

WHITE HOUSE TAPES:
NIXON'S BIGOTRY
TOWARDS INDIANS

P5



'INDIA WILL MAINTAIN
SECURITY IN EXTENDED
NEIGHBOURHOOD'

P5



XI'S DILEMMA
IN LADAKH

P7



MESSI EXPLAINS
WHY HE STICKS
WITH BARCELONA

P12

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky with light rain/thunder showers. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 35 and 24 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: 0.00.8 Mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 57%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 36.8°C (+3) Min: 26.4°C (+1)

SUN RISES

06:02 hrs

MOON RISES

21:08 hrs

SUN SETS

18:36 hrs

MOON SETS

10:13 hrs

THUMBNAILS



President Ram Nath Kovind virtually presents the National Award to Teachers 2020 on the occasion of Teachers' Day, in the Capital. PIB (P4)

80 new special trains to run from 12 Sept: Eighty new special trains will be operational from 12 September, reservations for which will begin from 10 September, Railway Board Chairman V K Yadav said on Saturday. He said the trains will be notified later in the day. "This will run in addition to the 230 trains already in operation," he said. Yadav said the Railways will be monitoring all the trains to determine which trains have long waiting list. He said Railways will run trains whenever there is demand from states for exams or other purposes.

Pak troops shell three civilian areas along LOC: Pakistani troops on Saturday indulged in intense mortar shelling at three civilian areas along the line of control (LOC) in the Poonch sector. Defence spokesman, Lt. Colonel Devenender Anand said that Pakistani army resorted to unprovoked shelling in the Shahpur, Kirni and Degwari sector of Poonch district. Indian Army retaliated befittingly. He said that at about 9:15 a.m., Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation.

No breakthrough in Rajnath-Wei meeting

Two sides should continue dialogue: Rajnath to his Chinese counterpart

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meets his Chinese counterpart General Wei Fenghe on the sidelines of the Joint Meeting of the Heads of Defense Ministers of SCO. In Moscow on Friday. ■ PIB FILE PHOTO

The much-anticipatory meeting between Defence minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe last night failed to break the impasse over the ongoing Sino-Indian military tensions in eastern Ladakh with the Indian side again conveying to Beijing its firm resolve to protect the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity at any cost.

The Indian troops have always taken a very responsible approach towards border management, Singh told the Chinese minister while pointing out that the actions of the Chinese side, including the amassing of a large number of troops and their aggressive behaviour and attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo, were in violation of bilateral agreements.

The two ministers had frank and in-depth discussions about the developments in the India-China border areas as well as their impact on bilateral relations during their over two-hour meeting held in Moscow on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) defence minister's meeting, the Defence Ministry said today. The meeting was held at the request of the Chinese minister.

Singh minced no words while conveying to the Chinese minister India's position on the developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), including the 15

June Galwan Valley clash in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed while there were an unspecified number of casualties on the Chinese side.

Very nasty situation along India-China border: Trump

WASHINGTON,
5 SEPTEMBER

Describing the situation along the India-China border as "very nasty", US President Donald Trump has said that the Chinese are "going at it much more strongly" than a lot of people understand and he would "love to get involved and help" ease the tension.

Trump reiterated that he is talking to both India and China about the situation.

And we stand ready to help with respect to China and India. If we can do anything, we would love to get involved and help. And we are talking to both countries about that, he said.

India and Chinese troops are engaged in a bitter standoff in multiple places in eastern Ladakh for four months.

"While we're at it, we're talking about China and

India are going at it pretty good on the border, as you know. It's been very nasty," Trump said on Friday at a White House news conference in response to a question on Indian-Americans and US-India relationship.

Trump reiterated that he is talking to both India and China about the situation.

And we stand ready to help with respect to China and India. If we can do anything, we would love to get involved and help. And we are talking to both countries about that, he said.

PTI

Attempts by the Chinese Army recently to change the status quo in the southern bank of the Pangong Lake, India, he said, favoured immediate restoration of the status quo ante at all friction points.

The two sides, Singh said, should continue their discussions, including through diplomatic and military channels, to ensure complete disengagement and de-escalation and full restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC at the earliest.

The current situation should be handled responsibly and neither side should take any further action that could either complicate the situation or escalate matters in the border areas.

"It is important for the Chinese side to work with the Indian side for complete disengagement at the earliest from all friction areas, including Pangong Lake, as well as de-escalation in border areas in accordance with bilateral agreements and protocols," he said.

Singh said both sides should take guidance from the consensus reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping that maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas was essential for the further development of bilateral relations and that the two sides should not allow differences to become disputes.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Defence Ministry, in a press release on the meeting, said Wei told the Indian minister that relations between the two countries and the two militaries had been severely affected by the border issue.

The cause and the truth of the current situation were very clear and the responsibility lay with India, he claimed.

Govt issues advisory allowing 'testing on demand' for Covid-19



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

figure yet, over the past 24 hours, taking the total tally to 40,23,179 cases. A total of 1,089 deaths were also registered, taking the toll to 69,561. Out of the total confirmed cases, 8,46,395 are active cases, while 31,07,223 patients have recovered from the virus so far, including 77,072 recoveries in the last 24 hours. The recovery rate, meanwhile, has increased to 77.23 per cent.

As per the new advisory, the state governments can decide simplified modalities for on-demand testing for all individuals who wish to get themselves tested.

The Ministry of Health also said that there has been an unprecedented upsurge in India's daily testing capacities, adding that for two successive days more than 11.70 lakh tests have been conducted per day.

The total Covid-19 test count in the country now stands at 4 crore and 77 lakh till date. There are now 1647 testing laboratories operational which cover all States/UTs.

Earlier on Friday, the ICMR suggested that 100 percent of people living in containment zones should be tested by rapid antigen tests, particularly in cities where there has been the widespread transmission of the infection.

The development comes as India recorded another 86,432 Covid-19 cases, the highest daily



entry, the advisory recommended testing of all asymptomatic high-risk individuals (people above 65 and those with co-morbidities etc.) in containment zones, it said.

The Centre, meanwhile, exhorted Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, accounting for about 46 per cent of active Covid-19 cases and 52 per cent of deaths in the last 24 hours, to focus on aggressive measures to break the chain of transmission and keep mortality rate below 1 percent.

The states have been advised to proactively ensure higher testing, effective clinical management along with efficient monitoring at various levels to lower fatality, the Union Health Ministry said.

NCB gets Showik's custody; eye on big fish of Bolly drug network

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 5 SEPTEMBER

Rhea Chakraborty's brother 'dealt in drugs with many others', the NCB said as it obtained his custody along with that of Sushant Singh Rajput's house manager till 9 September

will "not shirk its responsibility" now that it is getting information about this alleged drugs nexus.

"Normally this is not part of our mandate but now that we are getting information... This case has given us an inkling of the network and the extent of the penetration," he said when asked if the agency has evidence on the drugs nexus in Bollywood.

The NCB, while seeking remand of one of the accused in this case two days ago, had

told the court that it was looking into "the drug citadel in Mumbai, especially Bollywood".

"The whole idea of taking custody (of Showik and Miranda) is to make people confront each other to clarify their individual role. So, yes we will be asking her (Rhea) to join investigation and may be some other people because we also need to clarity as to who did what," Jain said.

Showik and Miranda were arrested on Friday night by the NCB under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act after questioning them for 10 hours.

The NCB produced them in a court here on Saturday. Abdel Basit Parikh, arrested earlier in the drugs case, was in contact with Showik and Miranda, the NCB told the court.

Ease of doing business rankings: Andhra tops third time in row; UP jumps 10 places to 2nd

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

Andhra Pradesh for the third time in a row has topped in the ease of doing annual business ranking of states and Union Territories by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

The ranking is based on the implementation of the business reform action plan 2019, according to a report released by Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday. Registering a jump of 10 places in the rankings, Uttar Pradesh occupied the second position in 2019 as against 12th in 2018.

Telangana slipped to the third position from second in 2018. It was followed by Madhya Pradesh (4th), Jharkhand (5th), Chhattisgarh (6th), Himachal Pradesh



(7th), Rajasthan (8th), West Bengal (9th) and Gujarat (10th). Delhi's position improved to 12th from 23rd in the last edition, while Gujarat slipped from 5th place in 2018.

Among the laggard states and UTs in the ranking, Assam was at 20th, J&K at 21st, Goa at 24th, Bihar at 26th and Kerala 28th place. Tripura was ranked at the bottom 36th.

Releasing the report, Sitharaman said that states have taken the exercise in its

true sense and it would help states and UTs to become better place to do business.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said these rankings reflect the efforts that states and UTs are doing to better their systems and processes.

It is also a wake-up call for those states which have slipped in the ranking, he said.

Goyal said that the Ministry is working on steps like creating a single-window system for approvals and clearances. In 2015 Index, Gujarat featured at the top, with Andhra Pradesh grabbing the second position and Telangana 13th.

In 2016, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana jointly topped the chart. In the last ranking released in July 2018, Andhra Pradesh topped the chart, followed by Telangana and Haryana (3rd).

Haryana slid to 16th position in the latest ranking.

The exercise is aimed at promoting competition among states with a view to improving the business climate to attract domestic as well as foreign investments.

This was the fourth edition of the report, which was first released in 2015. The Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 includes 181 reform points covering 45 business regulatory areas such as access to information, single window system, labour, and environment.

The DPIIT in collaboration with the World Bank conducts an annual reform exercise for all States/UTs under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP).

In the World Bank's latest 'Doing Business' report, India has jumped 14 places to the 63rd position.

Kejriwal attributes Delhi Covid spike to doubling of tests

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

Declaring a "war" on Covid, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today said the recent surge in Covid cases in Delhi was attributable to doubling of tests, even as he asserted that the situation was under control and there was no need to panic.

"We have doubled testing, started testing at markets, bus stands, mohalla clinics etc. Test, test, test. Isolate infected people and provide them good treatment. I have told officers not to worry if the number (of cases) increases due to double testing," he said.

The city today recorded 2,973 fresh Covid cases - its highest single-day spike in 71 days - as the caseload mounted to 1,88,193.

(SEE P2)

Covid concerns spread to rural India as cases surpass 40-lakh milestone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

As Covid-19 cases surge so do worries about how to contain the spread of the disease that is spreading inexorably through India, initially in urban centres and now increasingly into the hinterland where medical infrastructure is scarce.

Though there are no exact numbers about the spread of the virus into rural areas, there is enough evidence to suggest it has reached most corners of India and there is community transmission, say experts. Just two figures could tell the story: an estimated 65 per cent of India's 1.3 billion population lives in rural areas. And, according



The announcement on recruitment for 9,650 government positions was made before the pandemic; the recruitment process for that will also be started from January 2021

VIJAY RUPANI
GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER

Kejriwal attributes surge in cases to doubling of tests

There is no need to panic due to recent Covid spike in Delhi as the situation is under control, says CM

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

Seeking to declare a "war" on coronavirus (Covid-19) in Delhi, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal today said that the recent surge in Covid cases in the city was attributable to doubling of tests, even as he asserted that the situation was completely under control and there was no need to panic.

Addressing a virtual press conference, Kejriwal said he was not worried about the data, but was more concerned about keeping people healthy.

Addressing a virtual press conference, Kejriwal said he was not worried about the data, but was more concerned about keeping people healthy.

"Delhi declares war on Corona. We have doubled testing, started testing at markets, bus stands, mohalla clinics etc. Test, test, test. Isolate infected people and provide them good treatment. I have told officers not to worry if the number (of cases) increases due to multifold testing," Kejriwal stated.

The biggest reason for the increase in the number of positive cases in the last few days is that the Delhi government has doubled daily testing to 40,000 from around 18,000-20,000 a week ago. You can see this doubling of testing as a big attack on the



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal during a virtual press conference on Saturday.

patients is not increasing, deaths are not increasing and people are recovering after infection," he said.

"Some people are becoming negligent, not wearing masks and also not following social distancing. We have to go to our jobs, run the household, take care of children and revive the economy. But, we should not become negligent. So, wear masks and follow social distancing," the CM said.

"Also, some people are not getting tested despite having a fever. Such persons not only endanger their own lives, but they also put their family and neighbours at risk. Covid-19 tests are free, so go for testing and do not be negligent."

Meanwhile, Delhi today recorded 2,973 fresh Covid cases - its highest single-day spike in 71 days - as the caseload mounted to 18,819.

This is the fifth successive day this month when over 2,000 new cases have been reported in a day.

Twenty-five Covid fatalities were recorded in the national capital today, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi government's health department. The death toll from the infectious disease in the city climbed to 4513 so far.

The number of Covid tests conducted in Delhi today rose to 38,895 from yesterday's 36,219.

The tally of recovered Covid patients increased to 1,63,785 even as the recovery rate dipped to 87.03 per cent. The city's active cases tally rose to 19,870.

coronavirus pandemic. We have mounted this big assault against coronavirus. I would ensure testing of everyone every day if it was possible for me," the CM said.

Kejriwal said some people opposed doubling the number of tests, but now everyone was on the same page.

"We have doubled tests to identify more infected people so that they are isolated to prevent further spread. Do not think that the situa-

tion has deteriorated," he said.

The CM said he has been "honestly" presenting the Covid situation before the people of Delhi at regular intervals.

The CM said there was no need to worry with the rise in the number of coronavirus cases, adding that he would worry if the number of deaths increases. The AAP-led Delhi government has taken several steps to reduce Covid fatalities.

He said the Delhi situation was much better as the recovery rate here stood at

87 per cent against the national average of 77 per cent.

There is currently no shortage of hospital beds for Covid patients in Delhi, Kejriwal said.

Out of 14,000 beds, only 5,000 are occupied, he said, adding that "Of those 5,000 beds, 1,600-1,700 are occupied by those who belong to other states".

"The number of Delhi patients is not increasing in hospitals. The number of

MeToo: Sexual harassment disclosure against Akbar was for public good, Priya tells court

PTI
NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

Journalist Priya Ramani told a Delhi court on Saturday that her remarks alleging sexual harassment by former Union minister M J Akbar were her truth which she disclosed in "good faith" for the "public good" and, therefore, do not amount to defamation.

Ramani submitted this before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja through her lawyer during the final hearing of a private criminal defamation complaint filed by Akbar against her.

Akbar had earlier told the court that Ramani had defamed him by using adjectives such as 'media's biggest predator' against him that harmed his reputation.

M J Akbar has denied all the allegations of sexual harassment against the women who came forward during the #MeToo campaign against him.

Akbar resigned as Union minister on October 17, 2018.

Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Ramani, told the court on Saturday that as per law it is not defamation to impugn anything which is true concerning any person if it is for the public good.

A true imputation made in the public good is not defamation.

It is not defamation to make an imputation on the character of another when it is made in good faith for the protection of his or other's interest, she told the court during a virtual hearing.

John further said that Priya Ramani's alleged defamatory tweets and the Vogue article were her truth. I am saying this is my (Ramani's) truth... it is the truth, is in good faith, touching public good.

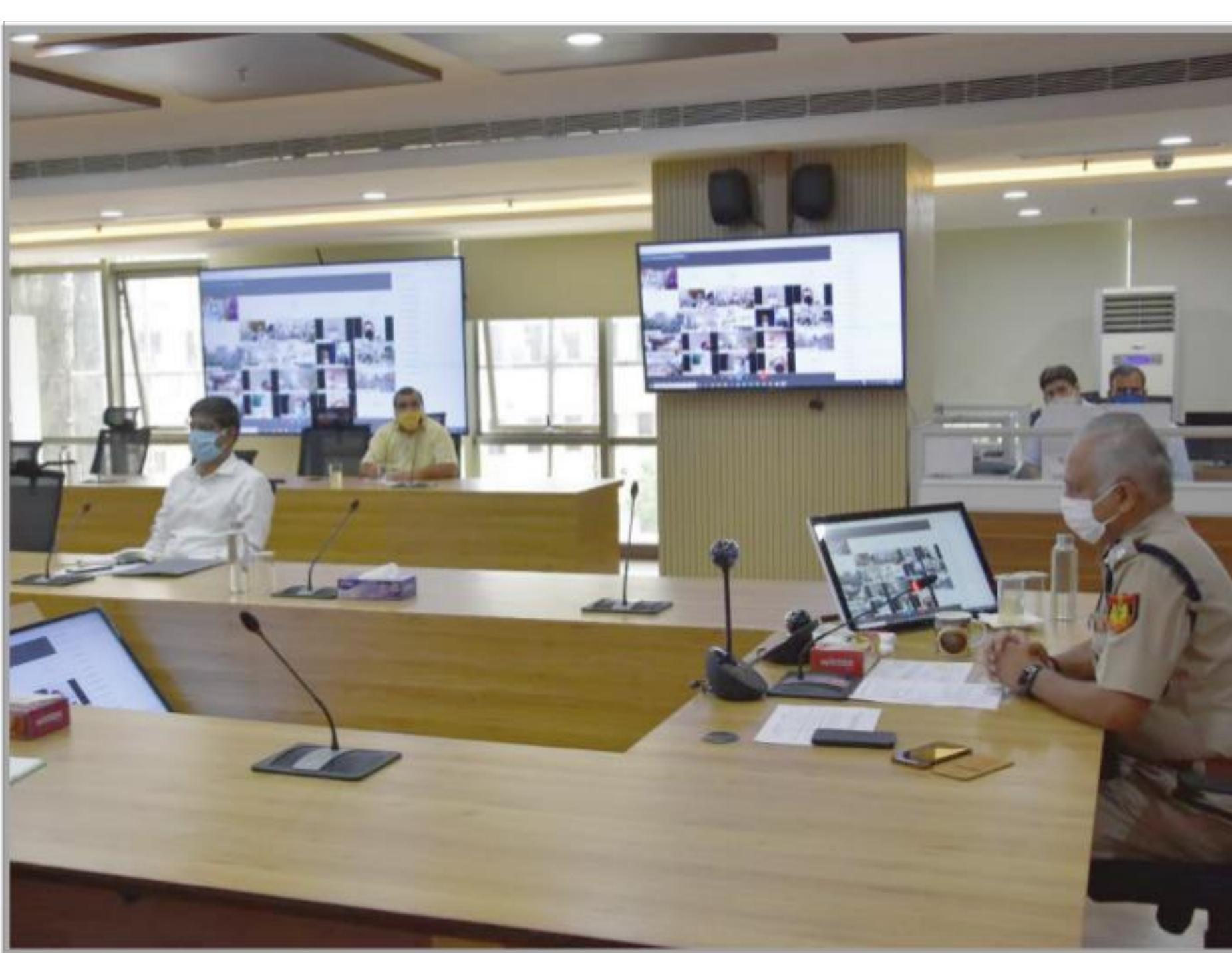
The court will further hear the arguments on September 8.

Ramani had earlier told the court that her disclosure of alleged sexual harassment by Akbar has come at a great personal cost and she had nothing to gain from it.

She had said her move would empower women to speak up and make them understand their rights at the workplace.

Several women came up with accounts of the alleged sexual harassment by M J Akbar while they were working as journalists under him.

He has termed the allegations false, fabricated and deeply distressing and said he was taking appropriate legal action against them.



Delhi Police commissioner S N Shrivastava on Saturday held a meeting with the city police personnel through video conferencing to review the crime and Covid-19 situation in the national capital. He also rewarded personnel from Dwarka and Outer districts in recognition of their 'exemplary and outstanding' recent work, according to a press release issued by the city police.

Rains lash Delhi; waterlogging, traffic jams in several areas

PTI
NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

A thunderstorm barrelled through the national capital on Saturday evening uprooting trees and bringing moderate rains that flooded low-lying areas.

Heavy waterlogging disrupted traffic movement on key roads.

Rains had been evading Delhi for the last few days, with the city recording just traces of rainfall in the first five days of September.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides official figures for the city, recorded nil rainfall till Saturday morning. Normally, the observatory records 28.8 mm precipitation during the period.

The Palam and Lodhi road weather stations have also reported a rain deficiency of 99 and 100 percent, respectively, this month.

Overall, the city has recorded 555.6 mm rainfall against the normal of 552.6 mm since June 1, when the monsoon season starts.

Delhi recorded 237 mm rainfall in August this year, the highest for the month in seven years, according to an India Meteorological Department data.

The capital had gauged 119.6 mm precipitation in August last year, and 206.5 mm in 2018. It recorded 152.2 mm and 122.1 mm rainfall in August 2017 and 2016, respectively.

The August rainfall in 2015 and 2014

stood at 195.4 mm and 139.1 mm. The rainfall in August 2013 was 321.4 mm.

This is such a dangerous trend and youth immediately copy behaviour of fellow youth, especially if they are social media influencers, he warned.

"Yes, social media does affect the psyche and behaviour of people. So, people must behave responsibly," he said, and cautioned that "a young person may get infected and recover from COVID-19, but if they unnecessarily go out and socialise, they run the risk of spreading it to older people around them, including their parents and grandparents".

The Delhi Metro all set to resume operations from September 7 in a graded manner, has put all safety and social distancing norms in place to make the travel safer for commuters. However, it appealed to people to use the services only if it is urgent, and not otherwise.

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The Sunday Statesman

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Reopening of economy, more testing, no mask use led to Covid rise in city: Experts

PTI
NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

Delhi has recorded the highest single-day spike in COVID-19 cases in nearly 70 days, which experts are attributing to reopening of economy, ramped-up testing, patients from outside the city coming here for treatment and violation of safety norms by many people in public.

The national capital has reported coronavirus cases in excess of 2,000 for four consecutive days since September 1. On Friday, the daily cases count stood at 2,914.

When asked about the spiralling cases and chances of another lockdown, a senior official of the Delhi government on Friday said the cases have shown an increase as testing has been ramped up.

It is not that cases are rising alarmingly, and hence,

there is no chance of going back to lockdown, he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said the recent surge in cases in the city is attributable to doubling of testing, as he sought to assure people that the situation is completely under control and there is no need to panic.

Medical experts have flagged the surge in cases earlier too and warned people about the perils of not wearing masks in public and violating social distancing norms, but underlined that an economy cannot be kept locked forever.

"Yes, a large section of people in Delhi have become complacent that everything is okay now, as economy has reopened and even metro services will resume next week. But, they must understand, this ease in lockdown was given

for economic sustenance of the country and not for people to roam around as they were doing it before," Director, Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (RGSSH), B L Sherwali told PTI.

However, he said, more cases being reported now should not be a worry at the moment, as earlier in May and June such cases were coming in lockdown, and now it is similar without a lockdown.

"Hopefully, in few days, after marked rise in cases due to multiple reasons, including opening of economy leading to greater human interaction, increased testing in past one week, the figures, I reckon will stabilise," Sherwali said.

RGSSH is one of the major dedicated COVID-19 facilities run by the Delhi government. Delhi recording 2,914 fresh COVID-19 cases on Friday was the city's high-

est single-day spike in 69 days, as the tally mounted to over 1.85 lakh, while the death toll jumped to 4,513.

The number of Rapid Antigen Tests conducted on Friday stood at 27,731, while the RT-PCR, CBNAAT and True NAAT tests figures were 8,488 in all adding to 36,219, according to the Friday bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

Amid sudden spurt in cases in the last few days in Delhi, medical experts have also warned that many people not wearing masks and violating social distancing norms have contributed to it, and cautioned to still treat the situation as a "health emergency". From doctors at leading hospitals to senior officials of nationwide testing laboratories, all concurred that a "sudden degree of complacency" has crept in the psyche of the mass-

es, especially the youth, who feel that since the lockdown has eased, "all is back to normal".

"It is very irresponsible on people's part to go out and enjoy, as if everything is normal. They are either not wearing a mask or slid it on their chin, as if it is a funny thing to do. Such people should be told publicly to adhere to safety norms. They are putting themselves, their family members and others at risk," said Rajesh Rautela, Medical Superintendent of GTB Hospital in east Delhi.

Sandeep Budhiraja, Group Medical Director, Max Healthcare, also cautioned the youth not to get swayed in by the lure of social media, as many of those are putting out pictures of going out and socialising in cafes and restaurants, with or without wearing masks.

The Delhi Metro all set to resume operations from September 7 in a graded manner, has put all safety and social distancing norms in place to make the travel safer for commuters. However, it appealed to people to use the services only if it is urgent, and not otherwise.



The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was spreading senseless fear in the minds of the villagers, thus deterring them from getting themselves tested for coronavirus and endangering their lives.

CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH
PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

The Sunday Statesman
NEW DELHI, 06 SEPTEMBER 2020

03

SAD protests exclusion of Punjabi from J&K Bill

The exclusion of Punjabi as one of J & K's official languages is bound to be seen as an 'anti-minority and anti-Sikh' move, says SAD president and a key NDA ally Sukhbir Badal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 5 SEPTEMBER

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)'s president and a key BJP-led NDA ally, Sukhbir Singh Badal has said that the exclusion of Punjabi as one of the official languages in Jammu and Kashmir is bound to be seen as an 'anti-minority and anti-Sikh' move.

Badal urged the Lieutenant Governor of J & K to immediately restore to the Punjabi language its due status as an official language there.

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on 2 September reportedly approved a Bill under which Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi, apart from the existing Urdu and English, will be the official languages



in the Union Territory of J & K.

Announcing the decision at a news briefing then, Union minister Prakash Javadekar had said the Jammu and Kash-

mir Official Languages Bill, 2020, will be introduced in the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

In his letter to the J & K LG that he released here this

afternoon, Sukhbir Singh Badal sought to draw his attention to 'reports of the discriminatory exclusion of the Punjabi language as one of the official languages of the Jammu and Kashmir,' saying that 'Punjabi is not only the mother tongue of a very significant part of the people of the state but it was also a recognised language duly certified in the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir'.

Stating that the SAD had always been in the forefront in the fight for justice for the mother tongue of crores of Punjabis, Badal declared that his party 'would not hesitate to do so in future also'.

The SAD president pointed out that the Punjabi language had profound religious, cultural and emotional implications for the Sikh commu-

nity.

"As such, the exclusion of Punjabi as an official language in Jammu and Kashmir is bound to be seen as an anti-minority and is certain to be seen as an anti-Sikh step of the J and K administration," he stated in his hard-hitting letter. Badal also cautioned that "decisions such as these provide dangerous propaganda ammunition to those who are always looking for such opportunities to disturb peace and communal harmony in the country, especially in the sensitive border states of Punjab and J and K".

The Akali stalwart described the move as 'violative of the spirit that runs through every word of the Constitution of India which stands for unity in diversity'. He said the move would deliver 'a severe blow

to the idea of cooperative cultural and political federalism in the country.'

Badal also highlighted that the founding fathers of the Indian Constitution were inspired by a vision of India as a multi-religious, multi-cultural and multi-lingual nation. "Respect for regional languages was seen as a significant tool for preserving and promoting this ideal," he said.

Pointing out that the Punjabi language featured prominently among the officially recognised languages in the Constitution and was also the mother tongue of all Punjabis across the globe, Badal emphasised the special status of the language in Punjab and its neighbouring states such as Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and J & K.

Capt tests Covid negative; ends self-isolation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 5 SEPTEMBER

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday ended his week-long self-isolation after testing negative for Covid-19.

The CM had isolated himself after coming in contact with two legislators who had later tested positive. He came in contact with the legislators in the Assembly on August 28 during a one-day session of the House.

Amarinder, who presided over a virtual high-level meeting of ministers, Congress MLAs and senior officials, disclosed during the interaction that he had got himself tested today and was found negative.

ister Brahmin Mohindra, rural development and panchayats minister Tripti Rajinder Singh Bajwa, revenue minister Gurpreet Singh Kangar, lands minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and industries minister Sunder Sham Arora.

Others who tested positive include Ajai Singh Bhatti, Madan Lal Jalalpur, Hardial Kamboj, Harjot Kamal, Pargat Singh, Manpreet Singh Ayali, NK Sharma, Rozy Barkandi, Gurpratap Singh Vadala, Nazar Singh Manshabia, Harinder Pal Singh, Manjeet Singh, Kulwant Singh, Principal Budh Ram, Dalveer Singh, Kanwarjit Singh, Darshan Singh Brar and Surinder Dabir Singh.

SDMs to investigate ineligible ration card holders in HP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 SEPTEMBER

A spokesperson of the Himachal Pradesh Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department today said that the process of blocking card of ineligible card holders availing benefit of subsidized food items under the central and state government schemes has been initiated.

He said that during the process of blocking ration cards, it has been found several income tax payees/government employees have made cards in the category of BPL, priority household and Antyodaya families.'

household and Antyodaya families.

He said that all income tax payee and government employees are not eligible for availing benefit of subsidized food items.

He said that so far cards of more than 140 income tax payee and government

employees have been identified.

As the process of blocking of cards of ineligible cardholders is still in progress, thus such cases are likely to increase.

He said that it has been decided that the areas where such cases have been identified, concerned Sub Divisional Magistrate would investigate the matter to find out people involved in it.

He said that strict action will be taken by the department against those people who are misusing the facilities provided to BPL and Antyodaya families despite not being eligible for entitlement.

He said that so far cards of more than 140 income tax payee and government

FIERY DISSENT



The Himachal Pradesh Congress Seva Dal members burn copies of the National Education Policy 2020 on Teachers' Day outside the state congress office Rajiv Bhawan, in Shimla on Saturday.

LALIT KUMAR

HP agri varsity to step up work under JICA project

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 SEPTEMBER

A meeting to review the Shiitake Cultivation and Training Centre (SCTC) and other Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-funded projects was held at CSK HP Agriculture University, Palampur.

Chairing the meeting, Vice Chancellor of the varsity, Professor HK Chaudhary said that the university will work for crop diversification to increase the farm income.

He said that some important components of the JICA project for the University like SCTC worth more than Rs four crore and 'creation of infrastructure for seed production of vegetables and other crops' worth Rs 10 crore will be highly beneficial to the farming community of Himachal Pradesh.

He said that 125 farmers from all over the state will be trained per year in Shiitake cultivation. Since this was the only

edible mushroom being used for medicinal purposes like curing cancer, AIDS, etc., the farmers will be getting highly remunerative prices.

The Vice-Chancellor asked JICA officers and the University scientists to highlight the nutritive value of Shiitake mushroom among farmers.

The Vice-Chancellor directed scientists to explore the feasibility of providing irrigation to the project on vegetable seed production from bore wells in the project area covering more than 70-hectare area in the University.

He told that a hi-tech centre has been proposed as another component of JICA project having hi-tech poly houses and cold storage facilities for off season fruits and vegetables.

He asked the scientists to prepare concept notes on the researchable issues on the real farm problems like insect-pest and disease management in vegetable crops and whitefly and soil-borne dis-



NDMC Covid Cell director, 3 others test Covid positive

NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

The director of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)'s COVID-19 Cell and three other employees of the civic body have tested positive for the coronavirus, according to officials.

Over 150 employees of the municipal council have tested positive for COVID-19 so far, while eight deaths have been reported, as per official figures.

"Besides the director of the COVID-19 Cell, three others, including an education officer, an employee each in the establishment branch and vigilance department have also tested positive. Contact tracing is being done as per protocols," a senior New Delhi Municipal Council official said. The Palika Kendra, which houses the civic body's office, is being disinfected regularly, the official added.

Himachal govt to expand self-employment scheme



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 SEPTEMBER

The Himachal Pradesh government has notified disbursal of subsidy under the Mukhya Mantri Swavlamban Yojna through nodal banks instead of the treasury and 60 per cent of the subsidy will be frontloaded to facilitate the beneficiaries of this Yojna.

This was stated by the Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur while interacting with the beneficiaries of 'Start-up Scheme' and 'Mukhya Mantri Swavlamban Yojna' through video conferencing from Shimla on Saturday.

Thakur said that in addition to this the interest subsidy provided to beneficiaries would be released after six months instead of one year.

The Chief Minister said that this scheme was started in May, 2018 with an objective to provide financial assistance to the youth to start their self employment ventures.

He said that the government has also decided to include new activities such as e-rickshaw, solar powered three wheeler, small goods carrier, mobile food van etc. under the scheme.

He said that timelines have also been fixed for every work to facilitate the beneficiaries.

He said that the banks would have to sanction the loan within one month where-

as General Manager, District Industries Centres would disburse balance subsidy within 15 days under commercial production.

The Chief Minister said that this scheme was started in May, 2018 with an objective to provide financial assistance to the youth to start their self employment ventures.

He said that about 1415 youths showed interest in this scheme last year and during the last few months as many as 536 youths have derived benefits of this scheme.

He said that the state government has set a target of covering 2000 youths during the current financial year under this scheme.

Thakur said that on the suggestions from the youth as well as beneficiaries, the state gov-

ernment has carried out several amendments in the scheme to make it more attractive.

He expressed hope that in the coming time, the scheme would prove boon to the youth of the State.

Had there been such a scheme during his youth day, he would not have been in politics but derived benefits of the scheme and started his self employment venture, Chief Minister added in a lighter vein.

The Chief Minister said that investment subsidy @ 25 percent for men, 30 percent for women and 35 percent for widows upto a maximum ceiling of Rs. 40 lakh in plant machinery was being provided under this scheme.

He said that the banks would sanction 90 percent of the project cost whereas 10 per-

cent margin money would be shared by the beneficiaries.

Thakur also launched an online module for the Scheme to facilitate the beneficiaries.

Industries minister Bikram Singh Thakur said that the 'Mukhya Mantri Swavlamban Yojna' has proved a boon to the youth of the State for making the youth a job provider instead of job seekers.

He said that the state government has taken necessary amendments in the scheme to make it more convenient and easy for the youth to derive maximum benefits of the scheme.

He also thanked the Chief Minister for envisaging interest in making this scheme more popular amongst the youth.



The National Education Policy 2020 will empower the youth, who will take the nation forward in the 21st Century.

UNION MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR

TERMING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY A REVOLUTIONARY REFORM

THUMBNAILS



Muslim devotees offer prayers while maintaining social distancing as the historic Mecca Masjid reopens after a lockdown imposed against the spread of the Covid-19, in the old city of Hyderabad on Saturday. PTI

Prisoner dies of heart attack in Bulandshahr: An inmate serving a life imprisonment in the district jail here died due to heart attack, police said on Saturday. Jaichand, a resident of Malpur village in Sikandrabad area here, was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and was in the district jail since June, 2015. The inmate complained of chest pain at around 11.30 a.m. on Saturday morning and was rushed to the jail hospital, doctors said he died due to heart attack. PTI

Illegal firearms factory busted in Muzaffarnagar: Police raided an illegal arms factory here and recovered 24 pistols and a large number of cartridges, officials said on Saturday. The arms manufacturing unit was located at Harsoli village in Shahpur area. Three men, identified as Vakil, Latafat and Sadik, have been arrested in this connection. PTI

Rao relinquishes charge as additional secretary: AA Rao has relinquished charge as an additional secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat from August 31 after the expiry of his contract, an official communication said on Saturday. Rao was offered an extension for another year as an OSD in the status of an additional secretary, but he expressed his inability to accept the offer owing to personal reasons, statement said. PTI

Man arrested for making remarks against PM: A 42-year-old man arrested in Odisha's Cuttack district for allegedly posting hate messages against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath on social media is being brought to Baghpat on transit remand, police said on Saturday. PTI

Encounter breaks out with militants: An encounter broke out between security forces and militants in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. Acting on a specific information security forces launched a cordon and search operation. PTI

'Centre does not want to debate on border tension'

Owaisi says PM does not want Question Hour but forced students to write exams

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 5 SEPTEMBER



Jamming the Centre for skipping the Question Hour AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said that the Chinese are well ensconced within Indian territory but the government neither wants to answer queries nor debate the matter.

He also said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not want to face the Question Hour yet students are being forced to write answers in JEE and NEET examinations.

Addressing a media conference Owaisi pointed out that while the Chinese had issued their statement over the meeting between Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart the Indian side took 12 hours to issue one.

"Did Rajnath Singh look into the eyes of his Chinese counterpart and asked him to vacate our territory? Did we raise the issue of the attack on 20 of our soldiers?" asked Owaisi. "It is the most serious situation since 1962. And the government does not want to debate on it or talk about it," Owaisi complained

since 1962. And the government does not want to debate on it or talk about it," he complained.

He took several digs at the Prime Minister saying that probably he was busy feeding the peacocks and after all it was an important task.

He also drew parallel between the Telangana government and the Centre. While the Telangana Assembly will hold the Question Hour and the Treasury Benches want to discuss all issues and debate the Centre is trying to evade questions on important issues.

Owaisi criticised the government for ordering CBI inquiry into the "unfortunate" death of an actor but the neither the media nor the government was ready to discuss the deaths of more than

40,000 people.

"There will be no inquiry into the deaths of such large number of farmers and daily wage labourers. The lives of the poor people hold no significance to this government," said Owaisi.

"Because of Covid there will be no question hour in the Parliament but students will write NEET exam in the same situation. Modi will not answer questions but students are being asked to answer questions. This is their government," added Owaisi.

The Hyderabad MP along with other religious leaders from the minority community met the chief minister to demand rebuilding of the two mosques that were accidentally razed during the demolition of the Secretariat.

Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has promised not only to rebuild the two mosques and a temple which had stood at the site with government funds but also decided to set up a new church in the same premises as an instance of Ganga-Jamam Tehzeeb in Telangana.



A Chennai Metro Rail employee sanitises a coach as the Chennai Metro network prepares to resume services, on Saturday. AFP

gatherings as ordered by the authority will be fined Rs 500.

The violation of standard operating procedures (SOP) in salons, spas, gyms and commercial establishments or other such public places will attract Rs 5,000 fine.

According to a release from Raj Bhavan, also attested by Health Secretary J Radhakrishnan, "The offences punishable under sub-section (2) of section 78 of the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act 1939 (Tamil Nadu Act III of 1939) are declared as compoundable for the amount specified."

The authorities can now on

levy a spot fine or file a chargesheet against the violators. A person spitting in public places should pay a fine of Rs 500, while a person violating physical distancing norms in public places or

for coronavirus infection in the State so far to 4,57,697.

As many as 61 Covid-19 patients died today, taking the total number of fatalities in the State due to the pandemic to 7,748.

According to the daily bulletin released by the state health department, Chennai registered 965 cases in the last 24 hours. With this, the total number of persons affected by the pandemic in the metropolis has reached 1,40,685.

Total 5,859 patients were discharged from various hospitals in Tamilnadu today. With this, the total number of recoveries in the State has touched 3,98,366.

NIA charge-sheets two for stealing hardware from aircraft carrier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

The NIA has filed a charge-sheet against two people for allegedly stealing computer devices from an under-construction indigenous aircraft carrier in Kochi, an official said.

Sumit Kumar Singh of Bihar's Munger district and Daya Ram of Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district were charge-sheeted on Friday under sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act, an NIA spokesperson said.

The case pertains to criminal trespass and theft of critical electronic components, including processors, Random Access Memory (RAM) and Solid State Drives, installed aboard the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) under construction at the Cochin Ship Yard Limited (CSL), between July and September, 2019, he said.

The case was originally registered at Ernakulam Town South Police Station in Kochi on September 16 last year on the complaint of the Deputy General Manager, IAC Project, Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

The NIA re-registered the case on September 26 last year and took over the investigation from Kerala Police.

After an extensive and scientific investigation spread over many states for nine months, the NIA zeroed in on the two accused. They were arrested from their respective locations in Bihar and Rajasthan, NIA official said.

They were engaged as contract employees for painting aboard the IAC between February and September, 2019.

Prez confers National Teachers' Awards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

Pointing out at the digital divide, Kovind emphasised that steps should be taken so that children from tribal and far-flung areas are benefitted.

teachers in shifting to this new technology-driven teaching, he said that it is important for all teachers "to upgrade and update" their skills in the field of digital technology so as to make education more effective and also make students conversant with new techniques.

"The online education system has made it obligatory for parents to join hands with teachers and encourage children to evoke interest in new fields of learning," he said.

Pointing out at the digital divide, he emphasised that steps should be taken so that children from tribal and far-flung areas are also benefitted.

Talking about the new National Education Policy, the president said that teachers are taking the help of this technology to reach out to children.

Applauding the skills of

been designed after considering the opinion of various stakeholders.

"It is now the teachers who will be at the centre-stage for making the policy successful and productive," he added.

"All efforts are being made to make the teachers competent to implement the new National Education Policy and only the best will be chosen for the field of education," president said.

The Ministry of Education invited self-nomination by teachers through online portal for the awards. First level scrutiny was done by District Selection Committee (DSC) headed by the District Education Officer. Based on prescribed selection criteria, DSC shortlisted three names and the same were forwarded to State Selection Committee through an online portal.

"The selected awardees with their commitment and industry have not only improved the quality of school education but also enriched the lives of their students and community through various activities like improving enrollment and reducing dropouts, adopting joyful and experiential teaching-learning practices.

SEEKING BLESSING



Christian nuns shower rose petals on the life-sized statue of Mother Teresa for her 23rd death anniversary at Shanti Nilaya, a home for dying destitutes run by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, in Ahmedabad on Saturday. AFP

Bus operations resume in MP after govt announces tax waiver

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL, 5 SEPTEMBER

faced by bus operators and citizens.

Chouhan also announced an exemption of 50 per cent in vehicle tax payable for September and extended the date of depositing the tax amount till September 30, he said.

The Madhya Pradesh Bus Owners Association, however, said it will take about a month for bus operations to normalise in the state.

"Although we resumed operations on Saturday morning, most buses were almost empty as people are still

scared of travelling," the association's vice president Santosh Pandey told.

Vehicles have been sanitised and other precautionary measures were also taken, he said, adding that passengers who don't have masks are being given the protective gear on buses.

Meanwhile, some bus operators in Bhopal and Indore are also using thermal scanners, eyewitnesses said. Buses operations were suspended from 25 March after the Covid lockdown came into force.

Lockdown effect: Sleep pattern change in adults

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, 5 SEPTEMBER

in the survey. Results of the survey have been published in the latest issue of Journal of Public Health Research.

Head of the Department Prof Ramanjan Sinha, Babita Pande and Meenakshi Sinha conducted an on-line survey through constructed questionnaires at National level, 1,511 participants above 18 years of age took part in the survey. Results show that the average sleep time was between 22.00 p.m. to 00.00 p.m. before lockdown and it is expanded even after 02.00 a.m. to 4.00 a.m. during lockdown. Participants also witnessed longer sleep length. Number of people having 10 to 12 hours of sleep duration have also increased during lockdown.

Survey findings show that there was increased digital media duration in all age groups during the lockdown.

A pattern of significant delay in sleep-wake-up time and meals' time was also established

found that average sleeping time was between 22.00 p.m. to 00.00 p.m. before lockdown and it is expanded even after 02.00 a.m. to 4.00 a.m. during lockdown. Participants also witnessed longer sleep length. Number of people having 10 to 12 hours of sleep duration have also increased during lockdown.

The survey found that the average time for first meal was delayed by 58 mins, lunch by 32 mins and the last meal timings was significantly delayed by 15 minutes during lockdown.

Digital media exposure by the respondents was also evident through the survey.

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HUDCO blacklists J&K govt, stops fund

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 5 SEPTEMBER

The HUDCO has blacklisted the J&K government and

stopped fresh funding following which the UT administration has ordered the anti corruption bureau (ACB) to probe the functioning of

the J&K Housing Corporation. HUDCO's action has come following default on Rs.40.63 crore loan by the housing corporation.

Taking serious note of irregularities in functioning of the J&K Housing Corporation, the government in a significant decision has come up with a number of measures aimed to streamline the organization.

The decision comes in the backdrop of a default on Rs. 40.63 Crore loan by the J&K Housing Corporation to HUDCO, wherein the Government stood as the guarantor. It has been decided to have the case examined in detail so as to bring to the fore terms and conditions under which such a guarantee was given at that point of

time and fix responsibility accordingly.

"As Americans grapple with problems of racism and power, a newly declassified trove of White House tapes provides startling evidence of the bigotry voiced by President Richard M. Nixon and Henry Kissinger, his national security adviser, Gary Bass, professor at Princeton, wrote in an opinion piece

The full content of these tapes reveal how U.S. policy toward South Asia under Mr. Nixon was influenced by his hatred of, and sexual repulsion toward, Indians, Bass, author of The Blood Telegram: Nixon, Kissinger and a Forgotten Genocide, writes.

Richard Nixon, a Republican, was the 37th President of the United States, serving from 1969 until 1974.

Bass says that the declassified White House tapes reveal

a "stunning" conversation

between Nixon, Kissinger and the then White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman in the Oval Office in June 1971 in

which Nixon asserts in a venomous tone that Indian women are undoubtedly the most unattractive women in the world."

Nixon also calls Indians most sexless, nothing and pathetic, according to the tapes.

On Nov 4, 1971, during a private break from a contentious White House summit with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, a rare woman leader at the time, the president blurted, I don't know how they reproduce!

Bass writes in the NYT piece that while Kissinger blamed the Indians for causing the refugee flow and then condemned Indians as a scavenging people.

At one point, Kissinger had said Indians are superb flatterers and are masters at subtle flattery. That's how they survived 600 years. They suck up their great skill is to suck up to people in key positions.

Nixon had even been furious with his ambassador to India Kenneth Keating, who two days earlier had confronted Nixon and Kissinger in the Oval Office, calling Pakistan's crackdown almost entirely a matter of genocide.

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

Name of Work with its location Metalizing & Painting of major bridges over Delhi Division for the year 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 in the jurisdiction of AXEN/BLU/SPL/TKJ

Approx. Cost of work ₹98,63,459.88

Earnest Money ₹1,97,300/-

Completion period of the work (18) Eighteen Months

Cost



Woman walks along a street after the government imposed lockdown norms in the state for weekends and public holidays as a preventive measure against the Covid coronavirus, on the outskirts of Amritsar on Saturday. AFP

Wanted criminal arrested: A criminal carrying a reward of Rs 2.5 lakh on his head was nabbed from suburban Mumbai on Saturday in connection with sensational killings of a businessman in Noida and BJP leader Rakesh Sharma in Hapur district of Uttar Pradesh, police said. In September 2019, BJP leader was allegedly shot dead by Singh and his associates in Hapur, the official said. PTI

Man plots murder of wife: A man was arrested for allegedly plotting the murder of his wife to get married for the second time in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. PTI

Hizbul trying to reestablish its base in North Kashmir: Army

SRINAGAR, 5 SEPTEMBER

Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) is trying to re-establish its base in north Kashmir, the Army said on Saturday, a day after three militants of the outfit were killed in an encounter with security forces in Baramulla district.

Addressing a joint press conference with Deputy Inspector General of Police (North Kashmir Range) Muhammad Sulaiman Choudhary at Patti, Commander 10 Sector of the Rashtriya Rifles of the Army Brigadier N K Mishra said it was after a long gap that militants belonging to the HM were killed in north Kashmir where, in the recent years, only the ultras from Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed had been neutralised.

"The activity of the HM outfit was very less here (in north Kashmir). It seems that Hizbul is trying to re-establish its base in north Kashmir," the Army officer said. However, he said the security forces were alert and ready to foil all the plans of the outfit.

"If anyone (among the militants) wishes to join the mainstream, they are always welcome, but if anyone wants to become a terrorist, he will not be given any opportunity," Brigadier Mishra said.

The DIG North Kashmir Range said the three militants killed on Friday in Yedipura area of Patti in Kashmir's Baramulla, "Two of the slain militants were locals and were identified as Shafkat Ali Khan of Rawatpura, Delina and Hanan Bilal Sofi of old town Baramulla. The identity of the third one is being ascertained," he said. PTI

'Security will be maintained in extended neighbourhood also'

Gen. Rawat says India values its emerging relationship with the US, cherishes its ties with Russia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

In the emerging defence paradigm, India's security would be maintained not only along the northern and western borders but in the strategic space of the extended neighbourhood as well, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat said on Saturday.

He also said that India values its emerging relationship with the US and cherishes its traditional relationship with Russia, adding the country shares a mature and robust defence and security framework with both these powers.

Addressing a symposium on defence exports, Gen Rawat said the armed forces will have to work through the budgetary constraints by finding the best solutions through new acquisitions and optimisation considering the macro-economic parameters.

Referring to proposed reforms in the military structure, Gen Rawat said the Chief of Defence Staff and the theatre commanders would "jointly" provide unity of command while the service headquarters and the "component commanders" could provide unity of effort.

Under a big-ticket reform initiative, India is working on setting up of a number of theatre commands, integrating some of the commands of the three services, to deal with future security challenges facing the country.

Each of the theatre commands will have units of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and all of them will work as a single entity looking after security challenges in a specified geographical territory under an operational commander.

The government had appointed Gen Rawat as India's first Chief of Defence Staff on December 31 last year to bring synergy in the functioning of the three services.

Talking about the regional security paradigm, he touched upon key aspects of India's security doctrine. In this context, he mentioned International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan as about Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

"In the emerging security

paradigm, India's security would be maintained not, as hitherto, on the IB, LC or the LAC alone, but in the strategic space of the extended neighbourhood and the strategic frontier," he said without elaborating further.

India has been ramping up defence and security ties with a number of countries in its extended neighbourhood like Indonesia, Singapore and several countries in the Gulf region in the last few years.

Delving into the evolving security matrix in the region, the Chief of Defence Staff pitched for seamless integration of surveillance and communication resources of the three services, saying such a convergence is essen-

tial for evolving a framework for having a composite real-time air situation "picture".

Gen Rawat said robust interaction between the CDS, COSC (Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee) and political executive (Cabinet Committee on Security) must ensure single-point military advice, strategic direction and resource optimisation.

On the modernisation of the Indian armed forces, he said it has been in line with the changing global security environment and with a focus on the utmost optimisation of resources.

"We are witnessing seismic changes in geopolitics shaped by a 'nation first'

approach and geo-economics," he said, adding the armed forces should be structured in a manner that they provide the operational flexibility to pursue "wider strategic objectives".

The country's first CDS also said the pursuit of disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence, robotics, big data analytics, drone technology, militarisation of space, quantum communications, along with manipulation of social media is leading to new threats, and further complicating the security environment.

He said the asymmetric advantages created by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are being seen as opportunities by non-state actors, adding future defence systems must be qualitatively and quantitatively capable of dealing with the new threats.

"In this era of multidimensional technology, we must focus on constant innovations and modern technological solutions, to keep ourselves ahead of the adversaries," he said.

Gen Rawat said the creation of the Department of Military Affairs headed by the CDS, having a central staffing scheme along with amendments to the business rules, in effect, admits the military into the central edifice of the government of India.

"This restructuring of the Ministry of Defence gives us the opportunity to embrace forward-looking strategies to seize and exploit the moment and set in motion a dynamic transformation process," he said.

Rajnath Singh leaves Russia for Iran

Singh was in Moscow on a three-day visit to Russia to attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) defence ministers. He also held bilateral talks with his counterparts from Russia, China and the Central Asian countries.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MOSCOW, 5 SEPTEMBER

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday left Moscow for Iran where he will meet his Iranian counterpart and discuss bilateral defence ties, a day after he urged the Persian Gulf countries to resolve their differences through dialogue based on mutual respect.

Singh was in Moscow on a three-day visit to Russia to attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) defence ministers. He also held bilateral talks with his counterparts from Russia, China and the Central Asian countries.

"Leaving Moscow for Tehran, I shall be meeting the Defence Minister of Iran, Brigadier General Amir Hatami," Singh said in a tweet.

India on Friday said that it was deeply concerned about the situation in the Persian Gulf and called upon the countries in the region to resolve their differences by dialogue based on mutual respect.

A series of incidents in the Persian Gulf involving Iran, the US and the UAE in recent weeks have flared up tension in the region.

We are deeply concerned about the situation in the Persian Gulf, Singh said in his address at a meeting of the SCO here.

"We call upon countries in the region - all of which

are dear and friendly to India, to resolve differences by dialogue based on mutual respect, sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs of each other," he said in his address at the combined meeting of defence ministers of the SCO, Collective Security Treaty Organisation and Commonwealth of Independent States member states.

Last month, Iranian navy briefly seized control of a Liberian-flagged oil tanker in what the US said were international waters near the Strait of Hormuz, which links the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman to the south and the Arabian Sea beyond.

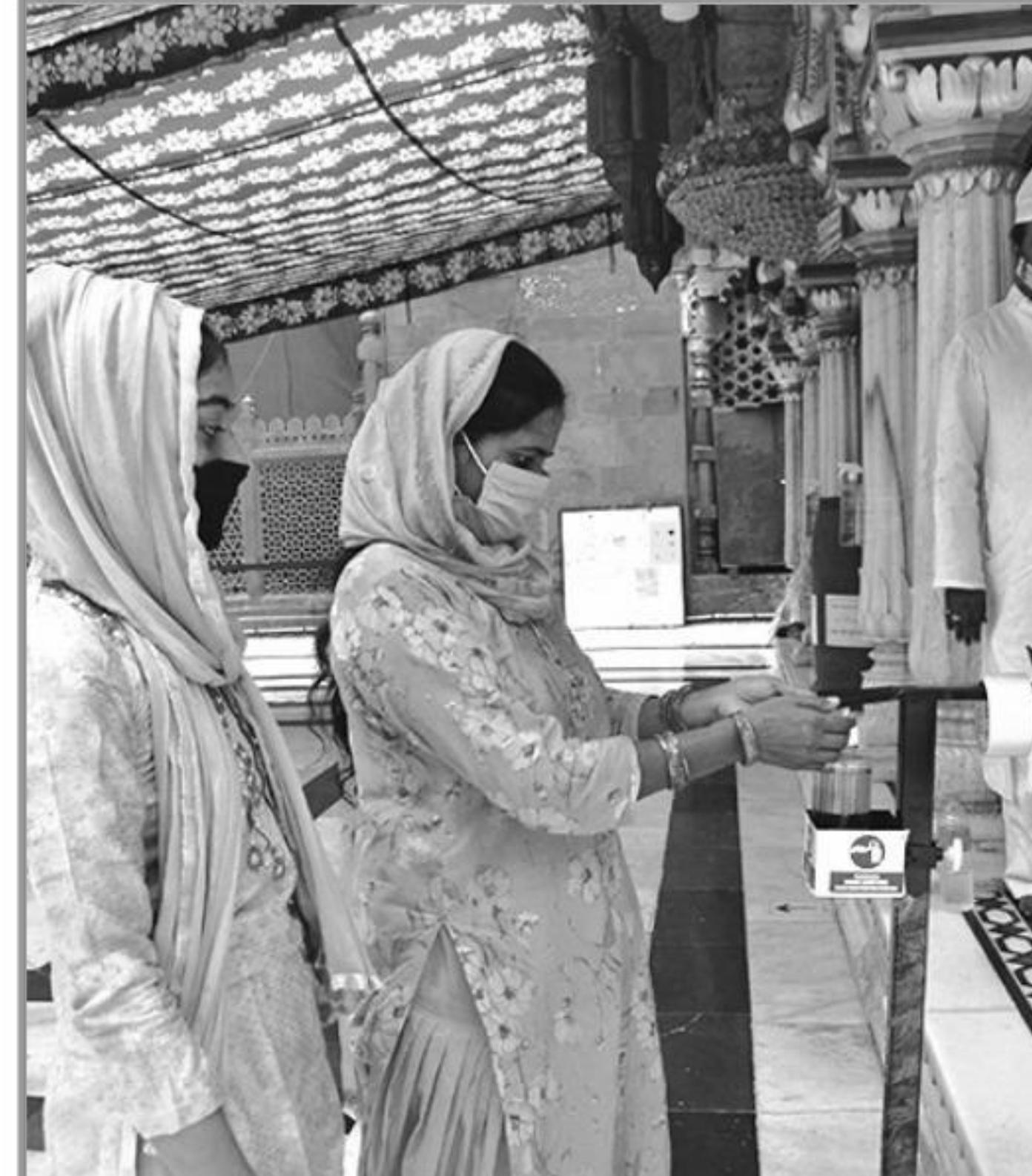
Iran has threatened to disrupt oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz if the United States tries to strangle its economy.

The SCO, seen as a counterweight to NATO, has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations which accounts for almost 44 per cent of the world population stretching from the Arctic Ocean to the Indian Ocean and to the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic Sea.

The aim of the SCO is to maintain peace, stability and security of the region. Iran has observer status in the SCO, which was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the Presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.



PROTECT YOURSELF



A hand sanitizer dispenser set up for devotees as Nizamuddin Dargah reopens for people from Sunday. In the Capital on Saturday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

INDIAN RAILWAY FACILITATES THE CANDIDATES APPEARING IN NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY AND NAVAL ACADEMY EXAMS

EXAM SPECIAL TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that following trains will be run by Northern Railway on 06.09.2020 to facilitate the candidates appearing in National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Exams:-

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Stoppages
04601	Chandigarh	23:00	Pathankot Jn	04:45	Jalandhar Cantt. - Ludhiana Jn - Sahibzada Ajitsingh Nagar (Mohali)
04603	Chandigarh	22:00	Gurdaspur	05:25	Amritsar - Jalandhar City - Ludhiana Jn - Sahibzada Ajitsingh Nagar (Mohali)
04002	Chandigarh	23:30	Delhi	04:30	Sonipat - Panipat - Karnal - Kurukshetra Jn - Ambala Cantt. Jn
04502	Una Himachal	04:00	Chandigarh	07:00	Roop Nagar - Sahibzada Ajitsingh Nagar (Mohali)
04501	Chandigarh	21:00	Una Himachal	23:45	Bhatinda Jn - Barnala - Patiala - Ambala Cantt. Jn
04605	Chandigarh	22:30	Faridkot	05:15	Firozpur Cantt. Jn - Moga - Ludhiana Jn - Sahibzada Ajitsingh Nagar (Mohali)
04607	Chandigarh	21:30	Fazilka Jn	04:30	Yamunanagar Jagadhri - Ambala Cantt. Jn
04503	Saharanpur	04:45	Chandigarh	06:55	Rohtak Jn - Jind - Narwana Jn - Kaithal - Kurukshetra Jn - Ambala Cantt. Jn
04504	Chandigarh	21:05	Saharanpur	23:30	Hisar - Sangrur - Dhuri Jn - Ludhiana Jn - Sahibzada Ajitsingh Nagar (Mohali)
04004	Chandigarh	21:55	Bhiwani	05:15	Amroha - Gajraula Jn - Bijnor - Muazzampur Narain Jn - Hardiwar Jn
04006	Chandigarh	23:45	Sirs	08:00	Hansi - Bhiwani - Rohtak Jn - Bahadurgarh - Shakurbasti
04008	Dehradun	23:00	Delhi	06:40	Palwal - Faridabad
04012	Dehradun	22:00	Delhi	05:45	Delhi Shahdara - Ghaziabad - Meerut - Muzaffarnagar - Saharanpur - Roorkee - Hardiwar Jn
04302	Dehradun	21:30	Moradabad	04:30	Amroha - Gajraula Jn - Bijnor - Muazzampur Narain Jn - Hardiwar Jn
04013	Mathura Jn	05:00	H. Nizamuddin	07:00	Hansi - Bhiwani - Rohtak Jn - Bahadurgarh - Shakurbasti
04014	H. Nizamuddin	21:00	Mathura Jn	23:15	Rohtak Jn
04016	Hisar	00:30	Delhi	04:30	Panipat Jn - Sonepat
04015	Delhi	18:00	Hisar	22:00	Hapur - Ghaziabad - Delhi Shahdara
04018	Jind	04:00	Delhi	06:30	Gurgaon - Delhi Cantt
04017	Delhi	20:30	Jind	23:00	Unnao Jn - Kanpur Central - Etawah - Firozabad - Hathras Jn - Aligarh Jn - Dadri - Ghaziabad
04020	Karnal	04:00	New Delhi	06:25	Hardoi - Shahjehanpur - Bareilly - Moradabad - Amroha - Ghaziabad
04019	New Delhi	20:00	Karnal	22:30	Pathankot Jn - Kathua - Samba
04304	Bulandshahar	04:15	Delhi	07:00	Muzaffarnagar - Meerut City Jn - Ghaziabad - Delhi Shahdara
04303	Delhi	20:00	Bulandshahar	22:45	Bareilly - Lucknow
04022	Rewari	04:00	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	05:45	Nihalgarh
04021	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	20:00	Rewari	21:40	Jaunpur Jn - Ayodhya - Faizabad Jn - Barabanki Jn
04202	New Delhi	20:50	Lucknow	05:15	Partapgarh Jn - Amethi - Rae Bareli Jn
04204	Delhi	19:50	Lucknow	05:30	Noida - Shahjehanpur - Bareilly - Moradabad - Amroha - Ghaziabad
04609	Gurdaspur	04:00	Jammu Tawi	07:20	Delhi Shahdara - Baghpat Road - Delhi Shahdara
04610	Jammu Tawi	19:00	Gurdaspur	22:15	Pathankot Jn - Kathua - Samba
04506	Saharanpur	04:00	Delhi	07:30	Udhampur
04505	Delhi	19:00	Saharanpur	22:45	Budgam
04024	Shamli	05:00	Delhi	07:15	Anantnag
04023	Delhi	19:30	Shamli	21:45	Hapur - Amroha - Moradabad - Rampur
04507	Solan	04:30	Shimla	07:10	Jaunpur Jn - Ayodhya - Faizabad Jn - Barabanki Jn
04508	Shimla	18:30	Solan	21:10	Partapgarh Jn - Amethi - Rae Bareli Jn
04612	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	05:10	Jammu Tawi	06:45	Nihalgarh
04611	Jammu Tawi	19:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	20:40	Serving customers with a smile
04613	Baramula	05:30	Srinagar	06:40	Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
04614	Srinagar	18:30	Baramula	19:50	Integrated Helpline No. 139
04615	Banital	05:00	Srinagar	06:45	Security Helpline No. 182
04616	Srinagar	18:30	Banital	20:00	Note : The passengers shall adhere to the COVID-19 related safety norms & guidelines.
04306	Bareilly	19:00	Bulandshahar	23:45	For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in</td

UN & Hong Kong

Having prevaricated in Libya and subsequently in Syria, the human rights experts of the United Nations on Friday advanced a stern message that must resonate in the echo chambers of Hong Kong and Beijing. The message is directed at Xi Jinping's China, albeit indirectly. The world body has been suitably forthright to declare that the new security law poses a serious risk to Hong Kong's freedoms. The legislation has been widely criticised since it was imposed by Beijing in June after months of spirited pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong last year. In the letter made public on Friday, experts said the law breached international legal obligations. As the voice of the comity of nations ~ at any rate, theoretically ~ the UN has expressed misgivings that it could be used to prosecute political activists. The law, which criminalises secession, subversion, and collusion with foreign forces, has silenced many protesters since it came into effect. Its severity can be gauged from the fact that Hong Kong police arrested ten people in August in their largest operation yet under the legislation. Its action came in the aftermath of a dramatic raid on the city's biggest pro-democracy newspaper, *Apple Daily*, and the arrest of its founder, Jimmy Lai. The move shocked many in Hong Kong and triggered widespread global condemnation about eroding freedoms in the former British colony. While there have been multiple arrests and ongoing probes under the new security law, so far only one person has been charged. The reverse swing of the pendulum must be palpable enough.

The content of Friday's 14-page letter is self-explanatory. Posted on the UN human rights office website, 48 hours after it was sent to the Chinese government, it was mailed by Fionnuala Ni Aolain, a UN special rapporteur on protecting human rights while countering terrorism, and six other UN experts. They were explicit on the fact that the new law's measures do not conform to China's legal obligations under international law. The experts also raised serious concerns about its impact on the freedoms that were guaranteed to Hong Kong when it was handed back to China from British control in 1997. By the yardstick of democratic freedom, the experts wrote, "We are particularly troubled that this legislation may impinge impermissibly on the rights to freedom of opinion, expression and of peaceful assembly." The "grave risk" of targeting the legitimate activities of political opponents, critics, students, and lawyers among others is, therefore, dangerously real. Similar concerns have been echoed by pro-democracy activists in the city. On Tuesday ~ three days before the UN stepped in ~ prominent activist Agnes Chow, who was among the group detained under the law last month, said dissent in the city was being silenced. "I hope the world, not only the whole of Hong Kong, could know that the national security law is actually not a legal thing, but a political tool for the regime, for the government to suppress political dissidents." China has swiftly rejected the UN intervention as "interference in its affairs", a perception that holds no water.

Dhoni days

When Harbhajan Singh finds himself among Chennai Super Kings and Ravichandran Ashwin makes the contrasting journey to be with Delhi Capitals, even as Wriddhiman Saha links his lot with Sunrisers Hyderabad, you assume, probably correctly, that the Indian Premier League's adoptive homes must be a bit of all right. A laboratory test of national integration, perhaps. And yet no city seems to have been quite as fond of an adopted player as Chennai of Mahendra Singh Dhoni. At Ranchi, the former national captain is an object of intense curiosity ~ "One of us but so big we can only contemplate him," a college girl said when India won their second 50-over World Cup ~ but Chennai simply dotes on him. For Tamil Nadu's capital city, Dhoni is the Special One, as Jose Mourinho describes himself when humility deserts him. A mere sight of Dhoni makes the basically conservative city effervescently happy. People glow in the face on spotting him whizzing past them on a motorbike in or around Anna Salai. The slightest bit of action by him on the field fuels the sort of speculation in the stands at Chepauk that might lead you to wonder if he will some day rival Rajinikanth in the state's popular culture. And inside CSK, Dhoni is what Sourav Ganguly is to Kolkata, a putatively infallible colossus. But those positive coronavirus tests in West Asia might have had Dhoni in a bit of a bother in that some people said CSK had not really wanted an IPL preparatory camp in Chennai with Covid-19 raging in the southern Indian metropolis. The cricket control board too was far less than enthusiastic about the idea when it was broached to it. Dhoni, always his own man, was said to have insisted on it as he had not been able to tune up at Ranchi because of a sudden spike in Jharkhand's coronavirus infections. Months of will-he-won't-he speculation in the media and outside it had ended with Dhoni hitting the nets when the virus struck, scuppering his plans. Whether or not the CSK infections had resulted from the camp in Chennai ~ and some officials denied they had had anything to do with the approval for it being wrung from the authorities of civic administration ~ it did not damage Dhoni's standing within what N Srinivasan called the CSK family. This partnership has been crucial where Dhoni is concerned. But there is also something else to it. The wicketkeeper-batsman has shed his leadership as well as participatory roles across all formats globally, retreating in a calculated, measured way from international contests and is now left only with the IPL, where CSK have promised him a berth as long as he wants it. Since Dhoni, for obvious reasons, can only want to prolong the association, he had better watch his own step.

Coping with epidemics

If we feel depressed or discouraged during this pandemic, we can certainly remember the examples set by great minds who not only endured devastating plagues, but also came out triumphant. We may want to draw inspiration from these brave men who made the best out of their excruciatingly difficult situations

Our lives have changed in dramatic ways in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Government officials have advised us to stay at home while the virus continues to ravage our communities. Many of us find ourselves confined to our homes feeling bored, restless, listless, and unmotivated. As someone who has gone through these different mental and emotional states during this ordeal, I was particularly interested in finding out if there were any great minds from the past who didn't stop their work despite a plague that ravaged their communities. To my surprise, I found not one but several historical role models to choose from who produced some of their best work when their lives were upended due to the scourge of the plague.

Here is a list and brief background of six great men who were singularly productive during the worst epidemics facing them. The list below is not meant to be complete since there are others like Francesco Petrarca (1304-1374), Titian (1488-1576), Anthony van Dyck (1599-1641), Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), and Gustav Klimt (1862-1918), to name a few, who were undaunted by the plague, creating works of profound importance during these difficult times. I chose to focus on the following six because of my familiarity with their lives and work.

Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375), the Florentine writer and poet, was personally affected by the bubonic plague. When the plague resurfaced in 1603-1604, claiming the lives of one in five Londoners, Shakespeare was busy writing *Measure for Measure*. Then during the plague outbreak in 1606, Shakespeare was working on *King Lear*. During and after the worst outbreaks of his lifetime, Shakespeare wrote



epidemic in 1592-3, Shakespeare produced his successful narrative poems, *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*. When the plague resurfaced in 1603-1604, claiming the lives of one in five Londoners, Shakespeare was busy writing *Measure for Measure*. Then during the plague outbreak in 1606, Shakespeare was working on *King Lear*. During and after the worst outbreaks of his lifetime, Shakespeare wrote

Testament, a play that captures his experiences as he was living through the pandemic. Scholars point out that this play is notable for breaking new ground in developing English Renaissance drama. One famous and oft quoted passage reads:

*Adieu, farewell earths blisse,
This world uncertaine is,
Fond are lifes lustful joyes,
Death proves them all
but toyes.*

*None from his
darts can flye;
I am sick, I must
dye:
Lord, have mercy
on us.*

The verse describes how it feels to live inside an infected body, speaking the voice of illness and echoing the proximity to death. Nashe died when he was only 34. While details about his death are uncertain, several of his biographers

have blamed the plague for his death. Samuel Pepys (1633-1703)

was one person who stayed in London throughout the 1665 plague. The British naval administrator kept a diary, which documented the severe outbreak of the bubonic plague in London. Pepys' diaries offer a first-hand account of living through the horror of that year. His diary provides detailed information about sick people and corpses, his horror at the sheer numbers of dead, and then how the toll started to decrease as the weather grew cold at the end of the year. Pepys' diary continues to be used as a great source of historical knowledge and as a reflection of a brave man who didn't run away from the epi-

deemic but chose to stay put in what is regarded as one of the most terrifying times in human history.

Isaac Newton (1642-1727) found himself in the unenviable position of trying to avoid the deadly plague a few decades after Shakespeare wrote several of his highly successful plays. In 1665, when Newton was in his early 20s and student at Trinity College, Cambridge, the bubonic plague struck England again. Consequently, Cambridge University cancelled all classes. Newton was forced to retreat to his family estate, which was approximately 60 miles away in order to continue with his studies. While there, Newton produced some of his best work by writing papers that would become early calculus. During this period, he developed his theories on optics while he was busy playing with prisms in his bedroom. This was also the time when his theory of gravity evolved. We are all familiar with the story of the apple tree outside his window and how the tree may have been instrumental in his revelation. In 1667, Newton returned to Cambridge with his theories. He was made a fellow and two years later a professor. In 1705, Newton received his knighthood at his beloved Trinity College from Queen Anne when she was visiting Cambridge University. Edward Munch (1863-1944) was a Norwegian expressionist artist who didn't just witness the Spanish flu pandemic around him, he contracted the disease around the beginning of 1919, but was fortunate enough to survive it. Although Munch created thousands of pioneering and influential paintings, illustrations, lithographs and etchings, ironically, he is known all over the world for creating *The Scream*, which Arthur Lubow in *Smithsonian Magazine* describes as a "sexless, twisted, fetal-faced creature with mouth and eyes open wide in a shriek of horror, re-created a vision that had seized him as he walked one evening in his youth with two friends at sunset." Munch, who lived until 80 to make great art, is revered today for creating paintings that capture our angst and tragedies. Munch believed that a painter must not merely record external reality, but she/he should convey the impact the remembered scene had on the artist's sensibility. In times of coronavirus, Munch's iconic painting, *The Scream*, has taken on a new significance because it captures our anxieties about illness and death, of financial and societal collapse.

If we feel depressed or discouraged during this pandemic, we can certainly remember the examples set by these six great minds. They not only endured devastating plagues, but they also came out triumphant. We may want to draw inspiration from these brave men who made the best out of their excruciatingly difficult situations.

I certainly don't suggest that we will become geniuses like these six men, but the forced isolation will give us the time to reflect and may even help us create work that would not be possible in a busy, structured and comfortable life.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Reckless legislation

The ruling Democratic Party of Korea and the government revised the Housing Lease Protection Act to restrict jeonse (rent-free lease) deposit increases to 5 percent, but in practice landlords will find it effectively impossible to raise deposits without tenants' consent.

In revising the law last month, they added a new article banning landlords from raising deposits by 5 percent or more, but did not specify that tenants must accept increases within that amount. Recently, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport interpreted the provision to mean that tenants have "no obligation to accept a deposit increase." Before the revision, homeowners could terminate contracts if tenants declined an increase in the deposit. Under the revised law, however, they must renew contracts once after the first two years if tenants want to renew, without condition. Landlords can raise deposits only if tenants agree. Of course, lessors can sue, but that option involves considerable costs and success is not guaranteed. The revised law effectively discriminates against homeowners.

It is likely that the party and the government did not foresee this problem. They should have examined the bill more meticulously beforehand, but the law was revised with haste.

Drawing on its majority in the parliament, the party rushed the amendment through the legislation and judiciary committee, skipping a debate or detailed review, and the following day it voted on the bill at the plenary session. The main opposition party boycotted the session to protest its unilateral processing. If this loophole is not fixed, landlords will likely raise deposits sharply when they sign

H The Korea Herald
contracts with new tenants, in anticipation of a four-year deposit freeze. The party and the government say the law was revised to protect tenants, but in the long run deposits will likely surge. The revised Housing Lease Protection Act is not the only case where legislation may ultimately damage the economically disadvantaged people it's supposed to protect.

A revision to the severance pay guarantee law, proposed by the ruling party, would oblige employers to provide retirement allowance if an employee resigns after working for one month or more. The bill would also extend coverage to include those working fewer than 15 hours a week. Currently, severance pay is given to employees who leave their jobs after working for at least a year. If the bill is enacted, 2.8 million more people will receive severance pay on a yearly basis and companies will need 7.6 trillion won (\$6.4 billion) to pay it out, according to estimates by the Korea Enterprises Federation.

This bill, if it passes, would likely strike a fatal blow to small enterprises that are barely surviving amid the economic impact of the coronavirus. They would avoid hiring. To save on labor costs, businesses would most likely eliminate short-term jobs first. When it drew up the bill, the party meant for the changes to benefit low-wage employees working short hours for short periods, but their jobs would probably be in the most danger. The party also proposed a bill to lower the maximum legal interest rate on a loan to 10 percent per year from the current 24 percent. Its argument ~ that people in the low-income bracket need to be protected in difficult times like this ~ appears at first glance to be convincing. But the market is not so simple.

RECONSIDER

SIR, Question Hour in a parliamentary democracy is a powerful tool of accountability. Members of Parliament who cannot take part in discussions for want of opportunities can easily avail of its device. 'Starred Questions' are meant for oral answers. But all 'Starred Questions' do not come up for oral answers within the limited time of one hour. Hence, replies to 'Starred Questions', which remain orally unanswered, are laid on the table. When members are deprived the right of asking supplementary questions, the exercise remains half done. Hence the question of 'Question Hour' requires reconsideration by the presiding officers of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

Yours, etc., RC Jain, Kolkata, 4 September.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

In stagnant times

SIR, A number of great teachers were born on this soil. They illuminated people's minds with their vision of peace, beauty and simplicity. They were cultured men and women and their ideas and ideals are still relevant. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan rediscovered them. He tried to rebuild and transform the nation by speaking about the ideas and ideals of the past.

Radhakrishnan felt Mahatma Gandhi was a 'great teacher'. In the violence-stricken world, Mahatma showed the ways of achieving peace. Radhakrishnan cherished an education system which was involved with nature's past.

In the age of machines and career-building, he preferred an educational and cultural environment which

helped students to be complete human beings. In this respect, Rabindranath was his ideal. Radhakrishnan said that people of higher mind worked to fulfill basic aims and ideas.

He cultivated greatness. If we understand him, we can change the

stagnancy of present times. Yours, etc., Uttam Bhownik, Tamluk, September 4.

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

SIR, Those who framed the National Education Policy have acknowledged Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannad, Malayalam and Odia as six classical languages of India, because all of them are more than 1,500 years old, have notable literary works from ancient times and presence of foreign words in them are very few. On the other hand, Bengali, though a rich language, is only 1,100 years old, and thus cannot find a place in the classical category. So, Bengalees are disheartened.

Among the six classical languages, Sanskrit is undoubtedly very ancient and rich. Linguists thought it was the language of the Aryans and derived from Indo-European language

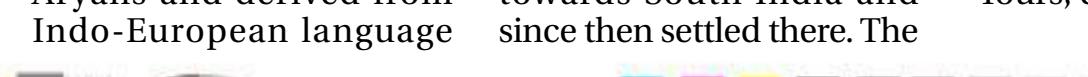
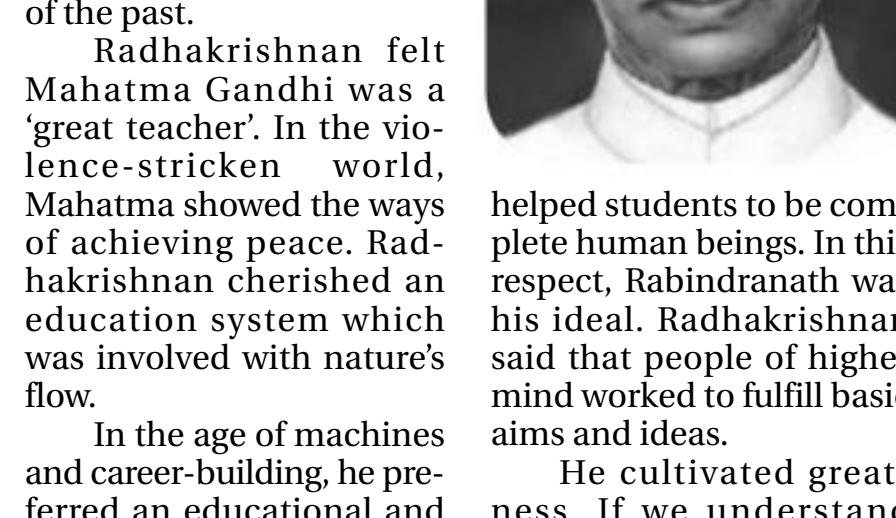
family. The Aryans came to India around 1,500 BC, then the language was termed as *chchandas* and it was very complex. Panini, the great grammarian of Taxila (600 BC), reformed and transformed it so perfectly and scientifically that it was termed as 'Sanskrit' meaning 'purified speech'. The Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagabat Gita and Puranas were written in Sanskrit. The entire world was introduced to India's rich heritage through Sanskrit.

Tamil, Telugu, Kannad and Malayalam are derived from the Dravidian group of languages. Historians thought that was the Dravids who set up a developed civilization in Mohenjodaro and Harappa around 2,500 BC. But later, when the Aryans came through the same route (NW India), they were defeated and fled towards South India and since then settled there. The

main language of the Dravids was Tamil and rich literary works were written in it from ancient times.

As a language Telugu, Kannad and Malayalam are also rich, and have notable literary works, but are not as ancient as Tamil. Now, if Bengalees consider themselves liberal-minded, non-provincial, then they should welcome the National Education Commission's decision. We should be proud that our nation has six classical languages, as we feel proud about Rabindranath, Asia's first Nobel Laureate who wrote the national anthems of both India and Bangladesh. We feel proud about Bankim Chandra's *Vandemataram* mantra that inspired so many persons to rise against British rule and sacrifice their lives to free India from foreign yoke.

Yours, etc., Surabhi Sarkar, Kolkata, 24 August.



Xi's dilemma in Ladakh

VINOD SAIGHAL

Coming into the sixth month since the tension started in Ladakh with the Chinese occupying and then consolidating their ingress across the perceived LAC in Galwan Valley and adjacent areas, the chances of something more serious happening have increased manifold. On the night of 29/30 August as per reports Indian commanders decided to send in the Vikas (SFF) battalion to occupy Black Top on the southern side of Pangong Tso on India's side of LAC to preempt the Chinese from moving in. It could have been touch and go.

In all such cases speed is of the essence without time being wasted on consultations at higher and occasionally even higher levels. Had such despatch been shown in May when the first ingress took place further Chinese build up to threatening levels would have been pre-empted. It is axiomatic at those heights that immediate response by an intrepid commander on the spot taken immediately or in the first 24 hours (in the army they call it fauji ilaj) might restore the situation. It would not be possible to do so once the enemy has consolidated for months, even years. A number of examples can be cited.

Taking China first, had they reached and occupied Black Top, India's vulnerability would have increased vastly. Had the Chinese occupied Black Top and the local commanders waited for instructions the Chinese would have firmed in. Prelude to 1962 all over again except that in 2020 the Indian Army would not only give a good account of itself but might even be in a position to vacate aggressors as a follow up. The dilemma for Xi Jinping has become very real.

It is felt that India's options as of now remain limited to firming in while ensuring that China is not in a position to surprise India along the entire front. Meanwhile the government is taking all measures to bolster the armed forces in every way. Immediate military option before the winter sets in is not an option at this juncture. The army and the government would have realised by now that putting the mountain strike on hold was a mistake that has to be rectified at the earliest. Without a riposte capability, no enemy is ever deterred.

Mr. Xi has painted himself into a corner in Ladakh. He knows that China can neither afford a full-scale



NOW AND AGAIN

A titan put to test

TIRTHANKAR MITRA

Few followers or political peers had come across Pranab Mukherjee when the not-too-tall man was in a bewildered state of mind as his political stature was in the danger of being reduced to a stub. When I first met him, I was not looking at the man who resplendent in a dark bandhgalla and puffing a pipe was looking at readers from a magazine cover which carried a write-up on him with the headline, "The Man Who Knew Too Much".

This was the time when Mukherjee's connection had been severed with the party in which he had been the second man till Indira Gandhi's assassination. He had floated a new political outfit and it was with one of its leaders that I had tagged along to his residence.

I was asked to wait in the drawing room where a piano occupied the pride of place. My companion went inside a room blocked from view by a long curtain.

After confiding with his followers for a few minutes, Mukherjee emerged, a pipe clenched between his teeth and emitting fragrant smoke when he glanced at me. No words were exchanged as he led his visitors to the door and I saw him pick up a phone near the piano and dial it.

I did not come across him after an electoral reverse which threatened to turn him into a political non-entity. He returned to his old party and regained the limelight.

We were destined to meet decades later on the dusty plains of Murshidabad. Under a cruel summer sky on election day in 2004, Mukherjee was trying his luck for the Jangipur parliamentary seat when we next came face to face.

One of the leading lights of his party then, Mukherjee obviously did not remember the callow youth he had come across as a leader in political wilderness. But his face lit up when I recounted our meeting.

Not one to waste his words, the man who was mocked as a "rootless wanderer" owing to his failure to win a Lok Sabha election till then asked me what was uppermost in his mind. "Will I win?" he asked.

Setting to rest his doubts about a maiden success, I pointed out that his opponent was a political minnow. In fact, the possibility of his success before announcement of the poll results was first carried in The Statesman the day after the elections and confirmed when the people's verdict was declared.



100 YEARS AGO

THE RENT ACT

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - The Government of Bengal should take the earliest opportunity to bring the Rent Act into line with the English Act by providing that no tenant should be turned out on any pretext until it is shown to the satisfaction of the Court or the Controller that there is alternative accommodation available for the tenant. The omission of this important principle makes the Act a farce and rapacious landlords and grasping leaseholders are already laughing in their sleeves and merrily going on with their old ways. As the Act stands at present there is nothing to prevent a landlord from taking another tenant over the head of his present tenant and to receive any rent he chooses, providing a lease is made out for five years. The middleman thus takes up the lease and claims eviction of the tenant in occupation on the ground, truthful or otherwise, that the premises are required for the use of himself, his servants, etc.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.
Calcutta.

THE BOY SCOUTS

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - Under instructions from His Excellency the Viceroy, I write to announce that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been pleased to accept the position of Patron of the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts Association of India. This gives Scouts in India an added interest in His Royal Highness's forthcoming visit. Simultaneously a complete reorganisation of the Baden-Powell Association in India has been decided upon. Details have still to be worked out, but it is desirable to make certain facts known at once. His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to accept the position of Chief Scout of India and will, in due course, appoint gentlemen to fill such headquarters appointments as may be decided upon. His Excellency feels confident that the spirit of harmony and mutual co-operation, which is the special characteristic of the Boy Scout movement, will operate to make the Association in India a valuable means of developing mainly citizenship in the rising generation.

A.D. PICKFORD,
Chief Commissioner, Baden-Powell Boy Scouts Association, India.

REGISTRATION OF SERVANTS

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - There is not a memsahib in India who would not be glad and grateful if the registration of servants was brought into force. Facts being stronger than arguments, perhaps, the following will speak for themselves. Some years ago a dear good woman of my acquaintance was assaulted by servants during her husband's absence from home. The case was heard in camera. Neither the names of these men, nor what work they did are known to the Englishwomen who may since then have gone to the same station. Ought the newcomers to be allowed to run the risk of like treatment? This would not be so if a servants' register marked such miscreants as "undesirables." I would suggest that the register should be in the form of a booklet for each servant: giving name, place, caste, work undertaken, by whom employed, length of service and reason for dismissal, a column for each item.

A MUCH-TRIED MEMSAHIB.

POLITICAL DIARY | KALYANI SHANKAR

Need bold steps to ease suffering

While the common man is still suffering from the coronavirus outbreak and the impact of lockdowns, the Indian economy has been hit the hardest. The Narendra Modi government is facing its worst-ever economic crisis and so are state chief ministers. Addressing a GST meeting recently, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "This year, we are facing an extraordinary situation. We are facing an act of God."

How long do we have to go through this pain? A recent Reuter's poll suggested that India's deepest recession may linger through the rest of the year and begin to lift only in early 2021 "as a rapid surge in the coronavirus spread squeezes a nascent rebound in consumption and business activity."

The pandemic has caused the worst ever GDP contractions in economies around the world. The concern is that Covid is spreading faster in India than other countries with more than four million people affected and over 60,000 dead already.

Meanwhile, the latest data released by the Indian Statistical Institute on Monday is ringing alarm bells. It said real GDP growth at (-) 23.9 per cent in Q1 FY21 was much lower than what the markets were expecting. This is the first instance of an economic contrac-



tion in at least four decades.

India is not the only country that is suffering. McKinsey has predicted that while the global economy recovery would be by the third quarter of 2022, the US economy will not recover until the first quarter of 2023 and Europe by the third quarter of 2023.

The UK's economy shrank 21.7 per cent, Germany's by 10.10 per cent, and the US by 9.10 per cent. International Monetary Fund's chief economist Gita Gopinath on Wednesday tweeted a graph suggesting India's GDP may have shrunk the most among G-20

countries in the April-June quarter, at 25.6 per cent, when compared with the previous quarter.

Experts say that the GDP contraction by 23.8 per cent is a follow up of the slowdown in the economy for the last two years. The Modi Government did not take precipitate action in 2018 to protect the informal sector, which was devastated following demonetization in November 2016 and the introduction of GST, which affected the MSMEs most.

Related concern is after the initial success of social distancing etc.,

states and the Centre have not been able to contain the spread of the pandemic. Millions of people have lost their jobs and the migrant labour who walked thousands of miles to go back to their homes are yet to return. Since the economic recovery is related to the containment of the pandemic, the best stimulus would be to restore the health sector.

The Modi government has released a Rs 20-lakh crore economic stimuli and a second stimulus is expected soon. More money is needed for the health sector. The states need money, which should be given to them immediately to fight the pandemic and also boost the economy. Unless the central and state governments focus on re-starting the economic machine completely, India will get trapped with an unsustainable debt burden.

Secondly, the economy suffered also due to the complete lockdown at four hours' notice on March 25. Both industries and migrant labour suffered as well as the common man. The fall in consumption and demand, evident before Covid, got accelerated after March.

Thirdly, while Covid is a world phenomenon, the woes of the Indian poor are most as we do not yet have a proper social security system. Since the poor and the jobless have been hit most, special care should

have been taken in the first phase of lockdown to protect their livelihoods.

Fourthly, farm sector is the only hope now to revive the economy. It has to be made the engine of growth and agri markets have to be expanded in a big way to ensure proper prices for agricultural produce to increase the income of the farming community.

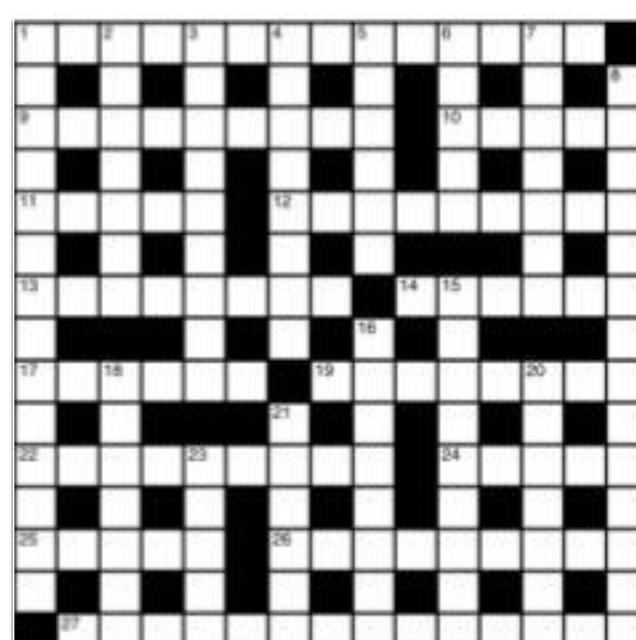
Fifthly, there is still time to take appropriate steps to salvage the economy. A universal basic income scheme may be introduced to channelize a minimum amount of Rs. 5,000 per month per family under BPL and unorganized sector jobless to pep up consumption and consequent demand.

Optimists feel that the economy will show some signs of improvement from the current quarter as the April-June period of this fiscal was the worst part of lockdown. But the damage is too widespread and a salvage operation has to cover wider sections of the people, as that is the only way the economy can look up.

India's Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian has said, "we are going through a once in a one and a half-century event. India was also in lockdown all through the April to June quarter with the majority of economic activities being restricted." His prediction of a V-shaped recovery ahead is indeed optimistic. But to achieve that much more needs to be done.

NO 28065

CROSSWORD



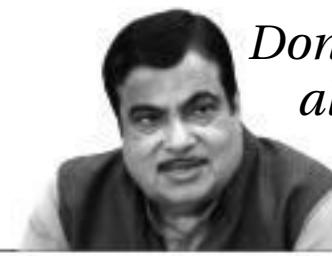
SOLUTION FOR 30 AUGUST

ACROSS

- 1 Misplaced call to musician produces error (14)
- 9 Angered animists taking line in totalitarian ideology (9)
- 10 Organised discharge of colossal volume (5)
- 11 Contrive to wipe out each unfinished city square (5)
- 12/13 Looking ridiculous after carelessly consuming chocolate at Easter? (4,3,2,4)
- 14 Arab sycophants shunning second one (6)
- 17 Attending Oxford maybe Ruth becomes arrogant (6)
- 19 Cook too little grub for starter and unfancied competitor (8)
- 22 Get lost on the moors? (4,1,4)
- 24 Leaders among the rabbinate examining food ascertain it to be so? (5)
- 25 Initially obstructive wife to enable young head-turner (5)
- 26 Greeting Scottish banker and a regressively religious authority (9)
- 27 Outstanding leader – but one below par? (8-6)
- 1 Work for Schubert perhaps making multiple copies (4-10)
- 2 Man blocks view in main route (3,4)
- 3 Plate served up with stout is dripping? (6,3)
- 4 Charlie getting on man's nerves in

- 5 wealthy district (8)
- 6 Checks borders (6)
- 7 Have trying experience? (5)
- 8 Creditor showing explosive ego and bile (7)
- 8 Patriarch discovered during harvest grabbing female (8,6)
- 15 Conductor travelled to support those chosen (9)
- 16 Single chap died embracing daughter as requested (2,6)
- 18 Crumpet and cooked leek in bread: no thanks (7)
- 20 Duke with healthier – though incorrectly formed – liver (7)
- 21 Scoundrel in American intelligence finds bug (6)
- 23 Maid soon consumes ton (5)

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



Don't encourage imports. Try to take the initiative to find out the alternative, or how can we make import substitutes in India

NITIN GADKARI
TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS MINISTER

business

THUMBNAILS

BPL stock options: State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPL) has offered its employees stock options at one-third of the market price as the company looks to reward staff ahead of its privatisation. The board of BPL on Friday "approved the proposed Employee Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS) to the specified employees through the trust mechanism, subject to the approval of the shareholders", the company said in a regulatory filing. PTI

US stocks fall: US stocks finished lower after choppy trading as investors continued to rotate out of tech-related shares. On Friday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 159.42 points, or 0.56 per cent, to end at 28,133.31, after trading more than 600 points lower earlier in the session. The S&P 500 decreased 28.10 points, or 0.81 per cent, to 3,426.96. The Nasdaq Composite Index slid 144.97 points, or 1.27 per cent, to 11,313.13. PTI

Happiest Minds raises Rs 316 cr: Services firm Happiest Minds Technologies has raised Rs 316 crore from anchor investors, ahead of its initial public offering that opens on Monday. Some of the anchor investors include Government of Singapore, Goldman Sachs, Kuwait Investment Authority, Nomura Funds Ireland, Jupiter India and Pacific Horizon Investment. PTI

GoAir to add 100 flights: Budget airline GoAir said on Friday that it will add over 100 new flights to its domestic network starting Saturday. Accordingly, these flights will include new connections to and from Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, Lucknow, Nagpur, Varanasi, Jaipur, Patna, Ranchi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Leh and Jammu. The planned additions will augment GoAir's domestic connectivity with over 600 flights per week from September 5. The airline expects to reach 45% of its pre-COVID levels by September 21. IANS

Spadework already done on PLI scheme for auto, component manufacturers: Kant

Kant said the companies which use technology, digitisation, among others, will grow to survive and flourish in the days to come

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 5 SEPTEMBER

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said that a lot of spadework has already been done on the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto and component manufacturers and the government plans to push it forward in a big way.

Kant, who was addressing the 60th annual convention of the Association of Auto Component Manufacturers (ACMA) recently in New Delhi, also said that the scrappage policy was at a "very very advanced stage" of the inter-ministerial discussions.

The vehicle scrappage policy is aimed at the scrapping of old vehicles in exchange for some incentives for consumers.

"We at Niti Aayog have done a lot of spadework (on the PLI scheme). The department of heavy industry has interacted with the automobile and auto component manufacturers. We would push this (PLI scheme) in every

big way...for auto components and automobile manufacturers," he said.

"The scrappage policy also is at a very advanced stage of inter-ministerial discussions and we will push both these things forward," Kant added.

Terming the domestic auto component makers as "truly a great example of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'", he said if India is going to get a V-shaped recovery from the (current) crisis, it will have to be on the back of the automobile and auto component manufacturers.

Kant said the companies which use technology, digitisation, among others, will grow to survive and flourish in the days to come, adding that this is a huge opportunity for the people who adapt and get into complete innovative areas of growth and use technology and digitisation to leapfrog in the world of tomorrow.

"We have a reliance on imports for low-tech components like gearboxes, tubes and steering wheels. I do not see any technological impediment for localisation of these

components. There is no rationale for importing these components," Kant said.

He said that when the Prime Minister talks about Atma Nirbhar Bharat, "he is not talking about isolationism, he is not talking about anti-globalisation".

"He is talking about making Indian companies excel, talking about the opportunity to capture the large domestic market of India and using the domestic market, assisting those for exports and penetrating the global market," Kant said.

"I believe that there will be huge indigenisation of all components of automobile value chains. There is a need to focus on local manufacturing at (level of) tier-1, 2 and 3 suppliers, and all technologies and resources need to be (made) available," he said.

There is a need to create jobs in the auto component sector with various skill development programmes to cater to new technologies like electric vehicles and infusion. Kant emphasised.

"There will be an inevitable disruption in the area of electric vehicles so it is essential to re-skill our existing workforce for a smooth transition. More jobs related to electronics and digitisation will be created," Kant added.

The nature of jobs will change rapidly as more jobs

We have a reliance on imports for low-tech components like gearboxes, tubes and steering wheels. I do not see any technological impediment for localisation of these components.

AMITABH KANT
NITI AAYOG CEO



related to electronics and digitisation would be created, he said adding that the ecosystem as a whole will grow and electric revolution will be a huge job creator.

"We are creating many jobs but new kinds of jobs and therefore it is essential to re-skill our existing workforce for a smooth transition to EVS," Kant said.

Speaking at the ACMA event, Uday Kotak, CII President and Kotak Mahindra Bank's MD and CEO, said the concept of an

'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' is symbolised by auto component manufacturers as the industry's supply chain has become globalised.

He said, "ACMA is a true symbol of what we can do as a self-reliant manufacturing sector".

"We should be looking at not protection but global competitiveness, exports as our basis for the future,

"Kotak said, adding that strength of "our manufacturing, the strength of Indian economy should make us self-reliant".

Indian auto sector has opportunity to emerge as global hub: Pawan Munjal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER



The COVID-19 pandemic presents an opportunity for the Indian automobile and components sector to become a global hub, thereby helping the country become self-reliant and such chance must not be wasted, Hero MotoCorp CMD and CEO Pawan Munjal said on Saturday. Speaking at the annual session of Auto Components Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), Munjal said the auto sector could also lead the way for other industries in India in responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "clarion call" for Atma Nirbhar Bharat. The silver lining in this pandemic is the Honorable Prime Minister's biggest advantage and key asset is its unique position of

"having the world's largest youth population, giving us a clear edge over many other countries", he said, "I know, it is through the principle of Atma Nirbhar Bharat that our industry has the opportunity to become a global hub very soon."

"Collectively, we have to have the vision to strive to not only make it happen for our sector, we have to lead other

industries into thinking like us."

He further said, "I urge all of us here to not let this crisis go to waste. By connecting, communicating and collaborating, we can not only help each other, we can also help our nation to reach her goal of Atma Nirbhar Bharat."

The world today is racing to develop a vaccine for COVID-19, and the process, which usually takes decades, has been fast-tracked as research laboratories, drug manufacturers and healthcare services are collaborating for an antidote, Munjal said.

Exuding complete confidence in the ability Indian automakers and component suppliers, he said they can "race ahead in the face of adversity and together turn it into an opportunity for us".

Automobile major Tata Motors sees green shoots in some segments but remains cautious about the long-term sustainability of such demand, said its MD and CEO Guenter Butschek.

"We are seeing green shoots in some segments of the auto industry, and I do hope that it heralds the dawn of a new era," he said while speaking at the 60th ACMA Annual Session, which was held virtually. "However, we remain cautious about the prospect of its long-term sustenance in the absence of an overall economic recovery. Plus, the challenges from Covid-19 are continuing, which can possibly create more intermittent disruptions."

Besides, he said: "Times like



this remind us that you are a unique fraternity; if any one of you falls, OEM production is stopped and it further affects hundreds of you and so on, as the spiralling circle of impact continues."

Furthermore, Butschek acknowledged the need for some "demand impetus to trigger revival". "I think we have a fantastic opportunity to work together, build scale and benefit from the changes expected in the global supply chains." "This will

help our industry become a more valuable partner in fulfilling India's aspirations for scale, which helps attract investments and create employment," he said.

"Also, we must stretch beyond products and build capabilities to localise design, engineering content, technology, and processes etc."

According to Butschek, the industry's singular intent must be to emerge stronger from the crisis and "we can do so only collectively".

"Yes, our industry has been scared, but our best medicine will be a quick return of volumes and revenues to fuel our working capital so that we heal and rebound to our full market potential," he added.

"But for that, we must be agile to stretch more and revitalise faster."

Flood-hit Karnataka coffee growers seek relief from Centre

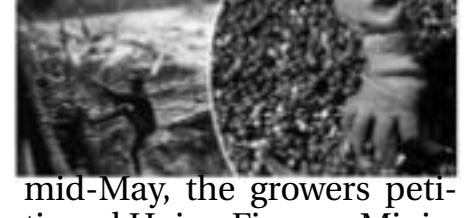
INDO- ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

BENGALURU, 5 SEPTEMBER

Reeling under huge losses due to heavy rains, flash floods, landslides and COVID-induced lockdown, the Karnataka coffee growers sought a bailout from the Centre, including interest waiver and rescheduling of bank loans to recover from the natural disasters, an official said on Saturday.

"Even as we were grappling from Covid-induced extended lockdown from April to June, our estates have been badly hit by excess rains, floods and landslides in July and August, causing huge damage to our plantations, a leading grower and state-run Coffee Board Chairman M.S. Boje Gowda told IANS here.

In the absence of specific support for the coffee sector from the Centre's Rs 20-crore economic package announced in



the rich-bio diverse Western Ghats in the Deccan plateau, producing the beans since 500 years.

"While the extended lockdown disrupted operations and damaged berries when plucking was at a peak in March, suspension of public transport and restricted vehicular movement prevented growers from harvesting the berries and pepper intercrop, as workers could not commute to estates for weeks," recalled Karnataka Planters' Association Chairman Shirish Vijayendra.

The beleaguered sector is yet to recover from the production loss in 2018 and 2019 due to heavy untimely rains and floods in the coffee-growing districts.

"The government should restructure our crop and development loans into a single term loan, extend the repayment period to 9 years, with a 2-year moratorium," said Vijayendra.

As the largest producer of the aromatic beans, Karnataka accounts for about 70% of coffee production in the country, with a dozen districts across the central, coastal and southern regions of the state spawning

'Indian auto, components industry should not de-link from imports'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

The Indian auto and components industry should not de-link completely from imports as self-reliance is "not about being insulated", and companies should work harder to boost cost competitiveness, bring technology-led innovation to have greater share in global supply chain, Mahindra and Mahindra Managing Director Pawan Goenka said on Saturday. The auto components industry in India has been growing primarily based on cost competitiveness but the same method will not be able to take it to the next level unless there is investment on technology, technology-led innovation and capacity creation, Goenka said.

"Can we and should we de-link from imports completely? I think not, for both the questions. Neither we can nor we should," he said while speaking at the annual session of the Auto Components Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA).

Goenka further said, "We will have to continue to import to get things that some other countries can do better than us and that is fine. We don't have to do everything ourselves. Atmanirbhar is not about being insulated."

Interdependence will play an important role in global and domestic economies,

he said adding "we should avoid any knee-jerk reaction or ask for bans of imports or such acts".

Such actions could have repercussions for the industry and retaliations by other



countries, he said.

Goenka said to reduce imports and enhance self-reliance, there is a need to look at carefully "what are we importing and why are we importing".

"There are three reasons for it -- cost benefits, capacity constraints in India, and technology and technological advantage," he added.

Based on Mahindra figures, he said, "My guess is about

half of the (components) imports -- that is Rs 50,000 crore plus -- happens because of lower costs. This needs immediate focus. It is very difficult to believe that India is not capable of producing automotive glass, bearings, castings, gear box parts, and wheel rims at competitive costs and the country needs to import these things. We must understand why?"

OEMs, suppliers and the government of India need to work together to remove the disabilities that India has and get this value added into the country's factories, Goenka asserted.

He also said an estimated Rs 20,000 crore worth of components out of a total of Rs 1 lakh crore imports are "imported because the other country has better technology capability".

Diesel prices now falling, petrol steady



NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

The auto fuel seems to have switched sides over revision in rates with diesel prices now beginning to fall while petrol holding steady. The oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Saturday reduced the pump price of diesel across the country, the second such downward revision this week. In the national capital, diesel prices have fallen by 13 paise per litre on Saturday, bringing down the transport fuel price to Rs 73.27 a litre. The price of diesel also fell on Thursday by 16 paise per litre. While diesel prices have fallen, OMCs have kept the petrol prices steady.

The fuel prices have remained at the same level so far this month. But petrol prices have been rising regularly since August 16, when it stood at Rs 80.57 a litre in Delhi.

The price of fuel may remain steady or fall in coming days as global crude prices have shown some indication of softening over expectation of a prolonged demand squeeze over Covid-19 disruptions.

Finance Commission advised to treat FY21, FY22 differently

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

At a time when the Centre is facing difficulties to disburse GST compensation to states on the low revenue collection, the Economic Advisory Council of the 15th Finance Commission has advised the latter to treat the financial year 2020-21 and 2021-22 differently in comparison to the next four years.

The commission is to give recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters over the next five years starting April 1, 2020. An official statement said that during an online meeting of the advisory council with the commission, the council was of the view that the Finance Commission is faced with an

"unprecedented situation of uncertainties".

The council suggested that the 15th Finance Commission under the chairmanship of N.K. Singh will have to take a nuanced approach towards tax devolution to the states, other transfers, financing of expenditures amid revenue strains including through borrowings and the path of fiscal consolidation.

"The Members of the Council also felt that the Commission will have to think unconventionally, especially in treating the five years at hand from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

They advised that the base year 2020-21 and the first year of 2021-22 may need to be viewed differently from the remaining four years when the revenue situation is like-

ly to improve gradually," it said. The meeting, chaired by N.K. Singh, was attended by all members of the Finance Commission and senior officials of the commission. From the Economic Advisory Coun-

cil and the special invitees Arvind Virmani, Indira Rajaraman, D.K. Srivastava, M. Govinda Rao, Sudipto Mukherjee among others gave their views. The commission will have a meeting with another set of distinguished scholars to get their views.

The meeting discussed a wide gamut of issues around

GDP growth, the tax buoyancy of the Centre and the states, GST compensation and fiscal

consolidation. Specific issues relating to public expenditure on health, investment revival, recapitalization of the financial system and its impact on public finances, focus on strengthening of defence

capabilities, emerging trends in GST collections and its connection with improvements in its technology platform were also discussed.

The statement said that different views were expressed on the GDP growth in the current year in terms of the quarterly built-up, and the growth revival that is likely in the subsequent years.

The advisory council felt that the government debt relative to GDP is likely to increase steeply in the initial years, however, the purpose should be to endeavour to bring it down in the subsequent years.

In the initial years, this ratio will be affected by the increased revenue-expenditure imbalance on the numerator and the downward pressure on GDP on the denominator.

IANS



Comparing an 18-day regular Parliament Monsoon session with a two-day session of the state Assembly is like comparing apples with oranges...

TMC PARTY LEADER IN RAJYA SABHA DEREK O'BRIEN

SLAMMING BJP FOR CRITICISING THE DROPPING OF QUESTION HOUR IN BENGAL'S UPCOMING ASSEMBLY SESSION

The Sunday Statesman
NEW DELHI, 06 SEPTEMBER 2020

09

Ganjam migrants return to Surat without being registered

Odisha govt misses chance of using Inter-state Migrant Workmen Act, repeat of pre-Covid situation, informal migration network continues

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BERHAMPUR, 5 SEPTEMBER

With the 'Unlock' in place, thousands of migrant workers of Odisha's Ganjam district have started to return to serve in textile units of Gujarat's Surat without getting registered under the 'Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979'.

The Act to protect rights of inter-state migrant workers at their workplace has till date remained an unused law for the ones from Ganjam district.

And this was exposed during the pandemic when lakhs of migrant workers rushed back to their native here in buses and Shramik Special trains.

In fact the return Gujarat has commenced since June as these migrants found Ganjam turning into an epicenter of COVID plus they were jobless

for two months.

It is estimated that till date at least 50,000 have already returned to Surat.

During the start of COVID-19 pandemic, over 4.5 lakh persons from outside Odisha had returned back to their homes in Ganjam district. Most of them were working in textile mills in Surat.

Every day 10 to 15 private buses from Gujarat are reaching parts of Ganjam district to ferry these migrant workers from their homes to Surat.

The workers are paying Rs 3500 to Rs 5000 for their ticket.

It is alleged that brokers of mill owners operating in rural areas of Ganjam district are arranging these return trips for a commission.

One such bus met with an accident near Raipur in Chhattisgarh at wee hours of Saturday with the death of eight persons.

These workers trained to serve textile industries have

no scope of employment in Odisha.

According to social workers working with these migrants, the return to Surat will continue and it will pick up in a big way after Diwali.

But it is alleged that none of these workers were earlier registered 'Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979'.

The Odisha government has lost a golden opportunity in mapping their skill profiles and registering each one of them under the Act, regretted the social activists.

And they are not being registered while they are again returning back to Surat on their own.

The law requires all establishments hiring inter-State migrant workers to be registered and contractors who recruit such workers be licensed.

Contractors are obligated to provide details of all work-

Eight Odia migrant workers killed in bus mishap in Raipur

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 5 SEPTEMBER

Eight migrant workers from Ganjam district died and 20 others injured when a Surat bound private bus collided head-on with a lorry at Cheri Khedi in Raipur of Chhattisgarh today.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed deep grief and announced ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each, free medical treatment for the injured. He directed Minister Sushant Singh to proceed to Raipur.

men to the relevant authority for their registration. This registration is meant to ensure protection of their rights at their workplace.

Both Gujarat and Odisha governments are responsi-

bility for non-implementation of the 1979 Act for lakhs of Odia migrant workers, alleged Odisha State secretary of CPI-M, Ali Kishor Patnaik.

"During COVID-19 pandemic Gujarat government

stated that it was committed to its share of return travel fare for only 7512 out of total 22.5 lakh migrant workers from other States including Odisha.

Gujarat government cited the Interstate Migrant Workers Act 1979 to claim that this law was only applicable to registered migrant workers.

The major reason behind non-registration of migrant workers of Ganjam is that they are not routed through a licensed labour contractor and they reach Surat through an informal network.

The desire to escape from poverty at home, lure of getting employment and income despite lack of proper education as well as family pressure motivates rural youngsters of Ganjam to migrate to work in textile units in Surat.

As per labour activists, at present a small number of around 8000 migrant workers, as the mill owners group ten powerloom machines as a single unit to dodge the labour

law", said Mishra.

A small section of migrant workers serving large textile units or gem stone polishing units in Surat get the benefit of registration.

Gujarat government has allegedly tried to hide this exploitation of migrant labourers. In 2007, a senior labour department officer was included in a fact finding team of Odisha State AIDS Control Society (OSACS) sent to Surat to study the reason behind HIV infection among migrant workers. According to members of the team, 'Gujarat State AIDS Control Society' had objected to the inclusion of the labour department official in the fact finding team.

It is the duty of the Odisha Government to press upon Gujarat Government to register them under 'Interstate Migrant Workers Act 1979', so that they do not suffer in future", said Ali Kishor Patnaik.

Sub-collector suspended

BOLANGIR, 5 SEPTEMBER:

Odisha government suspended the Bolangir sub collector Sanjaya Mishra following allegations of sexual harassment of a woman subordinate.

The woman had lodged a complaint and sought transfer from the office of the sub-collector. Mishra was removed by OAS officer Sudhakara Nayak. SNS

Odisha's Khurda dist turns Covid hotspot

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 5 SEPTEMBER

Odisha's novel coronavirus caseload surged to 1,20,221 on Friday with 3,543 fresh positive cases and Khurda district (including state capital Bhubaneswar) being the hotspot. Seven fatalities pushed the COVID death toll to 538.

Khurda district clocked the highest in new cases during the past 24 hours with 878 positive cases while

Mayurbhanj accounted for 326 and Cuttack 295. The overall Covid count in Khurda district is 20,618.

More than one fifth of the positive cases have been detected in the State in the past one week, indicating towards the ominous sign of the disease reaching its peak.

As many as 2,161 fresh infections were detected in quarantine centres, while 1,382 people tested positive for COVID-19 during con-

tact tracing.

Odisha now has 29,299 active COVID-19 cases, while 90,331 people have recovered from the disease so far, said official sources.

The state has tested over 20.48 lakh samples for COVID-19 so far while 53,765 samples were tested in the past 24 hours.

As many as 11 districts-Rayagada, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Puri, Balasore, Koraput, Nayagarh, Sambalpur, Bhadrak

and Bargarh- have so far reported more than 3,000 positive cases.

A total of 90,331 people have recovered from the disease with 2,980 patients getting cured in the past 24 hours. The State's COVID recovery rate currently stands at 75.13%.

Of the infected persons, 67.8% are men while women constitute 32.2% of total patients. 55.6% of the total patients are in the 15-40 age-group.

Pradhan asks Odisha CM to expedite tourism project

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 5 SEPTEMBER

Pradhan has all along refrained from criticising the BJD government in the state while permitting the state BJD to do so. On his part, he continues to focus on developmental issues alone.

the centre for the Coastal Circuit in 2016-17.

The Union Tourism Ministry had requested the Odisha government to submit a proposal for the Ramayan Circuit and has not received the proposal as yet, he said.

Mahendragiri , part of the Eastern Ghats, has a huge potential as it is at an altitude of over 1500 meters and historic in the sense that it is linked to the epic Ramayan . The belief is that Parashuram stays there eternally and meditates. There are several temples said to have been built by the Pandavas.

Huge gatherings take place with devotees from within and outside the state during Shivaratri , stated Pradhan while requesting the CM to personally intervene in speeding up matters.

BJD MP in trouble as wife moves court

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 5 SEPTEMBER

BJD MP from Kendrapara LS constituency, Anubhav Mohanty, is in the dock with his actress spouse leveling allegations of domestic violence and moral turpitude.

Mohanty, a popular Odia cine actor, had won the prestigious Kendrapara LS seat defeating BJD national vice president Baijayant Panda . The petitioner- Varsha Priyadarshini (35), a popular actress, had married Mohanty in 2014.

She has lodged her complaint with the Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Cuttack sought penal action against her influential husband describing him as a tormentor, alcoholic and womanizer who used to physically assault her.

The SDJM court has posted the matter for further hearing on 7 September under section-12, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.

BJP growing in Odisha, says J P Nadda

'Officers discharging role of CM, Naveen hijacking central schemes'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 5 SEPTEMBER

Giving a pep talk to state BJD leaders, the national president J P Nadda said the party is in striking distance of coming to power in Odisha.

Addressing the BJD State Executive Committee of the party on virtual mode, Nadda told party workers that the vote share has increased from 21 to 38 per cent in LS elections between 2014 and 2019 while in the assembly elections it has risen from 18 to 32 per cent during the same period. If we work to attain 50 per cent we will come to power in Odisha.

It is difficult to climb up from third or fourth position but relatively easy to jump from second to the first position, he remarked while noting that the BJD in Odisha had secured the second position after long years of struggle for the first time in 2019 elections.

He cited the example of Gujarat two decades ago.

Nadda alleged that the Naveen Patnaik government was unabashedly hijacking central schemes and claiming credit for himself.

He also charged that there

is widespread corruption in implementation of all schemes in the state. The poor are deprived of benefits and central schemes do not reach them, he said.

Nadda regretted that the people of Odisha are deprived of availing health care benefits under Ayushman Bharat

The executive committee meeting was addressed by Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Pratap Sarangi. Odisha in charge Arun Singh and Soudan Singh were also present at Delhi alongwith Baijayant Panda.

Pradhan , in his address, focused on the programmes and policies of the central

government and lauded PM Modi.

He underlined that party workers need to serve the people and specifically mentioned of the appreciable work done by the party in Ganjam during the pandemic.

Significantly, Pradhan once again refrained from uttering a word against the state government.

This was in sharp contrast to the mood of the state BJD which adopted a strongly worded political resolution.

The resolution, moved by Brugha Buxipatra made specific mention to series of incidents relating to Lord Jagannath Temple , Puri and mis-handling by the BJD govern-

ment.

Mohanty said the state government was intimidating and harassing political opponents. The BJD will not get scared by such bullying tactics, he said while vowing the continue to fight for the people of the state.

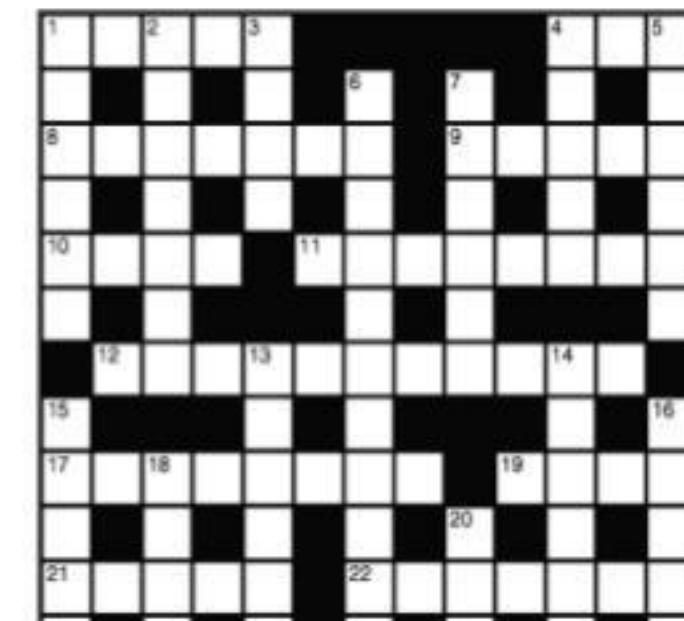
The BJD alone can bring about overall development of Odisha, he claimed.



Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival inaugurated by Hema Malini on digital platform. The five day festival of classical dance and music will conclude on 9 September.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

CROSS	DOWN
1 Hernia support (5)	1 Tone quality (6)
4 Golf peg (3)	2 Implement (7)
8 Distinguished musician (7)	3 Satisfy fully (4)
9 Pick-me-up (5)	4 Taft (5)
11 Skin eruption (4)	5 Cut out (6)
12 Rude (3-8)	6 Public lavatory (11)
17 Various (8)	7 Go without food (6)
19 Sharpen (4)	13 Swampy tract of land (6)
21 Accumulate (5)	15 Potential danger (6)
22 Crash together (7)	16 Cure (6)
23 Owning (3)	18 Additional (5)
24 Small coin (5)	20 Undergarment (4)

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

2258622, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

SMS Inquiry Nos.



We have great support from India. I would think that the Indian (American) people would be voting for Trump

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

HIGHLIGHTING THE RELATIONSHIP THAT HE HAS DEVELOPED WITH INDIAN AMERICANS AND PM NARENDRA MODI

World

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C H
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C H
TOKYO	25°C	16°C H
LONDON	18°C	9°C H
DUBAI	30°C	25°C S
SAN FRANCISCO	16°C	08°C S
NEW YORK	23°C	17°C S
MOSCOW	19°C	09°C S

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

THUMBNAILS



The empty Patan Durbar square is seen during a curfew, in Kathmandu on Saturday. AP

Terror-bid foiled in Pak: Pakistani security forces on Saturday foiled a terror bid by defusing a 5.5 kg bomb planted on a roadside in northwest Pakistan. The Bomb Disposal Squad after an intelligence information recovered a remote-controlled bomb planted on a roadside in Janikhel area and neutralised the explosive. AP

Toddler killed in shootout: A toddler was killed while riding in a vehicle along a Louisiana road in a shooting that was condemned by the city's mayor. The 4-year-old girl was wounded late Friday night in Baton Rouge and later pronounced dead, news outlets reported. The toddler was struck by gunfire, and then the driver lost control of the vehicle. AP

Mexico states run out of death certificates: The coronavirus pandemic has hit Mexico so hard that the governments of several states ran out of death certificates. Officials said Friday the federal forms started running out about 15 to 20 days ago in at least three states - Baja California, the State of Mexico and Mexico City. AP

Canada shoot out: A gunman killed four of his relatives before taking his own life in a early Friday morning shooting at a home in Toronto, Canadian authorities said. Police said Michael Lapa, 48, was the sole shooter and died as a result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. AP

UK PM backs virtual trial of woman accused of killing teenager

LONDON, 5 SEPTEMBER

Boris Johnson has said he will "support anything" to get justice for Harry Dunn, the teenager motorcyclist who was hit and killed outside a military base.

A car crashed into Dunn's motorbike outside RAF Croughton in Northamptonshire on 27 August, 2019, and Anne Sacoolas, the wife of a US intelligence official, was accused of killing the 19-year-old. Following the crash, Sacoolas claimed diplomatic immunity and returned to her home country, causing international uproar.

She was charged with causing death by dangerous driving in December, but an extradition request submitted by the Home Office was rejected by the US secretary of state, Mike Pence, the following month - a decision described as a denial of justice by the Home Office.

Harry's mother, Charlotte Charles, said: "We were very encouraged to see the PM's comments."

"It's been the worst year of our lives and we cannot even begin the grieving process until we get justice and then closure."

The Attorney General is currently considering the possibility of trying Sacoolas, 43, virtually, or in her absence.

THE INDEPENDENT



Facebook, Instagram & Twitter pulled down dozens of accounts with names like Blacks Facts Untold that had been followed by thousands of people

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 5 SEPTEMBER

The tensions coursing through the United States over racism and policing are likely targets for adversaries seeking to influence the November election, lawmakers and experts warn and there are signs that Russia is again seeking to exploit the divide.

Earlier this year, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pulled down dozens of accounts with names like Blacks Facts Untold that had been followed or liked by hundreds of thousands of people.

The accounts were fake, created by an organisation in Africa with links to Russia's Internet Research Agency.

Similarly, this week Facebook announced it had removed a network of accounts linked to the IRA that had pushed out stories about race and other issues. The network had tricked unwitting American writers to post content to the pages.

It's a troubling but familiar pattern from Russia, as the IRA overwhelmingly focused on race and the Black Lives Matter Movement when targeting the US in 2016. The goal,

part of the Russian playbook for decades, was to sow chaos by posting content on both sides of the racial divide.

Indeed, no single group of Americans was targeted by IRA information operatives more than African-Americans, concluded a report from the Senate intelligence committee.

With the election just two months away, some lawmakers are worried that the Russian efforts, now evolved and more sophisticated than four years ago, could again take hold. They fear the Trump administration's decision to limit what it tells Congress and by extension the American

people about election threats will allow the propaganda to spread.

Race was a big piece of what they did in 2016, and given heightened racial tensions this year, there's no reason they wouldn't be doing the same thing again, says Maine Sen

Angus King, an Independent who sits on the Senate intelligence committee.

The president has often dismissed the idea that Russia interfered at all in 2016, and has replaced many long-serving intelligence officials with his own appointees.

Candidate's Fb post removed for inciting violence

ATLANTA, 5 SEPTEMBER

Facebook removed a photo illustration showing a Republican congressional candidate in Georgia posing with a rifle next to three Democratic House members, saying Friday that it violated the social media platform's policy against inciting violence.

The illustration, was posted by Marjorie Taylor Greene, a candidate who has previously courted controversy with her support of a baseless conspiracy theory involving President Trump and her inflammatory remarks about two Muslim congresswomen.

Greene is favoured to win election in a deeply conservative district northwest of Atlanta. She faces Democrat Kevin Van Ausdall in the general election. AP

'Portland killing suspect & victim had guns'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PORTLAND (US), 5 SEPTEMBER

A street medic watches the crowd pass during a protest against racial injustice and police brutality on Saturday in Portland. AP

and killed Danielson after he took part in a caravan of President Donald Trump supporters who drove pickup trucks through downtown Portland.

Some of the Trump supporters fired paintball pellets at counter-demonstrators,

while Black Lives Matter protesters tried to block the vehicles. Law enforcement officials released the information they had compiled justifying an arrest warrant for Reinoehl on a second-degree murder charge in the 29 August killing one day after Reinoehl's killing

shook a quiet suburb of Olympia, Washington.

Bystanders on Thursday ducked for cover behind automobiles from dozens of gunshots as four agents serving on a US Marshals Service task force opened fire at Reinoehl. Authorities said Reinoehl, 48, was armed with a semi-automatic handgun. A witness who was driving to the small apartment complex that Reinoehl was leaving said she saw him open fire from a car and that the officers returned fire.

Reinoehl then got out of the car and started running away but collapsed amid more gunfire, the witness, Deshrynn Chatman, told The Olympian newspaper. He did open fire first, she said in a video posted by The Olympian. Lt. Ray Brady of the Thurston County Sheriff's Department said investigators have not concluded whether Reinoehl fired any shots.

FOLLOWING NATURE'S RULES



Women of the French pro-life conservative activist group La Manif pour Tous ("Protest for Everyone") dressed as French Republic's allegory Marianne, hold a banner reading in French "Here we buy and sell children" on Saturday in Paris as a protest against assisted reproductive technology (ART) and surrogacy outside a two-day fair on ART entitled "Desire for a child". AP

Tony Abbott made senior UK trade adviser despite outcry

THE INDEPENDENT
LONDON, 5 SEPTEMBER

Former Australian prime minister Tony Abbott has been handed a top trade role with the UK government, it has been confirmed. Previous speculation that Abbott might be given the role caused an outcry over concerns that his views about women and gay people made him unfit to represent the United Kingdom.

Boris Johnson defended the right-winger's appointment on Friday, saying he had been elected by a "liberal country", referring to Australia.

"I don't, obviously don't agree with those sentiments at all, but then I don't agree with everyone who serves the government in an unpaid capacity on hundreds of boards

across the country," the prime minister said. "And I can't be expected to do so. What I would say about Tony Abbott is this is a guy who was elected by the people.

"It's an amazing country, it's a freedom-loving country, it's a liberal country. There you go, I think that speaks for itself." Liz Truss, the secretary of state for international trade, said: "The new Board of Trade will play an important role in helping Britain make the case for free and fair trade across the UK and around the world."

Abbott previously said he felt "a bit threatened" by homosexuality and campaigned against same-sex marriage. He has also been accused of misogyny by fellow former Australian prime minister Julia Gillard. Shadow international trade

secretary Emily Thornberry

said it was "the wrong appointment on every level."

"First, his history of offensive statements is so long and repetitive that it speaks to serious defects in his character, which is not one I think should be representing Britain on the world stage.

"And second, the fact that he has no experience of detailed trade negotiations, no understanding of Brexit, no belief in climate change, no concern for workers' rights, and no compunction about killing off Australia's car industry mean, to my mind, that he has no credentials for this role." Shadow justice secretary David Lammy tweeted: "Earlier in the week the government as much as admitted Abbott is a homophobe and a misogynist. They just don't care."

Global death toll could triple in next four months, model suggests

THE INDEPENDENT
LONDON, 5 SEPTEMBER

mitigate the spread of Sars-Cov-2, the virus which causes Covid-19.

"These first ever worldwide projections by country offer a daunting forecast as well as a roadmap towards relief from Covid-19 that government leaders as well as individuals can follow," said IHME director Dr Christopher Murray.

"We are facing the prospect of a deadly December, especially in Europe, central Asia, and the United States. But the science is clear and the evidence irrefutable: mask-wearing, social-distancing, and limits to social gatherings are vital to helping prevent transmission of the virus."

The institute's projection of 1.9 million additional deaths was based on its "most likely" scenario - which assumes individual mask wearing and

other mitigation measures remain unchanged.

Of those, 38,000 were predicted to come from the UK, while India, the US and Brazil would see the most total deaths. However, researchers also modelled for a worst and best case scenario which resulted in a difference of 2 million additional deaths worldwide.

In that instance global

HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION

► India, the US and Brazil would see the most total deaths.

► Researchers also modelled for a worst and best case scenario which resulted in a difference of 2 million additional deaths worldwide.

► Scientists, including

one of Indian-origin, have designed a new reusable face mask that protects wearers and those around them from the novel coronavirus, and is comfortable enough to wear all day, an innovation that may help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

spreads of the virus - while

warning that there was "tremendous amount of Covid fatigue" among the world's government leaders because of economic downturns.

He added that respiratory illnesses tend to peak in winter months, a seasonal effect

expected to hold true for Covid-19, Murray said Friday.

Jeffrey Shaman, an infectious-disease expert from Columbia University, told the Washington Post: "Beyond that, it's all conjecture and guesswork because there are so many factors we just can't predict and factors about transmission that truthfully scientists don't understand very well yet." Headlined: "What happens the next few months really depends on what we do as a society the next few weeks."

Microsoft winner of JEDI deal: Pentagon

WASHINGTON, 5 SEPTEMBER

The Pentagon on Friday reaffirmed Microsoft as winner of a cloud computing contract potentially worth \$10 billion, although the start of work is delayed by a legal battle over Amazon's claim that the bidding process was flawed.

The department has completed its comprehensive re-evaluation of the JEDI cloud proposals and determined that Microsoft's proposal continues to represent the best value to the government, the Pentagon said. The Pentagon had requested time to review how it evaluated certain technical aspects of the bids after the judge who is presiding over Amazon's bid protest in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims issued a preliminary injunction on 13 February.

US racial tensions target for poll meddling

Facebook, Instagram & Twitter pulled down dozens of accounts with names like Blacks Facts Untold that had been followed by thousands of people

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 5 SEPTEMBER

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China, Iran, Russia seeking to undermine elections: NSA

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 5 SEPTEMBER

China, Iran and Russia are the three countries that are seeking to undermine US elections, US National Security Adviser (NSA) Robert O'Brien has alleged noting that some of them prefer Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden as the next White House occupant.

Some of them prefer Biden. Some people say some of them prefer the president. My position is it doesn't matter what these countries want, than any country that attempts to interfere with free and fair elections in the US has to be stopped, O'Brien said in response to a question.

We've taken unprecedented action. The president has taken unprecedented action in funding the hardening of our elections infrastructure, whether it's cyber or otherwise, he said.

Angus King, an Independent who sits on the Senate intelligence committee.

The president has often dismissed the idea that Russia interfered at all in 2016, and has replaced many long-serving intelligence officials with his own appointees.

Biden slams Trump over US war dead comment

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 5 SEPTEMBER

Trump won't let Pentagon close Stars and Stripes newspaper

WASHINGTON, 5 SEPTEMBER

President Donald Trump has said that he won't allow the Pentagon to cut funding for the military's independent newspaper, Stars and Stripes, effectively halting Defense leaders' plan to shut the paper down this month.

The United States of America will NOT be cutting funding to @starsandstripes magazine under my watch, Trump tweeted.

The allegations, sourced anonymously, describe multiple offensive comments by the president toward fallen and captured US service members, including calling World War I dead at an American military cemetery in France losers and suckers during an event in France in 2018.

The comments, first reported by The Atlantic and confirmed by The Associated Press, are shining a fresh light on Trump's previous public disparagement of American troops and military families and they delivered a new campaign issue to his Democratic rival Joe Biden, less than two months from Election Day.

I've just never been as disappointed, in my whole career, with a leader that I've worked with, president or otherwise, Biden added. If the article is true and it appears to be, based on other things he's said it is absolutely damning. It is a disgrace.

He added that "the president should humbly apologise to every Gold Star mother and father, to every Blue Star family that he's denigrated. ... Who the heck does he think he is? Trump, in the Oval Office, said no apology was necessary, because it was a fake story. Trump was alleged to



China will relax market access for service industries and actively expand imports of high-quality services

CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING

AT THE CHINA INTERNATIONAL FAIR FOR TRADE IN SERVICES VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

The Sunday Statesman
NEW DELHI, 06 SEPTEMBER 2020

11

Taliban return to Doha, set stage for Afghan peace talks

The negotiations are the second, critical part to a peace deal the USA signed with the Taliban

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD, 5 SEPTEMBER

Taliban officials say a senior delegation returned early Saturday to Qatar, paving the way for the start of peace talks with the Afghan government that are expected to take place in the tiny Gulf state.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

The negotiations are the second, critical part to a peace deal the US signed with the Taliban in February in Doha.

Washington has ramped up pressure on Afghans on both sides of the conflict to get started with their negotiations to decide what a post-war Afghanistan might look like, how rights of women and minorities would be protected, and how the tens of thousands of armed Taliban and government-allied militias are disarmed and re-integrated.



File photo shows Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, walking with members of a Taliban political team at the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad on 25 August 2020. ■ AGENCIES

intra-Afghan talks started.

In late August, a delegation led by the Taliban's political office head and the chief negotiator of the February deal with the United States, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar came to Pakistan.

While little was revealed about the details of his meetings with Pakistani officials, it is believed he was pressed to get started with intra-Afghan

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talks. With many of the Taliban leadership council living in Pakistan, Islamabad has been pressed by Washington to use its influence to push negotiations forward.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has repeatedly said he wants peace talks started and that a military solution

for Afghanistan is an impossibility. Pakistani officials reportedly met a second time with Baradar on Friday before his return to Doha again pressing for a swift start to Afghan peace talks, it is believed.

US and Afghan officials have both said they want to see a reduction in violence in the conflict going into talks with the Taliban, but the militant group maintains that a cease-fire would only be on the agenda once talks begin.

Washington's February agreement with the Taliban was reached to allow the exit of American troops after nearly 20 years at war in keeping with a promise President Donald Trump made during the 2016 US election campaign.

The withdrawal, which has already begun, is not dependent on the success of the Afghan talks but rather on commitments made by the Taliban to fight terrorist groups and ensure Afghanistan cannot be used to attack America or its allies.

17 killed, 20 injured as six ACs explode in Bangladesh mosque

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, 5 SEPTEMBER

A gas leak in an underground pipeline caused six air conditioners to explode almost simultaneously in a mosque during Friday evening prayers on the outskirts of Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, killing 17 people, including a child, and injuring 20 others.

Worshippers were at Friday evening prayers when the blast sent a ball of flames through the Baitul Salat mosque in the central district of Narayanganj, officials said.

At least 17 people including a seven-year-old boy, succumbed to their injuries at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery here, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

About 20 victims are undergoing treatment at the hospital and are stated to be in critical condition.

Fire officials suspect accumulated gas from a leaked pipeline triggered a spark and all six air conditioners on the ground floor of the mosque exploded. "A gas pipeline passes beneath the mosque. We are



Shattered glass is seen inside a mosque following a fire in the central district of Narayanganj, on Saturday. ■ AFP

tiated investigation into the blast while the company formed another probe body to look into the incident.

Narayanganj Superintendent of Police (SP) Md Zayedul Alam visited the victims at the institute and said action will be taken if they found evidence of negligence against anyone in its inquiry.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed concern over the incident and issued directions to ensure all medical care for the victims. Worshippers, most of them severely burnt, were found lying on the floor, the report said.

Erdogan raises rhetoric in Greece stand-off in Mediterranean

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ANKARA, 5 SEPTEMBER

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday warned Greece to enter talks over disputed eastern Mediterranean territorial claims or face the consequences.

They're either going to understand the language of politics and diplomacy, or in the field with painful experiences, he said at a hospital's opening ceremony in Istanbul.

Ankara is currently facing off against Greece and Cyprus over oil and gas exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean. All sides have deployed naval and air forces to assert their competing claims in the region.

They are going to understand that Turkey has the political, economic and military power to tear up the immoral maps and documents imposed, Erdogan added, referring to areas marked by Greece and Cyprus as their economic maritime zones. He stressed that Turkey

Ankara is currently facing off against Greece and Cyprus over oil and gas exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean.

was ready for every eventuality and result. Meanwhile, Turkish media reported that tanks were being moved towards the Greek border. The Cumhuriyet newspaper said 40 tanks were being transported from the Syrian border to Edirne in northwest Turkey and carried photographs of armored vehicles loaded on trucks.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the deployment.

The president's comments come after NATO said military officers from Greece and Turkey had begun technical discussions to reduce the risk of armed conflict or accidents. The two NATO allies have been locked for weeks in a tense stand-off in the eastern Mediterranean, where

SAFETY FIRST



Mask-clad school children wave Iranian national flags as they stand apart from each other in the yard of Nojavanian school in the capital Teheran on the first day of schools re-opening on Saturday. ■ AFP

Hotel Rwanda hero denied access to lawyer, supporters say

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JOHANNESBURG, 5 SEPTEMBER



Supporters of the man portrayed in *Hotel Rwanda* say Rwandan authorities have denied a lawyer access to Paul Rusesabagina nearly a week after the outspoken government critic was paraded in handcuffs and accused of terrorism.

In a statement early Saturday, the Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation said Rusesabagina, a US permanent resident and Belgian citizen, has had no consular visits, and it rejected the Rwandan government's claim that it had talked to his sons about a potential visit as not true. Paul's wife has called the jail and has not been allowed to talk to him, it added.

The family has said they believe he was kidnapped during a visit to Dubai and that he would never knowingly have boarded a plane for Rwanda's capital, Kigali. He has lived outside the East African nation since 1996. Rusesabagina was awarded the US Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 for saving the lives of more than 1,200 people as a hotel manager during Rwanda's 1994 genocide in which some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed.

Rwandan authorities have not responded to questions about how and where Rusesabagina was apprehended, and have not publicly shared any international arrest warrant. They have referred to international cooperation but given no details.

There is a deliberate effort to sanitise and present Rusesabagina as a victim, the

Women at forefront of Belarus protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV, 5 SEPTEMBER



Opposition supporters wave the former white-red-white flag of Belarus as they take part in a rally to protest the 9 August disputed presidential election results in Minsk on Saturday. ■ AFP

Thousands of women marched through the capital of Belarus on Saturday, calling for the resignation of the authoritarian president, and university students demonstrated against the detention of classmate during the wave of protests gripping the country for four weeks.

For the first time in the

demonstrations, supporters of LGBT rights appeared with rainbow flags in the women's march in Minsk, an indication that opponents of President Alexander Lukashenko are becoming bolder.

Rwandan authorities have granted what they called an exclusive interview with Rusesabagina to a Kenyan newspaper, *The East African*, in which he said he had been treated with kindness but did not discuss the accusations against him or how he was apprehended.

It is not clear when Rusesabagina will appear in court.

The Rwandan government has said it issued an arrest warrant for Rusesabagina to answer charges of serious crimes including terrorism, arson, kidnap, and murder perpetrated against unarmed civilians.

Some evangelical Christ-

ian leaders in Uganda have launched a campaign with the now-universal phrase of protest: I can't breathe. Their members vow to occasionally put on the burlap costumes they say resemble the sackcloth worn by biblical prophets.

Uganda is a God-fearing nation but, unfortunately, due to the lockdown, the citizens of our great country cannot gather to seek God's intervention, Betty Ochan,

leader of the opposition in Uganda's national assembly, recently wrote in the local

Daily Monitor newspaper.

The devil is taking dominance. If people do not worship God together, they are spiritually derailed. From Nigeria to Zimbabwe, people are speaking out - or sneaking out to worship - as they argue that limits on religion could lead to a crisis of faith.

I am appalled that some people have the audacity to tell us how many hours we can spend in church, said Chris Oyakhilome, president of the Lagos-based megachurch known as Christ Embassy.

How dare you. What in the world do you think you are?

Church services in Nigeria

resumed last month but are limited to an hour, a severe test

for some in a country where

worship can spill from a Sun-

day morning into the after-

noon.

Some ministers in Nigeria,

haven't allowed any LGBT organization legal registry.

About 5,000 women took part in the march, according to the human rights organization Viasna. Police followed

the march, but no detentions were reported.

Marches and demonstrations by women have become a frequent feature of the protests, which broke out Aug. 9 after the election in which Lukashenko, who has been in power since 1994, was officially declared with an 80% landslide victory.

Protests took place after some previous elections that Lukashenko won with lopsided margins, but this year's have been by far the largest and longest-lasting. Sunday protests

have been especially large, bringing crowds estimated at well over 100,000 people.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of students formed human chains to demonstrate against the detention of students at the State Linguistics

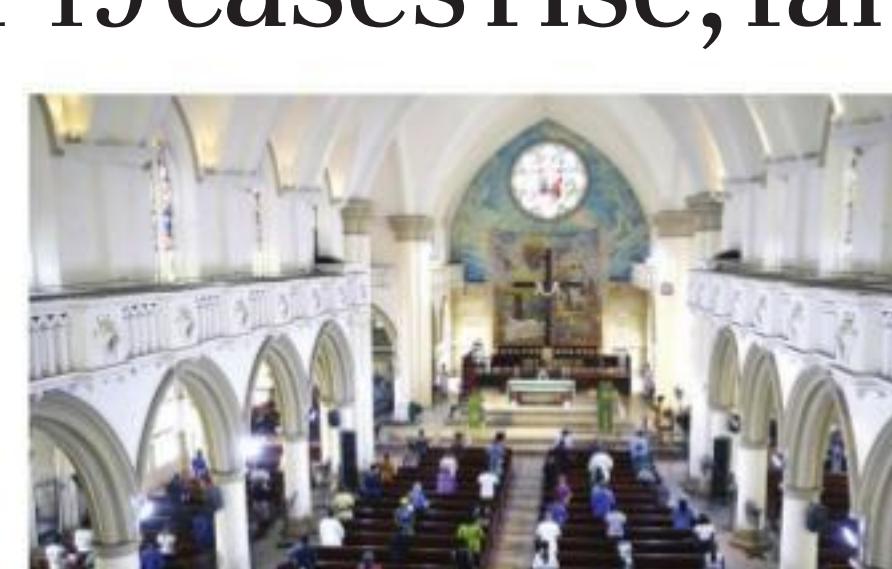
University. Viasna said about 20 of the students were detained Saturday.

Lukashenko opponents have formed a Coordination Council to drive the protests and push for a transition of power. On Saturday, the council reported that one of its prominent members, Olga Kovalkova, had left the country for Poland after being released from jail where she was serving a sentence for organizing protests.

Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya, Lukashenko's main challenger in the election, fled to Lithuania the day after the vote. On Friday, she addressed the U.N. Security Council via video link, asking it to stop blatant human rights violations and cynical disregard for human dignity right in the middle of Europe.

As Africa's Covid-19 cases rise, faith is put to the test

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KAMPALA, 5 SEPTEMBER



Africa's most populous country, have sparked a separate controversy for saying followers should continue paying their tithes into designated bank accounts. Some ministers have long been accused of maintaining lavish lifestyles at the expense of their followers.

But the larger concerns

virus is now redefining that community. Coming together to worship is part of the accountability that builds trust as people share their testimonies, he said.

The overall levels of religious commitment in sub-Saharan Africa are among the highest in the world, according to a 2018 study by the Pew Research Center.

The region's number of Christians grew from about 7 million in 1900 to 470 million by 2010, when it was home to 21 per cent of the world's Christians and 15 per cent of all Muslims.

Christians strongly associate their faith with the brick-and-mortar buildings of their parishes, said the Rev. Charles Odurkami, an emeritus bishop in Uganda.

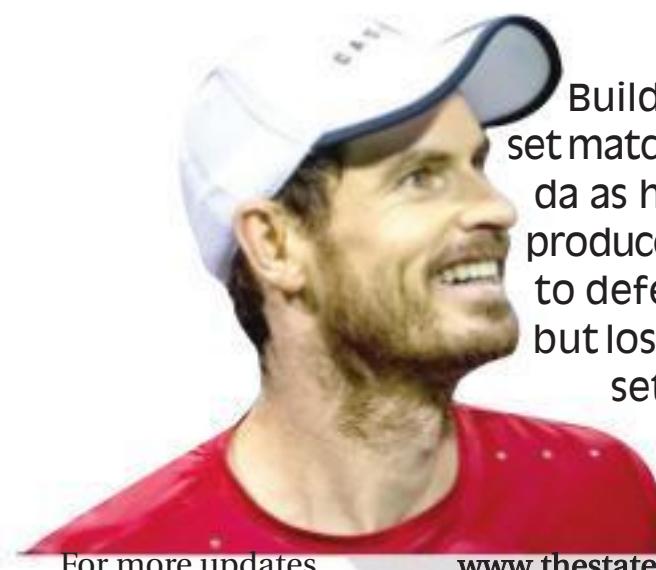
Africans are notoriously religious, he said. Of course,

in Africa some people worship with two feet. One foot in traditional culture and another foot in Christianity.

Another religious leader in Uganda, a self-described prophet who leads a congregation of thousands in Kampala, has criticized attempts to negotiate with the government to reopen houses of worship.

It's disrespectful... if a so-called pastor goes on his knees and begs a politician to open up, Elvis Mbonye recently told a local broadcaster. I will not ask any man to give me the permission, the directives.

Haji Ramadhan Mugalu, secretary-general of the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, said: "Muslims are losing out on the ... social aspect while mosques remain closed."



MURRAY'S MISSION

Building the stamina consistently to survive five-set matches will top Andy Murray's (in photo, left) agenda as he plots the revival of his career. Murray had produced an astonishing fightback from two sets down to defeat Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka in the US Open but lost to Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime in straight sets on Thursday.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

World record: Mo Farah marked his return to the track at Friday's Diamond League meeting in Brussels with a stunning world record in the one-hour event. Farah showed no sign of cobwebs as he ran 21.330 kilometres over the 60 minutes behind closed doors.

Italy held: Italy's record run of consecutive wins ended on Friday with a 1-1 draw in their opening Uefa Nations League match against Bosnia and Herzegovina. They had won their last 11 matches coming into the clash at the all-but empty Stadio Artemio Franchi.

Maguire promise: Gareth Southgate will recall Harry Maguire to his England squad for next month's Nations League games against Belgium and Denmark, despite the uncertainty around him for his suspended jail sentence for aggravated assault in Greece.

Rahman stopped: Left-arm paceman Mustafizur Rahman has been denied a no objection certificate by the Bangladesh Cricket Board for the next season of the Indian Premier League slated to be held in the United Arab Emirates from 19 September to 10 November.

Mani's belief: Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ehsan Mani does not think the new International Cricket Council chairman should come from a Big Three board though the global body has yet to agree on a process to pick Shashank Manohar's successor.

Qasim out: The Pakistan Cricket Board was quick to accept the resignation of the chairman of the National Cricket Committee, Iqbal Qasim, on Friday after he, always bypassed, had requested the PCB chairman to relieve him of his duties in a letter written on Thursday.

Gunners' choice: Arsenal have re-signed Real Madrid media Dani Ceballos for a second season-long loan after a successful first spell last term. Ceballos played 37 times for the north London club last season, sealing his place as a key midfielder in the starting line-up.

Table tennis: The International Table Tennis Federation on Friday announced a restart plan for international competitions, with the women's World Cup, the men's World Cup and the ITTF Finals to be staged in China in November. Action has long been suspended.

Dahiya's decision: Olympic-bound wrestler Ravi Dahiya has decided to skip the men's national camp, set to begin this month at the Sports Authority of India centre in Sonepat, Haryana, as he has academic commitments to fulfil. Dahiya is in the 57kg category.

Hamilton takes Italian GP pole: Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton set a track record at the Italian Grand Prix as he clinched a record-extending 94th pole position, nudging Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas into second place by just 0.069 seconds on Saturday. But Ferrari's troubles went from bad to worse as both cars failed to qualify inside the top 10 at the team's home circuit for the first time since 1984, with Sebastian Vettel not even making it out of Q1. Hamilton looks on course to extend his championship lead, which stands at 47 points from Red Bull rival Max Verstappen and 50 from Bottas.

Bottas and Hamilton exchanged track records in qualifying at the Temple of Speed. McLaren driver Carlos Sainz who moves to Ferrari next year was third, 0.808 behind the British driver and just ahead of Sergio Perez and Verstappen.

MURRAY'S MISSION

Building the stamina consistently to survive five-set matches will top Andy Murray's (in photo, left) agenda as he plots the revival of his career. Murray had produced an astonishing fightback from two sets down to defeat Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka in the US Open but lost to Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime in straight sets on Thursday.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 5 SEPTEMBER

Covid-19 has enjoined heightened health-related safety on all of us in all stations of life the world over but sport's so-called bio-secure bubbles are not fool-proof at all and the psychological adjustments they force on players can have extremely damaging effects. So says Dr Laila Das, former scientific officer of the Sports Authority of India at its eastern Indian headquarters in Salt Lake City. "They are prohibitively expensive but, as Chennai

Super Kings now know, it does not come with any cast-iron guarantee that everyone inside it is invulnerable. It's a greater risk when tournaments are played over weeks with many teams taking part, the more so when you're abroad, depending on others for things to be carried out. It was one thing when England hosted six Test matches with on-site hotels recently but with so much movement required for the Indian Premier League in West Asia, you can never be sure everything is going to be all right. One slight error somewhere

along the way, despite all the standard operating procedures recommended by the Board of Control for Cricket in India, National Cricket Academy and others, can bring about a disaster of spectacular proportions. And then, there are things you can't really do anything about. They've put a stop to the ball being shined with the bowler's, or anyone else's, spittle, but the ball has to be fielded and held by the wicketkeeper, implying multiple touches, when, for practice, bowlers are being handed balls for their exclusive use," Dr Das said.

She referred to a webinar which had had Rahul Dravid (in photo) saying, essentially, that the most elaborately water-tight arrangement could be scuppered if two people

tested positive midway through a Test match. Asked about the psychological impact of the severely restrictive rules laced into the coronavirus protocols, Dr Das said: "Point number one is that a bio-secure bubble is not a natural phenomenon. It's being set up because of sport's desire for a quick return under commercially compulsive circumstances.

For a brief while, you can take it in your stride but grinding through an entire IPL so far from home and not being able to be anywhere near your close ones entails a kind

of mental pressure which can result in people simply keeling over.

Besides, empty stadiums are difficult to come to terms with for professional sports persons who thrive on public adulation. They'll find no incentive in the sterile, even totally abnormal no-crowd ambience where rows of stands are mandatorily unoccupied," Dr Das added.

A few National Basketball Association players now forced into a bubble in Florida have spoken of the difficulties inherent in the hibernation. In the US Open, where bio-

security rules are widely believed to have been stretched a little too far, Kristina Mladenovic complained about living a nightmare after suffering a spectacular meltdown in a bad loss. Several front-court tennis stars, uncomfortable about the altered dispensation, have skipped the US Open. Dr Das says players should not even be expected to do their best when feeling hemmed in on all sides in an atmosphere where fear reigns supreme. "Sport is going too fast. There by now is proof enough that it's a recipe for disaster," Dr Das says.

'Bio bubbles aren't fool-proof, their mental impact can be damaging'

Sport

Posted at RMS, Delhi, Postal Reg. No. DL (IND)-11/6089/2018-19-20

12

US Open: Osaka survives scare

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, 5 SEPTEMBER

Naomi Osaka (in photo) spiked her racket after one errant forehand late in the second set at the U.S. Open, then flung it the length of the baseline after a missed backhand return ceded that tiebreaker.

Sometimes, that's the sort of reaction it takes to right things for Osaka. And, perhaps surprisingly, she needed whatever push she could get in Friday's third-round match.

Facing an opponent competing in just her second major tournament, two-time Grand Slam champion Osaka eventually figured out a way to turn a tight one into a runaway and beat 18-year-old Marta Kostyuk 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-2 by claiming the final five games at Flushing Meadows.

"While I was playing, honestly, I was cursing myself out," Osaka said during an on-court interview, so you wouldn't want to know what I was saying. After taking things out on her racket, Osaka sat with a white towel draped over head during a changeover.

"It's what I do in times of extreme anger and frustration," she said. Still, she improved to 7-0 since tennis resumed after a hiatus of more than five months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Djokovic's bid for a fourth



championship in New York and 18th Grand Slam title overall Roger Federer, with 20, and Rafael Nadal, with 19, are the only men with more, and neither entered this tournament will continue in the fourth round against 20th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta on Sunday.

Another past U.S. Open champion moving into the fourth round Friday was 2016 titlist Angelique Kerber, who defeated 20-year-old American Ann Li 6-3, 6-4. Kerber's next opponent is another American,

28th-seeded Jennifer Brady, a 6-3, 6-3 winner against Caroline Garcia.

In the previous round, Garcia upset top-seeded Karolina Pliskova.

Next up for Osakawa will be big hitter Anett Kontaveit, an Estonian seeded 14th. She had a much easier time in a 6-3, 6-2 win over No. 24 Magda Linette.

In the day's last women's match, two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova beat 63rd-ranked American Jessica Pegula 6-4, 6-3. She'll face

another American, 93rd-ranked Shelby Rogers, in the next round.

Men reaching the fourth round included No. 5 Alexander Zverev, No. 7 David Goffin, No. 12 Denis Shapovalov who won a five-setter over No. 19 Taylor Fritz Jordan Thompson and Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

The day ended with a meltdown by No. 4 Stefanos Tsitsipas, who wasted six match points in the fourth set and fell to Borna Coric 6-7 (2), 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (4). It was the sec-

ond straight match that the 27th-seeded Coric went five sets and more than four hours for a win.

Down 5-1 in the fourth set, he broke Tsitsipas three straight times, fighting off six break points. It was just pure luck, Coric said.

Bopanna-Shapovalov enter second round

Experienced Indian Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov advanced to the second round of the US Open men's doubles event after a straight-set win here.

Bopanna and Shapovalov hardly broke a sweat to get past their American rivals Ernesto Escobedo and Noah Rubin 6-2, 6-4 in their tournament opener that lasted one hour and 22 minutes on Friday.

The Indo-Canadian pair will next play sixth seeds Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies.

Bopanna is the lone surviving Indian in the tournament after the exits of Sumit Nagal and Divij Sharan.

While Sumit Nagal bowed out in the second round after losing in straight sets to world no. 3 and second seed Dominic Thiem of Austria, Sharan and his Serbian partner Nikola Cacic were knocked out in the opening round of the men's doubles event by eighth seeds Nikola Mektic and Wesley Koolhof.

nobody was able to hang around long to build a partnership in what looked a below-par total.

Australia showed no signs of rustiness in their first game since March as a brilliant 98-run opening stand by David Warner (58) and Aaron Finch (46) put them in command. Steve Smith then hit a quick 18 but after he fell to make it 124-2 Australia slumped to 148-6, losing four wickets for nine runs in 14 balls. Ashton Agar was run out by an inch on the last ball of the penultimate over, leaving Stoinks to come up just short in the roller-coaster final over. "We probably struggled to find the boundary in that 12 to 18-over mark," said Australia captain Finch.

"The bowlers really came good in the last eight overs. It's always difficult coming in, under lights, pressure on, on a slow wicket," said England captain Eoin Morgan.

"Today we went with a batter less, which proved very valuable in these conditions."

England, fresh from their series win over Pakistan, started strongly as opener Jos Buttler hammered 44 off 29 balls. Dawid Malan then continued his remarkably consistent form with a superb 66, made all the more challenging as

the competition season is usually very long," Anju said in a press release.

She added, "Being with the same coach benefits an athlete because the coach can then predict how an athlete will react during a competition and guide an athlete accordingly."

"Coaches play the most vital part in moulding our athletes to reach the elite level and this also improves India's chances in various major international events going ahead."

This decision was taken by the ministry with a focus on the 2024 and 2028 Olympics, and to ensure Olympic-bound athletes are able to train consistently with one coach and work on improving their performance. Speaking about the decision, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said it will benefit the ath-

letes tremendously. "There is a well-defined roadmap ahead for our athletes as we eye the best of preparations for 2024 and 2028."

"This decision to extend the contract of the coaches will benefit our athletes as there will be continuation of their training with the same coach."

"With foreign coaches especially, communication is often an issue, and only if a coach trains an athlete long enough can they understand each other well and the athlete can draw out the best from the training."

Indian athletics legend and World Championship medalist Anju George welcomed the move.

"This is a very welcome move and will benefit athletes in a big way. In athletics, more than in other disciplines, techniques and continuous training are very important, since

Messi reveals why he's staying at Barcelona

THE INDEPENDENT & AGENCIES

LONDON/BARCELONA,
5 SEPTEMBER



Lionel Messi (in photo) yesterday explained to Goal why he had ultimately decided to remain with Barcelona.

"I thought and was sure that I was free to leave, the president always said that at the end of the season I could decide if I stayed or not," the 33-year-old said. "Now they cling to the fact that I did not say it before 10 June, when it turns out that on 10 June we were competing for La Liga in the middle of this awful coronavirus, and this disease altered all the season."

"And this is the reason why I am going to continue in the club. Now I am going to continue in the club because the president told me that the only way to leave was to pay the 700million (£624m) release clause, and that this is impos-

sible." It had been suggested that Messi and Barcelona could go to court over the matter of whether or not the club's record goalscorer could leave, but that was never an option, the forward said.

"There was another way and it was to go to trial. I would never go to court against Barca because it is the club that I love, which gave me everything since I arrived. "It is the club of my life, I have made my life here. Barca gave me everything and I gave it everything. I know that it never crossed my mind to take

Barca to court."

Messi had, however, begun to think about fresh challenges in other leagues. "I love Barcelona and I'm not going to find a better place than here anywhere. Still, I have the right to decide. I was going to look for new goals and new challenges. And tomorrow I could go back, because I have everything in Barcelona. I have everything. "I looked further afield and I want to compete at the highest level, win titles, compete in the Champions League. You can win or lose in it, because it is very difficult, but you have to compete. "At least compete for it and let us not fall apart in Rome, Liverpool, Lisbon. All that led me to think about that decision that I wanted to carry out." Messi also revealed that his family's emotional reaction to the news that they might have to relocate played a role in his decision not to leave Barca. "When I communicated my

wish to leave to my wife and children, it was a brutal drama," he said. "The whole family began crying, my children did not want to leave Barcelona, nor did they want to change schools. "Son Mateo is still little and he doesn't realise what it means to go somewhere else and make your life a few years elsewhere. Thiago, he is older. He heard something on TV and found out something and asked. "I didn't want him to know anything about being forced to leave, to have to live in a new school, or make new friends. He cried to me and said: 'Let's not go.' I repeat that it was hard, really. "It was understandable. It happened to me. It is very difficult to make a decision. My son, my family, they grew up here and are from here."

"There was nothing wrong with wanting to leave. I needed it, the club needed it and it was good for everyone."

Sports Ministry extends contract of athletics foreign coaches and support staff

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 5 SEPTEMBER

The Sports Ministry on Saturday said it has extended the contract of nine foreign coaches and support personnel, including the High Performance Director of athletics, with an eye on the 2024 Olympics, the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

In July, the ministry had decided to draw up extended contracts for foreign and Indian coaches in alignment with the Olympic cycle.

This decision was taken by the ministry with a focus on the 2024 and 2028 Olympics, and to ensure Olympic-bound athletes are able to train consistently with one coach and work on improving their performance.

Speaking about the decision, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said it will benefit the ath-

letes tremendously. "There is a well-defined roadmap ahead for our athletes as we eye the best of preparations for 2024 and 2028."

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Dhoni, CSK finally start practice in UAE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

CHENNAI, 5 SEPTEMBER



MS Dhoni and the rest of the Chennai Super Kings took to the nets in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the three-time champions finally started their training after all their members barring the 13 positive cases tested negative for Covid-19.