's decision that compulsion must not be applied to Europeans in India.

RUSH FOR GOLD

People were under the impression that Government was going to give sovereigns at ten rupees, and as they did not get them there is a great rush to collect the gold coin as well as to hoard Bombay Mint gold. It is believed that banks will endeavour to procure sovereigns from Egypt, Australia and other sources. It is also understood that banks will have to bring a large stock of gold to supply the market after the last sale of Government gold. Some leading financiers, interviewed, expressed the opinion that the Government has made a mistake in advertising the sale of gold. If will, they argue, tighten up the money market at a juncture when credit is disturbed in the basars.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

MOUNTAINS THEILENS  
YNAOPV  
POSTDOC BESTIAL  
ATEKOOL  
SPEAR LEGUME  
TRIFEG PIA  
PHINOS CAMPSELS  
AOONFNEELS  
MOUNTAIN SPIGOT  
ISRS PRH  
SCAMPI EXILE  
SGINLRT  
PRAIRIE VIOLATE  
UICSENG  
DINNER SERVICE

SOLUTION FOR 03 OCTOBER

F	V	B	D	O
RESERVE	LIONCUB	I	O	E
G	E	G	U	A
SANANGELLO	BANAL	T	M	N
E	C	T	P	D
THEANSWERISA	LEMON	L	E	N
C	O	B	I	K
LEMON	LEU	N	O	F
UOIERDNE	UOIF	I	R	D
BUTSORMAYBES	LEMON	E	O	N
LINAAGMS	LEMON	M	S	T
ASCUS TARANTINO	LEMON	N	O	O
NOOTONI	LEMON	T	O	N
DENTURE UPTIGHT	LEMON	U	P	T
PRPPY	LEMON	P	R	Y

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

NO 28099

ACROSS

- 8 Not fantastic entertaining Duke's circle at first – horrible experience! (6)
- 9 Range in both directions (3)
- 10 See 23 Down
- 11 Surgery that's good for swimmer (4)
- 12 Lake island has bridge across, Patient A maintaining (7,3)
- 13 Harriet's underwear enthralls long-legged individual (10)
- 15 Sam left struggling for aid (4)
- 17 Boy brings in 'Works of Shakespeare' (7)
- 19 Large half-open building is a feature of garden (7)
- 22 Brad and Angelina initially in love (4)
- 24 Unusually debonair, one
- 26 I'm going to charge Heather which will create resentment (3-7)
- 28 African people essentially keep quiet (4)
- 30 Flat house has a little difficulty in reverse (4)
- 31 Resort in South America's quiet (3)
- 32 Kind of place in Africa that's good to visit (6)
- 26 I'm going to charge Heather which will create resentment (3-7)
- 28 African people essentially keep quiet (4)
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- 32 Kind of place in Africa that's good to visit (6)
- 26 I'm going to charge Heather which will create resentment (3-7)
- 28 African people essentially keep quiet (4)
- 30 Flat house has



Measures announced by the RBI should help bring down interest rates in the market

SANGITA REDDY  
FICCI PRESIDENT

## THUMBNAILS

**Vedanta delisting:** Vedanta Ltd stepped closer to being delisted from Indian bourses after 137.74 crore shares were tendered at the close of the buyback offer made by the promoters. The shares tendered are more than the 134 crore shares out of the public holding of 169.73 crore that the promoter group headed by billionaire Anil Agarwal needed for delisting of the company. According to data available from stock exchanges, 137.74 crore shares were tendered at various price levels starting from Rs 87.25 a share.

PTI

**Coal R&D website:** The government on Friday announced the launch of a website for entities involved in research and development in the coal sector. The website, which has been designed and developed by Coal India subsidiary Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, was launched by coal secretary Anil Kumar Jain. "The website will help in disseminating and promoting the knowledge and research work in the coal sector," Jain said. The website broadly displays the guidelines for implementing coal research projects with various forms.

PTI

**Blue Star:** Air conditioning and commercial refrigeration major Blue Star Limited has launched a wide range of new products and solutions with virus deactivation technology. The company's new range of products and solutions with virus deactivation technologies have the capability to deactivate viruses, including Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2), with up to 99.9 per cent efficacy when air passes through these systems, it said.

SNS

**Samsung solutions:** Samsung has launched a range of "Back to Business" solutions for retail as well as commercial establishments. These new solutions include outdoor displays and video conferencing solutions that will help businesses resume normal operations and work smartly, integrating safety measures as well as addressing remote working requirements of their workforce, the company said.

SNS

**Realme launch:** Smart-phone maker realme has announced the launch of a number of smart lifestyle products as part of its "Leap to the Next Gen" programme. Realme smart TV SLED 4K(55"), realme 100W Soundbar, realme 7i, 64MP quad-camera phone, and realme 7 Pro Sun Kissed edition were unveiled as part of this, according to a company statement.

SNS

**Adani price cut:** Adani Gas on Friday cut CNG and piped cooking gas prices in various geographical areas in sync with the recent reduction in natural gas rates. Rates have been reduced in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat, the company said.

PTI

# ONGC sees ₹6,000-7,000 crore loss in natural gas business

Government-mandated rates are way below the cost of production, ONGC director (finance) says

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

**I**ndia's top oil and gas producer ONGC today said it is losing Rs 6,000-7,000 crore in natural gas business after the government-mandated rates for the fuel dropped to a decade low.

The government-mandated rates are way below the cost of production of \$3.5-3.7 per million British thermal unit, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) director (finance) Subhash Kumar said. Every dollar reduction in gas price leads to a revenue loss of about Rs 5,200 crore and a Rs 3,500 crore on profit.

"Our losses will be in the order of Rs 6,000-7,000 crore in the current fiscal," he said.

ONGC has been incurring losses on the 65 million standard cubic meters per day of gas it produces from domestic fields after the government in November 2014 introduced a new gas pricing formula.

NEW RATE TO HIT REVENUE



► ONGC has been incurring losses on the 65 million standard cubic meters per day of gas it produces from domestic fields after the government in November 2014 introduced a new gas pricing formula.

► The price, according to this formula, is revised twice a year and the rate for the period beginning 1 October has been cut by 25 per cent to \$1.79 per mmBtu.

► ONGC chairman and managing director Shashi Shanker said the current gas price does not cover cost and the company has made representations to the ministry of petroleum and natural gas for suitable amendments to the formula.

pricing hubs of gas surplus countries such as the US, Canada, and Russia.

The price, according to this formula, is revised twice a year and the rate for the period beginning 1 October has been cut by 25 per cent to \$1.79 per mmBtu.

He, however, hoped the government will act on the

firm's request and a floor price would be set to check losses.

ONGC chairman and managing director Shashi Shanker said the current gas price does not cover cost and the company has made representations to the ministry of petroleum and natural gas for suitable amendments to the formula.

Shanker said the marketing freedom granted by the government earlier this week would help monetise gas discoveries in such blocks.

The new policy allows affiliates to bid for the gas to be produced from such blocks.

ONGC group companies, which have been using imported LNG as fuel, would now be

formula.

"Ministry is seized of the matter. They are favourably inclined and a committee has been constituted to look into this," he said.

Prices have to be remunerative if the domestic output has to be raised, he said.

"There is talk of a floor price and changes in the formula itself by linking the rate to relevant market benchmarks such as JKM. I cannot comment on what shape it will take but we are certainly hopeful," he said.

While the \$1.79 per mmBtu rate applies to gas produced from fields given to the company on a nomination basis, ONGC has pricing freedom on blocks or areas it had won in auctions since 1999.

Shanker said the marketing freedom granted by the government earlier this week would help monetise gas discoveries in such blocks.

The new policy allows affiliates to bid for the gas to be produced from such blocks.

ONGC group companies, which have been using imported LNG as fuel, would now be

able to participate in the price discovery auctions, he said.

This would create competition and help realise better prices for ONGC. The group companies would also save by replacing imported fuel with domestically produced gas, he said.

Most of ONGC's current production is from nomination fields and the company is hoping to add 15 million standard cubic meters of output from KG basin using the pricing freedom it has.

Rates according to the current formula are revised every six months. Prices effective 1 October have been cut to \$1.79 per mmBtu. This price is the lowest that ONGC got since 2010 when the government had moved towards deregulating gas pricing.

The current formula takes into account the volume-weighted annual average of the prices prevailing in Henry Hub (US), National Balancing Point (the UK), Alberta (Canada), and Russia with a lag of one-quarter. Prices are set on 1 April and 1 October each year.

have to generate separate e-way bills.

The e-invoicing system can also eventually dispense with the present system of filing GST returns for smaller businesses and MSMEs because e-invoice will pre-populate their returns and they have to simply pay the taxes. The returns will be automatically generated for all supplies for which e-invoice have been issued," Pandey said after reviewing the status of e-invoicing system implementation.

Within seven days of the rollout of e-invoicing system Invoice Reference Number (IRN) generation has grown by 163 per cent and have touched the count of 13.69 lakh IRNs on 7 October.

Under e-invoicing, taxpayers have to generate invoices on their internal systems (ERP/accounting/billing software) and then report it online to the "Invoice Registration Portal (IRP)". The IRP will validate the information provided in the invoices and return the digitally signed e-invoices with a unique "Invoice Reference Number (IRN)" along with a QR code to the taxpayer.

## Industry welcomes RBI's focus on reviving growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

Corporate India has welcomed RBI's resolve to continue with an accommodative monetary policy stance and focus on reviving growth.

RBI's six-member monetary policy committee today voted unanimously to retain the repo rate at 4 per cent while keeping its policy stance accommodative.

The central bank sees the economy contracting 9.5 per cent in the current fiscal.

CII director-general Chandrjit Banerjee said additional measures announced by the RBI to support growth in the form of liquidity support, reviving exports, credit support, and improving ease of doing business are expected to give the much-

needed impetus to drive the "three-speed" recovery which the central bank expects.

Ficci president Sangita Reddy said while the policy repo rate was not cut by the RBI, several other measures were announced that should help bring down interest rates in the market.

Assocham secretary-general Deepak Sood said Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das' dared-to-be-optimist approach shows his steely resolve to face the unprecedented situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

What is notable in this edition of RBI's monetary policy announcement is its emphatic commitment to "public good" and its intent to remain accommodative for such public good. These

are welcome words in support of an economy that is looking to rebound from a pandemic, said Ashutosh Bishnoi, MD & CEO of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund.

Reliance Home Finance CEO Ravindra Sudhakar said RBI's stance to rationalise risk weightage on home loans is a welcome move. With all new housing loan risk now linked only to loan to the value, the rates will continue to be in check and hence encourage new buyers, he added.

Sunteck Realty CMD Kamal Khetan said the announcement of rationalising risk weightage on home loans is a targeted intervention and comes at a time when the property sector is making significant recovery across all segments.

## RBI move to ease liquidity condition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 9 OCTOBER

The Reserve Bank of India today said it will conduct on-tap targeted long-term repo operations (TLTRO) worth Rs 1 lakh crore to ensure comfortable liquidity condition in the banking system.

As a special case, the central bank also announced open market operations (OMOs) in state development loans (SDL) in the current financial year.

It has been decided to conduct on-tap TLTRO with tenors of up to three years for a total amount of up to Rs 1 lakh crore at a floating rate linked to the policy repo rate, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the monetary policy earlier in the day.

Liquidity availed by banks under the scheme has to be deployed in corporate bonds, commercial papers, and non-

convertible debentures issued by entities in specific sectors over and above the outstanding level of their investments in such instruments as on 30 September 2020, he said.

The liquidity availed under the scheme can also be used to extend bank loans to these sectors, Das said.

In view of the borrowing requirements of the Centre and states in the second half of 2020-21 and the likely pick-up in demand for credit as the recovery gathers strength, on-tap TLTROs are intended to enable banks to conduct their operations smoothly and seamlessly without being hindered by illiquidity frictions, the Governor said.

He said banks that had availed of funds earlier under TLTRO and TLTRO 2.0 will be given the option of reversing these transactions before maturity.

The scheme will be avail-

able

able up to 31 March 2021, with flexibility with regard to enhancement of the amount and period after a review of the response to the scheme, he said.

The Governor further said in order to impart liquidity to SDLs and thereby facilitate efficient pricing, it has been decided to conduct OMOs in SDLs as a special case during the current financial year.

This would improve secondary market activity and rationalise spreads of SDLs over Central government securities of comparable maturities, he added.

## MG unveils its flagship Gloster SUV in India

MUMBAI, 9 OCTOBER

MG Motor India has launched its MG Gloster as India's first autonomous (Level 1) premium SUV at a starting price of Rs 28.98 lakh, the 96-year old parent company MG Motor announced to the media.

Created in the UK in 1924 by a Morris cars salesman Cecil Kimber, MG cars added to the Morris Garages, renowned worldwide for their sports cars, roadsters, and cabriolets (cars with a retractable top). MG cars are a favourite among the British royal family and Prime Ministers.

Its Gloster launch in India was preceded by advertising during the Indian Premier League that is being telecast to record viewership. MG Motor India has a car manufacturing plant at Halol in Gujarat.

The four premium MG Gloster models (Super, Smart, Sharp and Savvy) are being priced in India between Rs 28 lakh and Rs 50 lakh for a range from two-wheel to four-wheel drive options.

The Gloster launch comes as a boost for India's automobile industry at a time of industry downturn due to the pandemic and when foreign car makers have been recently grumbling at heavy taxes, particularly for the luxury car segment.

Asian shares inched close to two-and-a-half years highs today as revived hopes for a US stimulus deal eclipsed weaker-than-expected jobs data, while mainland Chinese markets jumped after a week-long holiday.

Meanwhile, the rupee strengthened by 8 paise to close at 73.16 (provisional) against the US dollar today.

## Tata Steel production falls by 3.45% in Q2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

July-September, as against 0.57 MT in the corresponding quarter of last fiscal.

The company's consolidated sales during the quarter under review was about 12 per cent up at 7.86 MT, from 7.02 MT in the same period a year ago.

During July-September 2020, Tata Steel India's sales stood at 5.05 MT, as against 4.13 MT in the same quarter last year. In Europe, it sold 2.26 MT of steel as compared to 2.29 MT.

In South East Asia, the company sold 0.55 MT steel in the quarter under review as against 0.60 MT in the same period of the previous fiscal.

During the quarter under review, the company's business in India remained positive in terms of production as well as sales, the figures showed.

## Mahindra arm buys stake in Great Rocksport

NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

Mahindra Group firm Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Ltd (MHRIL) today said it has acquired 6.67 per cent stake in adventure-based activities provider Great Rocksport Pvt Ltd. The company, however, did not disclose the financial details of the deal.

MHRIL has acquired a strategic minority stake (6.67 per cent) in Great Rocksport, it said. "Our strategic investment in Rocksport will help enhance outdoor experience offerings at our resorts. Our members and their families will also have access to specially curated Rocksport programmes in the cities," MHRIL MD & CEO Kavinder Singh said. MHRIL looks forward to working with the Rocksport team towards creating unique and immersive experiences, he added.

Further, the companies

will be required to disclose about final forensic audit report, other than for forensic audit initiated by regulatory or enforcement agencies, on receipt by the listed entity, along with comments of the management, if any.

In addition, the Sebi has made certain changes in rules for listed entities, which list their non-convertible debt securities, with regard to maintenance of asset cover and intimation about documents to debenture trustees.

Under the norms, listed entities will have to maintain 100 per cent asset cover, or asset cover as per the terms of offer document, sufficient to discharge the principal amount at all times for the non-convertible debt securities issued.

The submission of half-yearly certificate is not applicable where bonds are secured by a government guarantee, the Sebi said.

## Sebi tells listed companies to disclose forensic audit info

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER

In order to address the gaps in availability of information, markets regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India has asked listed companies to make disclosures about initiation of forensic audit to stock exchanges.

The move comes after Sebi's board last month approved a proposal in this regard.

The listed entities will make disclosures about the fact of initiation of forensic audit along with the name of the entity initiating such audit and reasons for the same, if available, to stock exchanges, the Sebi said in a notification issued on Thursday.

Further, the companies

with regards to rationalisation of risk weights for all new housing loans until 31 March 2022, was a shot for retail banks and housing finance companies, Paras Bothra, president of equity research, Ashika Stock Broking, stated.

ICICI Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising around 3 per cent. Axis Bank, HDFC twins, SBI, L&T, ONGC and Infosys were among the gainers.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Asian Paints, Nestle India, UltraTech Cement and HUL declined.

Among sectoral indices, realty, healthcare, FMCG and basic materials fell up to 1.58 per cent.



CITING SOME INCIDENTS INCLUDING THE RECENT ARREST OF AL QAEDA ASSOCIATES AND MAOISTS

WEST BENGAL GOVERNOR JAGDEEP DHANKHAR

The Statesman

09  
NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2020

# Odisha clears five industrial projects

Since March Odisha has attracted investment of over Rs 24,000 cr

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 9 OCTOBER

**O**disha continued to beat the market slowdown caused by the global pandemic in attracting investment with five new investment proposals envisaging investment of Rs. 1851.96 crore being cleared by the government today.

The state level single window authority committee meeting held on digital mode under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy approved projects related to the metal and metal downstream and cement sector.

Principal Secretary Industries, Hemant Kumar Sharma presented details of the investment proposal for consideration.

Tripathy suggested that

the industries be motivated to source power from the GRID instead of setting up CPPs. He also called for appropriate mechanisms for scientific use of water in slurry pipelines through recycling.

The projects included a 2.0 MTPA pellet and grinding plant initiated by M/s. OCL India Limited (OCL) to be set up in Cuttack district at a cost of Rs 441.43 crores.

CMD IDCO, Sanjay Kumar Singh, IPICOL MD Nitin Bhanudas Jawale and other officers were present.

Yesterday CM Naveen Patnaik had inaugurated two industrial projects and conducted ground breaking ceremony of 10 other units totalling an investment of Rs 8796 crore.

Since the lockdown in March, the Odisha government has succeeded in garnering investments to the tune of Rs 24,185 crore involving 35 industrial proposals.

CM Naveen Patnaik claimed that recent indicators suggest that Odisha's economy is coming back to track and industries are on a revival path.

A cement grinding unit of

2.5 MTPA capacity initiated by M/s. OCL India Limited (OCL)

to be set up in Cuttack district at a cost of Rs 441.43 crores. CMD IDCO, Sanjay Kumar Singh, IPICOL MD Nitin Bhanudas Jawale and other officers were present.

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A cement grinding unit of

## Odisha Ministers, MLAs have no access to CM: AICC leader

'Democracy has been murdered, few officers have taken over'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 9 OCTOBER

Democracy has been 'murdered' in Odisha, Ministers, MLAs and PRI members do not have access to CM Naveen Patnaik. A handful of bureaucrats have taken over, charged AICC leader in charge of Odisha Dr A Chella Kumar.

People of the state need to ponder on what is the use of voting for a BJD candidate who cannot even meet the CM, let alone, raise their concerns or problems, remarked the AICC leader at his maiden press conference here today.

The newly appointed AICC leader in charge of the state is on his first visit to Odisha. He toured Tirtol assembly segment yesterday where a by-poll is scheduled for 3 November.

"I will refrain from talking about PM Modi and the BJP and focus on Odisha", he said while maintaining that both



the BJD and BJP had crushed democracy.

He conceded that the Congress vote percentage in the state had eroded and that mistakes done in the past are to be rectified.

Dr Chella Kumar asserted that the Congress, unlike the BJD, is committed to democracy.

The debt burden of the state was Rs. 18,100 crore in the year 2000, today it has risen to Rs. 1,30000 crore, he said.

Major industries like Rourkela Steel Plant, NALCO, HAL were all set up during Congress regimes. The MSME

sector was given a boost with the call of 1000 industries in 1000 days during the Congress rule, he noted.

There were 2.5 lakh MSME's established but now majority of them are closed, he said. Nine spinning mills were there, all are closed now.

Unemployment rate is as high as 23.8 % more than the national average of 23.5%. Fifteen lakh people are forced migrants.

The recent NCRB report places Odisha at the top in cyber crime, second in atrocities against women, he pointed out.

Even during the pandemic, large scale corruption has taken place in purchase of medical equipment and the case is pending with the Lokayukta, he said.

Chella Kumar alleged that figures relating to the pandemic are fudged to claim credit.

## Odisha govt writes to centre against BJP MP Aparajita

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 9 OCTOBER

and the earnest repeated appeals made by Prime Minister regarding the same", Mishra said.

"I would not have brought this to your notice, had this been the first occasion where the MP had blatantly violated Covid guidelines. In addition to repeated advisories, warnings and booking of at least three cases against MP for violation of Covid guidelines, there is no improvement in behaviour," Mishra noted in the letter.

"Such irresponsible behaviour on the part of a people's representative will demotivate the Covid Warriors and is an insult to all those who have lost their lives" added the Minister.

Reacting to it, BJP MP said "did the Minister write to the CM when a COVID positive Minister and MLA attended the funeral and cremation of late Pradip Maharathy".



ST secretary V Kartik Pandian, Works Secretary K Kumar, RDC A Samal and others review the grand plan for development of Cuttack, particularly transforming SCB Medical College & Hospital to a world class medical institute, making the Taladanda canal embankment road to be a three lane road, beautification like parks, walking tracks etc were discussed.

## Cong dares Odisha CM to book IOCL for filling station blast

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 9 OCTOBER

Former law minister and veteran Congress leader Narasingha Mishra demanded that a case of 'criminal negligence' be registered against IOCL for the unprecedented blast and fire at a LPG filling station in the heart of the state capital here in which one person died and several others were injured.

Why has Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik remained silent, he has not even condemned the incident, said Mishra before adding that it was clearly another instance of the bonhomie between the BJD and BJP at the expense of people of the state.

Nobody knows how many people were there at the time of the blast on 7 October afternoon. There is no clear picture as to how many died, he

charged.

The first thing that the police ought to have done is to register a case against the IOCL. But it did not do so, he noted. Instead, they have registered a case against 'unknown persons' to bid time and delay the entire process till public attention gets deflected, he alleged.

The Chief Minister who is the home minister should have directed the police to institute the case and book those responsible for the incident, said Mishra.

The silence of the CM is appalling, he remarked while pointing out at the complete lawlessness in the state that has resulted in the ignominy of Odisha topping the list of cyber crime, second in crime against women as per National Crime Record Bureau.

## Odisha COVID death toll rises to 991

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 9 OCTOBER

85.25 per cent recovery rate.

Odisha currently has 28,811 active cases, which 11.61 percent of total positive cases registered in the State. At present the country has 8,93,592 active cases comprising 12.94 percent of the total caseload.

The State's share is 3.58% in the country's confirmed virus caseload while the active cases are 2.32% of India's total active cases. The number of cured patients accounts for 3.68 percent of the country's total recovery. Odisha has so far reported 0.93 percent of the country's Coronavirus deaths.

More than 36,64,678 sample tests have been conducted in the state so far, including 45,169 on Thursday.

The pandemic's growth rate in October is to the tune of 10 per cent, marking slowdown of the COVID graph in comparison to September. A whopping

49 per cent growth had been recorded in the last month. With addition of 132 covid deaths in the current month, a 13 percent growth in fatality rate has been recorded in the current month.

Of the 2,697 fresh cases reported today from all the 30 districts, 1,576 were reported from various quarantining centres, and the rest 1,121 were detected during contact tracing.

Khurda, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, accounted for the maximum number of new cases at 482, followed by Cuttack at 234, Nuapada at 153 and Mayurbhanj at 134.

Khurda district with 42,762 positive cases has emerged as the COVID hotspot of the State.

In the gender-wise breakup of the infected persons, 67 per cent are men while women constitute 33 per cent of total patients.

## Ganjam Covid model praise @UniofOxford?

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 9 OCTOBER

A day after the Odisha government went all gun blazing highlighting the purported Oxford study in Ganjam's turnaround in COVID management, eyebrows are being raised over the authenticity of the study.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and Ganjam Collector yesterday in their respective official Twitter handles claimed Oxford University's note of appreciation for the successful infection control strategy in the southern district.

The CMO had removed the tweet later. When asked, Ganjam Collector Vijay Amrata Kulange said "the tweet post-

ing was based on a news report of a web portal. The administration is yet to receive Oxford university study. We are in touch with Oxford in this regard".

Ganjam earned praise from @ UniofOxford for its successful model of COVID infection prevention. The district excelled in COVID management by empowering Sarpanches, forming committees in villages for intensive screening and by ensuring proper healthcare, CMO tweet, now removed, stated.

"Ganjam model of COVID management got recognized by @UniofOxford for successful infection prevention strategies. Our gratitude and appre-

ciation to Team Ganjam", Ganjam Collector Collector Kulange stated in his official Twitter handle.

Because of orchestrated endeavour at the grass roots with Sarpanches leading from the front of COVID management, the pandemic's growth has been flattened, Collector Kulange said. While Ganjam district reported an overall confirmed caseload of 20,550, it now has only 237 active cases and the recovery rate is 97.5 per cent.

The turnaround was made possible due to a holistic and multi-pronged strategy, which is now being widely acclaimed as the "Ganjam Model" in Odisha. The meticulous management of returnees, COVID

testing strategy, health infrastructure and community involvement implemented by a dedicated team of Officers, doctors and ground level workers has contributed to containing the spread of COVID in Ganjam.

The strategy adopted was two-pronged - firstly, the focus was made on awareness of social distancing norms and secondly, dedicated efforts were made to gear up health infrastructure.

Ganjam had become the first district in Odisha to promulgate Section 144 of CrPC to restrict gathering five or more people in public areas. All the Tahasildars of the district were declared as Incident Com-

manders under Epidemic Diseases Act to enforce the guidelines issued by the District Magistrate from time to time.

Directions were given to both the police districts of this district to give necessary support to the Incident Commanders in their enforcement activities. The focus of the enforcement was on crowded places like markets, religious Institutions, playgrounds and public Institutions.

Ganjam was also the first district in Odisha to enforce compulsory wearing of masks by levying a fine of Rs. 200/- on not wearing a mask. The effective management of migrant returnees also put brakes on the spread of virus infections.

## Cycles4 Change Challenge

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 9 OCTOBER

To promote cycling as a means of public transport in the city here, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation and Bhubaneswar Smart City Ltd organised a 'Cycles4Change' challenge.

At least one thousand enthusiasts took part in it and pedalled for 12 km from Sisubhavan Square to Dhauli.

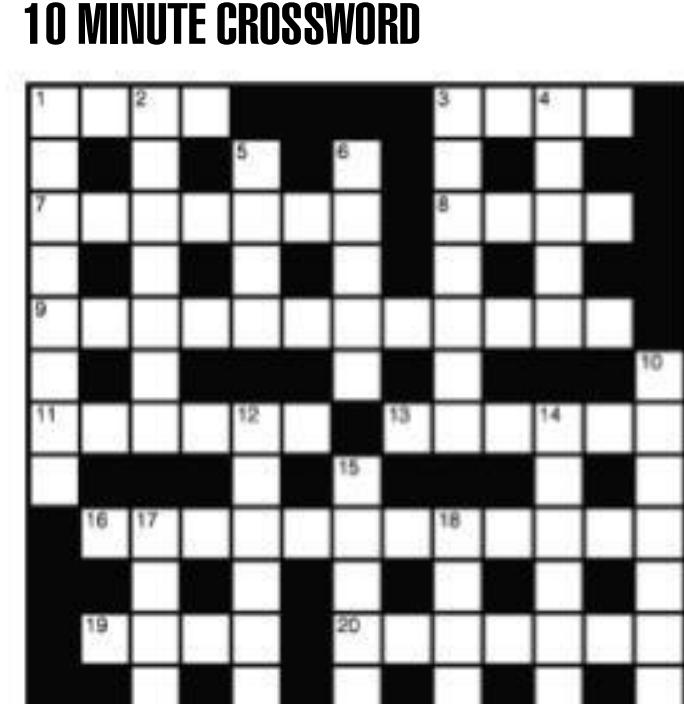
Bhubaneswar was one of the 95 cities in India to have registered for the India Cycles4Change Challenge, which is an initiative of Smart Cities Mission of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs

Ministry to promote cycling. BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Choudhury said that the initiative was aimed

to boost the habit of cycling. Many of the participants vowed to use cycles every Friday.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



### SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

**CROSS**  
1 Stronghold (4)  
3 Did extremely well in (Informal) (4)  
7 Taught (7)  
8 Corrosion (4)  
9 Not restricted (12)  
11 Affectionately gentle (Informal) (2-2)  
13 Paradise (6)  
16 French girl (12)  
19 As well as (4)  
20 Rustic (7)  
21 Operator (4)  
22 Unemployment benefit (Informal) (4)

**DOWN**  
1 In irregular spells (8)  
2 No longer working (7)  
3 Flight company (7)  
4 Result (5)  
5 Plant with showy flowers (4)  
6 Worship (5)  
7 Disconcert (8)  
12 Furniture item (7)  
14 Vesuvius, for example (7)  
15 Transform (5)  
17 Book of maps (5)  
18 Simple card game (4)

**Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required**

### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



### DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



### NEED TO KNOW

#### HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 2371473, 23325320

#### RAILWAY INQUIRY

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

#### ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- Haryana Roadways 23861262
- Himachal Roadways 2371473, 23325320

#### FLIGHT INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181
- INDIGO



*It's despicable, so beneath the office of the presidency and the American are sick & tired of it. They know who this man is, it's got to stop*

US DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOE BIDEN

SLAMMING DONALD TRUMP FOR HIS REMARKS ATTACKING KAMALA HARRIS

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	18°C	12°C
LONDON	11°C	9°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	9°C
NEW YORK	17°C	9°C
MOSCOW	10°C	9°C

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

## THUMBNAILS



A trainer from the canine service of Russia's Aeroflot carrier trains a sniffer dog to detect Covid in biomaterial from infected people in Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport on Friday. **AFP**

**Polish minister tested +ve:** Poland's opposition says the country's education minister-designate visited his grandmother in the hospital, in breach of rules designed to control the spread of Covid. Two days later, lawmaker Przemyslaw Czarnecki tested positive, forcing many staff and patients at the hospital to go into quarantine. **AP**

**Prisoners clash in Manila:** Nine prisoners were killed when rival gangs clashed with knives in one of the Philippines' most overcrowded prisons, officials said. It was not immediately clear what set off the violence between the Sputnik and Commando gangs before dawn at New Bilibid Prison in Manila. **AP**

**Scholarship fund for women of colour:** Rapper-singer Megan Thee Stallion has launched a scholarship fund to support women of colour pursuing an associate's, bachelor's or post-graduate degree in any field. **AP**

**Spain's king and PM visit Barcelona amid protest**

**Police set up road-blocks and heavily patrolled the streets around the train station where the monarch and PM attended the Barcelona New Economy Week innovation awards**

BARCELONA, 9 OCTOBER

Several thousand Catalan separatists are protesting the visit of Spanish King Felipe VI and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to Barcelona amid continued tensions between the restive region and national authorities.

Police set up roadblocks and heavily patrolled the streets around the train station where the monarch and prime minister attended the Barcelona New Economy Week innovation awards on Friday.

The visit by Spain's heads of state and government comes less than two weeks after Catalonia's regional chief, Quim Torra, was removed from office by Spain's Supreme Court. The court ruled him unfit to hold office for having violated election laws when he refused to remove a banner from public buildings supporting imprisoned Catalan separatists during an official election campaign.

Some small groups of protesters gathered to burn photos of the king on Thursday night.

But there were no reported major clashes with police like the ones that occurred when Sanchez held a Cabinet meeting in Barcelona in December 2018.

Catalonia's separatist movement, which is supported by roughly half the 7.5 million residents in the region, wants to create a republic for the wealthy northeast corner of Spain. **AP**

# Trump says he's ready for rallies, feels perfect

Physician Conley says Trump showing no evidence of illness progressing or adverse reactions to the aggressive course of therapy prescribed by his doctors

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 9 OCTOBER

President Donald Trump insisted on Thursday that he is ready to resume campaign rallies and feels "perfect" one week after his diagnosis with the coronavirus that has killed more than 210,000 Americans, as his doctor said the president had "completed his course of therapy" for the disease.

The president has not been seen in public — other than in White House-produced videos — since his Monday return from the military hospital where he received experimental treatments for the virus. On Thursday, his physician, Navy Cmdr. Sean Conley, said in a memo that Trump would be able to safely "return to public engagements" on Saturday, as the president tries to shift his focus to the election that's less than four weeks away, with millions of Americans already casting ballots.

While Trump said he believes he's no longer contagious, concerns about infection appeared to scuttle plans for next week's presidential debate.

"I'm feeling good. Really good. I think perfect," Trump said during a telephone interview with Fox Business, his first since he was released from a three-day hospital stay Monday. "I think I'm better to the point where I'd love to do a rally tonight," Trump said. He added, "I don't think I'm contagious at all."



A group of murals encouraging Philadelphians to vote, called "To The Polls," are displayed in Love Park during early voting at City Hall on Saturday, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. **AFP**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says individuals can discontinue isolation 10 days after the onset of symptoms, which for Trump was 1 October, according to his doctors.

Conley said that meant Trump, who has been surrounded by minimal staffing as he works out of the White House residence and the Oval Office, could return to holding events on Saturday.

He added that Trump was showing no evidence of his illness progressing or adverse reactions to the aggressive course of therapy prescribed by his doctors.

Earlier this week, the president's doctors suggested they would work closely with military medical research facilities and other laboratories on "advanced diagnostic testing" to determine when the president was no longer con-

tagious, but did not elaborate. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, said two negative PCR lab tests 24 hours apart are a key factor in determining whether someone is still contagious.

"So, if the president goes 10 days without symptoms, and they do the tests that we were talking about, then you could make the assumption, based on good science, that he is not infected," Fauci said Thursday on MSNBC.

While reports of reinfection are rare, the CDC recommends that even people who recover from Covid continue to wear a mask, stay distanced and follow other precautions. It was unclear if Trump, who eschewed mask-wearing in most settings, would abide by that guidance. The White House, meanwhile, contin-

ued to decline to share when Trump last tested negative for the virus — which would help pinpoint when he was infected. Strategic communications director Alyssa Farah said that information was Trump's "private medical history."

Trump's campaign and the White House were already drawing up plans for Trump to resume campaigning, eyeing a visit to Pennsylvania on Monday and Michigan on Tuesday ahead of what was to have been next Thursday's debate. But the Commission on Presidential Debates announced that event would be "virtually" in order to "protect the health and safety of all involved." Trump swiftly rejected that offer, and his campaign later called on the commission to delay the final two debates by a week to alleviate concerns about an in-person contest.

Over the objections of some aides, Trump returned to the Oval Office on Thursday, even though a workspace had been set up in the residential section of the White House. Aides were discussing a potential photo opportunity with the president at the White House either Thursday or Friday but plans had not been finalized, according to two White House officials not authorized to publicly discuss internal deliberations. Only a few senior aides, medical staff and security personnel have laid eyes on the president since he returned to the White House on Monday afternoon.

In 25th Amendment bid, Pelosi mulls Trump's fitness to serve

WASHINGTON, 9 OCTOBER

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is questioning President Donald Trump's fitness to serve, announcing legislation Thursday that would create a commission to allow Congress to intervene under the 25th Amendment and remove the president from executive duties.

Just weeks before the election, Pelosi said Trump needs to disclose more about his health after his Covid diagnosis. She noted Trump's strange tweet halting talks on a new coronavirus aid package he subsequently tried to reverse.

The public needs to know the health condition of the president, Pelosi said, later invoking the 25th Amendment, which allows a president's cabinet to intervene when a president is unable to conduct the duties of the office. **AP**

## Michigan guv links Prez to foiled kidnapping plot

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
DETROIT, 9 OCTOBER

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer linked a plot to kidnap her to President Donald Trump, arguing on Thursday in a speech hours after arrests were announced that Trump's words had been a "rallying cry" for extremists.

Whitmer, a Democrat, said the Republican president has spent the last seven months of the coronavirus pandemic "denying science, ignoring his own health experts, stoking distrust, fomenting anger and giving comfort to those who spread fear and hatred and division."

She singled out Trump's debate comments, when he didn't condemn white supremacist groups and told one far-right extremist group to "stand back and stand by."

"Hate groups heard the president's words, not as a rebuke, but as a rallying cry," Whitmer said.

"When our leaders speak, their words matter. They carry weight. When our leaders meet, encourage or fraternize with domestic terrorists, they legitimize their actions and they are complicit. When they stoke and contribute to hate speech, they are complicit."

"There's no indication in the criminal complaint that the men arrested were inspired

by Trump. Authorities also have not publicly said whether the men were angry about Whitmer's coronavirus orders, which sharply curtailed businesses and individuals in an effort to slow the spread of the virus. Democrat Joe Biden sought to tie Trump to the plot as well, pointing to the president's tweet earlier this year to "LIBERATE MICHIGAN."

Whitmer's coronavirus response has faced criticism from conservatives, and the GOP-led Michigan Legislature sued her in May to try to invalidate her stay-at-home order and other measures.

The arrests and Whitmer's comments come less than a month before the presidential election in a key battleground state, where recent polls show Biden has a lead.

Six men were charged in federal court with conspiring to kidnap the governor in reaction to what they viewed as her "uncontrolled power," according to a federal complaint.

Separately, seven others were charged in state court under Michigan's anti-terrorism laws for allegedly targeting police and seeking a "civil war." White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany criticized Whitmer's remarks. "President Trump has continually condemned white supremacists and all forms of hate," she said.

**UK govt prepares jobs support if firms forced to close**

LONDON, 9 OCTOBER

The British government is on Friday set to announce further support for firms to retain staff in the coming months if they are forced to close as a result of the imposition of further lockdown restrictions.

With the government expected to tighten restrictions over the coming days to deal with a sharp spike in new coronavirus infections, there are growing concerns that the economy will suffer during the winter and that hundreds of thousands of jobs may be lost.

Treasury chief Rishi Sunak said he understood how people are worried about the coming winter months. He is being urged by businesses, politicians and unions to accompany any lockdown restrictions with a financial support package to prevent mass unemployment.

Specifically, he is being urged to back local job retention programs, whereby the government steps in to pay the lion's share of the salaries of workers who are forced to go idle. A national program that has helped keep a lid on unemployment is due to stop at the end of October.

The Chancellor will be setting out the next stage of the Job Support Scheme later today that will protect jobs and provide a safety net for those businesses that may have to close in the coming weeks and months," a Treasury spokesman said.

New figures released Friday show that the British economy's bounce back from recession slowed significantly in August. The Office for National Statistics said the economy expanded by only 2.1% in August from the month before. That was way down on the 6.4% expansion in July and substantially lower than the 4.6% anticipated in financial markets.

The hospitality sector was one that performed well, boosted by many people's decision to take their holidays in the UK instead of going abroad, as well as the government's dining discount scheme during the month. Under the Eat Out to Help Out program, sitting customers could receive a 50% discount on food and non-alcoholic drinks at participating restaurants between Monday and Wednesday up to \$13 per person. However, at the end of August the economy was still 9.2% per cent smaller than before the pandemic.

## NATURE'S DELIGHT



A person feeds peanuts to a grey squirrel in Washington Square Park on Friday in New York City. **AFP**

## US, Russia said to be close to deal on N-warhead freeze

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 9 OCTOBER

US and Russian negotiators have agreed in principle to continue freezing their nuclear-warhead stockpiles in a bid to salvage their last remaining arms control pact before it expires next year, a person familiar with the talks said Friday.

The person said it's not yet clear if the agreement for a freeze will succeed or translate into an extension of the New START treaty that expires in February. But, if it works, the person said an agreement could be announced before the Nov. 3 presidential election with an eye toward extending the accord and eventually bringing China into it, a longtime Trump administration demand.

The person said President Donald Trump and Russian

leader Vladimir Putin have signed off on the freeze, but negotiators still need to iron out details, including compliance and verification issues.

The person spoke to reporters after the last round of US-Russia arms control talks in Helsinki this week.

The person, who was not authorized to discuss the negotiations publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said follow-up discussions between Washington and Moscow would take place next week. The Russians have been told that if a freeze is not agreed to in the coming weeks, the United States may harden its conditions.

Word of a potential freeze comes as Trump is seeking foreign policy victories during a difficult reelection campaign against former Vice President Joe Biden, who has

vowed to extend New START even without Chinese participation.

An announcement ahead of the election could raise eyebrows, coming as US intelligence officials say Russia favours Trump and has been working to denigrate Biden.

The person familiar with the negotiations said Nov. 3 was not a drop-dead date for a freeze agreement with Russia and stressed that the Trump administration would continue to negotiate no matter what the result of the election.

But the person said the US would be looking for additional Russian concessions should negotiations drag out beyond the vote. Currently, the US envisions a broad cap on nuclear warheads under which the numbers of multiple weapons systems could be adjusted with some flexibility.

Bar or restaurant? The big issue in Brussels



A waiter serves beers at a bar on the eve of the mandatory closure of bars in Brussels. **AFP**

BRUSSELS, 9 OCTOBER

New coronavirus restrictions put a spotlight on two Belgian classics this week: Beer and surrealism.

Since bars in Brussels were forced to close as of Thursday for at least a month to deal with a massive surge in cases but restaurants were allowed to remain open, the big question on the streets is: when is a bar a bar and when is it a bar a restaurant?

And more importantly, does the distinction really help contain the pandemic? It is all very reminiscent of surrealism master Rene Magritte, who painted a picture of a pipe and wrote under it Ceci n'est pas une pipe (This is not a pipe)," because, of course, it is an image of a pipe. The Treachery of Images, as the painting is called, also applies to Brussels watering holes these days. To stay open and in business, bars will have to prove that they are not bars.

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, 9 OCTOBER

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PARIS, 9 OCTOBER

During a single overnight shift this week, three new Covid patients were rushed into Dr Karim Debbat's small intensive care ward in the southern French city of Arles. It now has more virus patients than during the pandemic's first wave and is scrambling to create new ICU beds elsewhere in the hospital to accommodate the sick. Similar scenes are playing out across France.

Covid patients now occupy 40% of ICU beds in the Paris region, and more than a quarter of ICUs nationwide, except in cases where in-person lessons are essential.

Newcastle University said "the overwhelming majority of cases" were from "social and residential settings" and said appropriate measures were being taken to protect everyone on campus.

We expected to see cases rise in light of the increase in cases both locally and nationally and all HE (higher education) institutions have to manage this on an ongoing basis, a spokesperson said.

Students with online concierge services or food parcels delivered by staff and the students' union. Meanwhile, Leeds University said 555 students and three staff members tested positive between 28 September and 4 October.

"We are acutely aware that behind each number is an individual with their own needs and concerns, and ensuring the safety, health and wellbeing of everyone is our absolute priority," said the university's Vice Chancellor Professor.

Spain considers state emergency for Madrid: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez is holding an emergency Cabinet meeting on Friday morning to consider declaring a state of emergency for Madrid and its surrounding region in order to impose stronger anti-virus restrictions on the reluctant regional governors.

The meeting comes a day after a Madrid court struck down a national government order that imposed a partial lockdown in the Spanish capital and its suburbs. The ruling sided with regional officials who had appealed the application of stricter measures against one of Europe's most worrying virus clusters.

The judges said that travel restrictions in and out of the cities might be necessary to fight the spread of the coronavirus,



*I think this is the first time in my life I've been without words.  
I was just so shocked and surprised*

HEAD OF THE UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, DAVID BEASLEY  
AFTER HIS ORGANISATION WAS AWARDED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The Statesman

11

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2020

## THUMBNAILS



Cars crowd during morning rush hour after a week-long 'golden week' holiday in Shanghai on Friday. AFP

**Pak bans Tik Tok:** Pakistan's telecom watchdog on Friday banned the popular Chinese video-sharing app *TikTok* after getting numerous complaints against its immoral content. The regulator took the step after a final notice was given to *TikTok* to comply with the instructions for development of an effective mechanism for a proactive moderation of its unlawful online matters. AP

**Protest in Indonesia:** Protests in many Indonesian cities turned violent on Thursday as thousands of enraged students and workers criticized a new law they say will cripple labour rights and harm the environment. Clashes between demonstrators and police broke out near Jakartas presidential palace. AP

**Lithuanian diplomats:** Lithuania said Friday it had decided to recall five diplomats from Minsk, the capital of Belarus, with a government spokesman saying Belarus had demanded that 11 diplomats be sent home. Last week, Lithuania recalled its ambassador to Belarus for consultations under pressure from Minsk. AP

**Pak journalist:** A Pakistani court has restrained the Federal Investigation Agency from arresting a physically challenged journalist over his alleged objectionable tweets. The Islamabad HC issued the orders on a petition filed by journalist Rana Mohammad Arshad, directing that no adverse action shall be taken against the petitioner, the Dawn reported. PTI

**Typhoon to hit Japan:** A slow-moving typhoon off Japan's southern coast has triggered gusts and rain across a large part of the country and could bring heavy rains to the Tokyo region next week, though it was not expected to make landfall. AP

**Kyrgyz president declares state of emergency amidst protests**

MOSCOW, 9 OCTOBER  
The embattled president of Kyrgyzstan ordered a nearly two-week state of emergency Friday in the capital in a bid to end the political turmoil that has been sparked by a disputed parliamentary election.

President Sooronbai Jeenbekov decreed that the state of emergency, which starts at 8 p.m. Friday and runs through 8 a.m. on Oct. 21, could include a curfew and travel restrictions. He also ordered the military to deploy troops to Bishkek, the capital, to enforce the measure.

It was unclear whether police and the military would comply with the order.

Jeenbekov has faced calls to step down from hundreds of protesters who stormed government buildings the night after Sunday's parliamentary vote was reportedly swept by pro-government parties. The demonstrators also freed former President Almazbek Atambayev, who was sentenced to 11 years in prison in June on charges of corruption and abuse of office that he and his supporters described as a political vendetta by Jeenbekov.

The turmoil marks a third time in 15 years that protesters have moved to topple a government in Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian nation of 6.5 million. AP

## Venezuelans once again fleeing on foot as troubles mount

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PAMPLONA, 9 OCTOBER

de Berlin, a freezing plateau located at 13,000 feet (4,000 meters).

Eleazar Hernández slept on a sidewalk amid a light drizzle, temperatures that dipped close to freezing and the roar of passing trucks.

The 23-year-old Venezuelan migrant was trying to make it to the Colombian city of Medellin with his wife, who is seven months pregnant.

But the couple had run out of money for transportation by the time they reached Pamplona, a small mountain town over 300 miles (482 km) away from their final destination. Unable to buy a bus ticket, Hernández pinned his hopes on catching a ride on the back of a truck. It was the safest way to cross the Paramo

Though the number of people leaving is smaller than at the height of the Venezuelan exodus, Colombian immigration officials expect 200,000 Venezuelans to enter the country in the months ahead, enticed by the prospects of



Motorcyclists queue to fill the tank of their bikes in a gas station in Caracas on Friday. Venezuela launched this Monday a plan to distribute gasoline according to the registration numbers of the vehicles, a measure in response to the severe fuel shortage in the Caribbean country. AFP

earning higher wages and sending money back to Venezuela to feed their fam-

ilies. The new migrants are encountering decidedly more

adverse conditions than those who fled their homeland before Covid. Shelters remain closed, drivers are more reluctant to pick up hitchhikers and locals who fear contagion are less likely to help out with food donations.

We hardly got any lifts along the way, said Anahir Montilla, a cook from the Venezuelan state of Guarico who was approaching Colombia's capital after traveling with her family for 27 days.

Before the pandemic, over 5 million Venezuelans had left their country, according to the United Nations. The poorest left on foot, walking through a terrain that is often scorching but can also get frigidly cold.

As governments across

rero, an official for the International Rescue Committee, a humanitarian non-profit organization helping migrants.

What's more, many are now forced to walk within their own country for days to reach the border due to gas shortages that have diminished transportation between cities.

One lengthy stretch of road connecting the border city of Cucuta to Bucaramanga further inland used to be home to 11 shelters for migrants.

Most have been ordered to close by municipal governments trying to contain coronavirus infections. Before the pandemic broke out, Douglas Cabeza had turned a shed next to his house in Pamplona into a shelter that housed up to 200 migrants a night.

## Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: Russia to sponsor truce talks

Putin issued a statement calling for a break in the fighting between Armenian & Azerbaijani forces

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MOSCOW, 9 OCTOBER

Russia moved to stop the worst escalation of fighting in the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh in more than a quarter-century by offering to host cease-fire talks on Friday.

Late Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a statement calling for a break in the fighting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani forces that have raged for nearly two weeks over the region. The Kremlin said Putin's initiative followed a series of calls with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.

The latest outburst of fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces began September 27 and marked the biggest escalation of the decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

The region lies in Azerbaijan but has been under control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since the end of a separatist war in 1994.

The Kremlin said Putin proposed calling a cease-fire to exchange prisoners and collect the bodies of dead soldiers,



Child refugees from the Nagorno-Karabakh region sit and smile in Dilijan, some 120kms from Yerevan on Friday. AFP

adding that the top Azerbaijani and Armenian diplomats were invited to Moscow for consultations.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said they confirmed their attendance Friday, but there was no immediate comment from Armenia or Azerbaijan to the Russian initiative.

Azerbaijani officials and Nagorno-Karabakh separatist authorities said heavy shelling continued overnight.

Fighting with heavy artillery, warplanes and drones has engulfed Nagorno-Karabakh despite numerous international calls for a ceasefire. Both sides have accused each other of targeting residential areas and civilian infrastructure.

On Thursday, a historic cathedral in the town of Shusha in Nagorno-Karabakh came under shelling, a shell piercing its dome and damaging the interior. No one was hurt in the attack, but hours later more shelling wounded two Russian journalists inspecting the damage. The Azerbaijani military denied targeting the cathedral.

According to the Nagorno-Karabakh military, 376 of its servicemen have been killed since Sept. 27. Azerbaijan hasn't provided details on its military losses. Scores of civilians on both sides also have been killed.

Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, has been under intense shelling.

Residents are staying in shelters, some of which are in the basements of apartment buildings. Facing international calls for a cease-fire, Azerbaijan made its acceptance conditional on Armenia's withdrawal from the region.

Armenian officials say Turkey is involved in the conflict and is sending Syrian mercenaries to fight on Azerbaijan's side. Turkey has publicly backed Azerbaijan in the conflict but has denied sending combatants to the region.

In an interview with CNN Arabic aired Thursday, Azerbaijan's president admitted that Turkish F-16 fighter jets have stayed on in Azerbaijan weeks after a joint military exercise, but insisted that they have remained grounded.

Armenian officials had earlier claimed that a Turkish F-16 shot down an Armenian warplane, a claim that Turkey and Azerbaijan have denied.

Aliyev's office said French President Emmanuel Macron called him Friday to discuss the conflict, but wouldn't give any details of the conversation.

The call follows Macron's conversation with the Armenian prime minister late Thursday. Macron's office voiced

hope that a truce could be negotiated soon, noting that it was coordinating its efforts with the Kremlin.

Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict draws in fighters from Mideast:

For the past two weeks, Raffi Ghazarian has been glued to the TV at home and at work watching news about the fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces. If it goes on, the 50-year-old Lebanese of Armenian descent says he's ready to leave everything and volunteer to defend his ancestral land.

Some from Lebanon's large ethnic Armenian population have already travelled to join the fight, according to members of the community, although they say the numbers are small. The new eruption of violence in the Caucasus region strikes close to home for Lebanon's Armenians.

Red, blue and orange Armenian flags are flown on balconies, windows and roofs of buildings in Bourj Hammoud, Beirut's main Armenian district. Anti-Turkish graffiti in English and Armenian mark walls all over the streets.

Fighting has raged since September 27 in the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh, leaving several hundred dead.

## French hostage released after four years in Mali

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BAMAKO (MALI), 9 OCTOBER

A 75-year-old French aid worker held hostage for four years by Islamic extremists in Mali arrived Friday in France and says she wants to return to her aid work with malnourished children despite the ordeal.

Relatives enveloped Sophie Petronin in a huge embrace after she descended from the plane at the Villacoublay military airport southwest of Paris, where she was greeted by French President Emmanuel Macron. Macron expressed joy and relief at her release, thanked the Malian authorities and promised that the French military would continue its fight against terrorism in the West African region.

Bamako. I transformed detention ... into a spiritual retreat, if one can say that," Petronin was released alongside Italian hostages the Rev. Pierluigi Macchiarini and Nicola Chiacchio, and Cisse, a prominent Malian politician. There was no immediate information about the five other foreign hostages that the Islamic militants from JNIM are believed to still hold. Freedom for the four came just days after the Malian government released nearly 200 militants and sent them by plane to northern Mali, fuelling speculation of an imminent prisoner exchange that some fear could further destabilise the country.

French President Emmanuel Macron (R) stands next to French aid worker Sophie Petronin (C) who is welcomed by her family after suspected jihadist hostage-takers freed the 75-year-old from nearly four years of captivity in Mali upon her arrival at the Villacoublay military airport near Paris on Friday.

## US military blindsided by Trump's new Afghan troop withdrawal

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 9 OCTOBER

withdrawal could undercut negotiations to finalize a peace deal between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

They also fear a hasty withdrawal could force the US to leave behind sensitive military equipment. And they continue to stress that the Taliban has still not met requirements to reduce violence against the Afghans, a key element of the US withdrawal plan.

The Taliban welcomed Trump's comments, laid out in a confusing progression of comments and a tweet on Wednesday saying "we should have the small remaining number of our BRAVE Men and Women serving in Afghanistan

home by Christmas". He reinforced early withdrawal plans on Thursday morning, in a Fox Business Channel interview that understated the number of troops currently in Afghanistan.

Multiple US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive troop details, said they know of no plan for either new deadline. Instead, they pointed to comments Wednesday by National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien, who told an audience in Las Vegas that "as of today, there are under 5,000 and that will go to 2,500 by early next year".

The call follows Macrons conversation with the Armenian prime minister late Thursday. Macrons office voiced

## TENDER

### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT "Notice Inviting Tenders"

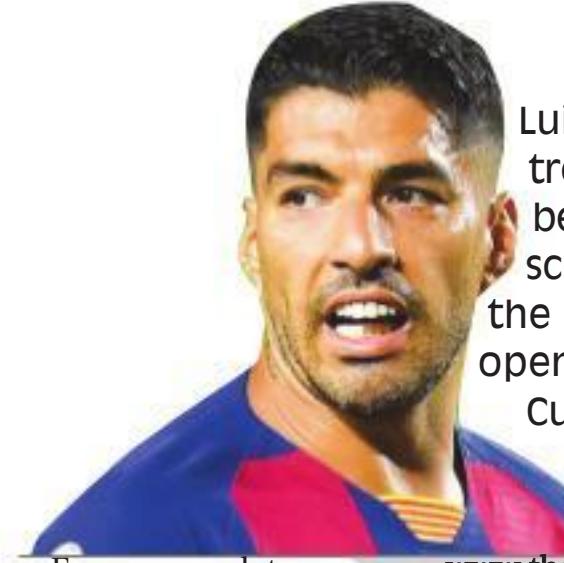
Item/percentage rate tender on form No. 688 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD Palampur on behalf of Governor of H.P. for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors/firms so as to reach this office on or before 02-11-2020 up to 10.30 AM and will be opened on the same day at 11.30 AM in the presence of the intending contractors or their authorized representative. It is also added that if on that day there is a holiday, then the next working day will be taken/considered. The tender forms can be had from this office against cash payment (non-refundable) on 30-10-2020 up to 01:00 PM & it is also added that if on that date there is a holiday, then the previous working day will be taken/considered. The application for the purchase of tender documents should be accompanied with earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/FDR/Call Deposit/Bank Draft of any Scheduled Bank/Post Office duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD Palampur, GST clearance certificate/NOC from competent authority, valid enlistment certificate in appropriate class in PWD (E). The application for purchase of tender form should be given with Sr. No. and Name of Work. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will be rejected. The receipt of application for issue of tender forms by post shall not be entertained/ considered in any case. The tender shall be issued to only those contractors/firms who are found to be eligible, suitable and competent. The decision of the Executive Engineer regarding suitability/eligibility/ competency of contractors/firms shall be final binding on the contractors/firms applying for the issuing of the tender. The offer of the tenders shall be kept open for 120 days. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reasons.

#### Conditions:

1. The contractor should have the EPF No. from the competent authority, failing which no tender form will be issued.
2. The contractor should be registered as a dealer under GST and should produce GST registration certificate.
3. The contractor should produce a copy of latest enlistment/renewal.

The bidders enlisted in a particular class shall be eligible to tender for his own class or one step below.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Form No.	Cost of Form
1	Providing & fixing of geysers in Block VI to IX of 32 Nos. Old Type-III Qtrs. Dr. RPGMC Kangra at Tanda.	261980/-	5300/-	Two Months	8	350/-
2	C/O Rajeev Gandhi Govt. Engineering College at Nagrota Bagwan, Distt. Kangra, HP (SH: Providing and laying of M.S. Pipe line for Fire Hydrant system from college main water tank to existing ring main of College therein) (Specialize Job)	438186/-	8800/-	Three Months	8	350/-
3	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Video Conferencing system, in the Camp office of the Hon'ble Vidhan Sabha speaker situated at Sullah (Nanaoun), Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra (HP). (SH: Inverter 10kVA & 2kVA UPS therein). (Specialize Job)	456246/-	9200/-	One Month	8	350/-
4	C/O Health Sub Centre at Chander with delivery room (Ground Floor) Tehsil Palampur Distt. Kangra (H.P.) (S.H.: Providing E.I. therein.)	114949/-	2300/-	One Year	8	350/-
5	Providing Electrical Installations and switchgear system in OCP Mangli Tehsil Churah Distt. Chamba (HP). (S.H.: Providing E.I. therein.)	126022/-	2600/-	Six Months	8	350/-
6	C/O Health Sub Centre at Dehan with delivery room (Ground Floor) Tehsil Palampur Distt. Kangra (H.P.) (S.H.: Providing E.I. therein.)	114949/-	2300/-	One Year	8	350/-
7	Repair and replacement of spare parts of 63 BHP fire-fighting engine installed in 500 bedded hospital Dr. RPGMC Kangra at Tanda.	160719/-	3300/-	One Month	8	350/-
8	Replacement of old FTL fixtures with LED fixtures to VIP sets second floor, Conference Hall-I&II, Corridor and Toilets of Ground and First floor of Maharaja Sansar Chand Guest House at Dr. RPGMC Kangra at Tanda Distt. Kangra (HP) (Phase-II).	211832/-	4300/-	One Month	8	350/-
9	Providing wiring for Cassette type Air Conditioning system and replacement of old FTL fixtures with LED Fixtures in Examination hall of Anatomy Block, Dr. RPGMC Kangra at Tanda in Distt. Kangra (HP).	315298/-	6400/-	Two Months	8	350/-
10	Annual Repair & Maintenance of 01 No. 125KVA D.G. Set for Data					



## LIFE'S LIKE THAT

Luis Suarez (in photo, left) has said Barcelona treated him so unfairly he spent days in tears before his departure for Atletico Madrid. Suarez scored Uruguay's first goal from the spot in the 2-1 home victory against Chile in the opening round of the South American World Cup qualifiers on Thursday.

For more updates

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## THUMBNAILS

**Coe's tip:** World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said competitors should be able to "take the knee" on the podium at the Tokyo Olympics, following an outcry over moves to ban protests. Coe said protests must be carried out with respect for other competitors.

**Legal action:** Cristiano Ronaldo and other Juventus players could face legal action for rejoining their national teams despite coronavirus rules after two positive cases at the Italian champions. Ronaldo featured for Portugal in their 0-0 draw against Spain.

**Euro Nations:** Liverpool forward Xherdan Shaqiri will fly to Spain for Switzerland's Euro Nations tie after testing negative for Covid-19. The 28-year-old had been self-isolating, along with team-mate Manuel Akanji, after testing positive for the coronavirus.

**Sehwag angry:** Virender Sehwag has lashed out at Chennai Super Kings batsmen, saying some of them think of themselves as being holders of government jobs. The MS Dhoni-led side suffered their fourth defeat of the Indian Premier League season on Wednesday.

**Pant praised:** Rishabh Pant has vastly improved his batting and he is a major asset for the Delhi Capitals, says Brian Lara. Pant has been in good form in the current edition of the Indian Premier League, scoring 171 runs in the five matches he has played so far.

**Sudeva Delhi FC sign Lewis:** The national capital's first I-League club Sudeva Delhi FC has signed former Mohun Bagan midfielder Kean Lewis for the upcoming 2020-21 season. The 28-year-old Kean hails from Maharashtra's Thane region and has also played in the cash-rich Indian Super League.

**F1 practice session cancelled:** The first practice session for the F1 Grand Prix was canceled Friday because of bad weather, keeping Michael Schumacher's son Mick from his first official drive as part of a Formula One race weekend. Low cloud and mist made for poor visibility around the Nürburgring track and it was declared unsafe for the medical helicopter to take off before time ran out for the 90-minute session.

**Online Taekwondo championship:** The 2020 Online Open National Taekwondo Championship concluded with the finals for all 19 categories in the black belt and colour belt division. The championship was flagged off virtually in the presence of Dr. Chungwon Choue, President, World Taekwondo, Mr. Narinder Batra, President, Indian Olympic Association, and Mr. Namdev Shirgaonkar, President, India Taekwondo along with 2000+ participants of the tournament.

**Bengali commentary of IPL matches:** Former India cricketers Manoj Tiwary, Laxmi Ratan Shukla and Saradindu Mukherjee have been named in the Bengali commentary panel for the ongoing IPL and will go on air from October 10. The commentary will be available on Disney + Hotstar for all IPL games from October 10. Both Tiwary and Shukla have experience of playing in the IPL.

**EB appoint Liverpool legend Robbie Fowler as head coach:** Former England international and Liverpool legend Robbie Fowler has been appointed the head coach of East Bengal for a two-year tenure, team's principal owner Hari Mohan Banerjee said on Friday. "We have signed the contract last night (Thursday) and Robbie Fowler is expected to join the side directly in Goa within a week," said Banerjee, who has acquired a majority stake in East Bengal.

**It will not be an easy task for a struggling KXIP side to stand up to the challenge thrown by an all-round KKR team, which is a fine blend of youth and experience.**

Smarting from a 69-run drubbing at the hands of Sunrisers Hyderabad, it will not be an easy task for a struggling KXIP side to stand up to the challenge thrown by an all-round KKR team, which is a fine blend of youth and experience.

Pathathi, who will enter the game with some confidence after his washbuckling innings of 81 against Chennai Super Kings two days ago. After a string of poor scores that led to him being replaced by Pathathi at the top, Sunil Narine seems to be rediscovering his old touch with both bat and ball, and evidence of that was his outing against CSK. The experienced Eoin Morgan is a huge presence in the middle-order which also has Nitish Rana, always on the lookout to impress the team management with his performances with the bat. And then there is Andre Russell, who has not set the tournament ablaze in the manner in which he is expected to.

The biggest cause of concern for KKR is the form of their captain Dinesh Karthik, who is yet to contribute anything substantial with the bat.



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And though he came in to bat at number seven in the last game with not many overs remaining, Karthik has also failed to perform while batting at the number three position at the start of the tournament.

However, his captaincy has been excellent in the game against CSK, especially the bowling changes the out-of-favour India player effected during CSK's chase. In pace bowling, they have the young duo of Kamlesh Nagarkoti and Shivam Mavi, besides the seasoned world number one Pat Cummins. While in spin, Narine has Varun Chakravarthy for company, and the player from Tamil Nadu will be high on confidence after bowling out Mahendra Singh Dhoni in their last match. Kings XI Punjab will again rely on their trusted opening pair of captain KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal. If Chris Gayle recovers from his food poisoning, he will make his first appearance in the ongoing IPL and that will be a huge boost for KXIP.

Thermis-firing Glenn Maxwell is likely to make way for Gayle.

Nicholas Pooran's exploits with the bat is a positive for KXIP and he will again look to play his shots freely. Death bowling is a major concern for KXIP and they would need to get it right against a strong KKR batting line-up.

Following five losses and a solitary win, Kings XI Punjab are currently placed at the bottom of the table with two points, whereas the Knight Riders are fourth with six points from three wins. Notwithstanding a couple of reverses, KKR are gradually emerging as a strong contender for a third IPL title, with many of their players striking form as the tournament approaches the half-way stage.

Shubman Gill has already created an impression as an opener and now KKR have found another option at the top in Rahul Tewari. The biggest cause of concern for KKR is the form of their captain Dinesh Karthik, who is yet to contribute anything substantial with the bat.

Kings XI vs KKR: Match begins at 3.30 pm IST.

## Kenin, 21, will face unseeded Swiatek, 19, in French final

## AGENCIES

PARIS, 9 OCTOBER



Sofia Kenin (in photo, bottom) entered 2020 with an 11-11 record in Grand Slam action. Never had made the quarterfinals at any clay-court tournament until this trip to Roland Garros and lost her only tune-up match on the surface 6-0, 6-0 last month. Look at the 21-year-old American now.

Already the owner of a major trophy from this year's Australian Open, the No. 4-seeded Kenin moved into the French Open final by beating No. 7 Petra Kvitova 6-4, 7-5 Thursday. Kenin will carry a 16-1 mark in Grand Slam action this season into Saturday's championship match against Iga Swiatek of Poland.

I'm going to be, like, an underdog, Swiatek said, using her fingers to make air quotes.

Swiatek is just 19. She's ranked 54th. She's never won a tour-level title. She'd never been past the fourth round at a Slam. And she's been as dominant as can be so far at the French Open.

Swiatek became the lowest-ranked women's finalist at Roland Garros since the WTA computer rankings began in 1975, advancing with her latest lopsided win, this one 6-2, 6-1 against Argentine qualifi-

er Nadia Podoroska.

It seems unreal. On one hand, I know that I can play great tennis. On the other hand, it's kind of surprising for me. She has won all 12 sets she's played in the tournament and dropped

I'm going to be in the final. It's crazy, Swiatek said.

"I just kept believing in myself. It's amazing for me. She has won all 12 sets she's played in the tournament and dropped

merely 23 games.

Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon champion, came in having won every set, too. But she hadn't played anyone close to Kenin's caliber.

The lefty from the Czech Republic had grabbed 77% of her service games in the tournament, but Kenin stole two of the first three. Part of it was strong returning. More of it was the manner in which Kenin was moving Kvitova around, pushing her this way and that and pinning her to the baseline with well-struck forehands and backhands.

Also working in Kenin's favor was an ability to sense where a ball was headed and use her speed to track it down, repeatedly stretching points that seemed lost.

Eventually, that appeared to make Kvitova play as if she felt that she needed to try to do more, maybe do too much, because she would cut off points early by attempting to end them and, too often, she would miss the mark. By the end, Kvitova produced 31 unforced errors, to 20 for Kenin, whose shots of come-on grew louder as the end grew closer. Her intensity also came through when she cracked her white-and-blue racket.

## Archer shines as RR restrict DC to 184/8

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH, 9 OCTOBER



An aggressive bowling display coupled with some good fielding saw Rajasthan Royals restrict Delhi Capitals to a below-par 184 for eight in an Indian Premier League match here on Friday. Desperate to snap their three-match losing streak, RR opted to field and the bowling unit delivered with Jofra Archer (in photo) (3/24) taking three wickets and spinner Rahul Tewatia (1/20) and Kartik Tyagi (1/35) capturing one each.

Playing his first IPL match this season, Andrew Tye also took one wicket but he conceded 50 in his four overs. The Capitals' posted the lowest first innings total at the ground this season.

The two run outs of the dangerous Shreyas Iyer (22 of 18) and Rishabh Pant (5) also proved crucial. Shimron Hetmyer smashed a 24-ball 45, studded with five sixes and a four to emerge as the top-scorer for Delhi. Marcus Stoinis (39 off 30) too chipped in.

Archer was the pick of the bowlers as he dismissed opener Shikhar Dhawan (5) in the second over for his first wicket in the Powerplay this year.

Skipper Iyer then smashed two fours off pacer Varun Aaron (0/25 in 2 overs) and then took over the mantle and hit Tye for a four and six before launching Tyagi for successive sixes. But the young India pacer had the last laugh as the West Indies batsman was holed out at the long-on boundary. In the 18th over, Axar Patel (17 off 8) blasted two fours and a six off Tye to rack up 22 runs.

## SCOREBOARD

Delhi Capitals Innings:				
Priti Shawc and b Jofra Archer	19	Kagiso Rabada not out	Tye	17
Shikhar Dhawan Jaiswal b Archer	5	R Ashwin not out		0
Shreyas Iyer (run out)	22			
Point for wicket	5			
M Stoinis c Smith b Tewatia	39			
S Hetmyer c Tewatia b Tyagi	45			
H Patel c Tewatia b Archer	16			
		Extras: 14 (b 6, lb 3, w 5, nb 2, p 0)		
		Total: 184 (8 wkt, 20 Overs)		
		Bowling: Aaron 2-0-25-0, Archer 4-0-24-3, Tyagi 4-0-35-1, Tye 4-0-50-1, Gopal 2-0-23-0, Tewatia 4-0-20-1		

## Digital gaming emerging as the future of virtual world'

## STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 9 OCTOBER



With the sole aim of powering Esports experiences while helping grassroots community development in India and other South Asian Countries, Ishaa Arya (in photo), co-founder, the Esports club said that the business and industry ecosystem are growing many fold in India.

Arya said that India is still at a nascent stage when it comes to Esports and hence the ecosystem around esports is still being established.

"We do face some difficulties in building business around Esports. Since the market is new, we don't find experienced talent that we can hire and run. It takes us a lot of effort to get the right people onboard, train them and manage a successful tournament experience. As a tournament organizer we have to invest in talent, Studio Infrastructure, High End PCs and keep upgrading from time to time. This makes both investments and running costs an expensive proposition for a Tournament organization," he said.

When asked about the fate of digital gaming emerging as a lucrative career option in India, he said, "Like traditional sports, Esports

## Messi penalty gives Argentina winning start

## AGENCIES

BUENOS AIRES, 9 OCTOBER



Argentina got their World Cup qualifying campaign off to the perfect start on Thursday when Lionel Messi's (in photo) early penalty gave them a 1-0 win over Ecuador in a lacklustre match in Buenos Aires.

The Argentine Football Association piped fan noise around the empty Bombonera stadium and the chants of "Messi! Messi!" were vindicated as early as the 12th minute when he put Argentina ahead from the spot after Lucas Ocampos was fouled inside the penalty area.

Argentina had lost just one of their last eight World Cup qualifiers against Ecuador and although they could not add to the scoreline, they never looked in danger of losing a scrappy game against limited opponents. "It was important to start with a win because we know how difficult the qualifiers are and all the matches are going to be as hard as this one," Messi said. With the South American qualifiers twice pushed back from the scheduled start in March, it was almost a year since either team had played a full international and Messi said that inaction contributed to the poor spectacle.

"We hoped the level of play would be different but it's been almost a year since we

played together, this was our first game back and the nervousness makes it complicated," the Barcelona striker said.

The three points, however, were more than welcome for a side who had not won a major title since lifting the Copa America in 1993. The win, which extended Argentina's unbeaten run to eight games under coach Lionel Scaloni, was also positive given that seven of the starting line-up had never played a World Cup qualifier previously. Argentina's next game is on Tuesday against Bolivia in La Paz, while Ecuador return home to face Uruguay, who beat Chile 2-1 in their opener earlier on Thursday, the same day.

The top four teams in South America's 10-team group qualify automatically for Qatar 2022 and the fifth

placed side go into an inter-regional playoff. Belgium halfed in Brussels, a late equaliser from the penalty spot earned Ivory Coast a 1-1 draw with a second-string Belgium side in a friendly on Thursday, ending a run of 12 successive victories for the top team in the world rankings.

Michy Batshuayi converted from close range to give Belgium a 53rd-minute lead but Franck Kessie equalised for the visitors from the spot with four minutes remaining.

## England win

In London, three England players scored their first international goals to give Gareth Southgate's experimental team a comfortable 3-0 win over Wales in a friendly at Wembley Stadium on Thursday.

In-form Everton striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin netted in the 26th minute before second-half goals from Conor Coady and Danny Ings secured the win in the warm-up game for Nations League matches against Belgium and Denmark. It was the first time three players have scored their first England goals in the same game since June 1963 against Switzerland. England host Belgium on Sunday and Denmark on Wednesday in the Nations League while Ryan Giggs' Wales team travel to play Ireland and Bulgaria.

## Djokovic's medical timeout 'just a sly ploy'

## AGENCIES

PARIS, 9 OCTOBER



Injury worries clouded Novak Djokovic's (in photo) hopes of a second French Open title as he said he had suffered neck and shoulder problems during his laboured quarter-final win over Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta on Wednesday.

The 33-year-old top seed walked out onto a chilly Court Philippe Chatrier with the back of his neck taped and he also needed treatment on his upper arm during the match.

It looked as though Carreno Busta was primed to cause an upset when he won the first set, but Djokovic survived to win 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 and move into his 10th French Open semi-final today when he will play Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas.

"I definitely didn't feel great coming into the court today. Few things happened in the warmup," said the world No. 1, who looked strained, especially on his trademark backhand early on.

"I had to deal with those physical issues. As the match went on, I felt better, didn't feel as much pain. Especially for set and a half, he was the better player, dictating the play. "I didn't have much of

energy really happening in my legs or movement or game itself."

Asked exactly what the problem was, he said: "I had some neck issues and some shoulder issues. I don't want to get really too much into it. I