

IN BRIEF

'CI-12 compartment results by Oct. 10'

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that the results of compartmental exams for class 12 will be declared by October 10. The University Grants Commission (UGC) said that its admission process will close by October 31, which shall give enough time for students to apply for admission in varsities. After the assurance, the apex court closed the case expressing gratitude to both CBSE and UGC. Earlier, a bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar had asked the CBSE to declare the results of the compartment exams as soon as possible and coordinate with UGC to enable around 2 lakh students who have appeared in it to apply for admissions in colleges in the current academic year. It had asked CBSE and UGC to take a joint decision on the declaration of results and admissions in colleges for students giving compartment exams. — ANI

Youth killed, another injured; 5 arrested

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested five people for allegedly attacking an 18-year-old man and killing another after he tried to stop them in northwest Delhi's Kanjhawala area. The accused have been identified as Ankit, Vikas, Vishal, Harish and Ajay. According to P.K. Mishra, DCP (Rohini district), the incident took place on Tuesday night. "The injured has been identified as Reehan, a student of IGNOU, while the deceased has been identified as Shaukat (23), who worked as a photographer. During inquiry, it was learnt that Reehan's close friend Saider is in a relationship with a girl. Ankit, who is her former boyfriend, learnt about the relationship and decided to teach them a lesson. On Tuesday night, Ankit and his friends reached Sawada village. They dragged Reehan out of home and started beating him. When Shaukat, who was in the neighbourhood, tried to stop the accused, he was allegedly attacked with bricks. He sustained to serious head injuries, said the DCP.

Man shot at for resisting robbery bid

New Delhi: A 52-year-old man was shot at allegedly by two unidentified motorcycle-borne men for resisting a robbery bid on the Shahdara flyover here, police said on Thursday. The victim, identified as Manish, sustained a bullet injury in his stomach and is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Patparganj, they said, adding that he is out of danger now. The police said the identities of the accused are yet to be established and teams have been formed to trace them. According to them, the incident took place around 7.30 pm on Wednesday when Manish and his brother, Arun, were returning home. They live in Ramprastha in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh. As the brothers reached the Shahdara flyover, two men intercepted them on a motorcycle and tried to snatch their bag. Facing resistance, one of the accused allegedly took out a pistol and shot at Manish before fleeing, the police said.

5 held in Gr Noida for highway robberies

Noida: Five men accused of robbing people on the Delhi-Agra Yamuna Expressway and other highways in western Uttar Pradesh have been arrested in Greater Noida, police said on Thursday. The accused were held after an encounter with the police in the Rabupura police station area on Wednesday night, a senior official said. Those held are aged between 19 years and 25 years. Four of them are from Bulandshahr, while one belongs to Shamli, and their gang has a long criminal history of waylaying vehicles and looting people in the region, additional deputy commissioner of police, Greater Noida, Vishal Pandey said. "The five gang members have been arrested after an encounter. They have looted cars in the past in Greater Noida. They would waylay vehicles on highways and loot them at gunpoint," Pandey said. "Two illegal firearms along with some ammunition, two knives and five stolen mobile phones, among other items, have been recovered from their possession and their car impounded," he added. — PTI

■ 3,834 + ve cases, 36 deaths in 24 hours ■ Death count rises to 5,123

Covid cases will lessen soon: KejriAGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said that the second wave of Covid-19 in Delhi has perhaps hit its peak and experts feel that the cases of infection will lessen in the coming days in the national capital.

Delhi recorded 3,834 new Covid-19 cases. Of the total 2,60,623 patients, 31,125 are active and 2,24,375 patients were recovered. With 36 deaths in the last 24 hours, total death counts rose to 5,123.

Mr Kejriwal said that the government is "keeping its fingers crossed" and hoped that the Covid-19 cases will "gradually" lower due to steps taken by the AAP dispensation. The national capital has been witnessing a surge in the number of coronavirus cases in the last few days.

"All the experts believe that the second wave (of coronavirus), which had come in Delhi, appears to have perhaps hit its peak. Now, it will lower in the coming days," Mr Kejriwal told reporters.

The chief minister pointed out that the Covid-19 cases in the city were by and large under control between July 1



Arvind Kejriwal

and August 17 and on an average, 1100-1200 new cases were being reported every day. "From August 17, the cases rose slightly from around 1,100 to 1,500 and as a responsible government, we did not take any risk and immediately scaled up testing from around 20,000 to 60,000 per day. The best way to defeat coronavirus is to conduct aggressive testing to identify and isolate positive cases," said Mr Kejriwal.

"The coronavirus cases have increased in Delhi because testing was massively scaled up. The cases were around 4,500 on September 16 which have now started coming down and currently there are around 3,700 cases (daily)," he said.

According to Mr Kejriwal, had the testing would have scaled down to previous level of daily 20,000 tests, the cases would have come down to around 1,500 per day.

Higher recoveries in Covid-19 cases for 6th day on the trotAGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24

More recoveries than fresh cases of novel coronavirus continue to be recorded even as the total number of cases crossed 57.32 lakh.

While there were 86,508 new cases of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, another set of 87,374 persons recovered at the same time. With this, the total number of recoveries in the country is now 46.75 lakh and the recovery rate is 81.55 per cent. This is the sixth consecutive day when higher recoveries than fresh cases was registered.

"As India records more recoveries than the new cases, the gap between recovered cases and the active cases is continuously widening. The recovered cases exceed the active cases (9.66 lakh) by more than 37 lakh. This has also ensured that the active caseload accounts for merely 16.86 per cent of the total positive cases. This has sustained on its steady declining path," Union health ministry officials said.

COVID WATCH

57.32 LAKH
CASES ACROSS NATION**46.75 LAKH**
PEOPLE CURED SO FAR

■ **IN THE LAST 24 hours, 1,129 deaths have been registered taking total fatalities in the country to 91,149. Maharashtra reported 479 deaths followed by Uttar Pradesh and Punjab with 87 and 64 deaths, respectively.**

Nearly 74 per cent of the new recovered cases are found in 10 States/UTs. Maharashtra has maintained this lead with 19,476 cases (22.3 per cent) for the sixth consecutive day. In the last 24 hours, 1,129 deaths have been registered taking total fatalities in the country to 91,149. Maharashtra reported 479 deaths followed by UP and Punjab with 87 and 64 deaths, respectively.

Noida Covid tally crosses 12K, 192 cases in 24 hours

Noida, Sept. 24: Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar recorded 192 Covid-19 cases on Thursday that pushed the district's caseload to 12,010, official data showed. The number of active cases rose to 1,699 from 1,615, according to the data released by the UP Health Department for a 24-hour period.

On the brighter side, 109 more patients got discharged during the period, as the total number of recoveries reached 10,261, the data showed. The district, adjoining Delhi, has so far recorded 50 deaths linked to the pandemic, with one of the lowest mortality rates of 0.41 per cent, it showed.

Meanwhile, the recovery rate of patients reached 85.43 per cent, down from 85.91 per cent on Wednesday, as per the statistics. Gautam Buddha Nagar now ranks ninth among the 75 districts in the state in terms of active cases, seventh in recoveries and 32nd in death toll, according to the official figures. There were 61,300 active cases across UP on Thursday. — PTI

Sisodia's condition stable, diagnosed with dengue tooAGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24

The condition of deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, currently undergoing treatment for Covid-19 at a Delhi government-run hospital, is stable, and he will undergo another coronavirus test in a couple of days.

Mr Sisodia was also diagnosed with dengue on Thursday, sources said here. His platelet count has also dropped.

Mr Sisodia was admitted to the LNJP Hospital on Wednesday from being under home isolation after he had contracted the infection.

"He is in ICU since yesterday (Wednesday), but his condition is stable. The minister has been put on oxygen support, and under constant observation," said a senior doctor of the hospital.

The LNJP Hospital is a dedicated Covid-19 facility. "He will be administered an RT-PCR test in a couple of days," the doctor added.

Asked if he has any comorbidities, the doctor, also a senior official said, "he has hypertension". The 48-year-old Aam Aadmi Party leader was admitted to the hospital at



Manish Sisodia

around 4 pm after he complained of fever and low oxygen level.

"He (Sisodia) was admitted to hospital as a precautionary measure since he was continuously having a little higher body temperature and his oxygen level dropped slightly," a senior official said on Wednesday. Mr Sisodia had tested positive for Covid-19 on September 14 and was in home isolation. He was unable to attend the one-day Delhi Assembly session on September 14.

Mr Sisodia is the second Cabinet minister in the Arvind Kejriwal government to contact Covid-19 infection after health minister Satyendra Jain. Mr Jain had tested positive for Covid-19 in June and was hospitalised. He was later administered plasma therapy.



Youth Congress activists participate in a torch procession during a protest against farmers' bills in New Delhi on Thursday.

— PTI

Cong brings no-confidence against BJP govt in K'taka

Bengaluru, Sept. 24: Signalling another political bout, a notice by Opposition Congress expressing no-confidence in the B.S. Yediyurappa-led BJP government in Karnataka was admitted by Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri on Thursday.

The Speaker after ascertaining that the notice submitted by the Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah had the backing of the requisite 23 legislators as per rules, admitted it and said he will fix a suitable time for the no-confidence motion and discussion in the next couple of days.

The ruling BJP termed the Congress' move as a "political gimmick" and said the Opposition party lacks numbers.

As the House met following a short break after paying obituary references to Union minister of state Suresh Angadi, who passed away due to Covid-19 last evening, Siddaramaiah informed the Chair about the notice he along with party colleagues submitted this morning.

"We have given a notice stating that this House and the people of the state have lost confidence in Yediyurappa-led government," Siddaramaiah said, as he claimed that the notice has the support of more than 23 legislators as per rules. All the Congress legislators stood in their place in support of the notice of no-confidence. Speaker Kageri then said he was convinced that the notice has the support of over 23 MLAs and he will decide and fix the time for no-confidence motion. — PTI

■ **Delhi riots: A 'premeditated conspiracy' hatched by the ex-JNU student, say cops****Umar Khalid sent to judicial custody till Oct. 22**AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24

A Delhi court on Thursday sent former JNU student leader Umar Khalid, arrested under the stringent anti-terror law in a case related to the communal violence in north east Delhi in February, to judicial custody till 22 October. Khalid was present before additional sessions judge Amitabh Rawat through video conferencing at the end of his police custody. Khalid was arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on 13 September in the case.

Police did not seek his

further custody. In the FIR, police has claimed that the communal violence was a "premeditated conspiracy" which was allegedly hatched by Khalid and two others. He has also been booked for the offences of sedition, murder, attempt to murder, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and rioting.

The FIR alleged that Khalid had given provocative speeches at two different places and appealed to the citizens to come out on streets and block the roads during the visit of US President Donald Trump to spread propaganda at international level about



Umar Khalid

► **Umar Khalid had allegedly given provocative speeches at two different places and appealed to the citizens to come out on streets and block the roads during the visit of US President Donald Trump**

how minorities in India are being tortured. In this conspiracy, firearms, petrol bombs, acid bottles and stones were collected at numerous homes, the FIR claimed.

Co-accused Danish was allegedly given the responsibility to gather people from two different places

to take part in the riots, police alleged. Women and children were made to block the roads under the Jafrabad metro station on 23 February to create tension amidst the neighbourhood people, the FIR said. Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on 24 February after

violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

More than 200 educationists, filmmakers and authors, including Noam Chomsky and Mira Nair, issued a joint statement on Wednesday demanding the Centre free Umar Khalid arrested in connection with the northeast Delhi riots.

Besides Chomsky and Nair, the signatories include actor Ratna Pathak Shah, authors Amitav Ghosh, Salman Rushdie and Arundhati Roy, and journalist P Sainath.

Minor boy killed on suspicion of stealing ₹500AGE CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 24

A minor boy was allegedly beaten to death for stealing ₹500 from a house in his neighbourhood at Kiapanaposi village in Mayurbhanj district, reports said on Thursday.

According to preliminary reports, the boy was on Tuesday evening thrashed by a woman and some others in his neighbourhood over suspicion that he stole ₹500. He was rushed to the nearby hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

All though the woman reportedly confessed to her involvement in the attack, she feigned ignorance about the death of the boy. From the circumstantial evidence gathered so far, the police suspect the boy had been killed.

Villagers kill leopard, eat the meat to be strongerAKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 24

Seven persons, including a woman, in Odisha's Nuapada district allegedly killed a leopard and consumed its meat with a vague notion that consumption of tiger flesh would make them stronger like the wild animal. The incident came to light after the state forest officials arrested the accused on Wednesday evening.

According to reports, a few residents of Tipajhar village under Nuapada police Sadar police limits in Nuapada districts had on September 20 night laid out live wires in Sunabeda Reserve Forest to poach wild boars. The leopard came across the live wires while chasing its prey and got electrocuted.

Believing that tiger meat carries extra energy, the villagers decided to con-



Three of the accused in the custody of forest officials.

sume it. After peeling the skin of the animal, they distributed the meat among themselves and consumed it after cooking at their respective homes. They also stored the surplus meat to consume it later.

Acting on a tipoff, the local forest officials raided the houses of the villagers and seized the surplus meat, nail and moustache

of the leopard. The officials also arrested seven persons, including a woman, on charges of killing the leopard.

Manadhar Paharia, one of the accused, said they consumed leopard meat with a belief that it would not only make them stronger but also give mental strength for adventurous expeditions in the forest.

SHORT TAKES

Former DIG 'linked' to SI exam scam

Guwahati: In a breakthrough in the sub-inspector recruitment examination, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Assam police raided the residence, hotels and multiple business establishment of a former DIG P.K. Dutta and recovered a large number of incriminating documents related to the leakage of question papers of SI examination. Informing that CID sleuths got the clue from one of the candidates who procured the question paper of SI test a day before the examination, sources in the department told this newspaper that former DIG played a key role in leakage of question papers. Refusing the divulge the names of beneficiaries, security sources said that former DIG who owns several hotels, bungalow and business establishments worth several hundred crore managed to escape the CID raids. "We are searching his whereabouts as he was unreachable and his all mobiles are switched off," said the officers engaged in searching the premises for police officer.

Rahul hits out at govt over labour laws

New Delhi: After the farm Bills, the Congress on Thursday trained its guns on the government over the three labour reform Bills passed by the Parliament alleging the laws would lead to exploitation of workers. "After farmers, workers have been targeted, Exploitation of the poor, nurturing of 'friends', This is Modi ji's rule," former Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeted in Hindi. He accused the government of having made "committing atrocities" against workers earlier. Mr Gandhi also took a dig at the PM over the first anniversary of the 'Fit India' Movement. "Modi government's priorities — instead of talking to farmers and workers to find a solution to their problems, busy in PR," he tweeted, tagging a report on Mr Modi's interaction with fitness experts from across the world. Congress General Secretary in-charge of UP Priyanka Vadra also attacked the government asserting that the need of the hour was to ensure that everyone's livelihood was protected.

7-year-old girl killed by relative in Indore

Indore: A seven-year-old girl was allegedly killed by a male relative, who lured her with a biscuit and crush her head with a stone in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, police said on Thursday. The accused, who is in his 20s, has been apprehended based on the CCTV footage from the area where the crime took place, Bhanwarkuan police station in-charge Indresh Tripathi said. The incident took place in Bhanwarkuan on Wednesday night, when the accused allegedly lured the victim with a biscuit and took her to a dilapidated house, the official said. After a search, the minor girl was found in a bloodied state in the house and was rushed to a hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries earlier in the day, he said. Prima-facie, it appears that the victim's head was crushed with a stone, he said, adding that an autopsy will be conducted to ascertain signs of sexual assault. Angered by incident, people protested outside the police station and demanded capital punishment for the accused. — PTI

Nuclear scientist Basu dies of Covid

Kolkata: Veteran atomic scientist and former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Dr Sekhar Basu succumbed to Covid-19 early on Thursday at a private hospital here, a health department official said. He breathed his last just three days after turning 68. "Dr Basu was suffering from Covid and other kidney ailments. He died at 4.50 am," the official said. A mechanical engineer, Dr. Basu is revered for his contributions to the atomic energy programme. He was awarded Padma Shri in 2014. He had also pioneered the highly complex reactor for India's first nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant. — PTI

■ Qadri had launched a political party and named himself president

J&K lawyer Babar Qadri shot dead in Srinagar

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, SEPT. 24

Kashmiri lawyer Babar Qadri was shot and critically wounded by unknown assailants in central Srinagar on Thursday evening. He was rushed to the hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The police said that 35-year-old Qadri, who shot to prominence mainly for frequently appearing on prime time shows and debates on Kashmir on various TV channels, was targeted by suspected militants in Srinagar's Hawal area.

"The gunmen, believed to be terrorists, shot him from point blank range, killing him instantly," said a police officer in charge of the area.

He was, however, taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead. Confirming it, medical superintendent of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of



Babar Qadri

► Sometime ago, Qadri had launched a political party called All JK People's Justice Party and named himself its president. KHCBA had suspended his membership for showing 'indiscipline'.

Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Dr Farooq Jan said Qadri had received a single bullet wound and was brought dead to the hospital.

Sometime ago, Qadri, father of two minor daughters, had launched a political party called All JK People's Justice Party and named himself its president. The Kashmir High Court Bar Association (KHCBA) had suspended his membership for showing "indiscipline."

Earlier this month, the bar council refused to revoke his suspension reportedly on technical grounds.

Reacting to it, Qadri had, in a statement here, said: "When I formed a 'Lawyers Club of Kashmir', I was accused of dancing on the tunes of Indian agencies. Now when I work for unity and want to (re)join, the passage is blocked for me."

On Wednesday, he wrote on his Facebook wall, "Bar needs a moderate, but intelligent leading group. We need good speakers, good debating persons who can talk on our behalf. We need a person who can confront a judge or an official of administration. Yes, we got enough exploited by emotional blackmail, coercion, and threats to life

which was a norm that we were made used to. Now the change is on plate, go and have it. The traditional DOPE LALLAN should now be buried down alongside Covid-19."

Former chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah tweeted, "The assassination of Babar Qadri this evening is tragic & I unequivocally condemn it. The sense of tragedy is all the more because he warned of the threat. Sadly, his warning was his last tweet. @BabarTruth."

Several members of the KHCBA have condemned Qadri's killing and said the dissent on issues with him was a healthy sign as it could help the fraternity in many ways towards seeking justice for the aggrieved. They have demanded an impartial probe by credible people or organisations into his murder.



Dabbawala Association members meet MNS chief Raj Thackeray over various issues at Dadar in Mumbai on Thursday. — PTI

Scindia calls Nath a 'gaddar', says he destroyed MP

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, SEPT. 24



Jyotiraditya Scindia

The rivalry between former chief minister Kamal Nath and senior BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, on Thursday, reached a flashpoint with the latter describing the former as 'gaddar' or betrayer.

Mr Scindia, who launched a 4-day campaign for BJP for the upcoming by-elections in 16 Assembly constituencies in Gwalior-Chambal region, said the state was looted during the 15-month-rule of the Kamal Nath government.

"The 15-month-rule of Mr Nath was marred by large scale corruptions. He destroyed Madhya Pradesh. He is a gaddar," Mr Scindia told reporters at Rajpur in Ashok Nagar district in Madhya Pradesh where he addressed an election meeting of the party.

Mr Scindia said no developmental works were undertaken during the 15-month-rule of the Kamal Nath government, pushing the state to backwardness.

Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has restored the situation in Madhya Pradesh by undertaking develop-

mental works when he assumed office in March this year," he added.

Mr Scindia, accompanied by state BJP leaders including Mr Chouhan, was scheduled to campaign in all the 16 Assembly constituencies in Gwalior-Chambal region which are going to by-elections along with 12 other Assembly seats in the state in the coming days.

Bharatiya Janata Party has decided to re-nominate the 16 former MLAs who had resigned from the Assembly as well as Congress to pull down the Kamal Nath government in March this year in their respective Assembly seats in Gwalior-Chambal region in the upcoming by-elections. All the 16 former MLAs who later joined BJP are staunch supporters of Mr Scindia.

MP mantri sorry for violating mask norm

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, SEPT 24

Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Mishra on Thursday conceded that he violated coronavirus guidelines by refusing to wear a face mask in public and offered his apology for the 'mistake'.

Mr Mishra who received brickbats from all quarters for his recent remarks that "I never wear a face mask in any programme" conceded that he should not have made such a statement at a time when the entire nation was struggling to cope with the crisis triggered by the pandemic.

Even, PM Narendra Modi has appealed to people to wear masks to protect them from coronavirus, he added.

"I will wear masks and I also appeal to the people to wear masks", he told reporters here.

On Wednesday, Mr Mishra was seen without masks in various official programmes he had attended in Indore.

Later, he told local reporters that he never wore a mask in any programme.

"I never wear masks in any programme. So what", he told reporters in Indore.

Jaishankar: Saarc must deal with cross-border terrorism

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24

External affairs minister Dr S. Jaishankar on Thursday mentioned cross-border terrorism, blocking of connectivity and obstruction in the trade as three main challenges before the Saarc grouping during an informal meeting of the Saarc Council of Ministers.

Without naming Pakistan, Mr Jaishankar, in his address, called upon members for a collectively resolve to defeat the scourge of terrorism, "including the forces that nurture, support and encourage an environment of terror and conflict, which impede the objective of Saarc to realize its full potential for collective collaboration and prosperity across



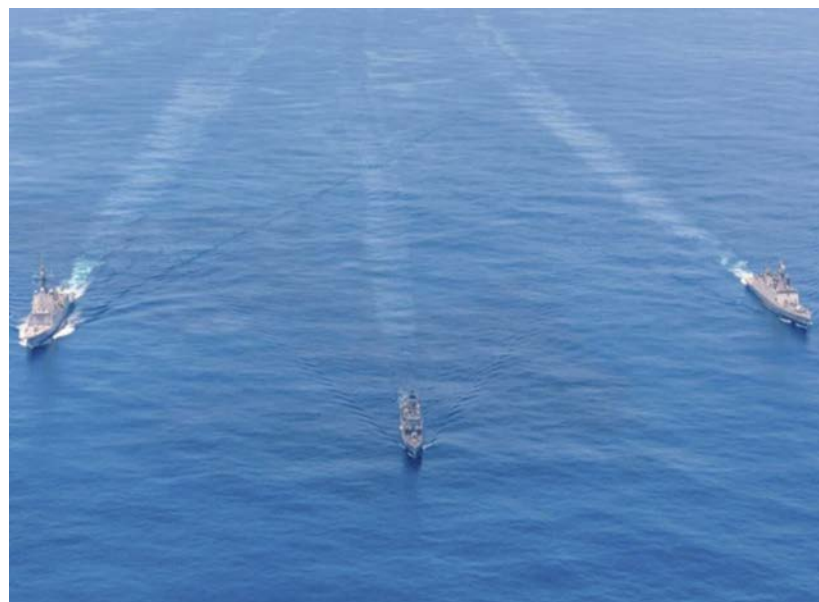
South Asia." Pakistan on Thursday had raised the issue of Kashmir at another meeting of 27 foreign ministers at Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, though it refrained from raising this matter at the Saarc.

"It is very typical of Pakistan to use such fora to raise bilateral and contentious issues which is inconsistent with the principles and charter of such organizations and their meetings. What else can be expected of a country that indulges in cross-border terrorism," external affairs ministry spokesperson Mr Anurag Srivastava said.

The Saarc meeting, chaired by Nepal, was held in virtual mode and saw the participation of

all Saarc member states. One of the agenda items in the Saarc ministerial meeting was the 19th Saarc Summit, which was to be hosted by Pakistan. However, since most countries felt that it was not an opportune time for the event considering that member states are preoccupied in dealing with Covid situation, the proposal fell through due to lack of consensus.

"The meeting reviewed regional efforts to combat the Covid. In particular, participants appreciated the leadership of the Prime Minister of India in convening a video conference of Saarc Leaders on 15th March 2020 to take collaborative measures towards combating the pandemic across the region," a statement from the ministry of external affairs said.



Indian and Australian navy ships during the two-day passage exercise in the Indian Ocean. — PTI

'Will talk Ladakh A to Z, not just on Pangong Tso'

■ Continued from Page 1 to take place soon," he added.

"I would like to highlight that this is the first joint press release after any senior commanders' meeting. As such, it reflects the stated commitment of both sides to disengagement along the Line of Actual Control. As we have pointed out earlier, disengagement is a complex process that requires the redeployment of troops by each side towards their regular posts on their respective sides of the Line of Actual Control. This would require mutually agreed reciprocal actions," he said, while underlining that the foreign ministers of India and China had reached an agreement during their meeting in Moscow that the two sides should continue the dialogue and quickly and comprehensively disengage in all the friction areas. Mr Srivastava said the

sixth meeting gave the senior commanders an opportunity to have a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the urgent need to stabilise situation along the Line of Actual Control. The two sides have also decided to strengthen ground communication to avoid any further misunderstandings and misjudgments, stop sending more troops to the front-line, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any action that may complicate the situation, India and China said in their statements on Wednesday after the talks.

On Thursday, external affairs minister S. Jaishankar, while speaking at an event, said the "situation at the Line of Actual Control is unprecedented and it is one facet of a larger phenomenon for which both have to sit down and find a solution".

'Reciprocal steps must to ensure stable LAC'

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side towards their regular posts.

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Tomar defends farm bills

■ Continued from Page 1 asked the Congress why it never made it part of any law during the UPA period if it was so worried about the issue and about farmers. The Opposition parties and the BJP's own ally Shiromani Akali Dal had opposed the three farm sector bills' passage, claiming that they were anti-farmer.

Saying that with the passage of these bills,

farmers will not only get remunerative prices for their produce, they will now be able to sell their produce to anyone, will be saved from transporting their produce to mandis, will not have to pay tax outside mandis, will get fair prices in a stipulated time period unlike in mandis, and small farmers will be the one who will get the maximum benefit.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
 Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)
 Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
 E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors / firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.
Fresh-Tender work
 A) The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **08.10.2020** upto **5.00 PM**. Shall be opened/downloaded on dated **09.10.2020** at **11.00 AM**.

S. N.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1.	97 / GM / SM(E&M)-II / 2020-21 / ET	Annual Maintenance of Split/Window type A.C. Staff Quarter of sector14A, and Guest House, Sector-15A, Noida.	9.76
2.	118 / GM (R) / SM(E&M) -III / 2020-21	Repair, Operation and Maintenance for Two year of fountain in Meghdutam park, Sector-50, Noida.	24.90
3.	119 / GM (R) / SM(E&M) -III / 2020-21	M/o Street light guest house road goodwill road, Community center road sector-39, Noida	13.60
4.	120 / GM (R) / SM(E&M) -III / 2020-21	M/o Street light on New Yamuna bridge from Shahdra drain towards Kalindi Kunj Metro Station, Noida.	7.30

Re-Tender work
 B) The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **01.10.2020** upto **5.00 PM**. Shall be opened/downloaded on dated **05.10.2020** at **11.00 AM**.

S. N.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
5.	54 / GM / SM(E&M)-II / 2020-21 / ET	Maintenance of Windows Split type Air Conditioner in Sport Complex Building at Stadium sector-21A, Noida.	7.18
6.	75 / GM / SM(E&M)-II / 2020-21 / ET	Running Maintenance of Electrical works in Office Building Sr.M.(Jal)-III Office, SPO Office and Mahila Thana sector-39, Noida.	4.77
7.	70 / GM / SM(E&M)-II / 2020-21 / ET	M/o Street light sector-21 and sector-25, Noida.	28.19
8.	71 / GM / SM(E&M)-II / 2020-21 / ET	M/o Community Center, Chaupal, (Gujjar, Balmiki and Chauhan) in Vill-Chaura, Raghunathpur and Sector-22, Noida.	6.35
9.	09 / GM (R) / DGM (E&M) / SM (E&M)-II/2019-20/ET	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Fountain with LED Colour Changing Lights at Round about underpass NH-24 (Noida Entry Point), Sector-62, Noida.	20.10
10.	50 / GM / SM(E&M)-II / 2020-21 / ET	Providing of New Traffic Signals at Various Sectors in Noida.	9.31
11.	39 / GM (R) / SM (E&M)-II / 2020-21 / ET	2 Year Maintenance for Lift Work in Noida Club Sector-27, Noida.	1.92
12.	66 / GM / SM (E&M)-II / 2020-21 / ET	M/o Street light and Park light in A,B,C,D,E,F, H, I-Block Sector-22 and Vill Chaura Raghunathpur, Noida	8.70
13.	74 / GM / SM (E&M)-II / 2020-21 / ET	M/o Compound Street lighting at offices (Jal, E / M, Workshop etc.), Sector-39, Noida.	7.91
14.	113 / GM (R) / SM (E&M)-III / 2020-21	Repair and AMC for Fountain in A, B, C Block sector-44, Noida.	17.04
15.	114 / GM (R) / SM (E&M)-III / 2020-21	M/o Authority Building (AMC of different type of AC's Installed in different office of sector-19, 20, Noida Library sector-15 & Rites Office sector-2, Noida.	13.74

General Manager, Noida
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	36,553.60	-2.96
Nifty 50	10,805.50	-2.93
S&P 500*	3,243.98	0.22
Dollar (₹)	73.89	0.43
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.05	0.85
Euro (₹)	86.18	0.25
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	49,619.111	0.22
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.61	-0.16
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.992	0.003
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.668	-0.008

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Safety norms for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles notified

The government on Thursday said it has notified standards for safety evaluation of hydrogen fuel cell-based vehicles. The ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) has issued a notification in this regard. This would facilitate the promotion of hydrogen fuel cell-based vehicles in the country, which are energy-efficient and environmentally friendly, the ministry said in its statement.

ShareChat raises \$40 million from PE investors



Indian content-sharing platform ShareChat has raised \$40 million from investors including Twitter Inc and Lightspeed Ventures as it seeks to boost usage of its new short-video app, the company said on Thursday. The fund raising comes as Indian apps like ShareChat seek to tap more users after India several Chinese apps including TikTok following a border clash between the two countries.

Coal India floats tender for rail corridor project

Coal India Ltd on Thursday said two large value tenders have been floated to construct 135 km east-west rail corridor at an estimated cost of ₹4,970 crore in Chhattisgarh through an SPV. The railway line on completion will have capacity to evacuate 65 million tonnes of coal from the opencast mines of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. The development comes against the backdrop of CIL eyeing one billion tonnes of output by 2023-24.

Sebi issues rules for investment advisers

Sebi has come out with detailed guidelines for investment advisers asking them to ensure segregation of advisory and distribution activities at the client level. Sebi has fixed a cap on fee that investment advisers can charge from clients. An individual IA will apply for registration as non-individual investment adviser on onboard-ding 150 clients and IA will have to enter into an agreement with its clients.

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Sensex sheds 1,114 pts as virus fears renew

Investors lose ₹11.31 lakh cr in six days; gold at 2-month low

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 24

The Sensex and the Nifty plunged over three per cent on Thursday as a global sell-off over fears of a second wave of Covid-19 infections in major economies and monthly equity derivatives expiry triggered a broad-based selling in the Indian equity market. The Sensex closed 1,114 points down at 36,553, while Nifty-50 closed below 11,000 at 10,805 down 326 points. Since September 16, the 30-share BSE benchmark index has fallen by 2,749.25 points.

Investors lost approximately ₹3.75 lakh crore as BSE's market capitalisation fell below ₹150 lakh crore. In the last six days, investors have lost a whopping ₹11.31 lakh crore. Tracking weak global cues, market benchmark Sensex opened 400 points lower and saw a gradual fall to the day's low of 36,495.98 before the close. In the Sensex pack, 29 out of 30 blue-chip stocks closed in the red with only Hindustan Lever closing in the green.

Continued selling by the foreign portfolio investors and the lack of support from domestic institutional investors led to a free fall in the second half of the trading session with European market also opening in the red. Foreign portfolio investors were net sellers of equities worth ₹1,885.69 crore.

Gold also fell to a two-month low in the global market as the dollar extended gains and hopes for further US fiscal stim-

ulus faded. Silver plunged after entering a bear market. The US dollar rose for a fifth straight day. Among the sectoral indices, BSE IT index fell the most at 4.45 per cent after its recent surge on favourable second-quarter performance update by some IT companies. Other sectoral losers included BSE Bankex (-3.41 per cent), BSE Auto (-3.56 per cent) and BSE Metal (3.51 per cent).

Ajit Mishra, vice-president, research, Religare Broking, said, "The looming uncertainty over the stimulus package in the US combined with the issue of rising Covid-19 cases globally has raised concerns over the economic recovery. And, it may deteriorate further if the virus situation results in partial lockdown. Amid all, the Nifty is down by nearly six per cent this week so far and tested the crucial level of 10,800 too. However, there's no sign of respite from the banking index."

The broader market fall was as big as the large-cap stocks with BSE Mid-cap index down by 2.14 per cent and BSE Small-cap index down by 2.28 per cent.

Mumbai, Sept. 24: Harley Davidson Inc. is pulling out of India, another major setback to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to lure or retain foreign manufacturers in the midst of the nation's worst economic downturn in decades. The motorcycle manufacturer will discontinue sales and manufacturing operations in India as part of broader additional cut-backs announced to employees on Thursday, according to a regulatory filing. Harley said it will dismiss another roughly 70 employees as part of its exit from the country and that its latest moves will boost restructuring expenses this year to about \$169 million.

Harley's decision comes weeks after Toyota Motor Corp. said it won't expand further in India due to the country's high tax regime. General Motors Co. pulled out of the country in 2017 while Ford Motor Co. agreed last year to move most of its assets into a joint venture with M&M

Clueless Harley Davidson exits Indian market

specifically mentioning the levies placed on Harley bikes. The Modi government has been trying to reverse the trend with a plan to offer \$23 billion of incentives to attract firms to set up manufacturing, people familiar with the matter said this month, including production-linked breaks for automakers. The programme is being spearheaded by the country's policy planning body and is similar to a scheme implemented earlier this year aimed at drawing businesses away from China.

Harley recorded its first quarterly loss in more than a decade for the three months ended in June and has been cutting hundreds of jobs under Jochen Zeitz, who took over as chief executive officer in May.

— Bloomberg

● HARLEY'S DECISION comes weeks after Toyota said it won't expand further in India due to the country's high tax regime. General Motors Co. pulled out of the country in 2017 while Ford Motor Co. agreed last year to move most of its assets into a joint venture with M&M

● THE CENTRE has decided to extend the suspension for another three months until the last week of December under the newly inserted Section 10A of the IBC.

ment had earlier suspended invocation of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for a period of six months with effect from March 25, 2020. Now the Narendra Modi government has decided to further extend the suspension for another three months until the last week

MARKET | DOMINANCE

App-makers want Apple to stop charging unreasonable fees for App Store

Apple critics join to fight App Store fees

San Francisco, Sept. 24: A group of Apple Inc's critics — including Spotify Technology SA, Match Group Inc and "Fortnite" creator Epic Games — have joined a nonprofit group that plans to advocate for legal and regulatory action to challenge the iPhone maker's App Store practices.

Apple charges a commission of between 15 per cent and 30 per cent for apps that use its in-app payment system and sets out extensive rules that apps must comply with to

As world grapples with virus, Beijing readies for expo



Workers clean a Maserati Ghibli ahead of the Beijing Auto Show in Beijing on Thursday. Beijing is scheduled to host the auto show from September 26 to October 5 even as most of the world is still grappling with rise in Coronavirus cases. — AFP

Jobless rate rises as Centre turns stingy, private cos stop expansion

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 24

Labour participation rate and employment rate have taken a U-turn from the recovery that they had made since the lockdown. The government's focus on fiscal prudence and the private sector's disincentives have discouraged the labour market.

The average Labour Participation Rate (LPR) in the first three weeks of September was 40.7 per cent and 30-day moving average as of September 20 was 40.3 per cent. The LPR seems to have peaked

at 40.96 in the week ended August 16. Since then, the average LPR has dropped to 40.45 per cent for the period mid-August through mid-September, finds CMIE. A lower LPR indicates that people are so discouraged by the conditions that they prefer to sit out and not participate in the jobs market.

Besides the decline in the labour participation rate, there has been a fall in the employment rate.

The employment rate had hovered between 39 and 40 per cent during 2019-20. The rate fell to 27.2 per cent in June but recovered

to 37.6 per cent in July. Then, in August it fell to 37.5 per cent. The trend in September is somewhat mixed.

The rate falls for a week or two before recovering a bit and then it falls again. But, each recovery has been lower than the earlier and the falls are steeper: "This negative trend in the employment rate since June 21 is a source of anxiety. At 37.5 per cent, the employment rate was nearly two percentage points lower than the average of 2019-20. And, the negative trend implies that it could fall further.

The two percentage point fall so far this year with a potential to fall further indicates that the recovery from the impact of the lockdown is incomplete," said Mahesh Vyas, managing director of CMIE.

"The government seems predisposed to fiscal prudence even during the extraordinary times of today. Given its reluctance to spend aggressively or indicate its intentions to spend, the private sector lacks business argument in favour of expanding or investing into capacity creation or creation of new jobs," he said.

No IBC proceedings for three more months

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24

In an attempt to give more relief to stressed corporates due to Covid19 pandemic, the government on Thursday restrained insolvency proceedings against defaulting borrowers for three more months.

The relief would be available only those borrowers who have defaulted on their loan repayments on or after March 25, 2020.

In order to protect the companies who have been experiencing financial distress on account of the pandemic, the govern-

Containerised exports may recover faster than imports

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, SEPT. 24

After a 30 per cent decline in the June quarter, containerised exports may see a V-shaped recovery, while imports may lag behind with an L-shaped recovery. Plastics and rubber, vegetables, pharmaceuticals and garments are supporting recovery in exports.

During the June quarter, containerised trade contracted by almost 30 per cent against the same quarter last year. Exports were down by over 24 per cent while imports suffered a greater shock with

a fall of almost 34 per cent as a sudden demand-shock has created an unprecedented distress in the global trade. However, as the economies are opening in a staggered manner, containerised trade has started showing signs of recovery, according to Maersk.

Commodities such as plastics and rubber have been in great demand and their exports, especially to China, have seen a tremendous growth, during the June quarter. Plastics are supported by the growth of end-user industries such as packaging, textile fibre and elec-

tronics. Tyre industry has not seen as much contraction and gives a boost to rubber exports.

Vegetable exports have also seen a rise, especially to markets in the Middle East. Vegetable exports to the UAE have more than doubled from 2019 levels.

Pharmaceutical exports are expected to grow around 10 to 12 per cent in the next couple of years.

However, containerised imports into India witnessed a steep decline across all commodities, except for chemicals which form a very small portion of overall imports.

AUTO DEALERS TO FIRE WORKERS TO STAY AFLOAT

New Delhi, Sept. 24: Auto dealer body FADA on Thursday said dealers were looking for rationalisation of their assets as well as manpower, especially in bigger cities, to tide over challenging business environment.

The auto dealer body said the stress is more on dealerships in the bigger cities right now due to the prevailing situation as compared with outlets in the smaller towns and rural areas. "Dealers are looking at moving to smaller places with relatively low rent and also looking at rationalisation of manpower in order to carry forward in these challenges times," FADA president Vinkesh Gulati told reporters.

In order to keep business sustainable, FADA is also talking to auto companies to keep inventory in check during the festive season this year in order to avoid over stocking at dealer-end as witnessed in the last two years, he added.

"We are speaking to SIAM and auto companies to keep inventory in check during this festive season as we don't want to get in same situation of over stocking as in last two years," Gulati said.

Kia Motors and Toyota Kirloskar Motor met expectations of their dealers better than other companies in the passenger vehicle segment during the Covid-19 lockdown, the automobile dealers body said. — PTI

MAZAGON DOCK, UTI AMC IPOs TO OPEN ON SEPT. 20

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, SEPT. 24

UTI Asset Management Company and state-run Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders announced initial public offerings opening on September 29.

UTI AMC IPO, priced in the band of ₹552 and ₹554 per share, aims to raise ₹2,160 crore at the upper price band.

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders has set the IPO price band at ₹134-145 per share and offers to divest equity holding in the company, constituting 15.17 per cent of company's pre-offer paid up equity.

federal court in California, while Spotify has filed an antitrust complaint against Apple in the European Union. Maxwell declined to comment on how much funding the Coalition for App Fairness has raised and from whom.

The group on Thursday also laid out 10 "App Store Principles" it plans to demand, including that "No developer should be required to pay unfair, unreasonable or discriminatory fees or revenue shares."

— Reuters

THE ASIAN AGE

25 SEPTEMBER 2020

Reality bites from J&K, but is govt listening?

National Conference president, Srinagar MP and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah, is one of the country's foremost politicians. He has few equals when it comes to drama and flair, but equally also an innate truthfulness, a readiness not to close the doors on discussion, and a fundamental sense of Indian-ness in the best sense of the term, a quality to which he has alluded in a recent video interview as "Gandhi's India, not Modi's India", which sums up everything that is wrong today.

For these very reasons, we need to have the courage to heed Dr Abdullah's sharply-etched words, although it is unlikely that our rulers will, afflicted as they are with inordinate self-importance. He warns us that emotionally it is over for India in Kashmir, although it may control the territory with a soldier toting an automatic rifle placed on every street in every city and in every village. But for this, lakhs will be on the road to protest the abrogation of Article 370, effected by the regime in August 2019.

Dr Abdullah's answer to all of this is that he will fight 'till my last breath' peacefully through the 'Gupkar Declaration' which has brought together all mainline Kashmir parties, besides the Congress, the two communist parties, DMK and Trinamul Congress

Anyone acquainted with Kashmir will at once recognise the veracity in Dr Abdullah's indictment that no one in Kashmir today wants to be called an Indian, and "some" may even welcome China, while a connection with Pakistan is not desired.

Since the focal and disintegrative narrative of the ruling BJP-RSS, in every sphere of life, is expressed in narrow, jingoistic terms — national versus anti-national — it should occasion little surprise if the Kashmir leader is set upon by the communal troll armies nurtured by the cohorts of the governing party, and by its dutiful followers in the media. Sadly for India, though, Dr Abdullah has underlined a home truth.

The reality in Kashmir today is exactly as he says it is. This is on account of the fact that after it ended Kashmir's constitutional autonomy on the false pretext that this was encouraging terrorism and hindering development, the ruling dispensation put thousands in jail in Kashmir, including politicians of mainstream parties who waved the flag for India, unflinching in the face of terrorist attacks and assassination bids. There is no stabilising centre left in the Valley now, thanks to communal fanaticism being propagated, and this is a matter of the deepest worry.

Dr Abdullah's answer to all of this is that he will fight "till my last breath" peacefully through the "Gupkar Declaration" which has brought together all mainline Kashmir parties, besides the Congress, the two communist parties, DMK and Trinamul Congress. The key to success lies in unity of these parties in the face of every contrived circumstance and aggression by the ruling party and Pakistan's proxies in Kashmir, which practically have the same message of disaffection against Kashmir's mainstream politics. This will be a challenging task.

Covid: Put all info on table

The passing away of Union minister of state for railways Suresh Angadi of pandemic Covid-19 and the number of daily case load almost touching one lakh a day appear in contravention of Prime Minister's Narendra Modi's assessment of the situation. In his meeting with the chief ministers of seven most affected states, Mr Modi said India will gain an upper hand in the fight against the coronavirus if those chief ministers tracked the strategy in 60 districts with high case load.

The proclivity of the government to pick and choose from data to paint a rosy picture and the claim India is doing well on the pandemic front reflects the very dishonest way the government has approached the pandemic from the very beginning. The government has been economical with information and truth on every front, starting with the Prime Minister's statement that the virus will be defeated in 21 days. It's a universally accepted fact that the government did not use the long lockdown period to boost the healthcare infrastructure in the country and get itself prepared for the worst. Instead, it watched with disinterestedness the suffering of the people, including the guest workers who in their lakhs were forced to trek hundreds of kilometres home after fleeing the cities where they worked. Now, the virus is heading to villages, and many states, including Maharashtra, have reported shortage of adequate hospital beds there.

The passing away of one of the leaders India had picked to run its affairs must force the government to do a rethink on its approach to the pandemic. Tracking and containment strategy alone does not work. Instead, the government must aggressively augment the healthcare infrastructure with all the resources at its command and help the states financially to deal with the ground situation. The government must use data for action, and not for misleading people.

THE ASIAN AGE

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Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu



Industry in Jagan's Andhra sputters to an abrupt halt

On September 5, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman released the latest "Ease of Doing Business" (EoDB) rankings for reforms in 2018-19. Andhra Pradesh topped the rankings, again, for a third year in a row. Earlier, on August 26, Niti Aayog released an "Export Preparedness Index", comparing performances of Indian states in 2019-20. In this, AP found itself at 20th position, ahead only of small landlocked states like Meghalaya and Sikkim. The contrasting performances of Andhra Pradesh in 2018-19 and 2019-20 are a result of two different kinds of governance.

Andhra has several natural advantages. It has the second longest coastline and along it, dozens of major and minor ports. Andhra was the linchpin of India's Act East initiative. Our EoDB rankings since 2015 reflect a willingness to leverage such advantages through reforms in civil administration and markets. But the recent export performance report indicates the government lost its way by 2019. There has been a drastic rise in "unease of doing business" owing to the current YSRC government questioning pre-existing commitments and contracts.

AP has the highest unemployment rate in India as per CMIE data for

August 2020. Though the pandemic-induced slowdown is partly to blame, it also indicates an erosion of AP's underlying economic strengths in the past year. From being a highlight of India's growth story since 2014, we are fast becoming its latest failure. Andhra was at the forefront of solving India's decades-old dilemma — how do we shift millions of individuals from the low-paying primary sector to better-paying secondary and tertiary sectors? But now it is becoming a lesson on why not to sacrifice governance and growth policies for political one-upmanship.

FROM AGRARIAN TO INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY

The trajectory of every prosperous country is similar — predominantly agrarian countries with rising populations transform into industrial powerhouses, creating millions of quality jobs. India is struggling to make this transition. Half its workforce is still dependent on agriculture, even as 12 million youth join the job market every year.

"Make in India" was a manifestation of this need to transform our states into industrial economies. Though a fledgling state in 2014, Andhra Pradesh deftly took up this challenge under the Telugu Desam

Party government. Chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu promised a job in every family through sustainable industrial growth.

We embarked on a path to industrialisation. Our aims were to create new jobs for lakhs of youth shifting away from agriculture or youth newly joining the labour force, ensuring all regions and districts gain new industries and investments and creating a favorable infrastructure for investors. We had to compete with Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, which have seen longstanding success in industries, investments and services.

The Centre for Policy Research analysed NSSO and Labour Bureau surveys, ASI and RBI figures, and their 2019 report showed AP topping India in overall performance, scoring well in creating employment and keeping unemployment rates low and providing benefits to workers. This was complemented by consistently topping India's EoDB rankings.

Between 2016 and 2018, 2,299 projects worth ₹16.7 lakh crores were under various stages of implementation with an employment potential of 34.7 lakh jobs. Of these, 1,065 projects worth ₹3.5 lakh plus crores able to employ over five lakh people commenced production or erected machinery. More projects worth

another ₹13 lakh crores are under various stages of construction or approval. Kia and Hyundai built in Anantapur; Foxconn, Isuzu and Apollo in Chittoor; Kurnool and Kadapa saw Asia's then largest solar parks taking shape; Nellore saw Aurolindo Pharma, Gamesa and Sembcorp; Srikakulam saw Reddy Labs, while Vizag saw prominent companies as Hinduja, Asian Paints, Rashtriya Ispat and Pfizer begin production.

'PROFIT A DIRTY WORD'

When power changed hands in 2019, there was an expectation that the new government would continue the momentum. What transpired is a policy paralysis and a reverse flow of domestic investments and FDI equities. MoUs were cancelled, companies hounded out, existing contracts dragged to courts or subjected to quasi-judicial review commissions in a move reminiscent of licence permit raj.

As Niti Aayog pointed out in its export performance index, "AP's performance remains poor... due to lack of policy measures." World Bank and AIB pulled out of planned loans worth half a billion dollars as did the Singapore Consortium. It was evident that the current government simply didn't see this kind of industrialisa-

tion as a priority.

This created an atmosphere of great uncertainty which is anathema for businesses looking to invest. Major companies such as LuLu and Adani pulled out of their projects in Vizag. Inaction on the government's part led to Chittoor losing an ambitious Reliance electronics hub. This was a pattern repeated across the state as the YSRC government began to ascribe ulterior motives to every company's actions.

Stuck in a socialist mindset of perennially doubting the private sector, AP began haemorrhaging investments and companies. Commerce minister Piyush Goyal remarked on how the Centre was forced to consider legislating bills to protect investments from state harassment.

From being the highlight of India's growth story, AP has now become one of its problem states: driven by a vendetta against all initiatives of the previous government. Obsessed with rewriting legacies rather than building on them, chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy threatens to undo all gains.

The writer is a Telugu Desam member of the Lok Sabha from Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh

Subhani



LETTERS

WELCOME CODE

The passage of three labour reform bills that removes stringent conditions on winding up of companies and easing restrictions on firing from 100 to 300 employees by firms without government sanction is a watershed moment. The three bills provide a broad balance between the needs of industry and the rights of workers and help attract more investment and job creation. It also provides for minimum dues for retrenched workers which is welcome. As expected the passage of the bills has come in for adverse remarks from the labour unions and it is best to ignore them.

N.J. Ravi Chander
Bengaluru

DON'T TRUST CHINA

THIS REFERS TO "Are we ready for give-and-take with China at LAC?" (Sep 24). Since its unprovoked aggression on India in 1962, China's credibility is too low. In spite of five bilateral treaties between the two countries to address border disputes signed between 1993 and 2013, the Doklam and Ladakh face-offs were forced on India. Settling territorial dispute by give-and-take is preferable but that needs genuine intentions of both sides which doesn't seem to be the case with the Chinese at least for now.

M.C. Joshi
Lucknow

STOP DRUGS PROBE

THIS IS WITH REGARD to the ongoing investigation into the drug network in the Hindi film industry. The tinsel town personalities who are being investigated are small fry. The big sharks must have already cut off their connections with them. Their identities, perhaps, will never be known, and there is a distinct possibility that some of them must have left the country. Hence instead of empowering NIA to probe drug cartels, it's time to call off the entire spectacle.

Arun Malankar
Mumbai

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

SHORT TAKES

OLD-GROWTH
TREES SPIKED
CALIF. FIRES

Los Angeles, Sept. 24: A lack of firefighting resources in the hours after it was sparked allowed a fast-moving wildfire to make an unprecedented run through Southern California mountains and eventually find fuel in old-growth trees to become one of Los Angeles County's largest fires ever, an official said Tuesday.

The Bobcat Fire has burned for more than two weeks and was still threatening more than 1,000 homes after scorching its way through brush and timber down into the Mojave Desert. It's one of dozens of other major blazes across the West. "This is a stubborn fire," Angeles National Forest spokesman Andrew Mitchell said. Only about 100 firefighters were initially dispatched on Sept. 6 when the Bobcat Fire broke out and swiftly grew to about 200 acres (81 hectares), he said.

"To put that into perspective, normally for a fire that size we'd have at least double or triple that number of firefighters," Mitchell said. At the time, many Southern California ground crews and a fleet of retardant- and water-dropping aircraft were assigned to multiple record-breaking blazes in the northern part of the state. By the time staffing was ramped up, flames had found their way deep into inaccessible forest. Embers floated across mountain ridges, igniting towering trees and creating an expanding wall of fire.

LEOPARDS
REAPPEAR
NEAR BEIJING

Beijing, Sept. 24: North China leopards, once on the edge of extinction, have been spotted again in their traditional mountainous habitats near Beijing after more than two decades following improvement in their living environment, the official media here reported. It is a clear sign that the population of the rare sub-species of leopard has continued to grow as the environment in the region has improved, a report by the state-run *Xinhua* news agency said.

The leopard, also known as the Chinese leopard, is classified as a national first-class protected animal in China. It once widely inhabited in Beijing, the provinces of Hebei and Shanxi and other parts of North China. However, in the second half of the 20th century, deforestation and rampant illegal hunting led to a sharp decrease in its numbers.

By 2008, the population had reduced to fewer than 500, while their habitat area was estimated to have declined by 80 per cent. Since November 2012, the endangered leopard has been repeatedly spotted in its traditional habitats in Hebei province-Xiaowutai Mountain and Tuoliang-thanks to conservation efforts in the region, the report said. Most recently, a North China leopard was spotted in Hebei Tuoliang National Nature Reserve.

WILD MAPLE
TREES NEED
CONSERVATION

Oxford, Sept. 24: One in five maple species is threatened in the wild, according to the first full assessment of extinction risks. Known for the vivid colour of their autumn leaves, the trees are popular in parks and gardens.

But in their natural habitats, they face a myriad of threats, including unsustainable logging, climate change, deforestation and forest fires.

Botanists are calling for urgent action to protect rare maple trees. And they say seeds should be stored as an insurance policy against extinction. The assessment of all 158 species of maple is part of an effort to map the conservation status of all tree species by the end of 2020.

It was carried out by the group, Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Conservation manager Dan Crowley told *BBC News*: "Maples are some of our most familiar trees, particularly in autumn when they give us those wonderful displays of yellow, orange, red and purple colours."

"And whilst they are common in some of our open spaces, spaces where they are highly valued, several species are also highly threatened in the wild."

The scientists say action is needed to ensure there is active conservation in protected forests where maples grow.

Cheaper e-vehicle batteries after 3 yrs: Musk

California, Sept. 24: Elon Musk described a new generation of electric vehicle batteries that will be more powerful, longer lasting, and half as expensive as the company's current cells at Tesla's "Battery Day". Tesla's new larger cylindrical cells will provide five times more energy, six times more power and 16% greater driving range, Musk said, adding that full production is about three years away. "We do not have an affordable car. That's something we will have in the future. But we've got to get the cost of batteries down," Musk said.

To help reduce cost, Musk said Tesla planned to recycle battery cells at its Nevada "gigafactory," while reducing cobalt — one of the most expensive battery materials — to virtually zero. It also plans to manufacture its own battery cells at several highly automated factories around the world.

The automaker plans to produce the new cells via a highly automated, continuous-motion assembly process, according to Drew Baglino, Tesla senior vice-president of powertrain and energy engineering. Speaking at the event, during which Musk



Elon Musk

outlined plans to cut costs, the CEO acknowledged that Tesla does not have its new battery design and manufacturing process fully complete.

The automaker's shares slipped as Musk forecast the change could take



three years. Tesla has frequently missed production targets.

Tesla expects to eventually be able to build as many as 20m electric vehicles a year. This year, the entire auto industry expects to deliver 80m cars

globally. At the opening of the event, which drew over 270,000 online viewers, Musk walked on stage as about 240 shareholders — each sitting in a Tesla Model 3 in the company parking lot — honked their car horns in approval.

Rescuers fight on as whale toll in strandings hits 290

Sighting of another pod of 200 whales in same harbour made by copter

Tasmania, Sept. 24: Rescuers fighting to save a pod of 270 whales stranded in Tasmania's west have discovered a further 200 whales about 10km away in the same harbour, which all appear to be dead. The stranding is likely one of the largest on record globally and the worst in Australia's history.

The sighting was made by helicopter over Macquarie Harbour on Wednesday morning and brings the total number of dead long-finned pilot whales in the stranding to about 290.

The number of dead could rise further today as data from infrared helicopter surveillance is analysed, said Nic Dekka, the coordinator of the rescue from Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service regional manager.

Dr Kris Carlyon, a marine conservation program wildlife biologist, said on Wednesday that the addition of 200 whales made this current stranding the largest in Tasmania's history.

Records show some 294 whales, also long-finned pilots, stranded at Stanley on Tasmania's north-west in 1935. About 60 rescuers led by the Tasmanian government's Marine Conservation Programme are entering the second day of the rescue that's focused on an area called Fraser Flats, near the town of Strahan.

About 25 whales were lifted off sandbanks and pulled by boat to open waters on Tuesday, but two had returned to the main stranded pod. Dekka said the new group of 200 whales were in two bays between 7km to 10km south of the main rescue site.

They appear to have gone



Rescuers work to save a pod of whales stranded on a sandbar in Macquarie Harbour on the rugged west coast of Tasmania on Wednesday. Up to 290 whales have died and a challenging operation is underway to rescue more still stranded in a remote bay in southern Australia. Scientists said two large pods of long-finned pilot whales became stuck on sandbars in Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's sparsely populated west coast.

— AFP

undetected and likely entered the harbour about the same time as the others. A crew was heading to the new stranding site on Wednesday morning. The harbour is about 35km long and about 8km wide.

Dekka said: "From the air, most appear to be dead."

Asked why they hadn't been seen before, he said: "The water is a very dark tanin colour and maybe they stranded and then washed back in to the bay. From the air they did not look to be in any condition for rescue."

He said even if those 200

whales had been seen late Monday when the group to the north was discovered, it was unlikely that it would have changed their strategy. When the first 270 whales were discovered, about 90 were estimated to be already dead. "We would still have focused our efforts on Fraser Flats because they are the ones with the best chance of survival."

On Tuesday, Dekka told *Guardian Australia* that two methods were being considered. Burying the whales in a landfill was one, or towing them out

into open water and using ocean currents to keep them offshore was another. "We do know we can't leave them in the harbour because they will present a range of issues. We are committed to retrieving and disposing."

He said on Wednesday the focus was still on saving the whales at Fraser Flats and he was optimistic the 25 whales saved yesterday would be joined by more today.

About 40 government staff and 20 volunteers, mostly from the harbour's fish farming industry, are

in chest-deep in water and manoeuvring large webbing under the whales and lifting them off the sand.

Tags are attached to the rescued whales to monitor them. Pilot whales are very social and need to be taken far enough away from the main group that they don't turn around and go back. Dekka said it was disappointing that two whales saved on Tuesday had returned to the stranding site, "but the majority of the whales (we saved) are still out in deep water and are still swimming."

— Agencies

EU's farm animals' emissions exceed cars, vans combined

Paris, Sept. 24: Cows, pigs and other farm livestock in Europe are producing more greenhouse gases every year than all of the bloc's cars and vans put together, when the impact of their feed is taken into account, according to a new analysis by Greenpeace.

The increase in meat and dairy production in Europe over the past decade has made farming a much greater source of emissions, but while governments have targeted renewable energy and transport in their climate policies, initiatives to reduce the impact of food and farming on the climate have lagged behind.

In 2018, the latest year for which accurate data is available from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, livestock on EU farms (including the UK) were responsible for the equivalent of about 502m tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, mostly through the methane they release. That compares with 656m of carbon dioxide from Europe's cars and vans in the same year.

But when the indirect greenhouse gas emissions are calculated, using established methods to estimate the deforestation and land use changes asso-

ciated with growing animal feed, then the total annual emissions are equivalent to 704m tonnes of carbon dioxide. The calculations are set out in a new Greenpeace report entitled *Farming for Failure*, published on Tuesday.

The EU's meat and dairy production rose by 9.5% between 2007 and 2018, which according to Greenpeace translated into an increase in annual emissions of 6%, or about 39m tonnes. That would be the equivalent of putting 8.4m new cars on the road. If such rises continue, the EU has little chance of meeting its obligations to reduce greenhouse gases under the Paris agreement. Last week, the EU strengthened its targets on cutting emissions, announcing a target of 55% cuts by 2030, compared with 1990 levels, as part of the European green deal, and ahead of key UN climate talks next year.

Marco Contiero, agriculture policy director for Greenpeace, said policymakers must get a grip on livestock emissions, or face missing carbon reduction targets. "European leaders have danced around the climate impact of animal farming for too long," he said. — Agencies

Pacific storm expected to bring rainfall in Tokyo

Tokyo, Sept. 24: A tropical storm in the Pacific Ocean is slowly approaching the Tokyo region Wednesday, and officials are urging residents to take precautions early from expected heavy rain and gusts.

Tropical Storm Dolphin headed north over waters south of the Hachijo island, packing sustained winds of up to 108 kilometers (67 miles) per hour, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The storm is not expected to make landfall according to the agency's latest projection, but it is expected to bring downpours in Tokyo and other areas in eastern

Japan on Thursday and Friday. Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike urged residents, especially those on islands south of Tokyo, to prepare early for possible evacuation. She said Tokyo is taking ample safety measures to prevent the Coronavirus and setting up more evacuation centers to secure enough space.

"Please take precautions well ahead of time," Koike said. Two consecutive typhoons earlier this month hit parts of Japan and the Korean Peninsula, causing widespread damages and flooding to houses, roads and other facilities in the region. — AP

China to be carbon neutral before 2060

Beijing, Sept. 24: China will reach carbon neutrality before 2060 and ensure its greenhouse gas emissions peak in the next decade, Xi Jinping has told the UN general assembly. "China will scale up its intended nationally determined contributions [under the Paris climate agreement] by adopting more vigorous policies and measures," the Chinese president said, calling for a "green recovery" from the Coronavirus pandemic.

The unexpectedly forthright commitment will

give fresh impetus to the UN's efforts to galvanise action on the climate crisis, which has been flagging as the Coronavirus has wreaked havoc on the world's societies and economies this year.

"Xi's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060 is a gamechanger," said Thom Woodroffe, a former climate diplomat and senior adviser at the Asia Society. "For the first time ever there is now a clear long-term trajectory for decarbonisation in China."

China is the world's

biggest emitter, and had previously committed only to aim for peak emissions in about 2030. Its response to the Coronavirus crisis has included plans to build new coal-fired power stations. But last week the country held an online summit with the EU, amid signals Beijing would take a stronger climate stance.

Last week, the EU also came forward with strengthened commitments under the Paris agreement, pledging to cut emissions by 55% by 2030. China's pledge to bring

As automakers shift from horsepower to kilowatts to comply with stricter environmental regulations, investors are looking for evidence that Tesla can increase its lead in electrification technology over legacy automakers who generate most of their sales and profits from combustion-engine vehicles. While average electric vehicle prices have decreased in recent years thanks to changes in battery composition, they are still more expensive than conventional cars, with the battery estimated to make up a quarter to a third of an electric vehi-

cle's cost. Some researchers estimate that price parity, or the point at which electric vehicles are equal in value to internal combustion cars, is reached when battery packs cost \$100 per kilowatt hour (kWh). Tesla's battery packs cost \$156 per kWh in 2019, according to electric vehicle consulting firm Cairn Energy Research Advisors, which would put the cost of a 90-kWh pack at around \$14,000.

Tesla is also building its own cell manufacturing facility at its new factory in Germany in addition to the new plant in Fremont. — Agencies

Record low temp for Northern Hemisphere

Geneva, Sept. 24: For all the recent talk of global warming, climate historians hunting for past temperature extremes have unearthed what the United Nations weather agency calls a new record low in the Northern Hemisphere — nearly -70 degrees Celsius (-93 F) was recorded almost three decades ago in Greenland.

The World Meteorological Organisations (WMO) publicly confirmed Wednesday the all-time cold reading for the hemisphere: -69.6 Celsius recorded on December 22, 1991 at an automatic weather station in a remote site called Klinck, not far from the highest point on the Greenland Ice Sheet. "In the era of climate change, much attention focuses on new heat records," said WMO Secretary-General Professor Petteri Taalas in a statement.

"This newly recognised cold record is an important reminder about the stark contrasts that exist on this planet." The temperature tally surpasses the -67.8°C recorded twice at Siberian sites of Oimekon in 1933 and Verkhoyansk in 1892.

The latter Russian site made headlines in recent months for recording what may be a new record-high temperature north of the Arctic Circle during a heatwave in the region. The new low was confirmed by so-called "climate detectives" working with the WMO's Archive of Weather and Climate Extremes in Geneva. The agency, which was created in 2007, has been poring over historic data in search of records like high and low temperatures, greatest

● **THE COLDEST** temperature ever recorded on Earth was the -89.2 Celsius (-128.6 F) recorded in 1983 at the high-altitude Vostok weather station in Antarctica.

rainfall, and even of "heaviest hailstone" and "longest lightning flash."

It said that the record came to light after "a WMO blue-ribbon international panel of polar scientists tracked down the original scientists involved" from the Klinck automatic weather station than ran for two years in the early 1990s.

The coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth was the -89.2 Celsius (-128.6 F) recorded in 1983 at the high-altitude Vostok weather station in Antarctica, WMO said.

Petteri Taalas, the secretary general of the WMO, said: "In the era of climate change, much attention focuses on new heat records. This newly recognised cold record is an important reminder about the stark contrasts that exist on this planet."

Searching through the archives allows scientists to check temperature patterns, and provides valuable data for climate models. The Klinck station operated for two years in the early 1990s, before its automated instruments were sent for use in the Antarctic. It came to light only after a WMO group tracked down the original scientists. The data had to go through rigorous checking before the new record was accepted. Their assessment is published in the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*. — AP

Storm Beta brings heavy rains causing severe floods in Houston

● **THE HEAVY** rains submerged the roads, swamping cars, blocking highways, and forced to shut schools, offices, and energy shipping ports.

20 inches.

The National Hurricane center has issued a warning saying that significant flash and urban flooding will continue for the middle and upper Texas coast today. It added that the slow-motion of Beta will continue to produce a long duration rainfall event from the middle Texas coast to southern Louisiana. It further added that

flash, urban and minor to isolated moderate river flooding is likely to occur.

The periods of rainfall will spread east into the Lower Mississippi Valley and portions of the south east through the end of the week.

The weather department said that persistent onshore flow will continue to result in above normal high tides, and coastal flooding over the next few days will be slow to recede. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner was reported to have appealed the local residents to stay home and warned not to drive through the high waters. — AP

IN BRIEF

Belarus: 360 more detained

Kyiv: Over 360 more people have been detained in Belarus during protests against the country's authoritarian president, who was unexpectedly sworn in to his sixth term in office after an election the opposition says was rigged. Thousands of Belarusians took to the streets of the capital of Minsk and other cities on Wednesday evening, protesting the unannounced inauguration of President Alexander Lukashenko that took place in the morning. Police fiercely dispersed the crowds; in Minsk, officers used truncheons and water cannons, leaving dozens injured.

HK activist Wong arrested

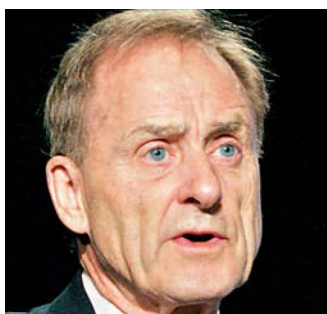
Hong Kong: Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong said he was arrested again Thursday for allegedly participating in an unauthorised assembly last October. Wong tweeted that he was arrested when he reported to the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's Central Police Station as part of a bail requirement. He said he was also accused of violating a pre-Coronavirus law banning the wearing of masks in public places on the pretext they obscure identity. Wong told reporters after leaving the police station that it is the third case against him. He vowed to continue to resist.

Nobel prize cash raised to \$1.1m

Stockholm: The cash envelope that accompanies each Nobel prize will be increased this year from nine to 10 million kronor (\$1.1 million), the Nobel Foundation said Thursday. "The work done in recent years to strengthen the Nobel Foundation's financial standing has made it possible to increase the prize sum," the foundation said in a statement. This year's prizes will be announced during the week of Oct. 5. The sum was reduced from 10 to eight million Swedish kronor in 2011, when the foundation launched a programme to improve its finances. Since the beginning of 2012, its investment capital has risen from just under three billion kronor to 4.6 billion.

Oz beaching: 88 whales rescued

Canberra: Authorities have rescued 88 pilot whales and are attempting to free 20 others that survived Australia's worst mass stranding, as crews prepare to remove 380 decomposing carcasses from the shallows of Tasmania state, officials said Thursday. Crews found the 20 whales that are still alive on the fourth day of the rescue operation, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service Manager Nic Deka said. "Whenever we've got live animals that have a chance and we have the resources, then we'll certainly give in a go," Deka said. Almost 500 whales were discovered on Monday and Wednesday.

**JOURNALIST HAROLD EVANS DIES AT 92**

New York, Sept. 24: Harold Evans, the charismatic publisher, author and muckraker who was a bold-faced name for decades for exposing wrongdoing in 1960s London to publishing such 1990s best-sellers as "Primary Colors", has died, his wife said Thursday. He was 92. His wife, fellow author-publisher Tina Brown, said he died Wednesday in New York of congestive heart failure. A vision of British erudition and sass, Evans was a high-profile go-getter, starting in the 1960s as an editor of the *Northern Echo* and the *Sunday Times* of London and continuing into the 1990s as president of Random House. Married since 1981 to Brown, their union was a paradigm of media clout and A-list access. A defender of literature and print journalism well into the digital age, Evans was one of the all-time newspaper editors, startling British society with revelations of espionage, corporate wrongdoing and government scandal. — AP

2 Louisville officers shot & wounded

Taylor shooting: Protests as cops not charged, 127 held

Louisville, Sept. 24: Police say two Louisville, Kentucky, police officers have been shot and wounded during protests over a lack of charges in Breonna Taylor's death. Police say they've made 127 arrests in Louisville, Kentucky. A police statement on early Thursday says some were arrested after damaging businesses and more were detained after jumping on city vehicles being used as barricades. Later, protesters who refused orders to disperse were arrested for curfew and unlawful assembly violations. Some businesses were looted early Thursday, including two City Gear stores and a pawn shop. Interim Louisville Police Chief Robert Schroeder said Wednesday night that one person was in custody. He says one officer was alert and stable and the other is undergoing surgery but is also stable. He says the officers had gone to investigate reports of gunfire when they were shot. He says they're both expected to recover. The violence comes after prosecutors said two officers who fired their weapons at Taylor, a PoC woman, were justified in using force to protect themselves after they faced gunfire from her boyfriend. The only charges were three counts of wanton endangerment against fired Officer Brett Hankison for shooting into a home next to Taylor's

● **LOUISVILLE'S POLICE** chief says a man has been charged in the shooting of two officers. Mayor Greg Fischer says one officer was treated and released with a leg wound. Another shot in the abdomen is doing well after surgery.

with people inside. Hours after a Kentucky grand jury brought no charges against Louisville police for the killing of Breonna Taylor and protesters took to the streets, authorities said an officer had been shot Wednesday night during the demonstrations expressing anger over the deaths of PoC people at the hands of police. Several shots rang out as protesters in downtown Louisville tried to avoid police blockades, moving down an alleyway as officers lobbed pepper balls. People covered their ears, ran away and frantically looked for places to hide. Police with long guns swarmed the area, then officers in riot gear and military-style vehicles blocked off roadways. The condition of the officer is unclear, and police have not yet released more details. The FBI is still investigating potential violations of federal law in connection with the raid at Taylor's home on March 13. — AP

Bullying: Unicef's UK chief resigns

London, Sept. 24: Sacha Deshmukh, the Indian-origin chief of the UK arm of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), has resigned, months after taking charge of the post after raising bullying concerns against the UN charity's chair. Deshmukh, who took over as the Executive Director of Unicef UK in April, is believed to have raised some concerns around bullying behaviour by a senior. "The board of trustees of Unicef UK announces with regret that it has accepted the resignation of Executive Director Sacha Deshmukh. He will remain in post until the new interim leadership is announced. The search for a new Executive Director will start immediately," a Unicef UK statement said on Wednesday. "In the meantime, the board has every confidence in the strengths of the existing executive team and the dedicated staff as a whole to take forward the charity with its work focused on improving the lives of the world's children," it said. — PTI

N. Korea kills S. Korean official, burns body

Seoul, Sept. 24: South Korea said Thursday that North Korean troops fatally shot a South Korean government official who may have attempted to defect and set his body on fire after finding him on a floating object near the countries' disputed sea boundary. South Korean officials condemned what they called North Korea's "atrocious act" and urged it to apologise and punish those responsible. North Korea is unlikely to accept the South Korean demand, and ties between the rivals — already strained amid a deadlock in broader nuclear diplomacy — will probably suffer a further setback, observers say. According to Seoul, the man disappeared from a government ship that was checking on possible unauthorised fishing in an area south of the boundary on Monday, a day before he was found in North Korean waters. North Korea sent officials wearing gas masks aboard a boat near the man to learn why he was there on Tuesday afternoon. Later in the day, a North Korean navy boat came and opened fire at him, South Korea's Defence Ministry said. Sailors from the boat clad in gas masks and protective suits poured gasoline on his body and set it aflame, the ministry said.

CANINE CARE

Traveller directed to airport's health centre for a free virus test if animal signals +ve result

The nose needed for this Covid test isn't yours, it's a dog's

Helsinki, Sept. 24: Travellers arriving at Helsinki's airport are being offered a voluntary Coronavirus test that takes 10 seconds with no uncomfortable nasal swab needed. And the test is done by a dog. A couple of Coronavirus-sniffing canines began work at the Finnish airport on Wednesday as part of a pilot programme that aims to detect infections using the sweat collected on wipes from arriving passengers. Over the past months, international airports have brought in various methods to detect the virus in travellers, including saliva screenings, temperature checks and nasal swabs. But researchers in Finland say that using dogs could prove cheaper, faster and more effective. After passengers arriving from abroad have collected their luggage, they are invited to wipe their necks to collect sweat samples and leave the wipes in a box. Behind a wall, a dog trainer puts the box beside cans containing different scents, and a dog gets to work. The dogs can detect a Coronavirus-infected patient in 10 seconds, and the entire process takes a minute to complete, researchers say. If the dog signals a positive result, the passenger is directed to the airport's health centre for a free virus test. Why dogs? Dogs have a particularly sharp sense of smell and have long been used in airports to sniff out bombs, drugs and other contraband in luggage. They have also been able to detect illnesses such as cancer and malaria. So in the middle of a pandemic, training dogs to detect Covid-19 became an obvious choice, said Anna



Street vendors sit to protest against a crackdown on illegal street vendors, in front of the Mapo ward office in Seoul Thursday. They replaced protesters with teddy bears to avoid the violation of an ongoing ban on rallies with more than 10 people amid the Coronavirus pandemic. — AP

Israel tightens 2nd lockdown over cases

Jerusalem, Sept. 24: Israel on Thursday moved to further tighten its second countrywide lockdown as Coronavirus cases continued to soar, ordering all nonessential businesses to close and requiring people to stay within 1,000 metres (yards) of their homes. Prayers during the ongoing Jewish High Holidays, as well as political demonstrations, would be limited to open spaces and no more than 20 people, and participants would have to remain within the restricted distance from home. The measures are set to go into force on Friday afternoon, as the country shuts down for the weekly Sabbath ahead of the solemn holiday of Yom Kippur on Sunday and Monday. Even during normal times, Israel completely shuts down for Yom Kippur, with businesses and airports closed, roads empty, and even radio and television stations going silent. The restrictions on demonstrations are subject to approval by the Knesset, Israel's parliament, and the limits on both prayers and protests could spark a backlash. An anti-lockdown demonstration was planned for later in the day in front of the Knesset. Israel's politically influential ultra-Orthodox community has objected to limits on public prayer during the ongoing Jewish High Holidays, and opponents of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have accused the government of using the lockdown as a

cover to end weekly demonstrations against his handling of the crisis. — AP

Poland reports daily rise after easing curbs

Warsaw, Sept. 24: Poland was hit by a record daily rise in Coronavirus cases on Thursday attributable to increased direct contact between people after a lifting of restrictions, the health ministry said. It reported 1,136 new Covid-19 infections, the biggest daily number since the start of the pandemic in March. The nation of 38 million people has registered 82,809 infections, including 2,369 deaths. Health ministry data showed the biggest rise in new cases in the south-east, though other regions also saw notable hikes. — Agencies

SUNAK UNVEILS TOP-UP SCHEME TO SAVE CORONAVIRUS-HIT JOBS IN UK

London, Sept. 24: UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Thursday unveiled a new Covid-19 emergency Jobs Support Scheme, which will see the government top-up wages of workers covering up to two-thirds of their hours for the next six months. In a statement to the House of Commons on his "Winter Economy Plan", the Indian-origin finance minister reiterated his past message that he may not be able to protect every job and business suffering through the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown, but his new set of measures are intended to provide "absolutely maximum support possible". — PTI

UK volunteers may be injected with Coronavirus for vaccine trials

London, Sept. 24: Scientists in the UK are moving towards what are being referred to as "challenge trials", which will involve healthy volunteers being deliberately infected with the Coronavirus to test whether a vaccine offers any protection in the first trial of its kind expected to be formally announced next week, according to a media report. — PTI

Peaceful power transfer: Don refuses to commit

Washington, Sept. 24: US President Donald Trump has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the November 3 election to his Democratic rival Joe Biden. Trump, a Republican, also said he believed the election result could end up in the US Supreme Court, as he again cast doubt on postal voting. Many American states are encouraging mail-in voting, citing the need to keep Americans safe from the Coronavirus pandemic that has killed over two

lakh people in the country. "Well, we're going to have to see what happens," Trump said when asked whether he would commit to a peaceful transition, one of the cornerstones of American democracy. "I have been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster..." Trump told reporters at a White House news conference on Wednesday when asked about a peaceful transition of power after the presidential polls in November irrespective of the outcome. "We want to get rid of the ballots and we will have a very peaceful — there will not be a transfer. Frankly, there will be a continuation. The ballots are out of control, you know it, and you know who knows it better than anybody else?" The Democrats know it better than anybody else," the president said as he refused to entertain any other question from the same journalist. — PTI

Pak files money laundering case against Shahbaz

Islamabad, Sept. 24: The Pakistan government has filed a Rs 7 billion (\$41.9 million) money laundering case against the Leader of the Opposition Shahbaz Sharif and his family.

Shahbaz, 69, is the younger brother of former premier Nawaz Sharif. He served as chief minister of Punjab from 2008 to 2018. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Interior and Accountability Shahzad Akbar on Wednesday said that Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) PML-N President Shahbaz and his sons Hamza and Salman were involved in money laundering through fake accounts, but he (Shahbaz) always pretended to have nothing to do with their businesses, the *Dawn* newspaper reported. "The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has filed a case, accusing Shahbaz Sharif and his children of money laundering to the tune of over Rs 7 billion in a Lahore NAB court," he said. Akbar said the financial monitoring unit had detected 177 suspicious transactions of Shahbaz' family after which NAB started a probe. — PTI

GILGIT-BALTISTAN ASSEMBLY POLL ON NOV. 15

Islamabad, Sept. 24: Pakistan has announced that the once-postponed election for the legislative assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan will be held on Nov. 15, amidst India's objection to Islamabad's moves in the strategically-located region. President Dr Arif Alvi issued an official notification on Wednesday to fix the date of the elections in Gilgit-Baltistan. "The president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to announce Sunday, the 15th Nov. 2020, as the poll day for the general elections to the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Legislative Assembly in terms of Section 57(1) of the Elections Act 2017," the statement said. India has told Pakistan that the entire union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of the country by virtue of its fully legal and irrevocable accession. — PTI



One of the dogs trained to detect the Coronavirus with its trainer at the Helsinki airport. — AFP

SHORT TAKES

Bach backs Games without vaccine

Tokyo: Olympic boss Thomas Bach said on Thursday that the Tokyo Games could take place next year even without a Coronavirus vaccine, pointing to the success of the Tour de France.

Striking an optimistic note at a meeting with Tokyo 2020 organisers, he vowed to make the postponed event a triumph despite the uncertainties of the pandemic. "We can see that sport is coming back slowly but surely, and that a number of big sport events have been successfully organised recently, including matches in different Japanese leagues," he said via videolink. "Also very complex events like the Tour de France and others, which showed to us and showed to the world that we can organise safe sport events even without a vaccine. But a vaccine and progress in rapid testing "would of course greatly facilitate" holding the event," added IOC head, Bach. — *AFP*

Kazu sets record in Japan at 53

Tokyo: Japan's 53-year-old footballing golden oldie Kazuyoshi Miura, better known as King Kazu, won plaudits on Thursday for his latest record-setting appearance, but said he was disappointed he didn't score. Miura made history on Wednesday night in Yokohama FC's game against Kawasaki Frontale, when he became the oldest J-League first division starter in history. "King Kazu once again wrote a new chapter in the history of Japanese football," the Nikkan Sports daily triumphantly declared. *Sports Nippon* said spectators were hard pressed to believe the "valiant performance" was by a 53-year-old. "Kazu is our pride," J-League chairman Mitsuru Murai said. Miura, who has been with Yokohama FC since 2005, was subbed after 56 minutes in a match which saw his side lose 3-2. — *AFP*

Suarez from Barca to Atletico

Madrid: Luis Suarez is staying in Spain after all. Barcelona said late Wednesday that it reached a deal with Atletico Madrid for the transfer of the Uruguayan striker for 6 million euros (\$7 million). Suarez was let go by Barcelona following six mostly successful seasons in which he won 13 titles with the Catalan club. He leaves as Barcelona's third highest scorer ever with 198 goals, behind Cesar Rodriguez (232) and Lionel Messi (634). The 33-year-old Suarez had to find a new club after being told by incoming Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman that he was not in his plans. Koeman was asked to revamp the Barcelona squad after the embarrassing 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals of the Champions League in August. Midfielder Ivan Rakitic already left for Sevilla after also being told he wasn't wanted anymore. — *AP*

Ibrahimovic tests positive for Covid

Milan: Zlatan Ibrahimovic tested positive for the Coronavirus on Thursday, and he reacted to the news as only he can. The AC Milan striker said he was positive a day after testing negative for Covid-19. "I tested negative to Covid yesterday and positive today. No symptoms what so ever. Covid had the courage to challenge me. Bad idea," Ibrahimovic wrote on Twitter. Ibrahimovic will miss Milan's Europa League match against Norwegian club Bodo/Glimt on Thursday and the Italian League match at Crotone on Sunday. All Milan players underwent a second round of testing on Wednesday after defender Leo Duarte was found to be positive for Covid-19 following tests the previous day. — *AP*

Live on TV

TENNIS

ATP Hamburg European Open: Quarterfinals from 3 pm on Sony Six, HD

WWE SMOCKDOWN

Bouts from 5.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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RAHUL RAPS RCB

Punjab captain leads side from front with century

Dubai, Sept. 24: K. L. Rahul smashed his second IPL hundred to lead Kings XI Punjab to a comprehensive 97-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Thursday.

Rahul, who was dropped by RCB skipper Virat Kohli twice, slammed an unbeaten 132 off 69 balls, highest score by an Indian in IPL history, to fire KXIP to 206/3.

In response, RCB were never in the chase and were bundled out for 109 in 17 overs.

Rahul, who was dropped in the 17th and then again in the 18th over by Kohli, played the role of sheet anchor. His innings was laced with 14 boundaries and seven sixes.

With his spectacular knock, he surpassed Rishabh Pant to post the highest individual score by an Indian in IPL history.

Playing his 60th innings, Rahul also became the fastest Indian to reach the 2000 IPL runs.

The stylish batsman clipped away a full length delivery to fine leg for four to break Sachin Tendulkar's record, who reached the milestone in 63 matches.

Opening the batting with Rahul, Mayank Agarwal (26) looked dangerous and shared a 57-run stand with his captain. However, with the introduction of spin into the attack in the seventh over, Yuzvendra Chahal (1/25) struck with the last ball, cleaning up Agarwal (26) with a delightful googly.

Nicholas Pooran (17) and Glenn Maxwell (5) once again failed to make an impact as Shivam Dube (2/33) accounted for the duo. Karun Nair pitched in with an eight-



K. L. Rahul of Kings XI Punjab celebrates his century against Royal Challengers Bangalore in their IPL match in Dubai on Thursday.

— *BCCI*

● **Rahul, who was dropped by Virat Kohli twice, slammed an unbeaten 132 off 69 balls, highest score by an Indian in IPL history. His innings was laced with 14 boundaries and seven sixes.**

ball 15.

The pace troika of Umesh Yadav (0/35), Dale Steyn (0/57) and Navdeep Saini (0/37) had a torrid time as the KXIP skipper was on fire in his second game as captain.

All players wore black armbands to honour Australian cricketer turned commentator Dean Jones, who died in Mumbai due to a cardiac arrest on Thursday. — *PTI*

SCORECARD

Kings XI Punjab Innings: Lokesh Rahul not out 132, Mayank Agarwal b Chahal 26, Nicholas Pooran c de Villiers b Dube 17, Glenn Maxwell c Finch b Dube 5, Karun Nair not out 15. Extras: (B-2, LB-4, W-4, NB-1) 11. Total (for 3 wkts in 20 overs) 206.

FoW: 1-57, 2-114, 3-128. **Bowling:** Umesh Yadav 3-0-35-0, Dale Steyn 4-0-57-0, Navdeep Saini 4-0-37-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-25-1, Washington Sundar 2-0-13-0, Shivam Dube 3-0-33-2.

Royal Challengers Bangalore Innings: Devdutt Padikkal c Ravi Bishnoi b Cottrell 1, Aaron Finch b Ravi Bishnoi 20, Josh Philippe lbw b Mohammed Shami 0, Virat Kohli c Ravi Bishnoi b Cottrell 1, AB de Villiers c Sarfaraz Khan b Murugan Ashwin 28, Washington Sundar c Agarwal b Ravi Bishnoi 30, Shivam Dube b Maxwell 12, Umesh Yadav b Ravi Bishnoi 0, N. Saini b M. Ashwin 6, Dale Steyn not out 1, Y. Chahal lbw b M. Ashwin 1. Extras (LB-2, W-7) 9. Total (all out in 17 overs) 109.

FoW: 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-53, 5-57, 6-83, 7-88, 8-101, 9-106. **Bowling:** S. Cottrell 3-0-17-2, M. Shami 3-0-14-1, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-32-3, M. Ashwin 3-0-21-3, J. Neesham 2-0-13-0, G. Maxwell 2-0-10-1.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Kings XI Punjab	2	1	1	0	2	+2.425
Mumbai Indians	2	1	1	0	2	+0.993
Rajasthan Royals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.800
Delhi Capitals	1	1	0	0	2	+0.000
Chennai Super Kings	2	1	1	0	2	-0.145
Royal Challengers Bangalore	2	1	1	0	2	-2.175
Sunrisers Hyderabad	1	0	1	0	0	-2.500
Kolkata Knight Riders	1	0	1	0	0	-2.450

Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rate

WASN'T EASY TO PLAY LONG INNINGS: ROHIT

Abu Dhabi, Sept. 24: Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma admitted that sapping condition in the UAE makes it difficult to bat for long duration and that's the reason he felt a bit tired by the end of his match-winning knock against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Skipper Rohit starred with a 54-ball 80 to help defending champions Mumbai Indians to a 49-run win over KKR in their second IPL game.

"It is not easy to play long innings here. It takes a lot out of you to play in these conditions. Maybe I was a bit tired in the end and it was a lesson for us that one set batsmen needs to bat deep till the end," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"We've seen it in the past and that's what I tried to do," he added.

While the heat and humidity made it difficult but it was imperative to bat as long as possible after a six-month break, Rohit said. — *PTI*

Dads' army gears up for comeback against Delhi

Dubai, Sept. 24: Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's much-awaited promotion in the batting order will be an area of interest when Chennai Super Kings strive to pick up pieces against a confident Delhi Capitals in their third IPL encounter on Friday.

The shock defeat against Rajasthan Royals on a batting belter at Sharjah could be primarily attributed to a poor show by their spinners along with a disastrous 20th over but the batsmen can't absolve themselves completely, especially Murali Vijay, Kedar Jadhav and the skipper himself.

Dhoni had come in to bat at number seven, promoting the likes of Sam Curran, Jadhav and Ruturaj Gaikwad ahead of himself but the play backfired badly.

While his fans still swear by his six-hitting ability, a closer look would show that Dhoni is unable to change the gears against express pace and it was only when Tom

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD
Matches: 21
Chennai Super Kings won: 15
Delhi Capitals won: 6

LAST YEAR

- CSK beat Delhi Capitals by 6 wickets at Delhi
- CSK beat Delhi Capitals by 80 runs at Chennai
- CSK beat Delhi Capitals by 6 wickets at Visakhapatnam (Qualifier 2)

FOR THE RECORD

- Shikhar Dawan, who scored a duck in the previous match, was the highest run-getter for Delhi Capitals last season. He scored 521 runs at an average

of 34.73 and a strike rate of 135.67 in 16 innings off as many matches. It was third time when he scored over 500 runs in an IPL season after 569 runs in 2012 and 501 runs in 2016.

- Mahendra Singh Dhoni will equal Suresh Raina's record of most matches in IPL by appearing in this match. Suresh Raina played 193 matches for Chennai Super Kings and Gujarat Lions while Mahendra Singh Dhoni played 192 matches for Chennai Super Kings and Rising Pune Supergiant since 2008.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

Curran came with his medium fast, Dhoni launched an attack. That too when the match as a contest was over.

For Delhi Capitals, winning a cliffhanger right at the onset would have given them a lot of confidence even though Ravichandran Ashwin's probable absence after a shoulder injury could force them to reshuffle

their bowling line-up.

Senior spinner Amit Mishra could be an option to partner Axar Patel in case Ashwin is unable to make it.

Talking of big hitters, Delhi has one too many in their line-up including the like of Prithvi Shaw, Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer and last match's hero Marcus Stoinis. — *PTI*

DON'T JUDGE PAT AFTER JUST ONE GAME: DK

Abu Dhabi, Sept. 24: Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Dinesh Karthik finds it extremely "unfair" that his premier pacer Pat Cummins is being criticised after just one bad performance, that too when he played straight after completing his quarantine.

All eyes were on Cummins, this edition's highest paid overseas recruit and he was taken apart by Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma as he went for 49 runs in 3 overs during KKR's 49-run IPL defeat on Wednesday.

"It is very unfair to judge Cummins right now. He is just off quarantine, (it is) at 3.30/4.00 pm when he got permission to come and play the match itself. We are just happy to have him and I don't think this is a game where we need to judge him at all," Karthik said.

The KKR skipper termed Cummins as a champion bowler who will eventually come good. — *PTI*

Dean Jones passes away

Aussie suffered a heart attack in Mumbai hotel

Mumbai, Sept. 24: Former Australia batsman Dean Jones, one of the finest exponents of ODI cricket, died of a sudden cardiac arrest in Mumbai on Thursday.

Jones, 59, was in Mumbai with the Star Sports' commentary team for the Indian Premier League. He was in a bio-bubble in a city hotel. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Jones played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia and was part of the 1987 World Cup winning team.

According to an IPL source, it happened in matter of seconds. "Deano was standing in the hotel lobby and he suddenly collapsed. Brett Lee was standing by his side. Brett tried to revive him by applying CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) but he didn't respond. He was then taken to Harkisan Das Hospital in Girgaon where he was announced dead on arrival," said the source.

Jones' family is in Melbourne and the Australian High Commission is in touch with them.

A player well ahead of his time, Jones scored over ODI 6,068 runs at an average of 44.61 with seven hundred and 46 fifties.

For Indian fans, he will forever remain in their memory for the historic tied Test in Chepauk, where he laid the foundation of a big Australian score with an unbeaten double hundred in challenging conditions.

There was an iconic picture of Jones throwing up while batting and so severely dehydrated he was that he had to be



Dean Jones

admitted to a hospital during the course of the Test match.

In ODI cricket and those numerous World Series Cup matches on Australia's Channel 9, Jones, clad in yellow jersey and the lips lined with zinc cream is still etched in memories of the late 80s and early 90s generation.

In ODI cricket, he would often charge down the track against fast bowlers and hit them over the infield. He played a match winning knock against India in the 1992 World Cup in Brisbane, a thriller that India lost by one run.

In his post retirement life he performed the role of a cricket analyst for various channels, primarily in South Asia — India and Pakistan, where he was immensely popular.

One of the Indian news channel named him "Professor Deano", a moniker that stuck with him and was also his twitter handle. — *PTI*

CRICKET WORLD MOURNS DEANO

Absolutely heartbreaking news about Dean Jones passing away. A wonderful soul taken away too soon. Had the opportunity to play against him during my first tour of Australia. May his soul rest in peace and my condolences to his loved ones.

— **SACHIN TENDULKAR**
legend

He was simply just a good mate that always had my back. We'd stayed close post cricket and only talked this morning about a fun project that we were going to get involved in.

— **ALLAN BORDER**
Former Australian captain

He was one of the most dynamic of cricketers. The way he used to go away from stumps and hit the ball over extra cover, all those were shots which were new in the 1980s, he was you would say pioneer of lot of those shots, pioneer of aggressive running between the wickets, and he was an outstanding fielder as well.

— **SUNIL GAVASKAR**
Former Indian captain and commentator

Shocked to hear about the tragic loss of Dean Jones. Praying for strength and courage to his family and friends.

— **VIRAT KOHLI**
Indian captain

I can't believe this news. So very sad to hear about this. Rip Deano, you will be missed.

— **DAVID WARNER**
Australia's top batsman

Still in shock hearing the news of Deanos passing. Thoughts are with Jane and the family at this incredibly tough time. A great man with an amazing passion for the game.

— **AARON FINCH**
Australia limited overs captain

Havertz hat-trick in Chelsea win



Chelsea's German midfielder Kai Havertz (left) celebrates after scoring his team's fifth goal during the English League Cup third round football match against Barnsley at Stamford Bridge in London on Wednesday. Tammy Abraham, Ross Barkley and Olivier Giroud also scored a goal each for Chelsea in their 6-0 win. — *AFP*

Tyler, hero in Miami's victory

Orlando, Sept. 24: Rising star Tyler Herro scored a career high 37 points and Jimmy Butler chipped in 24 as the Miami Heat seized command of their Eastern Conference final series with a 112-109 win on Wednesday.

The 20-year-old rookie Herro made five of 10 threes as Miami took a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series in the NBA's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida.

"It is a good win for us. I feel good we are up 3-1 but we still have a lot of work to do," Herro said. "We put a lot of effort into preparing for game four and we got it done," he added.

Herro's point total is the second most in a playoff game for a player 20 or younger, behind only Magic Johnson who had 42.

It is a good win for us. I feel good we are up 3-1 but we still have a lot of work to do. We put a lot of effort into preparing for game four and we got it done.

— **TYLER HERRO**
Miami Heat player after beating Boston Celtics

The win moved them to within one victory of an NBA finals berth which they will try to secure in game five on Friday.

"Not too many people get an opportunity to make it this far in the playoffs and be in a game like this, but for him it's another day in the office," said Butler of Herro.

"He's just going to keep playing basketball the right way," he added.

Goran Dragic had 22 points, and Bam Adebayo added 20 points and 12 rebounds for Miami, who rebounded from just their

second loss of the postseason in game three.

Jayson Tatum scored a team high 28 points, all coming in the second half, and Jaylen Brown had 21 for Boston, who were looking to win consecutive playoff games for the first time since the start of their second-round series against the Toronto Raptors.

Kemba Walker scored 20, Gordon Hayward 14 and Marcus Smart had 10 points and 11 assists.

The Celtics turned the ball over 19 times in the game.

Miami went on a 10-4 run at the end of the first half after Hayward hit a pair of free throws to tie the score 40-40 with 3:38 left in the second.

Herro nailed a three pointer with just over four minutes left in the fourth quarter to give Miami a 98-90 lead.

Brown made a three pointer and Smart dropped in a layup to get the Celtics within three, but Dragic and Butler each made baskets to pad Miami's lead.

Dragic responded from beyond the arc and Herro added a layup to put Miami up by nine with 56 seconds left in regulation.

Boston got within three again on a Brown three-pointer with 16 seconds to go, but free throws by Herro and Butler sealed the victory. — *AFP*