



'AATMANIRBHAR
BHARAT TO BOOST
GLOBAL STANDING'

P4



'CONG REVIVAL
NEEDED FOR
STRONG OPPN'

P5



'BIDEN, A TROJAN
HORSE FOR
RADICAL LEFT'

P10



'DJOKOVIC ADVANCES,
MEDVEDEV OUSTED'

P12

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain/thundershowers towards afternoon/evening. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 33 and 25 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 85% Min: 57%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 35.6°C (+2) Min: 26.2°C (0)

SUN RISES

05:58 hrs SUN SETS

MOON RISES 18:47 hrs

15:30 hrs MOON SETS

01:59 hrs

THUMBNAILS



During the lockdown in Kolkata to control the spread of Covid cases. On Thursday.

States stare at over ₹2L cr GST shortfall

Centre gives two options to borrow via RBI; states get 7 days to decide

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

With Covid-19 disruptions making it impossible for the Central government to meet its obligation to provide compensation under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law to states this year, the Centre proposed two options to the states to cover their compensation gap and meet their expenditure requirements.

While addressing the media after chairing the 41st GST Council meeting, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the first option is to provide a special borrowing window to states, in consultation with the RBI, to provide Rs 97,000 crore at a "reasonable" interest rate.

The money, the minister said, can then be repaid after 5 years from collection of cess.

"The Centre will give a further relaxation of 0.5 per cent in states' borrowing limit under the FRBM Act as the second leg of the first option. This will allow states to borrow more unconditionally to cover their compensation shortfall. States can choose to borrow more, beyond the expected compensation itself, since that is the injury caused by the pandemic," said the finance minister.

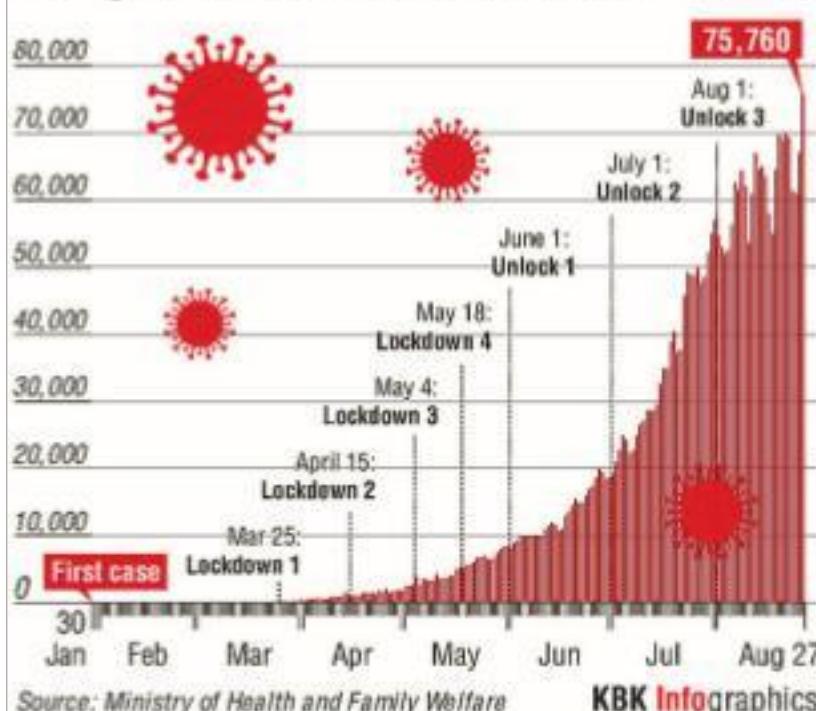
The second option the government proposed is to meet the entire GST compensation gap this year itself through borrowings after consulting the RBI.



Union minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 41st GST Council meeting via video conferencing, in New Delhi on Thursday.

75K new Covid cases push tally past 33 lakh

Daily New Cases of COVID-19 in India



Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare KBK Infographics

STATESMAN NEW SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Maharashtra continued to be the worst-hit with a total of 7,18,711 cases and 23,089 deaths.

Tamil Nadu is at the second spot with 3,97,261 cases and 6,839 deaths. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal, and Bihar follow.

According to the fresh data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a total of 9,24,988 samples were tested in the last 24 hours with the total number of samples tested so far reaching 3,85,76,510.

Five more volunteers were inoculated with the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine candidate in Pune district on Thursday as part of the phase II clinical trial launched in search for an antidote against the coronavirus infection that is showing no signs of abating in the country.

On the global front, India remains the third worst-hit nation by the coronavirus, while the US and Brazil lead with a total of 58,21,602 and 37,17,156 cases, respectively.

FACT FILE

TOTAL CASES	33,10,234
ACTIVE CASES	7,25,991
NEW CASES	75,760
NEW RECOVERIES	56,013
TOTAL DEATHS	60,472

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M.
THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2020

TIKTOK CEO resigns amidst US pressure: TikTok CEO Kevin Mayer resigned on Thursday amidst US pressure for its Chinese owner to sell the popular video app, which the US says is a security risk. His resignation comes after US President Trump ordered a ban on TikTok, unless parent company ByteDance sells its US operations to an American company within 3 months.

P10

Anushka-Virat expecting first child: Actor Anushka Sharma on Thursday announced that she is expecting her first child with cricketer husband Virat Kohli. The couple, who tied the knot in 2017, tweeted the news, alongside their picture, showing Anushka's baby bump. "And then, we were three! Arriving January 2021," the actor tweeted.

P9

NZ mosque shooter gets life term: 29-year-old Brenton Harrison Tarrant, who slaughtered 51 worshippers at two New Zealand mosques was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, the first time the maximum available sentence has been imposed.

P9

SC for relook at 2004 verdict on quota sub-classification

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Expressing disagreement with its 2004 Constitution Bench verdict which ruled against giving preferential treatment to certain sub-castes within the Scheduled Castes, the Supreme Court on Thursday said this judgment needs to be revisited.

A five-judge bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra and comprising Justices Indira Banerjee, Vineet Saran, M.R. Shah and Anirudha Bose, said it is essential to reconsider the 2004 verdict in the E.V. Chinnaiya case and this matter should be placed before Chief Justice S.A. Bobde for appropriate direction.

The court said states should

be allowed to provide preferential treatment to the poorest of the poor among SCs and STs and advocated that an authoritative pronouncement was needed with respect to the effect of Constitutional provisions and whether sub-classification is permissible only with respect to the socially and educationally backward classes and not with respect to SCs and STs.

The bench said it seems the 2004 verdict in the E.V. Chinnaiya case was not correctly decided, therefore it requires a reconsideration.

The 2004 verdict in the E.V. Chinnaiya case was also decided by a five-judge bench. As a result, the matter would now have to go to a larger bench. This will be placed

before the Chief Justice to refer it to a bench of seven judges or more.

The current case came up before the Supreme Court after the Punjab and Haryana High Court struck down a state law, which empowered the government to sub-classify SC/STs for grant of quotas.

The state government appealed against the 2010 verdict. The high court had struck down Section 4 (5) of the Punjab Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act, 2006 and termed it unconstitutional.

This Act gave first preference to Mazbhi Sikhs and Balmikis castes for SC quota in public services.

Entire CWC should be elected: Ghulam Azad

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who was among the 23 leaders who sent a letter to party president Sonia Gandhi calling for sweeping changes in the party, on Thursday iterated that the entire Congress Working Committee should be elected.

"Anyone who has a genuine interest in the internal working dynamics of Congress would welcome our proposal to have every state and district president as being elected," Azad, the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha said.

"The intention is to make Congress active and strong. But those who simply got appointment cards continue to oppose our proposal. What's the harm in having elected CWC members who will have stable tenures in the

party," he said. Defending the demand for organisational elections in the letter, he said an appointed president right now "may not even have one per cent support".

"An election has the benefit that when you fight elections, at least your party is 51 percent behind you. Right now, the person who becomes president might not even have one per cent support. If CWC members are elected then they cannot be removed.

So what is the problem," Ghulam Nabi Azad is reported to have said.

"Those office-bearers or state unit presidents or block district presidents who attack our proposal know that they will be nowhere when elections happen. Whoever is genuinely invested in the Congress will welcome the letter," the Rajya Sabha member said.

The letter written to interim party chief Sonia Gandhi by 23 Congress leaders including MPs and former ministers called for sweeping reforms, fair internal elections, collective decision-making and a "full-time, visible leadership".

Monday's stormy CWC meeting, where the letter's authors came under severe attack, reaffirmed Sonia Gandhi as interim party chief at the meeting, leaving the question of choosing her successor for later.

in September has not been taken overnight but after due consideration.

"We have been discussing and looking at the possibilities of conducting the exam for quite some time. We have looked at the infrastructure, the safety of the students, how we can maintain the distancing and other norms and make it as safe as possible not only by discussing (amongst) ourselves but also with health experts and most importantly the conductors of the examination," he said.

While the NEET is scheduled to be held on 13 September, engineering entrance exam JEE Main has been planned from 1-6 September. Around 9.53 lakh candidates have registered for JEE-Mains and 15.97 lakh students have registered for NEET.

Students want JEE, NEET exams to be conducted, says Pokhriyal

NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Over 17 lakh candidates have already downloaded their admit cards for JEE and NEET, and this shows that the students want the exams to be conducted at any cost, Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said on Thursday.

"We have received mails from students and parents who are in favour of holding exams as they have been preparing for the exams from at least two years," he added.

These exams have already been deferred twice in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Sibal's appeal: Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Thursday said the party needs to target the ruling BJP with "surgical strikes" rather than targeting its own, after a resolution was passed by a district unit in Uttar Pradesh for disciplinary action against

Jitin Prasada, a leader from the state, for being part of the 'group of 23' who had sought urgent organisational reforms.

An audio clip also went viral on social media platforms with claims of it purportedly containing the voice of the District Congress Committee head of Lakhimpur Kheri suggesting that the resolution was passed following directives of AICC (All India Congress Committee) Secretary Dheeraj Gurjar. However, Gurjar rejected the charge in a statement, saying he got to know about the resolution only after it was passed.

Delhi sees highest August spike of 1,840 virus cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Delhi reported 1,840 fresh coronavirus (Covid-19) cases today - its highest single-day spike in August so far - even as the city recorded 22 fresh fatalities due to Covid.

This is the third successive single-day spike in coronavirus cases in the city this month.

The Covid death toll in the national capital rose to 4,369 now, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

Yesterday, 17 Covid deaths were recorded and the daily count of Corona cases was 1,693 - the previous highest single-day rise this month.

The upswing in Delhi's single-day Covid case count continued today due to which its caseload mounted to 1,67,604, the health bulletin said.

The number of coronavirus tests conducted in the city today was 21,061, including RTPCR/CBNAAT/TrueNat tests and rapid antigen tests. The cumulative number of recovered Covid patients in the national capital increased to 1,50,027, including 1,130 new cases discharged today. The recovery rate came down to 89.51 per cent from yesterday's 89.82 per cent.

The city had 13,209 active cases and those hospitalised numbered 4,772 now. The count of Covid patients undergoing treatment on home isolation was 6,596.

According to the health bulletin, the total number of containment zones jumped to 734 from 716 yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2

Delay in JEE, NEET will lead to 'zero year': IIT heads

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Further delay in conducting medical and engineering entrance exams NEET and JEE will lead to a 'zero academic year' and any quick alternative to the crucial exams will dilute the quality of education and have cascading effects, according to the Directors of several Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

Amidst the chorus for postponement of the two exams in view of the rising Covid-19 cases, the IIT directors appealed to students to trust the institutions conducting the exam.

The pandemic has already disrupted the academic plans of many students and institutions and we don't see the virus going away anytime

soon. We should not let this be a zero academic year as it might have consequences on the bright future of several students," Ajit K Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Roorkee, said.

He also said students and their parents need to have faith in the system.

"The decision to conduct these exams has been taken after considering every aspect of the current situation. The government has been ensuring that all necessary arrangements are made to safeguard the health and safety of the students. Delaying the exams would have a cascading effect so we should come together in understanding its importance and support the system in conducting it seamlessly," he added.

According to Virendra Tewari, Director, IIT Kharagpur,



Congress needs to target the BJP with surgical strikes instead of wasting its energy by targeting its own

KAPIL SIBAL

CONGRESS LEADER

Delhi sees highest August rise of 1,840 Covid cases

City's containment zones might increase with doubling of Corona tests, further relaxations, say officials

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

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The city had 13,208 active cases and those hospitalised numbered 4,772 now. The count



Commuters wearing face masks amid the Covid pandemic, in the Capital on Thursday.

the least number of such zones at 18.

Officials said the rise in the number of containment zones has also been in sync with the increase in cases in the national capital.

An northeast district official said the numbers of containment zones keep on changing frequently since the specifications have been changed.

According to data, the number of containment zones had decreased to 496 in the national capital on August 2 and had witnessed a marginal increase to 499 on August 4.

The following days, the number declined to 481 and 466. On August 12, the number of containment zones went past 500. On August 23, the number crossed 600 and on August 26, it passed 700.

On June 26, it was decided to re-map the containment zones to divide those into micro-clusters for better surveillance and contact-tracing. There were 280 containment zones in Delhi on June 26. On July 20, the number was 696.

In July, the number of containment zones in Delhi was more than 700, but it gradually declined in August owing to the government allowing the "red" zones to be denoted 14 days after the discharge of the last confirmed case, instead of the earlier norm of 28 days.

Delhi has seen a fluctuation in the number of coronavirus cases since 1 August.

of Covid patients undergoing treatment on home isolation was 6,596.

According to the health bulletin, the total number of containment zones jumped to 734 from 716 yesterday.

Meanwhile, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal held a meeting to review the Covid situation in Delhi. Health minister Satyendar Jain also called a meeting with senior officers of the health department to take stock of the situation.

The number of Covid containment zones in Delhi may be increased due to further relaxations under "Unlock" and doubling of coronavirus tests, officials said today.

Covid tests in Delhi will be doubled to 40,000 per day within a week as there has been a marginal increase in the number of coronavirus cases in the city, CM Kejriwal had said.

yesterday, asserting that aggressive testing and isolation will remain his government's strategy to fight the pandemic.

Yesterday, when Delhi recorded 1,693 Covid cases, the containment zones were increased to 716.

The maximum 150 active containment zones were then in southwest district, followed by west (92), north (67) and south (60).

All the other districts had then less than 50 containment zones, with New Delhi having

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Delhi govt can't get loan from RBI, Centre should get it for us: Sisodia

PTI

NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Thursday said that under the existing system, the city government cannot take a loan from the RBI to meet its revenue shortfall.

Emerging out of a GST Council meeting, he said the Centre has refused to pay GST compensation to states and asked them to take a loan from the RBI to meet their revenue shortfall due to the coronavirus pandemic.

However, under the current hybrid system (of governance), the Delhi government cannot take a loan from the RBI. The Centre should take a loan from the RBI and give it to the Delhi government," he said.

Sisodia also charged the Centre with failing to fulfil its promise to the states at the



launch of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime four years ago.

"The Centre had promised that it will pay GST compensation to states at the rate of 14 percent for five years in case of revenue shortfall. But, today at the GST Council meeting, the Centre

refused it, saying there was no provision for compensation in situations like a pandemic," Sisodia said in a briefing.

The Delhi government is expected to have a revenue shortfall of around Rs 21,000 crore in the current financial year, Sisodia said.

UP: Retired cop kills self after shooting at son twice over domestic issues

PTI
NOIDA (UP), 27 AUGUST

A retired police sub-inspector allegedly shot himself dead after opening fire at his son at their home in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida over domestic disputes, officials said on Thursday.

The son, around 35, is undergoing treatment at a hospital and his condition is critical, they said.

The incident took place on Wednesday evening in Escort Colony near Railway Road in Dadri area.

"Retired sub-inspector Bachan Singh shot two bullets at his son, hitting him in the chest and a leg and then shot himself in the head using his licensed revolver," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Greater Noida, Vishal

Pandey said.

"Bachan Singh died at the spot, while his son was taken to a hospital, where he is undergoing treatment," Pandey said.

The incident took place due to frequent disputes in the family, the officer said, citing preliminary enquiry of family members and neighbours.

Singh, around 65, was an alcoholic, and the father-son duo would frequently fight over familial discords, and on Wednesday too, they had a heated argument preceding the shootout, according to the officials.

Singh's wife lives elsewhere, while his son is married and his wife stays at the house where the incident took place, the officials said, adding further proceedings were underway.

5 Delhi HC benches to hold physical courts on rotation from 1 Sept

PTI

NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

The Delhi High Court Thursday said five of its benches will start holding physical courts on a rotation basis from September 1, and issued standard operating procedure (SOP) for it.

The high court, which has been conducting hearings through video conferencing since March 24 to contain the spread of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, said the remaining benches shall continue taking up matters through the virtual mode.

The cause list will specify in advance the courts which shall take up matters through physical hearing and those through video conferencing.

Though the high court will open on all five days in a week, the benches will sit on rotation basis.

An office order issued by Registrar General Manoj Jain said that while considering the matter regarding resumption of physical functioning of the high court, the suspension of functioning of court has been extended till September 30.

All the pending matters listed before the high court from September 1 to 30 would be adjourned to



November 3 to December 7 respectively, the order said.

As per the SOP, the entry in the court blocks for the purpose of attending physical hearings will be restricted to only one advocate per party whose case is listed that day and party-in-person who is pursuing his/her case without any legal assistance.

Besides, senior counsel engaged by any advocate, registered clerks for delivering bulky case files to advocates and standing or nominated counsel for any

of the party or entity whose cases are listed for physical hearing that day will be allowed.

Juniors, interns or law students associated with the advocate concerned, relative of any litigant and non-registered clerks will not be allowed entry in the court blocks, the SOP said.

Those litigants who are represented through an advocate will not be allowed entry to the court block, unless specific directions of the court and persons displaying symptoms of flu, fever and cough will not be

permitted to enter, it added.

It further said that lawyers, clerks, litigants who are about 65 years of age and those suffering from co-morbidities may refrain from appearing in courts.

All those who will be permitted entry have to mandatorily wear mask all times, undergo thermal screening at the designated entry points, sanitise hands at the time of entry, follow social and physical distancing of six feet and adhere to all directions and guidelines issued by the government in respect of the

COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the SOP, the building will be handed over to the housekeeping staff for deep cleaning and complete sanitisation by 3pm on every working day.

In order to ensure strict adherence to the norm of social distancing, seats in each courtroom have been limited to bare minimum and entry time to any court block shall be regulated as per the time slots mentioned in the cause list for different batches of cases.

It said each batch shall consist of 10 cases and no person shall be permitted entry inside the court blocks before the designated time-slot as per the cause list.

It added that the medical facilities in the form of an additional ambulance with complete infrastructure to tackle COVID-19 emergencies shall be stationed during working hours in the high court.

There will be an earmarked room in the high court dispensary dedicated as COVID-19 isolation room, to be used as and when any person reflecting coronavirus symptoms is found. He or she will be shifted to the isolation room till he or she is taken to the hospital after which the room will be sanitised, the SOP said.

Mohit Monga
Advocate
Ch. No. 781, Western Wing
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
Mb. 09999495500

Classified

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

No. DUBA/CON/5434/MR/20-(100)
Dated 16.08.2020MR. HARSHDEEP SINGH
MENDIRATTA, JAGMET
SINGH MENDIRATTA, R/O
D-293, JANAK PURI, DELHI,
PIN-110058, INDIA. PRESENT
ADDRESS FLAT 510, DAMAC
PARADISO, CENTRAL BUSINESS
DISTRICT, DUBAI, UAE
REEMA D/O MAHINDER
ASSUMAL SAJNANI, R/O
DHANAMAL MANSION, PLOT
121, 3RD FLOOR, 1ST AND 10TH
ROAD, CORNER, KHAJURAO
MANOR, BAWALI, 401002,
MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.
PRESENT ADDRESS FLAT 606,
AL REFA BLDG, STREET 100A,
AL MANKHOO, DUBAI, UAE
ADDITIONALLY, MR. HARSHDEEP
SINGH AND REEMA ARE PRESENTLY
RESIDING IN THE UAE HAVE
GIVEN NOTICE OF INTENDED
MARRIAGE BETWEEN THEM
UNDER THE FOREIGN
MARRIAGES ACT, 1963. IF
ANYONE HAS ANY OBJECTION
TO THE PROPOSED
MARRIAGE, HE/SHE SHOULD
FILE THE SAME WITH THE
UNDERSIGNED ACCORDING
TO THE PROCEDURE LAID
DOWN UNDER THE ACT
WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM THE
DATE OF PUBLICATION OF
THIS NOTICE.

Sd/-
(Jitender Singh Negi)
Marriage officer & Consul
(Consular & Labour)
Consulate General of India
P.O. Box 73, DUBAI (UAE)
Fax: +971 04 3142045
Email: 1.dubai@mea.gov.in
Homepage: www.zigduabi.gov.in

No. DCF/SBN/2020/685
Dated: 20-08-2020
CC. No. 34/2020

Fixed for: 24-09-2020

PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER
ORDER 5 RULE 20 CPC

1. Manjot Singh Bajwa, s/o
Avtar Singh.

2. Balvinder Kaur, w/o Manjot
Singh Bajwa, both residents
of 1582, 4/104, Main
Road, Santokh Nagar Banga,
District Shahed Bhagat Singh
Nagar.

— Complainant
Versus

2. Goibibo Corporate Office

Address : 5th Floor, Good
Earth City Centre, Sector-50,
Gurgaon, Haryana (India)

through its Manager/Owner/

Managing Director, (Op. No.
2) & Jet Airways India Limited,

Indra Gandhi International
Airport (IGIA), New Delhi,

through its Manager/Owner/

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Airport (IGIA), New Delhi,

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Atmanirbhar Bharat will make the global economy resilient, stable, and will work towards world peace. India has potential to be a supplier of defence equipment to friendly countries. India will be a net security provider in IOR

NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2020

03

29 Punjab MLAs Covid +ve ahead of Assembly session

CM Capt Amarinder Singh appeals to all other MLAs who had come in contact with the Corona-infected legislators to avoid attending the one-day session scheduled for today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 27 AUGUST

As the number of Covid-19 positive legislators and ministers rose to 29, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Thursday appealed to all other legislators who had come in contact with them to avoid attending the one-day Assembly session tomorrow.

The CM also repeated his appeal to all political parties to refrain from physical protests at this critical juncture, when Covid cases in Punjab were spiralling amid projections that the

state would see a major spike in the coming weeks.

The protests by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by their Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), were "endangering" the lives of people, charged Capt Amarinder, pointing to the AAP dhanas (sit-ins) in various



parts of the state since 20 August.

With people between 25 and 250 present at each of these gatherings, they had become "fitter boxes" for sparking further spread of the Covid pandemic, said the CM, urging the AAP to call off their protests.

Capt Amarinder pointed out that of the eight AAP

for early results, to be installed at the Assembly premises, as well as Punjab Bhawan and MLAs hostel, for Covid testing ahead of the Assembly session, where only those who have tested negative for Covid within 48 hours prior to the start of the session will be allowed.

During a Covid review meeting with the CM and other officials, chief secretary Vini Mahajan appealed to all political parties that their MLAs who had come in contact with Covid positive colleagues should reach the Assembly premises early for testing in case they wish to attend. While four MLAs of AAP have tested positive for the virus, six SAD MLAs have also tested positive for the virus. The remaining MLAs, who have tested positive in the tests conducted ahead of the session, are members of the ruling Congress.

While three Cabinet ministers had tested positive ear-

lier, one minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa had recovered from the infection and had tested negative yesterday.

Meanwhile, Punjab Assembly Speaker Rama K P Singh has made coronavirus negative test reports mandatory for ministers, MLAs, officers and employees to attend the 12th session of the 15th Assembly. It is a constitutional requirement to hold a session within six months of the previous Assembly session. In order to ensure social distancing in the House, one member per bench will be allowed to sit, an official of the Punjab Assembly said.

Visitors and journalists will not be allowed inside the Assembly, the official said. Social distancing norms will also be followed for the bureaucrats concerned in the officers' gallery. A kit comprising masks, gloves and hand sanitiser will be provided to each member of the House, the official said.

SAD, AAP demand Punjab minister's sacking over SC scholarship scam

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 27 AUGUST

Accused scheduled caste and backward classes welfare minister Sadhu Singh Dharamsot said he was willing to face any enquiry and action even if an iota of truth is found in allegations. In a statement, senior SAD leaders Bikram Singh Majithia and Pawan Kumar Tinu said Sadhu Dharamsot had played with the future of Dalit children of the state which could not be tolerated at any cost

on this issue".

The SAD leaders said Dharamsot had been found guilty of disbursing Rs 39 crore received from the centre on account of scholarship for SC students to ineligible private institutions.

They said the report, which has been prepared by principal secretary Kripa Shankar Saroj, also detailed how Rs 24.91 Crore from the same Central fund meant for SC students, was given to private institutions following an illegal re-audit.

Giving details, the SAD leaders said the minister signed files by hand bypassing departmental procedures and even objections by the principal secretary were removed from the file.

The senior bureaucrats had indicted the minister along with a deputy director in the case.

Majithia and Tinu said Rs 39 Crore was distributed to ineligible institutions including one in Muktsar which was barred from being disbursed funds under the SC Scholarship scheme by a court.

The senior bureaucrat has brought it on record that a pick and choose policy was followed and that permission for disbursement of the funds was given by the minister and the deputy director only, they said adding it was also recorded in the report that the minister and the deputy director signed files directly bypassing departmental procedures.

The AAP said Dharamsot was the mastermind in yet another scam of Rs 63.91 crore in the Centre's post-matric scholarship scheme and demanded his immediate dismissal.

Consider arranging travel of students with disability to Delhi for exams: HC to Rly

PTI
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

The Delhi High Court Thursday asked the Ministry of Railways to consider arranging travel for disabled students from distant places to the national capital for the exams to be conducted by Delhi University.

The high court said the ministry also consider the feasibility of issuing confirmed tickets to such students at subsidised rates at least five days before the second round of exams commence on September 14.

A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonian Prasad directed the Ministries of Human Resource Development and Social Justice and Empowerment to collectively approach the Ministry of Railways and request for arranging travel of students in the persons with disability (PWD) category from far off places like Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Eastern UP to Delhi to appear in exams through physical or online mode.

The bench, which issued notice to the Railways Ministry



to streamline the process for PWD students, directed the three ministries to file separate affidavits on the steps taken by them and listed the matter for further hearing on September 1. The court said the PWD and Visually Impaired (VI) students who wish to come to Delhi from remote areas may indicate in exams form to the DU as to whether they want to appear physically or submit papers through email and availscribes.

The court was also informed by DU counsel that results of those students who appeared for online Open Book Examinations (OBE) will be declared at the end of October, if things

go well.

The high court was hearing pleas by law student Prateek Sharma and National Federation of Blind seeking to set up effective mechanisms for VI and PWD students so that educational instructions can be transmitted to them properly and teaching material is provided to them through online mode of teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rungta claimed that DU does not have the data of PWD students and according to his information about 222 confirmed VI students are there who did not sit for online OBE.

examinations, to be held from September 14. Senior advocate SK Rungta, appearing for petitioner National Federation of Blind, said the court may see if the central government or DU can bear the cost of transportation of students and he will provide them food and accommodation.

When the court asked can the benefit of PWD Act be extended to these students to this extent, Rungta said yes it can be done during a disaster.

The court also raised the question of reservation as there is only one train coming from some areas. Rungta said these students are mostly from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Chattisgarh and some are from Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab.

Senior advocate Sachin Dutta, representing the DU, said the figures will show that 90 per cent students in the PWD category have appeared in the online OBE.

Rungta claimed that DU does not have the data of PWD students and according to his information about 222 confirmed VI students are there who did not sit for online OBE.

TIGHTROPE WORK



A labourer working on the exterior of a building while hanging on ropes amid the Covid pandemic, in Chandigarh on Thursday.

PARDEEP SAINI

Ola, Uber drivers threaten strike in Delhi-NCR from 1 Sept

PTI
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Drivers working with mobility platforms Ola and Uber have threatened to go on strike in Delhi-NCR from September 1 in support of their various demands like fare hike and extension of moratorium on repayment of loans.

Around 2 lakh drivers working with cab aggregators will take part in the strike if the government fails to solve our problems, said Kamaljeet Singh Gill, president of Sarvodaya Drivers Association of Delhi.

The cab drivers have demanded extension of moratorium on loan payments to December 31, fare hike, increase in commission by cab aggregators, and withdrawal of e-challans issued against their vehicles for speeding, according to a pamphlet circulated by the drivers.

The drivers have also demanded that cab aggregators raise their fare and commission and share taxes paid by them while travelling between Delhi and National Capital (Region) destinations like Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Gurgaon.

The road tax payment relaxation should also be extended till December 31, he added.

Gill said several letters have been written by the associations to the prime minister, finance minister and road transport minister seeking help but action is yet to be taken.

In such a situation there is no option before the drivers but to stop work from September 1, he said.

No reaction was immediately available from Ola or Uber.

"Our immediate fear is that most cabs have loans against them. The central government's moratorium on EMI payment will

Covid: 108 ambulance a boon to Himachal people

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 27 AUGUST

cent). Out of all the COVID-19 related cases, 70 per cent were of males and 30 percent of females. Much to the relief of pregnant women, the 108 ambulance staff also assisted 533 deliveries during COVID-19 pandemic, maximum of them 149 in Sirmaur district followed by 102 in Shimla district.

The GVK-EMRI was entrusted by the National Health Mission in Himachal to facilitate a Sample Collection Van for COVID-19.

So far the Sample Collection Van, which has a team of trained doctors, has collected 63081 samples for COVID-19 testing from different villages in the state. Maximum sam-

ples (14948) were collected from the biggest Kangra district, followed by Solan (11799) and Mandi (7950).

"We are thankful to the state government, the National Health Mission and Chief Medical Officers for all the help. The GVK-EMRI staff has done good work in the pandemic.

They are apt at handling any emergency," said Mehal Sukumar, head of GVK-EMRI in Himachal Pradesh.

He said because of the Sample Collection Van for COVID-19, the non-emergency cases were not taken to hospital and this avoided unnecessary rush at the hospitals.

HP seeks GST compensation from Centre

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 27 AUGUST

Himachal Pradesh Industries Minister Bikram Singh was participating in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting held in New Delhi today through video conferencing from Shimla

Keeping in view the present situation increase in cess rate and implementing cess on other goods is not appropriate. In this situation, Himachal can take loans only when it does not have the burden of interest and the capacity of taking loan does not get affected," he added.

He provided detailed information about various matters related to Goods and Services Tax in Himachal Pradesh.

Principal Secretary Excise and Taxation JC Sharma, Excise and Taxation Commissioner Rohan Chand Thakur, Special Secretary Arindam Chaudhary and Additional Commissioner GST Rakesh Sharma were also present on the occasion.

Controversial U'khand BJP MLA Champion makes waves again

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, 27 AUGUST

Uttarakhand BJP MLA Kunwar Pranab Singh Champion is back into controversies - and this time for his new video.

The Khanpur legislator, who was re-induced into the BJP after barely 13-month expulsion this week, was seen riding a vehicle in his usual flamboyant manner in his assembly constituency, with one of his aides brandishing a gun, for a change this time, in the moving car.

The video became viral



on social media. It is assumed that the video was shot this week only after the Khanpur MLA was "par-

doned" by the BJP leadership and his six-year expul-

sion was cut short by the ruling party following his "apology" for his earlier controversial conduct.

In the video, Kunwar Pranab Singh Champion is seen riding a car, with garlands around his neck, as he is waving at people.

The clip shows him standing through the sunroof as a Haryana folk song on the legacy of Gujjar is played in the background. A person is seen in the same car with a gun.

The barrel of the gun is clearly seen as it is sticking out of the car window. The video has created fresh embarrassment for the Uttarakhand BJP and the party is all set to summon Champion again.

The Uttarakhand BJP has not issued any statement to the media over this fresh controversy, but unconfirmed sources claim that Champion has been summoned in Dehradun on Friday.

Last year, Champion was expelled from the BJP after his video - in which he is seen dancing while brandishing guns and using foul language against the hill people - became viral on social media.



JP cannot and will not accept Tipu Sultan as a noble ruler

KARNATAKA MLC A H VISHWANATH

ON CONTROVERSY TO REMOVE LESSONS ON THE RULER FROM SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS

India

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT "NOTICE INVITING TENDERS"

Sealed item rate tender are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Ghumarwin Division, HP-PWD, Ghumarwin for the following works from the registered contractors of appropriate class enlisted in HP-PWD, whose registrations stood renewed as per revised instructions and also registered dealers under the Himachal Pradesh, General Sales Tax Act, 1968. The important date of tender are as under:-

Date of application 18/09/2020
Date of sale of tender 19/09/2020

The tender shall be received up to 11:00A.M. on 21/09/2020 and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representative who may like to be present. The tender form can be had from this office against cash payment as shown below (Non-refundable) during the working hours on 26/09/2020.

The Earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Deposit at call/ Time Deposit /Account/ in any of the Post-Office /Nationalized Bank in H.P. duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Ghumarwin Division, HP-PWD, Ghumarwin must accompany with each application. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will simultaneously be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days. The XEN reserve the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Cost of form	Time limit
1	A/R & M/o Kuthera Malagan road Km 0/0 to 1/500 (ii) Balseena Trelu roads Km 0/0 to 2/500 (Sh- Repair of Pot Holes.)	280685/-	5700/-	Rs.350/-	Two Month
2	A/R & M/o Various road under Berthin Sub-Division (Gandir Section) (Sh- Repair of pot holes in (i) Kathun Gujrehra Deotside road Km 0/0 to 2/0 (ii) Kathun Kuthera road Km 0/0 to 3/500(iii) link road to vill Mallari Km 0/0 to 0/870.)	454566/-	10000/-	Rs.350/-	Two Month
3	C/o link road H/Basti Marhana (Sh- C/o CC Pavement at RD 0/050 to 0/250 and 0/300 to 0/350) SCSP	467646/-	9500/-	Rs.350/-	Two Month

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The tender forms will not be issued to those contractors whose performance is not found satisfactory.
- The contractors should have executed two similar type of works 1/3 of each amount put to tender or single work of amount equal to the amount put to tender within last five years.
- The list of similar type of work executed & work done performance certificate issued by the concerned Executive Engineer/GST/EPF No. should be accompanied with application.
- Earnest money should be accompanied with application. Application without earnest money will not be entertained.

2525/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice RE-INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-II, HPPWD Shimla-2 on behalf of Governor of H.P re-invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms. Eligible bidders are the Principal manufacturer or the authorized agency/firm of the Principal Manufacturer. The bidder shall have to fulfil the criteria as specified in Technical Qualification Criteria (TQC) contained in Form 8 page 53 available online in tender document.

No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit	Cost of form
1	Replacement of 1No.elevator in Nurses and girls hostel in block-C at IGMC Shimla.	20,98,000	3900/-	One year	500/-NR

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

Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	02/09/2020	17:00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	02/09/2020	17:30 HRS up to 17.09.2020 17:00 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	02/09/2020	17:30 HRS up to 17.09.2020 17:00 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD And Cost of Tender Document	18/09/2020	up to 11:00 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	18/09/2020	11:30 HRS

4. Tender details:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:

Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information".

Cover2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. Submission of original documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/o Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-II, HPPWD Shimla-2 as specified in Key dates under Sr. No. 3 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. Bid opening details: The bids shall be opened on 18.09.2020 at 11:30 Hrs in the office Executive Engineer Electrical Division No-II, HPPWD Shimla-2 by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders

7. If it happens to be holiday on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue and no separate notice will be given in this regard.

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

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

10. The competent authority on behalf of Governor of H.P reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason.

11. Registration with HP Sales Tax is essential. If the bidder has not registered and found to be the lowest bidder he is supposed to register him on award of work. He shall submit the sales tax paper to the employer, before any payment is made to him.

2530/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Executive Engineer,
Electrical Division No-II
HPPWD Shimla-3

Office of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAISINGHPUR DIVISION H.P. Public Works Department, JAISINGHPUR 176095 Fax: 01894-228031, e.mail: ee-jaipwd-hp@gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Division, HP.PWD, Jaislasinghpur 176095 on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved Contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD, Department.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (RS)	EMD (In Rs.)	Time limit	Form No.	Cost of Bid Documents
1	Construction of Residential Accommodation for in Newly Established HP.PWD Division Jaislasinghpur (SH- C/O Type -IV Quarter = 1 Nos including W.S. & S.I. and septic Tank)	17,90,033/-	34400/-	Eighteen Months	6&8	500/-
2	C/O 4 Nos Class rooms in Govt. Sr. Sec. School Building at Dagoh in Tehsil Jaislasinghpur (HP) (SH- Additional accommodation for construction of 4 Nos. class rooms)	26,89,780/-	47850/-	Two year	6&8	1500/-
3	C/O Health Sub-Centre Building at Balakrupa in Tehsil Jaislasinghpur Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH- C/O Building portion alongwith W.S. & S.I. Rain water Harvesting system and 50 user septic Tank)	18,70,839/-	35600/-	Twelve Months	6&8	500/-
4	Periodical Maintenance of the road for the year 2020-21 from Up-gradation road from Darman to Lambagaon under (PMGSY) (DRRP No. VR 0015) (SH- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bitumen concrete i/c profile correction laying with paver finisher in Km. 22/0 to 23/0 and 23/0 to 24/0)	17,13,126.00	33200/-	One Month	6&8	500/-
5	Periodical Maintenance of the road for the year 2020-21 (Village road) (DRRP No. HP0414VR004019112-114) (SH- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bitumen concrete i/c profile correction laying with paver finisher in Km. 1/0 to 12/0 and 13/0 to 14/0 (Addl.Kms.)	17,72,583.00	34,100/-	One Month	6&8	500/-
6	Periodical Maintenance of the road for the year 2020-21 from Alampur-Dehru-Shakoh-Talwar-Kaluh-Lambagaon-Jaislasinghpur -Dalu Khalta-Harsipattan road under Additional AMP 2020-21 (MDR101) (SH- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bitumen concrete i/c profile correction laying with paver finisher in Km. 4/0 to 5/0, 5/0 to 6/0 and 6/0 to 7/0	24,41,375.00	44200.00	One Month	6&8	500/-
7	Periodical Maintenance of the road for the year 2020-21 from Alampur-Dehru-Shakoh-Talwar-Kaluh-Lambagaon-Jaislasinghpur -Dalu Khalta-Harsipattan road under Additional AMP 2020-21 (MDR101) (SH- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bitumen concrete i/c profile correction laying with paver finisher in Km. 8/0 to 9/0, 9/0 to 10/0 , 10/0 to 11/0 and 11/0 to 12/0	43,78,194.00	73200.00	One Month	6&8	2000/-
8	Periodical Maintenance of the road for the year 2020-21 from Alampur-Dehru-Shakoh-Talwar-Kaluh-Lambagaon-Jaislasinghpur -Dalu Khalta-Harsipattan road under Additional AMP 2020-21 (MDR101) (SH- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bitumen concrete i/c profile correction laying with paver finisher in Km.24/0 to 25/0	8,83,209/-	17700.00	One Month	6&8	350/-
9	Periodical Maintenance of the road for the year 2020-21 from Chhattar to Biara under (PMGSY) road (DRRP No. VR 004512302) (SH- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bitumen concrete i/c profile correction laying with paver finisher in Km. 1/0 to 2/0	7,91,677/-	15900/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
10	Periodical Maintenance of road from Sari to Halon Kalan road under (Village road) (DRRP No. VR 043) (SH- Providing and laying 20mm thick premix carpet with seal coat at Km. 0/0 to 1/0	7,24,104/-	14500/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
11	C/O One room over Existing GF (RMSA Room) at GSSS Kosri (SH- C/o One No Class room at 1st Floor)	5,25,603.00	19000/-	One Month	6&8	350/-

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: - The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htpnders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids , the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD. May obtain the same from the website:- <https://htpnders.gov.in>. Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized Case can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	16/09/2020 10:00AM
2. Document Download Start and End Date	16/09/2020 10:30AM up to 26.09.2020 05:00 PM
3. Bid submission start and end date	16/09/2020 10:30AM up to 26.09.2020 05:00 PM
4. Physical Submission of EMD And Cost of Tender document	28.09.2020 up to 10:30 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening ,Evaluation of technical Bid	28.09.2020 11:00 HRS
6. Date of Financial Bid Opening	05/10/2020 11:30 HRS

4 TENDER DETAILS.

The Tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover.

i) Cover1: Shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility information".

ii) Cover 2: Shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid" where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. Submission of Original Documents: The Bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other technical documents in the o/o Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Jaislasinghpur as specified in Key dates Sr.No.4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bid shall be opened on 28.09.2020 at 11:00 HRS in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jaislasinghpur Division HP PWD Jaislasinghpur HP. By the authorized officer. In their interest the tenderers are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 90 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

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

JP



Religious places need to be reopened and I demanded for it one month back

SHIV SENA LEADER CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE

TALKING ABOUT IMTIYAZ JALEEL'S ULTIMATUM ON OPENING OF RELIGIOUS PLACES

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



Women walk under an umbrella during a monsoon rainfall in Srinagar on Wednesday. AFP

Extortion racket: The police have busted an extortion racket allegedly being run from the Mandoli jail in northeast Delhi and arrested five men, including prison head warden Mandoli jail Rajender Singh, officials said on Thursday. Three mobile phones have been recovered and the police accessed WhatsApp chats between head warden and three accused. PTI

Woman given triple talaq: A woman was given triple talaq by husband Javed allegedly for resisting his attempts to rape her at a village in UP's Muzaffarnagar district, police said on Thursday. A case has been registered against Javed and five family members under the provisions of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 that bans the practice. PTI

40 jail inmates test +ve: Forty inmates who arrived recently at the central jail in Jabalpur, MP, have been quarantined after they tested positive for coronavirus so that they do not come in contact with the 3,000-odd prisoners, an official said on Thursday. All were asymptomatic. PTI

Sushant case: A three-member team of the Narcotics Control Bureau from Delhi arrived in Mumbai on Thursday to probe the drugs aspect in actor Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case. On Tuesday, the ED, probing Rhea Chakraborty in a money laundering case, informed the NCB that their investigation revealed drugs were supplied to Rhea and Sushant. PTI

Covid-19: J&K admin sensitises Muslim religious leaders in drive

JAMMU, 27 AUGUST

Amid the quick multiplication of patients and increasing number of deaths, particularly in Kashmir, due to coronavirus, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday sensitized Muslim religious leaders in the campaign against spread of the pandemic.

Prominent religious preacher Mufti Abdul Rashid Miiftah gave a detailed sermon on Covid-19 in light of Islam and also highlighted the role of Imams, Molanas and Mufti's in controlling the spread of the pandemic.

The AIDS Control Society organised the sensitisation programme for religious leaders under the directions of financial commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department Atal Dulloo. They discussed measures to be taken to avoid the spread of the virus.

The event was organised in Srinagar's Darul-Uloom Bilaliya, Lal Bazar, for the ulamas, mufti's and moulana's of Srinagar. Mufti Qazi Mohammad Imran was present at the event.

Dr Naveed Nazir Shah, Professor and Head, Department of Chest Medicine, Government Medical College, Srinagar, gave detailed information about the pandemic, its impact on human body and how the transmission can be stopped with strict adherence to social distancing and wearing of masks during the gatherings at the religious places.

Meanwhile, Cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba has asked all states and UTs to dedicatedly work on the testing and early hospitalisation of Covid patients. SNS

Revival in Cong needed for strong Opp, says Raut

Sena leader says Rahul is the only leader in Cong with 'unanimous acceptability'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 27 AUGUST

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday said the Congress should revive itself as the country needs a strong Opposition party.

Talking to reporters, Raut who is the executive editor of party mouthpiece 'Saamana', said that Rahul Gandhi is the only leader in the Congress, who has "unanimous acceptability" in the party. "Sonia Gandhi is ageing and I don't see Priyanka Gandhi in full-time politics. There are many senior leaders in the party, due to whom Rahul Gandhi is not being able to work," he said.

"Saamana" has put forth its stand on the issue. As a journalist and editor, I don't see a non-Gandhi leader in the Congress as the party president," he said.

"The country requires a strong opposition party and the Congress has a pan-India identity. The party should recover from the present turmoil and resume work," the Sena MP said. Raut's remarks come in the backdrop of the controversy over the letter written by 23 Congress leaders, to Sonia Gandhi, in which they called for far-reaching

Target BJP with surgical strikes: Sibal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Congress leader Kapil Sibal, a key member of 'Group of 23' that has sought an urgent organisational overhaul, on Thursday said it was "unfortunate" that the party was targeting its own member Jitin Prasada when it needed to target the ruling BJP with "surgical strikes" instead of wasting its energy by targeting its own, Sibal said on Twitter.

Prasada, a former union minister, was also among the signatories to the letter that sought an active and full-time party president among other

reforms within the party, such as having a "full time, active and visible" leadership, devolution of powers to state units and revamping the CWC in line with the party constitution.

The CWC on Monday unanimously urged Sonia Gandhi to stay on as the party chief till a new president is appointed and authorised her to bring about organisational changes to take on the challenges within.

In an editorial in 'Saamana'

changes. He is also a special invitee to the Congress Working Committee, where the 23 letter writers were dissed on Monday on various issues concerning their communication including its timing. "Unfortunate that Jitin Prasada is being officially targeted in UP. Congress needs to target the BJP with surgical strikes instead of wasting its energy by targeting its own," Sibal said on Twitter.

Reacting to it, another Congress leader, Manish Tewari who was also a signatory to the letter, tweeted a single word "Prescent".

On Thursday, the Shiv Sena alleged that the letter written by 23 senior leaders to Sonia Gandhi was a "conspiracy to finish off Rahul Gandhi's leadership,

where were these leaders when the BJP was indulging in "below the belt attacks" on Rahul Gandhi, and after he quit as the Congress president why these leaders did not take up the challenge to revive the party, it asked.

"When people from with-

While Prasada did not make any comment himself, he retweeted the posts of Sibal and Tewari.

The Lakhimpur Kheri Congress passed a resolution demanding action against Prasada, a leader from UP, and has accused his family of being against the Gandhi family.

Jitendra Prasada, the father of Jitin Prasada, had also unsuccessfully contested for the post of Congress president against Sonia Gandhi in the past, the district Congress Committee reportedly said.

Complete disengagement of troops at eastern Ladakh, India tells China

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

noted that "when it comes to finding a solution, this must be predicated on honouring all agreements and understandings. And not attempting to alter the status quo unilaterally".

He said the 18th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) took place last week. During the meeting, the two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange on the existing situation in the India-China border areas.

He said both sides have reaffirmed that they would continue to work towards complete disengagement along the LAC as per the agreements reached between the two foreign ministers and two Special Representatives (SRs). The two sides, the spokesperson noted, have agreed to resolve the outstanding issues in an expedited manner and in accordance with the existing agreements and protocols.

"Both sides also agree that full restoration of peace in the border areas would be essential for the overall development of bilateral relations. The two sides had also agreed to continue their engagements both through diplomatic and military channels," he added.

Jaishankar had further

SC declines permission to hold Muharram processions

NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined permission to hold Muharram processions across the country during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. It asked the petitioner to move before the Allahabad High Court with his plea.

A bench comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian said "Cannot grant general directions...case different from Puri (Rath Yatra) or Jain temples, as they had identified areas of access... it would lead to chaos and targeting of a particular community. It heard the matter through video conferencing.

The apex court said how it can pass a general order for the whole country.

"We cannot pass general orders. It is not possible to give general directions. It will create chaos and a particular community will be targeted for spreading Covid-19," said the apex court.

It added, "We will not pass orders that could risk the health of so many people. You go to the high court."

It also added, "You're asking for vague directions for the whole country for this community. The petitioner cited the orders of the top court in the Rath Yatra at Puri.

The bench replied Puri case was one specific place where the rath had to go from one point to another.

If it was one specific place, we can assess the danger and pass the order", noted the bench.

The bench allowed the petitioner to withdraw the petition with the liberty to approach the high court with the limited prayer of holding a procession in Lucknow.

The apex court was hearing a PIL filed by Shia leader Syed Kalbe Jawad.

To the petitioner's submission of the apex court order giving permission to offer prayers in select Jain temples in Mumbai, the bench replied that it was limited to prayers.

The court also disallowed the petitioner to hold a procession in Lucknow. When the petitioner said that Shias were concentrated in Lucknow and permission be given there, the Supreme Court asked him to approach the Allahabad High Court.

On August 25, the Supreme Court took up a plea seeking permission to carry out Muharram processions in a limited manner in the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic.

SNS

ADB: Need to take a holistic approach to rebuilding economies amid pandemic

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Asakawa said that after the Covid-19 crisis, human mobility would shift in "dramatic ways".

"While many will choose to continue working from home, there are millions who do not have this option. Many of them will be dependent on public modes of transport to go to work or school.

"The pandemic will also widen income disparities and force large numbers of people to fall back into poverty. And we continue to face a situation that is complex, fluid, and uncertain," he said.

"To help developing countries pursue a path to sustainable growth, there are three critical factors that shape our support to the transport sector... 'SDG' which stands for Safety, Data, and Green," Asakawa added.

Further, elaborating on SDG the ADB president called for ensuring safety to rebuild confidence in public transport.

"Safety should be taken into account during the planning, construction, and operational phases, which will provide increased resilience against various risks including accidents, natural disasters, and epidemics. A focus on safety will also accelerate the return of passenger demand and trust in transport systems," he added.

To address this, we must promote a Green Recovery focused on sustainability. One

option is to support a shift to electric vehicles. ADB also sees opportunities to promote walking and cycling in Asian cities, and to improve the efficiency of logistics and supply chains," the ADB president said.

The ADB president said the global pandemic had provided everyone with an opportunity to entirely understand the evolving situation and to make critical long-term plans based on relevant data on the situation.

BLEAK FUTURE



NSUI activists protest outside BJP office in Amritsar on Monday demanding waiver of one semester's fee and postponement of exams in all states in view of Covid-19 pandemic. AFP

Bring perpetrators of Pulwama & Mumbai attacks to justice: India to Pakistan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

India today lashed out at Pakistan for evading its responsibility in bringing to justice the perpetrators of the 2019 Pulwama terror attack as well as those behind the 26/11 Mumbai carnage.

"A chargesheet in the Pulwama terror attack was filed by the National Investigation Agency after a probe of about a year and a half. It has been filed to address the act of terrorism and to bring per-

petrators of the heinous crime to justice. Our aim is not to simply issue statements or notifications," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said at a media briefing.

He was responding to Pakistan rejecting the chargesheet earlier in the day, saying it was designed to divert attention from the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian spokesperson noted that the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) had claimed responsibility for the Pulwama attack and the organi-

sation and its leaders were in Pakistan. "It's regrettable that Masood Azhar, the first accused, continues to find shelter in Pakistan. Enough evidence has been shared with Pakistan but it continues to evade responsibility," he added.

A convoy of vehicles carrying security personnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was attacked by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber at Lethpora in the Pulwama incident on 14 February last year. The attack resulted in the deaths of 40 CRPF personnel.

2,997 fresh cases, 53 deaths added to Bengal tally

KOLKATA, 27 AUGUST

West Bengal today registered 2,997 fresh cases and 53 deaths over the last 24 hours. A total of 1,50,722 people have been detected Covid positive and 3,017 have died due to the infection till now while there are 26,709 active cases in the state.

North 24-Parganas registered the maximum number of cases in the state by recording 673 fresh cases and 10 deaths while Kolkata recorded 571 cases and 16 deaths. With 3,189 patients discharged over the last 24 hours, 1,21,046 patients have recovered till now taking the rate of recovery to 80.28 per cent.

In the last 24 hours, 42,474 people were tested for Covid-19, taking the positivity rate to 8.78 per cent. Currently, the rate of occupancy in Covid beds is 34.69 per cent.

Meanwhile, normal life was affected in the state on Thursday as a complete shutdown was enforced to stem the spread of Covid-19 infections.

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is here by informed that one girl **Name: Savita, D/o Bhuvneshwar R/o Jhuggi No. 37, RPF Line, Daya Basti, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi**. Age: 19 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Grey Suit, Blue Salwar & Black colour Slipper in feet has been missing / kidnapped since 27.01.2020 form the area of PS. Sarai Rohilla.

In this regard a DD No. 38A dated 28.01.2020 has been registered at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO

P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi
Ph. 011-23691106, 23691106
DP/480/N/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one female **Name: Pooja, W/o Rahul, R/o: M-192, Street No. 4, Shastri Nagar, Delhi**, has been missing with her two daughters since 14.08.2020 from the area of P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 55A dated 15.08.2020 has been registered at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped female is as under: Age: 37 years, Sex: Female, Height: 5', Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Red colour salwar-suit and brown colour leather slipper in her feet. (2) Ishika: Age: 13, Sex: Female, (3) Lovely: Age: 6, Sex: Female, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female and her children but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female and her children kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in

E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/474/N/2020

Exam imbroglio

There are strong arguments on either side of the debate that rages on the timing of the Joint Entrance Examination and the National Eligibility and Entrance Test. Those in favour of a deferment including Chief Ministers of important states such as West Bengal, Maharashtra and Odisha argue that the holding of the examinations, which decide admissions to engineering and medical colleges, will endanger public safety and put to inconvenience candidates who will have to travel long distances to reach test centres. It will be impossible to enforce social distancing norms and safety measures needed to conduct the examinations, they say. The Union Government maintains it will go ahead as it is under "constant pressure" from students and their parents who ask how long they can be expected to keep up preparations. Certainly, the task of conducting the examinations is a daunting one as nearly a million students have registered for the JEE (Mains) and more than 1.5 million for NEET. The preparations the Government says it will put in place ~ seating in alternate rows, reduction of candidates per room from 24 to 12 and staggered entry and exit timings for candidates ~ will test resources, and likely result in some flouting of safety norms, inevitable because of the sheer numbers. But the alternative is that academic calendars will be thrown out of kilter and could even lead to the loss of a year. Besides, as many educationists have pointed out, there is no evidence to suggest that a postponement will lead to more propitious circumstances, for the public health emergency is not likely to go away in a few weeks or even months. On the contrary, India's mounting numbers of Covid positive cases and the rate at which they are growing, suggest that things may get worse before they eventually get better.

Of course, while the decision on conducting the examination is within the province of the Union government, its implementation calls for the involvement and cooperation of states. Such involvement may in some cases be half-hearted considering that positions have hardened, and the debate has acquired political overtones. There are more than 600 centres around the country for JEE and nearly 4,000 for NEET and many are facilities under the management of states. Students seem reconciled to the examination dates, and most candidates for the JEE have already downloaded their admit cards.

The argument that many examinees are stranded far away from their centres has been blunted by the fact that a minuscule number have sought changes in examination venues. The Supreme Court has in a limited sense already weighed in on the matter, and unless it does so decisively if a petition is preferred by the states that seek a deferment, the examinations will go ahead. On balance, this may be the best solution to a seemingly intractable problem and if so, it must be accepted by all without reservation.

Crime and Punishment

One of the arguments offered by opponents of the death sentence is that a life term in prison without the possibility of parole is a far harsher punishment to inflict on persons held guilty of the most heinous crimes. The weight of that argument has descended on an Australian white supremacist who has now been sentenced by a court in Christchurch for killing 51 people and causing injury to 40 others in attacks on two mosques in the New Zealand city last year. This is the first time such a harsh punishment has been awarded in the country, but the other significant aspect of the trial for readers in India must be the speed and efficiency with which it was concluded. Pronouncing sentence on 29-year-old Brenton Tarrant, who may have to spend over 50 years in jail reflecting on his crime if the Australian male life expectancy of 82 years is taken into account, Judge Cameron Mander said that a finite term would not be sufficient.

The judge said: "Your crimes, however, are so wicked that even if you are detained until you die it will not exhaust the requirements of punishment and denunciation. As far as I can discern, you are empty of any empathy for your victims." Armed with semi-automatic weapons and assault rifles, Tarrant had attacked the Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch on 15 March 2019 in an incident that shocked the low-crime country and the world. He live-streamed the attacks on Facebook, evidently to impress others who share his views, and to instil fear in those he called invaders.

Neither New Zealand nor Australia have large Muslim communities, but both countries pursue focused immigration policies aimed at drawing professionals from across the world. The Christchurch attack could thus have had two immediate effects ~ one, cast a racist shadow on the two countries and two, served as a rallying point for Islamic extremist groups with the possibility of retaliatory attacks. In the event, the empathy which New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern immediately displayed towards families of victims and the Muslim community was exemplary and offered a lesson to other leaders around the world. That the lesson remains largely unlearned need not detain us here, but certainly the speed with which Tarrant was prosecuted and a sentence handed out to him would reinforce the belief that the rule of law prevails in some parts of the world. While Tarrant has the rest of his life to ponder over his act, and while the example that New Zealand has set may deter others of his ilk, the world is still a long way away from getting rid of prejudice and hate. But an important step has been taken in Christchurch, and civilised people around the world must hope it will be emulated elsewhere.

UAE and Israel

What might have caused this change of thinking, if not of heart, among Arab rulers with regard to Israel? For one, the Arab states, and Saudi Arabia in particular, are possibly beginning to realize that Israel does not threaten them in any manner. The real threat looming in their part of the world is now Iran



The establishment of diplomatic relations by the United Arab Emirates with the Jewish state of Israel must rank as not merely a huge surprise but also an incipient remaking of West Asian politics and possibly the global order as well. The United Arab Emirates opening its embassy in Jerusalem will be looked at, particularly by Islamic countries, as a stunning development. Jerusalem is regarded by Muslims as the third holiest city of Islam after Mecca and Medina. They believe that Prophet Muhammad started from the spot where the Al-Aqsa mosque currently stands in Jerusalem, on his celestial horse Barak to ascend to heaven to meet Allah and return.

A sacred city and also a contested one, officially being recognized as the capital of a Jewish state, and obtaining diplomatic affirmation from another Muslim state is not exactly pleasing news for many faithful ~ lesser would have been the consternation had this mutual recognition of diplomatic status been centered around Tel Aviv, Israel's former capital or any other city. Jerusalem happens to be a holy place for Christians as well; Jesus Christ is believed to have been born in Bethlehem only a few kilometers away. He lived, preached and worked in the area around Jerusalem. The Calvary Hill on which the Son of God is supposed to have been crucified is located in the holy city, along with the Church of Nativity, where he was buried.

While this action of the UAE ~ an amalgamation of seven principalities led by Abu Dhabi ~ has raised eyebrows galore and more questions, it goes without saying that such an action could not have been unilateral; there must be a substantial Islamic consensus behind it. While on the one hand the UAE's West Asian neighbours Iran, Turkey, Syria and Iraq, and on the other China, its sidekick Pakistan and possibly Russia will likely carry antipathy to the UAE's action, it is unlikely the rest of the world would lose much sleep over this. It certainly is a split bigger than even before among the Islamic countries.

What readers might wonder is the reason as well as the implication of this Judeo-Muslim 'entente', so to say. Except for those countries named above, Saudi Arabia, the guardian of Mecca and Medina, is the leader of the Islamic world, and must have cleared the UAE action before it was taken, even if not

overtly so. This also means that this is the beginning of a cataclysm in Islam, which has until now been comparatively a united world community or quanm, until 1924 headed by a religious-cum-temporal head called the Caliph.

There have been changes, about-turns and diplomatic cataclysms before. In 1972, US President Nixon accompanied by the guru of world affairs Henry Kissinger visited Mao Zedong, then the undisputed leader of Communist China. The USA was known to be dead against Communism as well as countries that followed the red ideology. Moreover, Red China was known to be a 'brother' of the Soviet Union, the first communist state as well as the other pole in the Cold War, the first pole being the US. America's Western allies were certainly taken aback; Japan, Taiwan and South Korea being so near the yellow giant were stunned for quite a while.

This AAE-Israel deal evokes the question about the feasibility and desirability of separating politics and statecraft from religion. Islam is one faith which includes every aspect of life, not merely the relationship between humans and the divine. In this light, this latest turn in the Middle East is a cataclysm. Islam and Judaism are theologically similar; the former has borrowed substantially from the latter and yet there has been hatred between the two.

Its political shade exacerbated after Britain declared in 1911 that the Jews would get their holy land in Palestine. Until then, the Jews residing in that country were unwelcome to the Muslims, but not hated to the extent they later began to be.

There have been several wars between the Arab states and Israel after the latter was founded in 1948, with Arabs being worsted each time. The eastern half of Jerusalem was taken away from the Muslims in the war of 1973. Now the whole city is integrated and has been made the capital of Israel. Recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state has been, religiously speaking, possibly the touchiest issue with the Muslim world and Islamic states, but with the UAE now agreeing to open full-fledged diplomatic relations with Israel without making any noise about

Jerusalem, and with barely a whisper from much of the Arab world, it does appear that there are winds of change that transcend political realignment.

The UAE, which is currently ruled by a courageous soldier Prince Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan ~ whom Prime Minister Narendra Modi had invited as the chief guest for India's 68th Republic Day in 2017 ~ has proved his diplomatic vision by striking this deal to normalize relations with Israel. In return, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ~ another close friend of Modi ~ has agreed to suspend plans to annex parts of the West Bank. It also provides an opportunity for Israel and the Palestinians to renew negotiations to end their conflict. Bahrain has welcomed the deal and is expected to be the next Arab state to reach public rapprochement with Israel. Oman and Morocco are interested as well. Not surprisingly,

President Trump of the USA has wholeheartedly welcomed this rapprochement between Israel and the UAE; this deal is a triumph for his Middle East doctrine. It has breathed new life into his "Peace to Prosperity" plan, engineered by his adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner. This also indicates that the Palestinian cause is of little concern to the UAE, and increasingly, other Arab states and is no longer an obstacle to peace between Israel and them.

What might have caused this change of thinking, if not of heart, among Arab rulers with regard to Israel? For one, the Arab states, and Saudi Arabia in particular, are possibly beginning to realize that Israel does not threaten them in any manner. The real threat looming in their part of the world is now Iran, whose apocalyptic visions of another Islamic revolution combined with its messianic drive to acquire nuclear weapons have the propensity of unleashing an Armageddon in West Asia and the rest of the world.

But there are deeper developments at play in the West Asian part of the world that have dictated this slow but discernible change of heart among the Arab countries vis-à-vis Israel. The Arab Spring, which kicked off in 2011 and was instrumental in

bringing down the Hosni Mubarak regime in Egypt, was a limited measure of the slow but definite churn going on in the Islamic world and West Asia in particular. The current Iranian regime is constantly in the news for its defiance of the West over its nuclear programme and links with terrorist groups, but less reported is the fact that for the past over one year, Iran's citizens have been up in arms against their regime.

Significantly, anti-government protesters in the streets of Tehran chant "America is not our enemy". These Iranian demonstrators are said to carefully avoid walking on US and Israeli flags painted on the street outside one university. The reason for these protests is the slow but growing realization among Iranians that their country's medieval regime run by theocratic mullahs threatens to make Iran an international rogue state. A 2012 WIN/Gallup International poll found that 5 per cent of Saudi citizens ~ more than a million people ~ self-identified as "convinced atheists". Approximately 19 per cent of Saudis ~ almost six million people ~ think of themselves as "not a religious person." This phenomenon has visited other Islamic countries with harsh anti-apostasy regimes like Pakistan, Iran and Sudan, which have seen desertions from the faith.

This phenomenon points to a reality we usually do not hear about ~ many young Muslims are suffering from a crisis of faith. It is being abandoned by moderate Muslims, mostly young men and women, ill at ease with growing extremism in their communities. Noted Turkish-American economist and Professor of Economics and Political Science, Timur Kurhan in his book *The Long Divergence: How Islamic Law Held Back the Middle East* (published 2011) summarized the institutional roots of the Middle East's economic stagnation even as the rest of the world and particularly the West raced ahead.

Quite possibly, many in the West Asian part of the world are waking up to the fact that shutting the door on ijtehad (reasoning) and enforcing taqlid (orthodoxy) is now costing them a lot. While it might have been dictated by the circumstances that prevailed when their faith was founded, the 21st and coming centuries of unimaginable scientific advances and technological revolutions leave no space for such exclusivism. Hopefully, this realization might turn out to be a lasting one.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Epidemic of depression, anxiety

Of the coronavirus's many side effects, perhaps the least appreciated are psychological. Those who've had a bad case and survived, like people who've been in war or accidents, may suffer post-traumatic stress for years.

And even people in the as-yet healthy majority are hurting. Young adults, in particular, are getting more depressed and anxious as SARS-CoV-2 uproots whatever budding life plans they'd been nursing.

It's long been clear that COVID-19, like any major disaster, is causing an increase in mental-health disorders and their accompanying evils. Those range from alcoholism and drug addiction to wife beating and child abuse.

In the Americas, the world's most afflicted region with hot spots from the US to Brazil, this psycho-social crisis has become its own epidemic, the World Health Organization's regional branch said this week.

In the US, the national rate of anxiety tripled in the second quarter compared to the same period in 2019 (from 8.1 percent to 25.5 percent), and depression almost quadrupled (from 6.5 percent to 24.3 percent).

In Britain, which has also had a

severe outbreak and a long lockdown, depression has roughly doubled, from 9.7 percent of adults before the pandemic to 19.2 percent in June.

As with everything else about this virus, the suffering isn't spread evenly. As I said in April, COVID-19 hits the poor harder than the rich and minorities worse than whites.

And as I wrote last month, it also derails the careers and lives of some generations ~ specifically, Millennials ~ more than those of others. It's a similar story with the spread of depression and anxiety, which are disproportionately tormenting minorities.

Perhaps more surprisingly, it's also the youngest adults who are suffering the most mental anguish, in the US and the UK and presumably elsewhere too. At first glance, this might seem odd, since young adults, like children, have less risk of major health complications from COVID-19.

But even the young worry about their older relatives. Perhaps more pertinently, older adults had already built their lives before the pandemic ~ with routines, structures, careers and relationships to fall back on. The young had not, and were just embarking on that adventure when COVID-19 struck. And what a mess it has made of all those hopes. Even in good times, adolescents and young adults aren't exactly paragons of emotional stability. Many are unhappy with their own bodies or confused about their professional path, their sexual options and their friendships.

But in 2020 all these bugbears have grown. Schools and universities have been shut and this fall may close again, or enter newfangled student rotations with partial presence, masked distancing and little fun. Summer camps have been canceled, as have many internships and job offers. Concerts and parties are frowned upon or banned. The social lives and job-hunting networks of young adults, for the first time in recent memory, have paused.

IN MEMORIAM

GUHA SAILENDRA NATH — Our sincere homage on your 24th death anniversary. — Dr. Santanu (son), Dr. Sharmila (daughter-in-law), Samayita (grandchild), relatives and friends. B-16, Subodh Park, Kolkata-70, Phone: 033 24103640.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Be more assertive

SIR, I refer to "Does India need a strategic rethink?" China has always followed a Two-India policy by describing Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet, supporting Pakistan on Kashmir and build-

ing roads and dams in the disputed territory. Our government should seriously consider General Harsha Kakar's suggestion that "India should reconsider its One-China policy". With

China's relationships with USA, Australia and Japan in free-fall, it is the right time for India to rework its stand on Taiwan and Tibet if not Xingjian. India should hold off its fear of upsetting China. Recent reports suggest that China and Pakistan

have formed a military alliance. China has supplied Pakistan one frigate and has promised to add three more warships. In the 1950s and 60s, Pakistan was part of military alliances like SEATO and CENTO which are now defunct.

The new alliance will pose a stiff challenge for India as it has to be ready for two-front confrontations. India should realistically accept that the border dispute is unlikely to be resolved anytime soon. As an aspiring and a rising power in Asia, India should be more assertive in its dealings with China.

Yours, etc., HN Ramakrishna Bengaluru, 25 August.

OF HUMILITY

SIR, The article under the caption "The Guru" by Devendra Saksena published in your Now and Again column on 23 August reminded me of a similar incident which happened almost eighty years ago.

In 1938, Kishorilal Jubilee School, Dhaka (now in Bangladesh), was celebrating its golden jubilee. Dr Meghnad Saha, eminent physicist, then with Allahabad University, was invited to preside over the function. Dr Saha, who was an ex-student of the institution, had cleared his entrance examination in 1909.

During the programme, his former teacher Satish Chandra Mukherjee, was introducing the Chief Guest. Dr Saha in response, rose to his feet and proceeded to pay his respects to his former "guru" by bending down to touch his feet in the traditional manner.

The entire elite of Dhaka, including the then Vice Chancellor of Dacca University, Romesh Chandra Majumder, were witness to this event. I came to know of this incident from a report of the school magazine that commemorated the jubilee celebrations. Sadly, such shows of humility are seldom heard of these days.

Yours, etc., Biman Mukherjee, Kolkata, 25 August.



ARCHANA DATTA

Sonu Punjaban @ Geeta Arora's sentencing for twenty-four years, perhaps evoked little or no curiosity. But her name induces instant recognition in the crime world as 'Delhi's flesh trade don'. Slapped with many cases, her present conviction is for kidnapping a 12-year-old schoolgirl from Haryana in 2013, torturing and drugging her, and selling her to different sexagists in Delhi, UP and Haryana. Many Bollywood filmmakers drew story lines from Sonu's crime-filled life.

"Trafficking is the most egregious violation of human rights", declared Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General, at the turn of the new millennium, when the global body adopted a convention against transnational organised crime, and three protocols, one for preventing and punishing trafficking in persons, especially women and children, under the guardianship of the UNODC. So far, 177 countries, including India, have ratified it. Yet in 2016, around 40.3 million were found to be victims of human trafficking – 71 per cent women and girls, and 29 per cent men and boys.

In 2019, a Supreme Court-appointed panel estimated that around 950,000 people, 60 per cent of them women, and about 200,000 children, had been reported missing from 2016 to 2018, and said that it was difficult to ascertain whether someone's disappearance is intentional or unintentional.... It observed that "plausible reasons could be the lure of better living conditions in the face of extreme poverty, illiteracy and lack of opportunities". Nonetheless, the Global Slavery Index, 2018 said that around eight million people lived in modern slavery in India in 2016.

Yet, India abounds in anti-trafficking laws. Apart from the overarching constitutional protection, the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, has long enlisted well over twenty offences related to the trafficking of minors for commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and forced labour and a bouquet of special acts like the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1986 and the Bonded Labour System (Abolition), 1985 also exist.

"Despite the ubiquitous legal shield... trafficking continues unabated... and minor girls remain the worst victims", rued Rishi Kant, Director, Shakti Vahini, a Delhi-based NGO working against trafficking. It rings so true when we listen to the ordeal faced by Manisha (name changed), a fifteen-year-old girl, kidnapped from her village in North 24 Parganas in West Bengal in May 2019, pushed into a trafficker's den in Delhi, traded with many sex buyers, and finally, rescued from a brothel in Silchar in Assam.



Similar was the fate of Rukhsana (name changed), another teenager from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh, who was duped by a local man with the false promise of marriage and left home with him in January this year. She was sexually abused for days together by him, and eventually forced into prostitution. Rukhsana was tracked down from a sex den in Mathura.

Nevertheless, the National Crime Records Bureau's latest available data recorded a total of only 8,132 cases under the IPC, mostly (45.5 per cent) for forced labour and (21.5 per cent) for sexual exploitation in 2016. Amitabh Srivastava, a veteran journalist with experience of working with an anti-trafficking agency, brushed off his figures saying that "they do not reflect the reality and authorities taking solace in them are showing an ostrich-like attitude."

A global NGO's anti-trafficking campaign head in India concurred, saying that "there is definitely (a) gap in data... the official data only reveal reported cases... many cases remain unreported... parents are hesitant or sometimes they are complicit." A lawyer handling trafficking cases stressed that "unless the system of filing the FIR, Charge sheet is digitised, accurate data will not come into the

system."

Both the IPC and ITPA have critical gaps in implementation, lament legal experts and activists. Mr Colin Gonsalvez, a noted lawyer in Delhi and founder of HRLN, contended that "trafficking thrives with police patronage... existing laws vest enormous discretionary power with the police... each state police functions in its own way... unless there is a federal agency like the CBI, laws will not have the desired deterrent effect." Others have deplored that India's innovative labour laws largely remain on the statute books.

However, India earned some brownie points by piloting an exclusive anti-trafficking legislation in 2018, which pushed it up as a 'Tier 2' country in the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons report, 2019, from the earlier 'Tier two Watch list'. Even the 2018 bill earned criticism for "creating a parallel legal framework... by retaining all other existing laws and... following the typical raid-rescue-rehabilitation model."

Dr Ravi Verma, Director, ICRW, Asia, asserted that "since trafficking is a complex socio-economic phenomenon, it requires a well thought out process of social integration for victims, but one should not overlook the other side of it, many victims get

sucked in to it... evolve a coping mechanism... they should not be dehumanised and denied the basic rights for survival."

Crime in India, 2018, reported a 30 per cent rise of sexual harassment incidents in shelter homes for protection of trafficked victims and they mostly come into news for wrong reasons. Nonetheless, Deepshikha Singh, coordinator of a Delhi shelter home managed by Prayas, an NGO, which runs 38 homes across the country, maintained that "it is a big challenge... to help traumatised girls overcome the stigma and learn life skills."

The experiences of Palak and Khushboo (names changed), two former inmates of Prayas, speak volumes about the tortuous journey they had to traverse at a young age. Palak, a tribal girl from a poor illiterate family in West Bengal, was brought to Delhi and her traffickers were her relatives, neighbours and even her teachers. She landed up in domestic servitude with an oppressive employer. While trying to escape, she fell into the trap of sex racketeers and was ultimately rescued at New Delhi Railway station by Prayas' team. Khushboo, a school drop-out from Bangladesh, was lured by a group of friends she befriended while working in a garment factory and assured a job as cosmetics sales-

girl in Dubai. She found herself in Delhi. She was rescued by Delhi Police when trying to run away.

"Palak sustained severe internal and external injuries... received medical attention, got her unpaid dues and her employers were arrested... Palak returned to her family after staying for four months. Khushboo, during her six-month stint at the home, learnt the finer qualities of life like art, theatrics and dance and also professional skills of a beautician... she rejoined her family with the help of the Bangladesh High Commission and the Bangladesh Women's Lawyer's Association (BNWLA)," Ms Singh informed.

She admitted that "families are always not keen to take back the girls, it requires multiple sessions with the child and family and also a follow-up process". A NHRC study corroborated that "a vast majority of re-trafficked survivors (80 per cent), revealed that they have not been able to find any alternative livelihood options... when they returned to their communities."

Now, when the world is ravaged by a raging pandemic, the UNODC's warning that "traffickers are waiting for this opportune moment... likely to prey on vulnerable people" rings an alarm bell. In India, an MHA advisory has alerted states to strengthen anti-trafficking units. A Centre for Science and Environment study has anticipated "an addition of 12 million poor in India as a pandemic fall out."

Rishi Kant of Shakti Vahini also raised concern that "traffickers are on the prowl(as) this extreme calamitous situation is breeding period when they look out for potential targets, befriend them, more so in a lead source state like West Bengal, which suffers from the dual impact of Covid-19 and a devastating cyclone."

No doubt, the malaise is deep-rooted in India with rising rural distress, forced migration, unregulated labour market and gender discrimination and needs a fundamental overhaul, not a cosmetic change.

The world anti-trafficking day passed a few weeks ago. As the UN forewarned, trafficking "an abhorrent practice is still prevalent in all its insidious forms, old and new." Isn't it high time to take a serious call to counter trafficking in a pandemic-whacked world?

The writer is a retired Indian information officer and a media educator.

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The European Association has rendered a service which many people will appreciate by calling attention to the high cost of passages to England, a very severe tax on the resources of Europeans in this country going on leave with their families. It is admitted that the shipping companies have to meet running costs which are far higher than formerly, but it is questioned whether the increased expenses are sufficient to justify the tariff of fares recently announced; and the current prices of shipping shares, appear to the Council of the European Association to indicate that the public are justified in demanding a drastic reduction in the passage rates. The Department of Commerce, to which the appeal was addressed, points out that, whereas last year, when the Government of India were able to obtain a 20 per cent reduction, all shipping was controlled by the Shipping Controller in England. Steamers are being run by the companies on their own account, and the Government of India have no means of securing any reduction of fares. The official reply, however, is not limited to a mere non possumus, for it is intimated that the Government are fully aware of the importance of the matter and "have already asked that representations may be made to the directors of the steamship companies concerned at Home as to the hardship caused by the very great increase in the cost of passages to and from the United Kingdom."

NEWS ITEMS

MUNICIPAL SWEEPERS' STRIKE

The condition of the roads and bylanes in the city consequent on the Municipal sweepers' strike is becoming worse and more and more filthy in some parts. Luckily the rain, although badly wanted elsewhere, is holding off so far as the city is concerned, otherwise the position would be much more serious than it is. Already nasty smells are beginning to emanate in various localities and heaps of rubbish present ugly sights. The Municipal Commissioner maintains that the men downed their brooms in defiance of their legal obligation, and that under the circumstances there can be no discussing terms until they go back to work and begin cleaning up the streets. He set the law in motion against some of the strike leaders, but has now agreed to suspend the prosecutions for two days to enable the men to return.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Governor addressing a gathering at the New High School, Poona, touching upon technical education, said, it has been suggested, and I think the idea is worth consideration, that some educational facilities as well as an extension of the opportunity for technical employment might be afforded through the agency of those great contractors, British and Indian, who carry out contracts for Government in this Presidency. In this way not only would openings be provided for those who have already been trained in engineering and technical matters, but engineering works which are always being carried on under Government might themselves be made to some considerable extent a training school in technical matters. Methods such as these cannot supply the normal avenue of technical education in schools and colleges.

COUNTERFEIT COINS

The local police have arrested an alleged counterfeit coiner in Pukurdia village, within the Kotwali police station. It appears that on receipt of information an inspector, two sub-inspectors and some constables of Kotwali proceeded to the village and in the small hours of the morning of the 21st instant raided the house of the accused, Aswini Sutradhar, and arrested him in the act of manufacturing false coins, viz., counterfeit two-anna and four-anna nickel bits. On a search some lead, 3 moulds, some charcoal, including several finished and unfinished coins were seized. At the time there was another man, named Kuina Dhupi, a neighbour of Aswini, helping the latter in the manufacturing process, but, getting scent of the police he escaped, and is still at large.

MONEY IN BOMBAY

The financial markets are in a state of suspense until the publication of the Paper Currency Amendment Act, and the Coinage Amendment Act, and full discussions on the same in the Imperial Legislative Council. The Money Market generally awaits a Government declaration regarding the Currency and Exchange policy. In the meantime supplies of money with the banks are plentiful, while the Bazaar appears pinched for accommodation. The enquiry for gold bullion continues but there is no absorption of silver. The full result of the Government Loan and Conversions is not yet announced. The security markets are quiet, and there is a fair demand for India Treasury Bills.

SIA's day of reckoning draws close

VEN SREENIVASAN

able vaccine is found and widely deployed.

The International Air Transport Association - citing poor virus containment around the world, depressed business travel and lack of consumer confidence - does not expect air travel to return to pre-Covid-19 levels any time before 2024.

In the meantime, it projects global airlines will collectively lose around \$43 billion this year and a further \$15.8 billion next year.

The SIA group - comprising SIA, SilkAir and Scoot - has around 220 planes, 3,273 pilots and 10,932 cabin crew. The total number of employees at the SIA group is about 28,000.

Pre-pandemic, SIA's planes flew to 136 destinations. During the height of the pandemic in April, these planes flew to 15 destinations, largely to repatriate returning Singaporeans.

Today, almost 150 of its planes are parked at Changi Airport and Alice Springs in Australia. Almost 80 per cent of its pilots and cabin crew are grounded. The airline now flies to just 39 destinations.

By October, even after a slight recovery, it will operate at just 8 per cent of passenger capacity.

The company has managed to make it this far this year because of the Government's generous wage support scheme and a massive fund-raiser it carried out recently. The SIA group has raised \$11 billion via rights issues and secured loans.

It has also tied up additional credit lines, and can raise a further \$6.2 billion in mandatory convertible bonds by July next year. This is the largest amount raised by any Asian carrier group.

This money serves two purposes. First, it provides much-needed liquidity to get through the cash burn during a time when revenue has largely dried up. Second, it enables SIA to be in a strong enough position to be among the leaders when the industry eventually recovers.

Failing on these two fronts means failing its shareholders who stumped up the money for its rights issue and its employees, who are sacrificing so much to help the company get through this crisis.

On the staff side, the company has announced significant wage cuts, offered no-pay leave, arranged temporary redeployment to other industries and rolled out early retirement for pilots and cabin crew.

About 6,000 of its staff are still on no-pay leave, with 1,700 redeployed in external organisations.

Sobia calculates that the company has obtained around \$40 million a month from the Government's Jobs Support Scheme. The Government has just announced an extension of a 50 per cent wage support for the aviation sector until end-March next year.

But the brutal fact is, given the medium-term prognosis for the

industry, this may not be enough.

Global aviation is unlikely to recover to previous levels for the next three years. Even if a vaccine is found, it will take time to be deployed in many markets.

Meanwhile, some travel habits may have changed, especially on the corporate front where technology has shown that a significant portion of business travel can be cut down.

Yes, "travel bubbles" and special "green lanes" will develop and grow. But will they grow fast enough to enable SIA to sustain the scale of resources that it has in place right now? Not likely.

The bottom line is that SIA will have to rescale too.

As Mr Sobia points out, SIA will have to be much smaller than it is now, adding: "It will have to fly smaller aircraft, or a smaller network, with a smaller fleet."

Indeed, a significant number of older and bigger planes like the A-380 and B-777 will have to be mothballed.

The leased A-330s are already returning to Airbus, while the older B777-200s are being retired.

Its fleet will have to comprise the more efficient and newer planes like the B-787 and A-350, while also taking in the narrow-body B-737s from SilkAir next year when the regional carrier is merged into the parent airline.

As for staff, even after all the measures now in place, there will be sur-

plus manpower if the market does not return to pre-Covid-19 levels soon. And the market is unlikely to revert to pre-2020 levels any time soon.

Meanwhile, the Government's wage support scheme will wind down this month.

The Changi Air Hub employs 190,000 people and accounts for 5 per cent of Singapore's gross domestic product. And SIA accounts for half of Changi's traffic.

Being so critical to Singapore's economy, it is no surprise that the Government has thrown so much support behind both.

Scaling down is a very difficult proposition with grave consequences for SIA if not done properly.

Cut back too much and the carrier will be in danger of losing its global premium branding. This is a multiple award-winning and world-beating airline known for its latest and most efficient planes, wonderfully appointed cabins and the best pilots and crew in the world.

Don't do anything, and the group will be in dire financial straits by 2023.

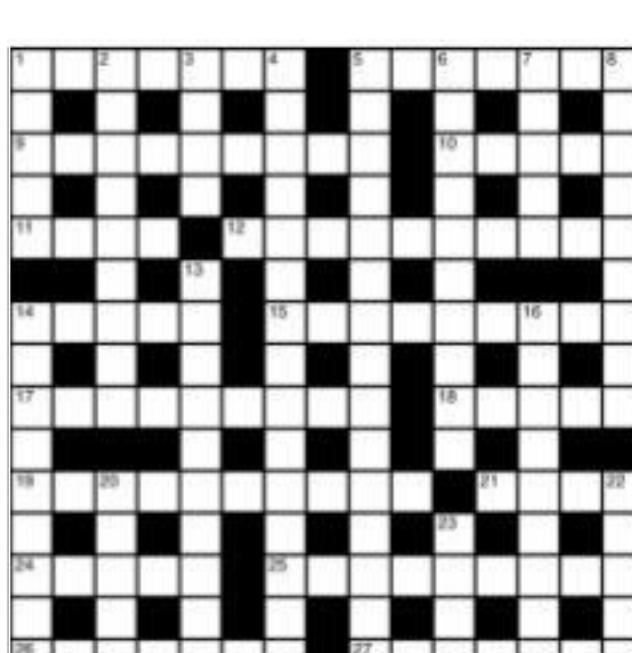
But SIA has to face stark new realities. There is no playbook for this. This black swan event forces painful and unprecedented choices on the airline industry.

SIA's day of reckoning is drawing closer. Hard choices will have to be made, sooner rather than later.

The Straits Times/ANN.

NO 28056

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

AB	SOL	U	TION	D	O	S	H
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NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)

ACROSS

- 1 Asked for money? Crazy (7)
- 5 Is husband following obscure unknown figure, being out-of-date? (7)
- 9 Moved to a prison – having used this in Food? (3-6)
- 10 American in House backing a Midwest city (5)
- 11 Constituent of paneling in Court Department (4)
- 12 They imagine a lot of journalists will accept offer (10)
- 14



Business communities of India and Asean should work to resolve their differences, remove non-tariff barriers

PIYUSH GOYAL
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

CMR rejig plan: CMR Infrastructure Ltd on Thursday unveiled a strategic group restructuring involving demerger of non-airport vertical business as part of efforts to simplify the corporate holding structure. Along with the rejig, the board of CMR Infrastructure Ltd also approved raising up to Rs 5,000 crore through issuance of securities. PTI

Proxy advisors: The Sebi on Thursday extended the timeline for implementation of procedural guidelines for proxy advisors to 1 January. The guidelines issued by the regulator on 3 August, were supposed to come into force from 1 September. Proxy advisors advise shareholders on corporate governance issues and assist them with voting recommendations. PTI

Monster-Nasscom tie-up: Job portal Monster.com on Thursday said it has partnered with Nasscom as its exclusive talent search partner for SMEs. Through this partnership, Monster aims to support over 2,400 SMEs in meeting their talent requirements by offering its cutting-edge hiring solutions, the job portal said. PTI

Infosys pact: Infosys on Thursday said it has signed a five-year deal with cloud customer experience and contact centre solutions provider, Genesys. The partnership with Genesys enables both companies to develop and deploy innovation and best-in-class solutions in the customer experience market, it said. PTI

Smartphone: Mi India on Thursday announced the launch of a new smartphone in budget segment ~ Redmi 9. "The new smartphone brings high value at an affordable price point in line with Redmi's mission of bringing innovation for everyone," the company said. The retail price is Rs 8,999 for 4GB+64GB variant and Rs 9,999 for 4GB+128GB variant, it said. SNS

Extreme risk aversion will be self-defeating: RBI to banks

It would create a situation where the banks will not be able to win their bread, says RBI Governor

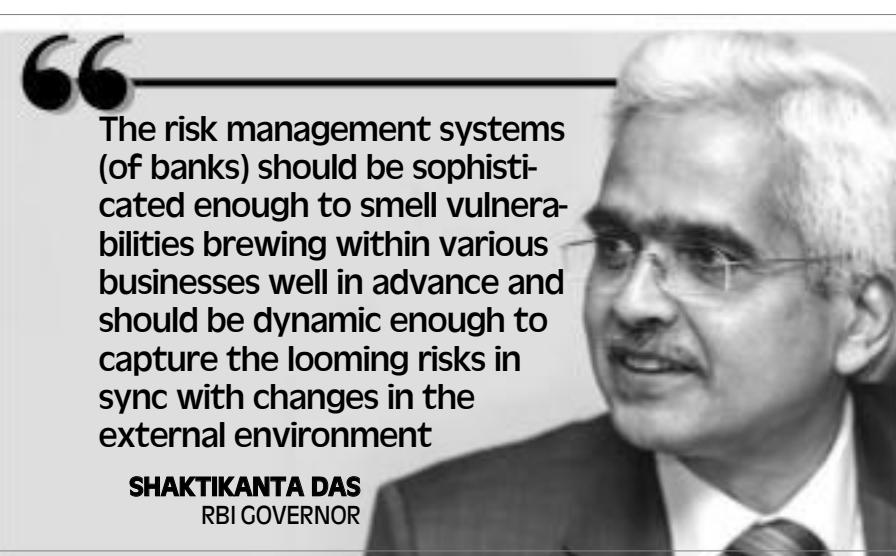
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 27 AUGUST

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das today asked banks to avoid extreme risk aversion, terming it self-defeating, and also advised them to smell vulnerabilities in businesses early to avoid frauds, which have been growing lately. He said the banking system continues to be sound and stable, but acknowledged that the Covid-19 crisis will lead to an erosion of capital for banks.

The remarks, made at a webinar by a financial daily, come at a time when credit growth has slowed down to under 6 per cent, leading many to wonder if the banks have become risk-averse because of concerns over asset quality.

The RBI annual report released earlier this week said frauds doubled to Rs 1.85 lakh crore in FY20.

The risk management systems (of banks) should be sophisticated enough to smell vulnerabilities brewing within various businesses well in advance and should be dynamic enough to capture the looming risks in sync with changes in the external environment



"The risk management systems (of banks) should be sophisticated enough to smell vulnerabilities brewing within various businesses well in advance and should be dynamic enough to capture the looming risks in sync with changes in the external environment"

SHAKTIKANTA DAS
RBI GOVERNOR

advance and should be dynamic enough to capture the looming risks in sync with changes in the external environment, Das said.

One visible area of concern in the arena of risk management is the inability or the ability to manage the incidence of frauds, both cyber related and otherwise, he added.

Das said the higher incidence of frauds which have come to light in recent times have their origins in not so efficient risk management capacity of the concerned banks both at the time of sanctioning the loans and also post-sanction credit monitoring.

Das also trained his guns at the sluggish credit growth, warning banks that extreme risk aversion will be self-defeating which will deprive the banks of their income sources.

It would create a situation where the banks will not be able to win their bread. In other words, it will impact their income also. Extreme risk aversion is certainly not desirable, he said.

The banks have to focus on governance, risk management, quality of decision-making and going forward building resilience, he added.

Das said there will be an impact on banks' capital base because of the impact of the ongoing pandemic, and reiterated his wishes from them of being forthcoming in capital raising.

The current pandemic-related shock is likely to place greater pressures on the balance sheets of banks, leading to erosion of their capital. I am stating the obvious, he said, clarifying that what is more important is how the banks proactively react and respond to this challenge.

Proactive capital raising can ensure credit flow and also boost the confidence of the investors and other stakeholders, Das said.

He said the RBI has asked banks and other financiers to do stress testing. Once any stress point is identified, the lenders have to use available dispensations and the 7 June 2019, circular.

Meanwhile, heads of various public and private sector banks today sought to present a counter narrative on RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das warning lenders about the perils of extreme risk aversion in the

pandemic-stricken environment where credit demand is on the wane. Bankers were of the view that the real problem was not risk aversion but lack of demand, which only the government can help revive.

Soon after the governor spoke, Aditya Puri, MD & CEO of the country's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank, said his bank has booked 20 per cent growth in core interest income in the June quarter, which proves the robust lending at his bank.

"There is no risk aversion but there is prudent banking. If we give money, we expect to get it back. If somebody gives loan now then someone can say later that it was imprudent lending," he said.

Addressing another session at the webinar, Punjab National Bank MD & CEO S Mallikarjuna Rao said: "I can categorically say that there is no risk aversion at all. The real problem is lack of demand".

SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar, who shared the session with Puri, was more nuanced in his view, saying credit growth is a function of demand.

However, the same have gone up to over 6.10 per centately, he acknowledged. He also noted that the RBI's job is to ensure smooth functioning of the markets.

Das reiterated his comments after the policy review on 6 August and listed out the benefits which have accrued because of the rate cuts from the perspective of lowering the cost of borrowing in the economy.

It can be noted that the central bank has reduced rates by 1.15 per cent in two rate cut moves till the surge in inflation to beyond its comfort level prevented it from acting at the last policy meeting.

"We have not exhausted our policy options, whether it relates to rate cuts or any other aspects of central banking. We have not exhausted our instruments or ammunition," he said.

With concerns being raised after the hardening of yields of government securities space.

RBI has not exhausted ammunition to deal with situation: Das

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 27 AUGUST

The Reserve Bank of India has not exhausted its instruments or ammunition, including those related to rate cuts, to deal with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, Governor Shaktikanta Das said today.

He said the bond yields have hardened only in the last fortnight, and used to hover between 5.70 and 5.79 per cent range for the benchmark security during the last few months.

However, the same have gone up to over 6.10 per centately, he acknowledged. He also noted that the RBI's job is to ensure smooth functioning of the markets.

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With concerns being raised after the hardening of yields of government securities space.

HMSI forays into 180-200cc bike segment with Hornet 2.0

PTI & SNS
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) today said it has forayed into 180-200cc bike segment in the country with the launch of all-new model Hornet 2.0, priced at Rs 1.26 lakh (ex-showroom Gurgaon).

The new model comes with all-new 184cc BS-VI powertrain, new platform and features like engine stop-start system, among others.

"It is the beginning of Honda's new era of portfolio expansion catering to a wide range of customers in India," HMSI managing director, president and CEO Atsushi Ogata told reporters.

He said the bike would also be exported to various global markets.

Replying to a query, Ogata said the company would look at introducing various other models in the premium segment during the course of the year.

"The company would look at filling gaps in product portfolio whether it is entry-level or mid-segment or premium or high spec models," HMSI director sales and marketing Yadvinder Singh Guleria added.

On the current market environment, he said demand for two-wheelers is expected to increase with people looking to opt for a personal mode of travel due to the Covid-19 situation.

The company is looking to overcome challenges of production and supply chain in order to cater to demand in the upcoming festive season, he noted.

Guleria said the dispatches of the new model have begun and the units would start arriving at dealerships in the first week of September.

Audi launch: German luxury car maker Audi on Thursday launched its latest SUV ~ Audi RS Q8 ~ in India with price starting at Rs 2.07 crore. The Audi RS Q8 is powered by a turbo 4-litre petrol engine delivering power of 600hp that can accelerate from 0 to 100 kph under four seconds.

Commenting on the launch, Audi India head Balbir Singh Dhillon said: "It's an all-in-one model that is at home in the rough as it is on the racetrack... We are confident that the Audi RS Q8 will have a magnetic pull for luxury sports cars aficionados."

Max group to re-list Max India today

NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Business conglomerate Max group will re-list its arm Max India on bourses for shares trading on Friday, enabling shareholders to unlock value from the growth in emerging senior-care and retirement homes sector.

Max India, which got delisted in June, had recently announced plans to invest Rs 300 crore over the next four years to develop a housing project for senior living in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, as well as in its new assisted-care services business.

"Max India will list and start trading on NSE and BSE on 28 August. The listing will unlock value for shareholders of erstwhile Max India allowing them with pure play access to the sunrise and high-potential senior care sector," a company statement said.

PTI

GIS-enabled land bank system launched to help investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal today launched the national GIS-enabled land bank system, which will help investors to get real-time information about the availability of industrial land and resources.

Launching the system, Goyal expressed confidence that other states/UTs will be onboarded by December 2020, as the project has been launched for six states.

The system is being developed by integrating the industrial information system (IIS) with state GIS (geographic information system).

This is a prototype only and will be developed further with inputs from states to make it an effective and trans-

parent mechanism for land identification as well as procurement. The IIS portal is a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas/clusters across the states.

"More than 3,300 industrial parks across 31 states/UTs covering about 4,75,000 hectare land have been mapped on the system. The information available includes forest, drainage; raw material head maps (agricultural, horticulture, mineral layers); multiple layers of connectivity," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

Goyal also held a virtual meeting with the industry ministers of states, UT administrators and senior officers.

In his address, the minister called upon the states to collectively work in the spir-

Dusit plans more hotels in India

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 27 AUGUST



makes its brands a popular choice for Indian guests and customers, but also an attractive proposition for Indian hotel owners seeking to work with a company that truly understands their needs while linking them with a large pool of engaged customers, the company said.

With India's fast-growing middle class expected to reach 583 million people ~ or 41% of India's projected population ~ by 2025, Dusit also sees huge potential for its upscale and midscale brands in this burgeoning market.

"While Covid-19 has brought immense challenges for tourism and hospitality worldwide, we remain confident that our resilient industry can and will bounce back, and we expect India to be a key player in international and domestic tourism in the brighter days ahead," said Suphajee Suthumpun, Group CEO, Dusit International.

India and Thailand share many similarities in terms of culture and traditions, and Dusit believes this not only

Rupee rises 48 paise, Sensex up for 5th day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 27 AUGUST

The rupee vaulted 48 paise to end at 73.82 against the US dollar today after RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the central bank has not exhausted its ammunition to deal with the pandemic-induced stress.

Sustained foreign fund inflows, positive domestic equities and a weak US dollar further boosted the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 74.30, unchanged from its previous closing, but gained ground during the session.

It finally ended at 73.82 against the greenback, higher by 48 paise over its previous close.

During the day, the local unit touched an intra-day high of 73.81 and a low of 74.36.

Speaking at a webinar, Das also said that rather than becoming averse to lending,

banks have to improve their risk management and governance frameworks, and also build sufficient resilience.

"Extreme risk aversion can be self-defeating, banks will not be able to win their bread," Das said, amid reports of a slowdown in credit growth in the system.

He said the central bank has not exhausted its ammunition, whether on rate cuts or other policy actions, to deal with the current situation due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.17 per cent to 92.84.

"The Indian rupee appreciated against the US dollar this Thursday to a 5-month high supported by continuous portfolio inflows," said Srimathy Iyer, senior research analyst, Reliance Securities.

Iyer further noted that

Rupee vs Dollar



"lack of aggressive RBI's intervention in the market also triggered stop losses and helped the currency to appreciate above 74 levels".

"Indian rupee gained following expectation of dollar inflows and month-end adjustments. The strength in rupee was backed by weaker dollar

against basket of currencies ahead of Fed chair Powell's speech later today. Market is hoping dovish commentary from Powell which favours the risk on sentiment," said Devarsh Vakil, deputy head retail research, HDFC Securities.

Meanwhile, equity benchmarks the Sensex and the Nifty pared most of their intra-day gains to end marginally higher today as monthly derivative contracts expired amid lacklustre global cues.

After touching a high of 39,326.98 points during the session, the BSE Sensex succumbed to selling pressure in the last hour of trade. It finally finished at 39,113.47 points, up 39.55 points or 0.10 per cent.

The NSE Nifty inched up 9.65 points or 0.08 per cent to close at 11,559.25 points.

The Sensex has now gained 893.08 points in five sessions, while the Nifty has climbed 247.05 points.

IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack today, rallying 6.59 per cent, followed by M&M, SBI, HDFC, Axis Bank, Sun Pharma and Maruti.

On the other hand, ONGC, Bajaj Auto, RIL, Kotak Bank, UltraTech Cement and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.47 per



Lebanon is in such a deep political and economic crisis that the country risks collapsing altogether

FRANCE FOREIGN MINISTER JEAN-YVES LE DRIAN
CITING GROWING POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2020

09

Life sentence without parole for NZ gunman

Survivors raised hands and fists in celebration and greeted supporters waving signs with painted hearts and carrying roses outside court building

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CHRISTCHURCH, 27 AUGUST

The white supremacist who slaughtered 51 worshippers at two New Zealand mosques was sentenced on Thursday to life in prison without the possibility of parole, the first time the maximum available sentence has been imposed.

Judge Cameron Mander said the crimes committed by 29-year-old Australian Brenton Harrison Tarrant were so wicked that a lifetime in jail could not begin to atone for them. He said they had caused enormous loss and hurt and stemmed from a warped and malignant ideology.

Your actions were inhuman, Mander said. You deliberately killed a 3-year-old infant by shooting him in the head as he clung to the leg of his father. After the sentence was



Survivors and members of the public react after the judgement and the last day of the sentencing hearing for Australian white supremacist Brenton Tarrant in Christchurch on Thursday. (AP Photo)

announced, survivors of the shootings raised hands and fists in celebration and greeted supporters waving signs with painted hearts and carrying roses outside the court building.

The March 2019 attack star-

ting people praying at the Al Noor and Linwood mosques in Christchurch shocked New Zealand and prompted new laws banning the deadliest types of semi-automatic weapons. They also prompted global changes to social

media protocols after the gunman livestreamed his attack on Facebook.

During the four-day sentencing hearing, 90 survivors and family members recounted the horror of that day and the trauma they continue to feel. One of those who spoke was Temel Atacoglu, who survived being shot nine times during the attack at the Al Noor mosque. Atacoglu said he felt he was skeptical Tarrant had abandoned his ideology, especially considering that the gunman told police after the attacks he wished he'd killed more people.

Mander said Tarrant had shown no empathy toward his victims and remained detached and self-centred.

Finally we can breathe freely, and we feel secure, and my kids feel secure, Atacoglu said. The justice system has locked up this ideology forever.

Tarrant pleaded guilty in March to 51 counts of murder, 40 counts of attempted murder and one count of terrorism, reversing his earlier not guilty pleas. He fired his lawyers and told the judge he didn't wish to speak at his sentencing. A standby lawyer

appointed by the court told the judge that Tarrant did not oppose the maximum sentence. The judge said Tarrant recently told a psychiatrist that he now rejects his extremist views and considers his attacks abhorrent and irrational. But Mander said he was skeptical Tarrant had abandoned his ideology, especially considering that the gunman told police after the attacks he wished he'd killed more people.

Mander said Tarrant had shown no empathy toward his victims and remained detached and self-centred.

Tarrant arrived in New Zealand in 2017, never sought work, and began planning for his attack by stockpiling high-powered weapons and joining shooting clubs, the judge said. It appears that while travelling in Europe you developed deep-seated radical views regarding the

migrant population of some Western countries, the judge said. Tarrant flew a drone over the Al Noor mosque and researched the layout, according to prosecutors. On the day of the attacks, he drove to the mosques with six guns, including two AR-15s.

You committed mass murder, the judge said. You slaughtered unarmed and defenseless people. You maimed, wounded and crippled many others. Your victims include the young and the old, men, women and children.

Dressed in a gray prison tracksuit, Tarrant showed little emotion during his four-day sentencing. He watched the speakers, occasionally giving a small nod or covering his mouth as he laughed at jokes, often made at his expense. He was noticeably thinner than when he was first arrested. He didn't show the brazenness he did at his first

court appearance the day after the attacks, when he made a hand gesture sometimes adopted by white supremacists. The sentencing hearing gave survivors and family members a chance to confront the gunman. As the hearing went on, the speakers became more emboldened and the numbers who signed up to speak swelled.

Some chose to yell at the gunman and give him the finger. Others called him a monster, a coward, a rat. Some sang verses from the Quran or addressed him in Arabic. A few spoke softly to Tarrant, saying they forgave him.

It was very empowering, said Aya Al-Umari, who spoke about the death of her brother, Hussein. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he was sending his love across to New Zealand. He said the world must never see or hear from the gunman again.

Germany, Israel agree continued Iran arms trade ban important

BERLIN, 27 AUGUST

Foreign minister Heiko Maas agreed with his Israeli counterpart Thursday that an effort must be made to extend a weapon embargo on Iran, while stressing Germany still sees the landmark 2015 deal between Tehran and world powers as the best way to prevent the country from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

With a current U.N. arms embargo on Iran due to expire on Oct. 18, Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi told reporters in Berlin an extension was needed to prevent Iran from getting more advanced weapons systems and spreading them around the Middle East.

We would like to see the European countries, not just Germany, preventing it, he said. It's not helpful for the stability of the region. Ashkenazi was in Berlin to attend a two-day meeting of European foreign ministers at the invitation of Germany, which holds the European Union's rotating presidency.

The United States wants a full extension of the embargo on Iran, which would almost certainly be vetoed by Russia and China in the U.N. Security Council, Maas said.

Germany and others are currently trying to find some middle ground that would meet with Russian and Chinese approval and not be vetoed by the U.S. in the Security Council.

We are trying to reach a diplomatic solution so that there will be an arms embargo on Iran in the future, Maas said.

At the same time, he said Germany still sees the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action signed with Iran in 2015, promising the country economic incentives in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program, the best deal to prevent the country from developing an atomic weapon. AP

China fires 'carrier killer' missile in SCS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, 27 AUGUST

For the first time, China has fired its "aircraft-carrier killer" missile into the South China Sea as part of the naval drills being carried out by the military in the disputed region amid aerial reconnaissance by US spy planes.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in the South and East China Seas. Beijing has also made substantial progress in militarising its man-made islands in the past few years, which it says it has the right to defend.

Beijing claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea. But Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims. In the East China Sea, China has territorial disputes with Japan. The South China Sea and the East China Sea are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources. They are also vital to global trade. China launched two missiles, including an "aircraft-carrier killer", into the South China Sea (SCS) on Wednesday morning, a day after US U-2 spy plane entered a no-fly zone during a Chinese live-fire naval drill in the Bohai Sea off its north coast, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Thursday.

One of the missiles, a DF-26B, was launched from the north-western province of Qinghai, while the other, a DF-21D, (aircraft-carrier killer

missile) lifted off from Zhejiang province in the east.

Both were fired into an area between Hainan province and the Paracel Islands, the Post quoted Chinese military sources as saying.

Paracel Islands fall in the disputed part of the South China Sea.

The DF-26 dual-capable missile is a type of weapon banned by the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty signed by the US and Soviet Union towards the end of the Cold War.

When the US withdrew from the treaty last year, it cited China's deployment of such weapons as justification, the report said.

The DF-26 has a range of 4,000 kilometres and can be used in nuclear or conventional strikes against ground and naval targets.

The DF-21 has a range of around 1,800 kilometres, with the state media describing it as the most advanced in the series, and the DF-21D, as the world's first anti-ship ballistic missile.

The missile launch was aimed at improving China's ability to deny other forces access to the South China Sea, the report quoted sources as saying. This is China's response to the potential risks brought by the increasingly frequent incoming US warplanes and military vessels in the South China Sea. China doesn't want the neighbouring countries to misunderstand Beijing's goals, the report said.

Family of Hezbollah member denounces 'injustice'

BEIRUT, 27 AUGUST

The family of a Hezbollah member convicted in the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri described Thursday the guilty verdict handed down by a UN-backed tribunal as a grave injustice.

The comment was the first by relatives of Salim Ayyash, who was found guilty as a co-conspirator in five charges linked to his involvement in the suicide truck bombing that killed Hariri and 21 others in a huge blast 15 years ago. It was released in a statement distributed by Hezbollah.

The Shiite Muslim group has consistently denied involvement in Hariri's killing, calling it a conspiracy against it and has vowed not to hand over any suspects. Ayyash, 56, has been at large and is not likely to serve time.

In its verdict August 18, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon convicted Ayyash and acquitted three others of involvement in the assassination, which sent shock waves through the Middle East. The tribunal's judges also said there was no evidence the leadership of Hezbollah and Syria were involved in the attack.

Ayyash's family, in the statement issued Thursday, said Ayyash, was in Saudi performing a hajj pilgrimage when the crime occurred. PTI

ON DUTY



A US soldier stands in front of a military vehicle patrolling near the city of Al-Malikiyah in the northeastern Syrian Al-Hasakah governorate, near the Turkish border, on Thursday. (AFP)

Pompeo ends Mideast trip with visit to Oman's new sultan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI, 27 AUGUST

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday visited Oman's new sultan, the last stop on a Mideast trip that sought to build on an American-brokered deal to have Israel and the United Arab Emirates normalize relations.

Pompeo's plane landed in Muscat and he traveled to meet Sultan Haitham bin Tariq. There, Pompeo tweeted that the two leaders spoke as part of a political dispute. The GCC's other two members, Kuwait and Oman, have

pompeo already traveled to Israel, Sudan, Bahrain and the UAE on this trip through the Mideast

prosperity through a united Gulf Cooperation Council.

The six-nation GCC has been torn apart by the years-long boycott of council member Qatar by fellow members Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as part of a political dispute.

Sultan Haitham took power in January, following the death of longtime ruler Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who ruled

Oman for 50 years. In the time since, he's focused entirely on overhauling the sultanate's government, though he said he planned to continue Oman's non-interference policy in the region. Oman for years has served as a key interlocutor between Iran and the West.

Pompeo already traveled to Israel, Sudan, Bahrain and the UAE on this trip through the Mideast, one that included him offering a recorded message in Jerusalem supporting President Donald Trump's reelection campaign

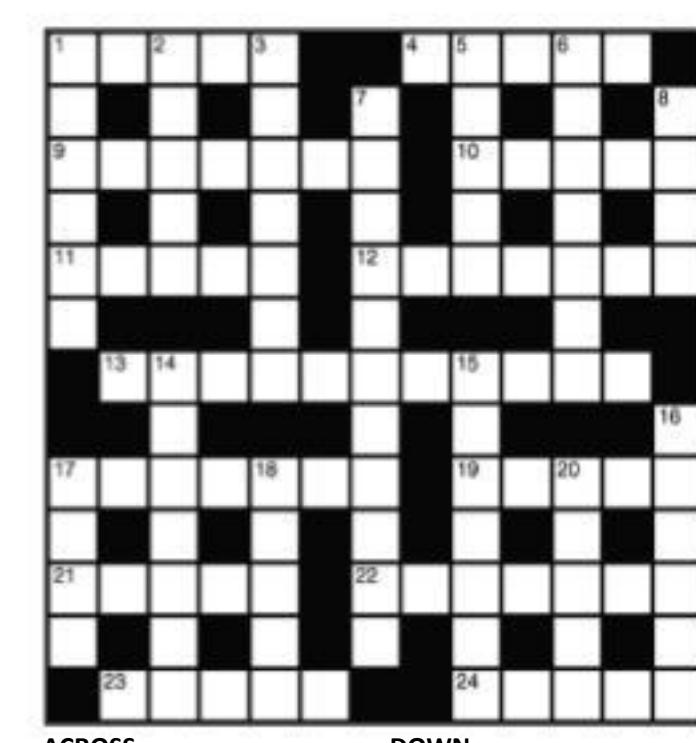
for the Republican National Convention.

That speech cast aside his own advice to American diplomats to be apolitical and bulldozed a long tradition of non-partisanship by previous secretaries of state.

His trip came after a US-brokered deal announced August 13 saw the United Arab Emirates and Israel open diplomatic relations. The diplomatic recognition of Israel may help the Emirates purchase advanced American weapons, such as the F-35 fighter jet.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Group of directors (5)
4 Place in a row (5)
9 Ancient jar (7)
10 Steam bath (5)
11 River mouth feature (5)
12 Inconsistent (7)
13 Vicissitudes (3,3,5)
17 Maybe (7)
19 Distress signal (5)
21 Naughty (5)
22 Ugly sight (7)
23 Bet (5)
24 Small clumps (5)

DOWN
1 Alcoholic drink (6)
2 Dismay (5)
3 Miniature three-dimensional scene (7)
5 Defeated competitor (5)
6 Greedy person (7)
7 Vendor of sewing items (11)
8 Soft mineral (4)
14 Assured identity (7)
15 Eccentric (7)
16 Short-sided rugby (6)
17 Time signal (Informal) (4)
18 Make confused (5)
20 Supercilious (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Sir, 12 Hard-hearted, 16 Parlous, 18 Flavour, 20 Pricier, 21 Vulpine, 22 Ape, 23 Mud.
DOWN
1 Safari, 2 Realm, 3 Knuckle, 4 Tie-in, 5 Potted, 6 Progressive, 7 Urge, 14 Result, 15 Legend, 16 Ho, 17 Over, 19 Odium.

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

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

• AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
• Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 4200000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447

• Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 2692400, 26924304

• Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre, 29051280, 29958747

• Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403

• Guru Tegh Bahadur 2717473, 23235230

PAR SCORE 65-75 by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

RACK 1 = 16 RACK 2 = 12 RACK 3 = 12 RACK 4 = 45 JUDD'S TOTAL = 50

RACK 5 = 50 PAR SCORE 50-60 by JUDD

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Instructions Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the rack. Add points of each word, using scoring table. Double word score for words of seven or more letters. Letters in the rack can be used as any letter. All double letters are double points. All triple letters are triple points. All words must be in the Official Scrabble Dictionary (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary).

Official Scrabble Dictionary © 2013 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

JUDD'S TOTAL = 50

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Official Scrabble Dictionary © 20



Lukashenko has Russia asked to prepare a law enforcement contingent to deploy to Belarus if necessary.

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

ASSERTING THAT RUSSIA IS READY TO OFFER SECURITY HELP TO BELARUS

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C H
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C H
TOKYO	18°C	12°C CL
LONDON	17°C	9°C S
DUBAI	30°C	25°C S
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C C H
NEW YORK	10°C	07°C C S
MOSCOW	16°C	09°C H

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

THUMBNAILS



A man wearing a face mask walks in central Moscow on Thursday. AP

Pak Taliban leader killed: A top commander of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was shot dead on Thursday by security forces in northwest Pakistan. Abu Bakr alias Hamza associated with Asmat Shaeen Bhittani group of the TTP was killed in an exchange of firing in restive Waziristan tribal district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. PTI

Liberal Dems elect Davey: Britain's Liberal Democrats announced former Cabinet minister Ed Davey as the party's new leader, in hopes that he could turn its fortunes around after a series of poor poll results. Davey, the left-of-center party's acting leader, said that he wanted to rebuild the party to national relevance. AP

Karachi rains claim 18 lives: Heavy rainfall has played havoc in Karachi, inundating main roads, paralysing business activities and leaving at least 18 people dead since Tuesday when the monsoon showers first lashed Pakistan's financial hub. The met office said the rainfall in the month of August had broken a 90-year-old record. AP

Pence calls Biden Trojan horse for radical left

Charges Biden is a cheerleader for communist China and wants to repeal all the tariffs that are levelling the playing field for American workers



President Donald Trump attends Mike Pence's acceptance speech for the vice presidential nomination during the Republican National Convention at Fort McHenry National Monument on 26 August, 2020 in Baltimore. AFP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 27 AUGUST

Seeking re-election, US Vice President Mike Pence has launched a frontal attack against Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, saying he has been a "cheerleader" for communist China and would be nothing more than a "Trojan horse" for a radical left.

Pence, 61, formally accepted the Republican Party's vice-presidential nomination on the third night of the National Republican Convention on Wednesday as a crowd in Baltimore, Maryland, cheered, "Four more years."

The choice is clear to bring America all the way back, we need four more years of President Trump in the White House, Pence said in his acceptance speech.

In his address, Pence tore apart each and every policy of Biden, who has nearly five decades of public life including decades as US Senator and

tance speech. Biden would double down on the very policies that are leading to unsafe streets and violence in America's cities, he said.

"The hard truth is... you won't be safe in Joe Biden's America," the vice president warned the voters. Joe Biden has been a cheerleader for communist China and wants to repeal all the tariffs that are levelling the playing field for American workers and actually criticised President Trump for suspending all travel from China at the outset of this pandemic, Pence said.

President Donald Trump along with the First Lady Melania made a surprise attendance at the event.

In his address, Pence tore apart each and every policy of Biden, who has nearly five decades of public life including decades as US Senator and

Dissident freed under Obama: Trump 'courage' can stop China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK, 27 AUGUST

The Communist Party of China is an "enemy" of humanity and is terrorising its own people, a blind Chinese human rights activist has said, urging other countries to join US President Donald Trump to stop China's "aggression".

Standing up to tyranny is not easy. I know. When I spoke out against China's one child' policy and other injustices, I was persecuted, beaten and sent to prison and put under house arrest by the Chinese Communist Party, Chen Guangcheng said in his address to the Republican

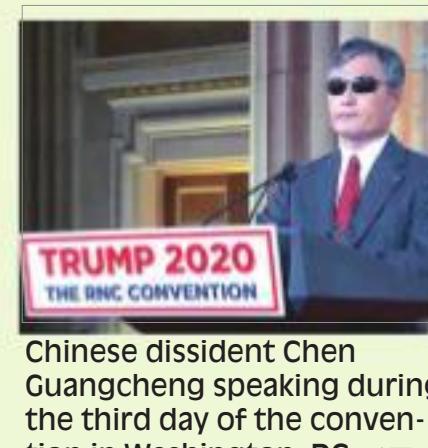
eight years as vice president of the United States.

He said if voters want a president who falls silent when our heritage is demeaned or insulted, Pence said, then Trump is not your man.

When you consider their agenda it's clear: Joe Biden would be nothing more than a Trojan horse for a radical left.

The choice is clear to bring America all the way back, we need four more years of President Trump in the White House, Pence said in his acceptance speech.

In his address, Pence tore apart each and every policy of Biden, who has nearly five decades of public life including decades as US Senator and



Chinese dissident Chen Guangcheng speaking during the third day of the convention in Washington, DC. AFP

National Convention on Wednesday. Chen, who was brought to the United States by the Obama administration 2012, said the Chinese Communist Party is an "enemy of humanity. It is terrorising its own people. And it is

threatening the well being of the world, he said adding that in China, expressing beliefs or ideas not approved by the CCP religion, democracy, human rights can lead to prison and the nation lives under mass surveillance and censorship.

He said the US must use its values of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law to "gather a coalition of other democracies to stop China's aggression."

President Trump has led on this and we need the other countries to join him in this fight. A fight for our future, Chen, who is blind since childhood and is self-taught in law, said.

embassy to Jerusalem, setting the stage for the first Arab country to recognise Israel in 26 years, he said.

Last year, American armed forces took the last inch of IS territory, crushed their caliphate and took down their leader without one American casualty, he added.

Earlier this year, I was there when President Trump gave the order to take out the world's most dangerous terrorist. Iran's top general will never harm another American again because Qassem Soleimani is gone, he said.

Harris to counter President Trump's convention speech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 27 AUGUST

Democratic Party's Indian-origin vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris will deliver a speech on Thursday to counter President Donald Trump's remarks at the Republican National Convention after formally accepting the party's presidential re-nomination.

Harris will speak on President Trump's failures to contain Covid and protect working families from the economic fallout and the Biden-Harris plan to contain Covid and build a different path forward in America. The Hill quoted a press release from the Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden's campaign as saying.

While Trump is planning to give his speech from the South Lawn of the White House lawn, Harris's remarks from Washington D.C. will serve as the Democratic Party's main counter to his appearance, the report said.

Biden and Harris both railed against Trump's leadership at last week's Democratic National Convention.

Donald Trump's failure of leadership has cost lives and livelihoods, Harris, 55, the first Indian-American and first Black woman to be chosen as a vice-presidential candidate for a major politi-

cal party in the US, said last week.

The Biden campaign is ramping up Harris' activities following what was a largely well-received address last week, scheduling her for three virtual fundraisers, online discussions and publishing an op-ed discussing women's right to vote, the daily said.

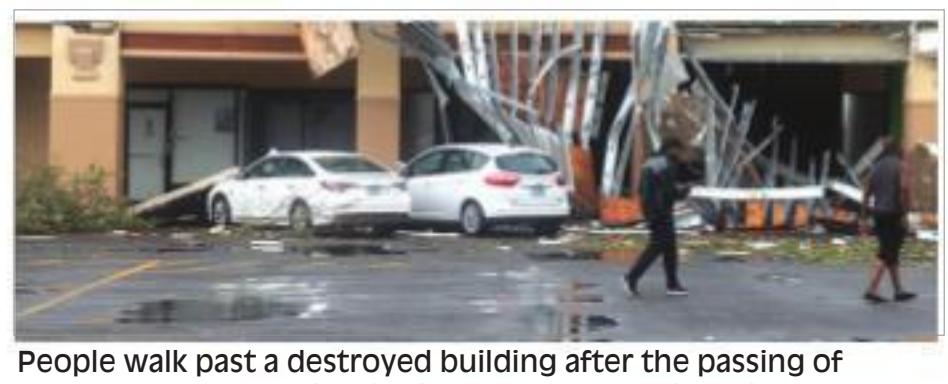
Democrats are hopeful that Harris will be able to successfully make the case against a second term for Trump while also appealing to Black women and other voters.

Meanwhile, in a Washington Post op-ed on the occasion of Women's Equality Day, she detailed the history of women's struggle to gain voting rights, especially women of colour, who were not granted suffrage even with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

Harris alleged that the Republicans are once again doing everything in their power to suppress and attack the voting rights of people of colour. They are deploying suppressive voter ID laws, racial gerrymandering, voter roll purges, precinct closures and reduced early-voting days - all of which have been laser-targeted toward communities of colour since the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in 2013, she alleged.

Dangerous hurricane Laura makes landfall in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOUSTON, 27 AUGUST



People walk past a destroyed building after the passing of Hurricane Laura in Lake Charles, Louisiana on Thursday. AFP

Hurricane Laura made landfall in southwestern Louisiana early Thursday after strengthening into an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 classification, with the US authorities warning of potentially catastrophic impacts.

The National Hurricane Center said that Laura, packing 240 km per hour sustained winds, brought a "catastrophic storm surge, extreme winds and flash flooding" to the state. It intensified rapidly into a Category 4 hurricane as it barreled toward the

Louisiana and Texas coasts and was on the verge of becoming a Category 5, the most powerful classification, when it hit land. Forecasters said even stronger winds were possible that could rip apart buildings, level trees and toss vehicles like toys. Destructive storm surge and damaging winds will affect areas near the site of landfall. Hurricane Laura is also an inland flood risk as far north and east as Arkansas and the Ohio and Tennessee valleys. Isolated tornadoes are also expected from Laura.

"As of right now, it looks

like Houston will be spared from the major impacts and power outages.

It could experience gusty, possibly tropical storm force, winds and stormy weather at times from the rainbands. Our eastern cities including Winnie, Liberty and Livingston could still experience damaging winds, according to the National Hurricane Center advisory.

In Texas, around 4,00,000 people in coastal areas of Galveston, Beaumont and Port Arthur have been placed under mandatory evacuation orders. Texas Governor

Greg Abbott told reporters on Wednesday that those in Laura's path should leave if they haven't already done so.

"The power of hurricane Laura is unprecedented and Texans must take action now to get out of harm's way and protect themselves," Abbott said. "The State of Texas is prepared to respond to the storm, and we are working alongside federal and local officials to keep Texans safe."

The mayor of Lake Charles said he suspects the pandemic and economic hardship are leading many people to take pause. Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards said in a news conference, "The storm surge flooding is starting now in Louisiana, well ahead of the storm. It will just get worse over the next day or so." Laura's storm surge is expected to reach levels not seen in Louisiana since Hurricane Audrey in 1957, he said.

Two people were killed Tuesday night and a third was wounded in an attack apparently carried out by a young white man who was caught on cellphone video opening fire in the middle of the street with a semi-automatic rifle. I just killed somebody, the gunman could be heard saying at one point during the rampage that erupted just before midnight.

In the wake of the killings, Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers authorized the sending of 500 members of the National Guard to Kenosha, doubling the number of troops.

The governor's office said he is working with other states to bring in additional National Guard members and law officers.

Authorities also announced a 7 pm curfew, an hour earlier than the night before. As senseless tragedy like this cannot happen again, the governor, a Democrat, said in a statement. I again ask those who choose to exercise their First Amendment rights please do so peacefully and safely, as so many did last night. I also ask the individuals who are not there to exercise those rights to please stay home and let local first responders, law enforcement and members of the Wisconsin National Guard do their jobs.

In Washington, the Justice Department said it is sending the FBI and federal marshals in response to the unrest. The dead were identified only as a 26-year-old Silver Lake, Wisconsin, resident and a 36-year-old from Kenosha. The wounded person, a 36-year-old from West Allis, Wisconsin, was expected to survive, police said.

We were all chanting 'Black lives matter' at the gas station and then we heard, boom, boom, and I told my friend,

"That's not fireworks," 19-year-old protester Devin Scott told the Chicago Tribune.

And then this guy with this huge gun runs by us in the middle of the street and people are yelling, 'He shot someone!' And everyone is trying to fight the guy, chasing him and then he started shooting again. Scott said he cradled a lifeless victim in his arms, and a woman started performing CPR, but I don't think he made it.

17-yr-old held after two killed in Kenosha unrest

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KENOSHA, 27 AUGUST



Demonstrators revisit the site where a man was killed on Thursday in Kenosha. AP

Games stop again; this time NBA players decide when they resume

LAKE BUENA VISTA, 27 AUGUST

NBA players didn't come to Disney solely for a restart. They wanted social reform.

The Milwaukee Bucks showed how far they're willing to go to get it by opting not to play in their playoff game Wednesday. Two more games were postponed later in the day, the second time this season NBA basketball came to an immediate halt.

Other sports followed, just as they did in March when the season was suspended four months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

This time, the players will decide how long the stoppage lasts.

"The biggest thing that we all understand is if we're not playing, what are we doing? What are we doing to show and to help what's going on outside this bubble?" Boston Celtics forward Grant Williams said, shortly before the Bucks were scheduled to tip off their game against the Orlando Magic.

Instead, the Bucks players remained in the locker room, finally emerging hours later to read a statement demanding action from lawmakers and encouraging voting by citizens.

They changed the narrative across the entire sports landscape, putting the focus squarely on social justice reform in protest of the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin, while three of his children in his car looked on.

Europe is going back to school despite recent virus surge

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, 27 AUGUST

lockdowns and to get their parents back to work.

Facing a jump in virus cases, authorities in France, Britain, Spain and elsewhere are imposing mask rules, hiring extra teachers and building new desks en masse.

While the U.S. back-to-school saga has been politicized and chaotic, with a hodgepodge of fast-changing rules and backlash against President Donald Trump's insistence on reopening, European governments have faced less of an uproar.

And even though the virus has invaded classrooms in

recent days from Berlin to Seoul, and some teachers and parents warn that their schools aren't ready, European leaders from the political left, right and center are sending an unusually consistent message: Even in a pandemic, children are better off in class.

France's prime minister promised Wednesday to do everything to get people back to school and work. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson called reopening schools a moral duty, and his government even threatened to fine parents who keep kids at home.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED CIRCLE, BHILWARA

Pur Road, Bhilwara, Ph. No.: 01482-240641. E-mail: se.phed.bh@gmail.com

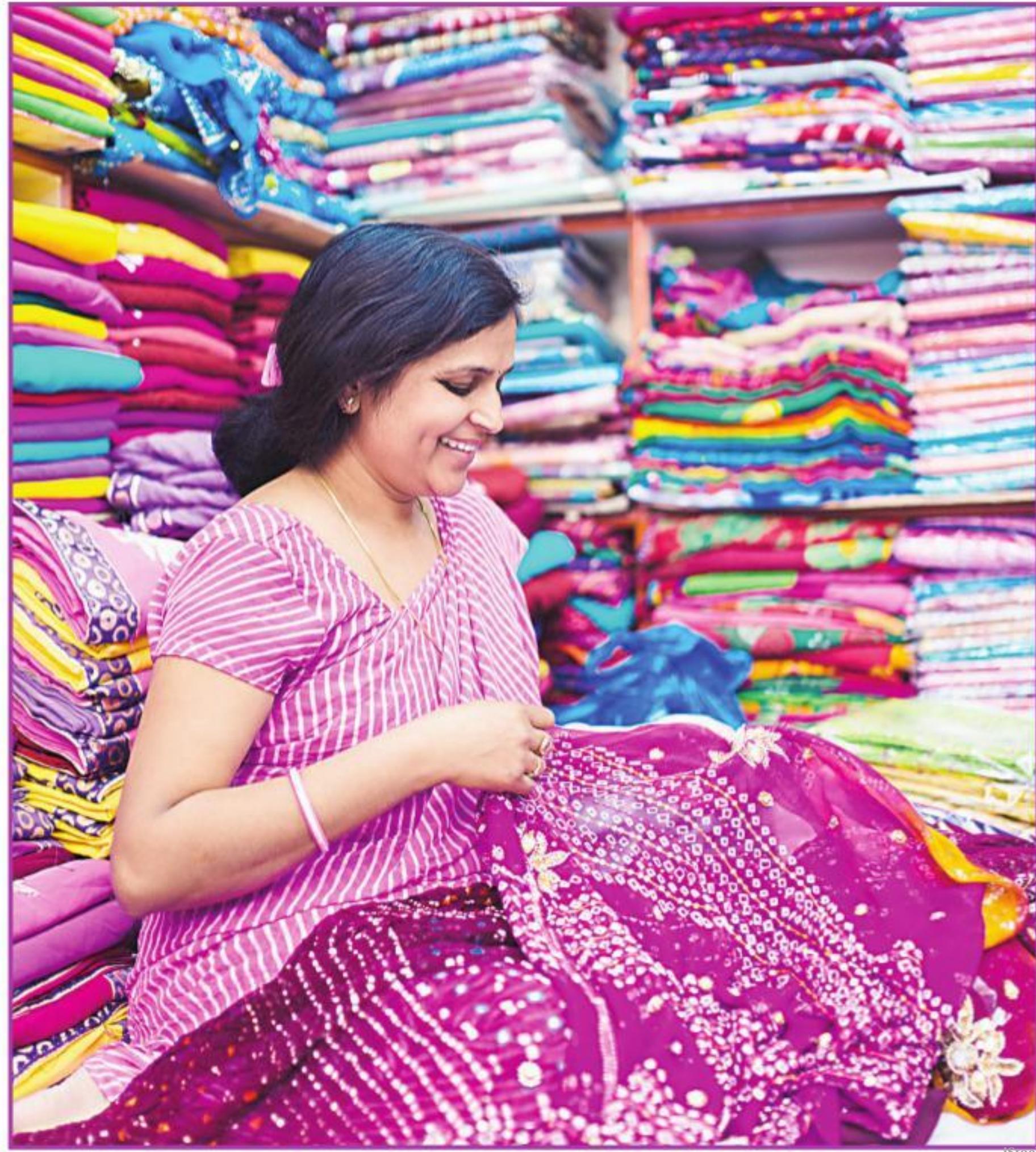
No. SE/BHILAr.BHL/2020-21/2125 Dated: 21-07-2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS

Online tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the following works from contractors enlisted in appropriate class with the PHED Rajasthan and meeting eligibility criteria. Contractors enlisted with other departments of Govt. of Rajasthan, enlisted with CPWD / Postal, Telecom, Railways, MES, other State Govt. / Central Govt. Undertaking / organizations equivalent to "AA" or "A" class of Rajasthan meeting eligibility criteria may also apply after giving prescribed Earnest Money. The tender documents can be downloaded from website: <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. The details of this tender notification including the eligibility criteria can be seen on the website: www.diproline.org & www.sppr.rajasthan.gov.in. Tenders are to be submitted online on website: <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>

GENERAL DETAIL OF WORKS:

<



LEO SHASTRI

As the world grapples with Corona with a scramble for suitable drugs, devices, protective equipment and not least discovering a vaccine, India has turned this necessity into a virtue. The government's unveiling of a stimulus package is a step towards attaining self-reliance while battling the pandemic. However, unless women, constituting about half of us are made an integral part of this self-reliance script, Atmanirbhav Bharat will remain a dream.

The persisting unfair deal for the fair sex

economy/employment: Even as

economy has long opened up with 'animal spirits' having been given free rein, whether it has translated into really freeing or emancipating women has remained a big question. Leave aside socio-cultural prejudices and stereotypes, economically speaking, women have barely come to match the levels of workforce participation and benefits as against their male counterparts. Though the gender gap has narrowed in terms of education, the employment gap has only widened. In rural India, due to shrinking of agriculture sector, women's participation is declining too. As a whole, the proportion of women joining the workforce has dropped.

Gender pay-gap the big inhibitor

Putting money in the hands of women is a morale-booster. Money gives them the autonomy of economic decision-making and purchasing power. Given that women are drivers of 70 per cent of consumer purchase decisions, it has a cascading effect on the larger economy. Yet, the pay-gap has continued. Lamentably, the gap only gets accentuated as one rises up the skill set and experience ladder. This disparity prevailed even in women-centric sectors such as healthcare and social work. In rural areas, in an estimate, a male salaried employee earned nearly 1.4 to 1.7 times a female salaried employee.

THE GENDER-EQUITY ROADMAP TOWARDS ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

First, improving domestic production while sharply raising exports is the assured road to self-reliance. Involving women as essential participants in creating local supply chains to reduce dependence on regular and strategic sector imports would infuse that element of gender equity.

Second, given that education serves as the ultimate stepping stone to empowerment, a renewed push to women's access to high quality education must be given. An extensive awareness campaign on high responsibility white-collar career choices must be mounted in our universities and educational institutions. Given the role of tech-

nology, making available of digital tools and familiarising girl children with them from early age would prepare a technology-proficient women workforce.

Third, fostering women entrepreneurship is another way forward. As entrepreneurship propels domestic economy adding internal value addition, it sets the stage for broader economic self-reliance.

Fourth, e-commerce must be given a fresh thrust with its inherent advantages of flexibility of working hours, reduced operating costs, involvement of less physicality and above all, safety and convenience for women.

Fifth, in rural areas, agriculture has increasingly given way to non-farming activities such as food-processing, light-manufacturing, textiles and cottage industry. Additionally, with upgrading of health and education infrastructure and services, women's roles would become crucial in shaping this rural self-reliance which in turn would add to national self-reliance. As Corona necessitates massive upgrading of healthcare-related manufacturing and services, more women must be educated and trained to become high-skilled doctors and professionals and not remain limited to nursing and low-skilled activities.

Sixth, although, socio-demographic indicators such as literacy, gross enrolment ratio, total fertility rate and maternal mortality rate are improving, more needs to be done with a sustained focus.

Seventh, the quality of women's working conditions must be so elevated that safety and hygiene become time/working hour and location-agnostic completely.

The writer is director, Operations & Strategy, Usha Exim Private Limited

With the advent of new technologies, it is crucial for educators to make significant alterations that help further society

CHANGING FACE OF TEACHING

SUNITA GANDHI

Change is the only constant in the world. This literally stands true for an activity as dynamic as knowledge. If teachers taught their students as they were taught, chances are we would be moving backward instead of forward. It is crucial for the educators to make significant changes that help further the society.

Children of 21st-century have talents mixed with capabilities and attitude in order to prevail in the data-driven age. These incorporate learning, education, and fundamental abilities such as cognitive thinking, teamwork, interaction, adaptability, activity, leadership, and specialised proficiency.

Inquiry-based teaching is a methodology that definitely resonates with the way learning has turned out to be in this ever-developing world. Unlike traditional form of teaching, which required students to memorise the textbooks, this is firmly associated with how young minds gradually learn.

The conventional way to teach was restricted in its methodology and viability in building skills and capabilities in children, essentially because it was only focused on facts. Hence, teachers were only supposed to pass the facts from them to their students and what mattered was who had the "right answer". In an inquiry-based model, the emphasis is on the student and their communication with their fellow classmates, adults in the family, nature, and the general setting of teaching. The instructor is a facilitator who offers ways, which intrigue students to ask, embrace new

activities, and discover answers and arrangements dependent on information and their own experimentation. As a response, how has providing education changed?

Digital Influx

The digitisation of the classroom across the globe has brought about a change in the pattern. Students now have better accessibility to study material. Digital devices make complex technique extremely straightforward for students, which was prior hard to comprehend from primary study material. It has reformed the e-learning projects or distance learning programmes, consequently giving a superior way of learning.

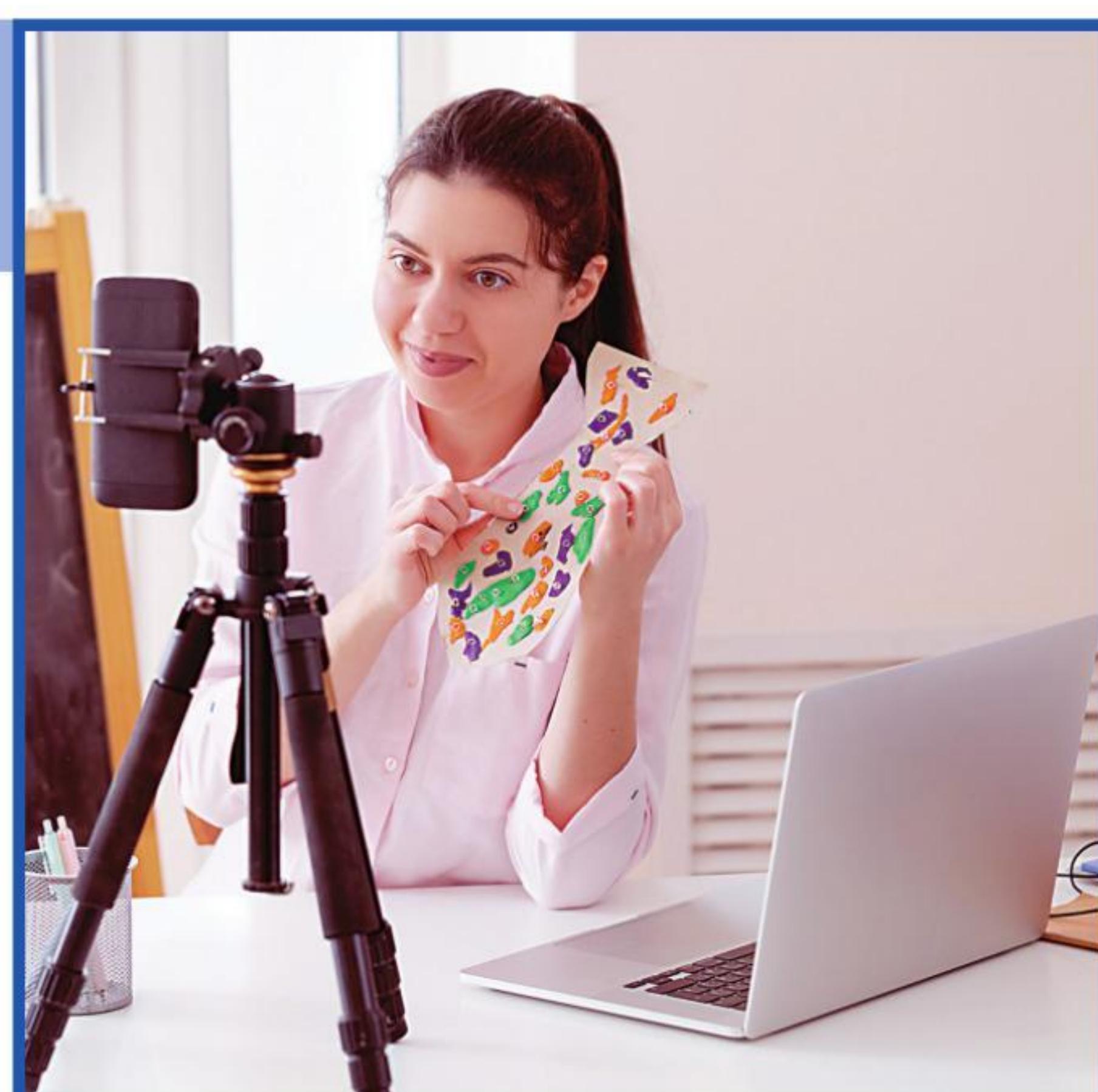
Interactive learning

Innovative applications have encouraged a move in the method of guidance from one approach to two-way and multi-way learning. Today tech-based learning modules are preparing for changing interest of students. More educators and students are taking part in online courses, live online study sessions, as and when they can. This has led to popularity of shared form of learning for school or competitive exams. This is empowering the development of student and teacher study.

Technology

Issues such as access to internet, geographical or language barriers, and/or cultural differences are no longer ignored issues. Rather, they have become important in preparing curriculum, instruction framework, and community participation.

With the ascent of advanced learning, teachers and students have



started incorporating the idea of collaborative learning. This has led to the rise of different EdTech software and applications wherein online courses are offered in a joint effort with private/public funding as well as industry players to assist students to stay relevant. Its simple availability across boundaries and feasibility has additionally broadened its range.

Professionalism

Further, teaching has gotten more professional than before. Rising expectations of students imply that educators have increased obligation for their students' scholastic achievement, yet additionally for their own advancement as teachers. Becoming

a certified teacher presently requires more specific work than before. These increased expectations are somewhat a reaction to the complexities presented by rapid utilisation of technology in educational institutions.

Collaborative classrooms

Instructors, just as students, also utilise web-based life skills to find different ways of initiating discussions in the class. They additionally use other platforms for video conferencing and remote teaching to communicate with students in remote locations. This prompts solid collaboration and beneficial trade of thoughts among students. Innovation is increasing the extent of imagination

in learning and boosting students' commitment. More up to date uses of augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) are changing how information is shared and assimilated. With gamification of complex concepts, students are enjoying the fun ways to learn.

Instructors' knowledge is dynamic but so are our surroundings; it is continually formed by data, joint effort with fellow teachers, and commitment towards teaching devices and reading material, etc. It is an ever-evolving process and should never stop.

The writer is founder, Global Education & Training Institute

Opening diverse avenues

It's high time to foster women entrepreneurship in India for a bright future

PLUS POINTS

Inspiring webinar



Shri Ramakrishna Ashrama, Rajkot organised a national webinar over the Zoom platform. It was addressed by Swami Gautamananda Maharaj, vice-president of Ramakrishna Mission, eminent personalities like Dr Arunima Sinha, first female amputee to climb the Mt Everest and Sharad Sagar, CEO, Dexterity Global, who spoke about the role of Swami Vivekananda's teachings in their lives and how they overcame the challenges life manifested in front of them.

Sinha spoke about how the blessings of Swami Vivekananda and Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa had guided her through the tough trek and missions in her life. Swami Gautamananda Maharaj asked the youth to read Vivekananda's teachings and try to incorporate his ideas in their lives. The inspiring webinar ended with a positive note and a shloka from Bhagavad Gita that time will be good ahead. *Soumi Mandal*

Virtual class



During the global pandemic IMS Law College Noida organised a master class on the subject of epidemics and English vocabulary for law students to learn new trending words. The online class was taken by Dr Thomas Samson, dean Literature Department of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad University. At the same time, teachers and students of higher educational institutions of the country registered their presence with IMS President Rajiv Kumar Gupta, senior director Dr Kulneet Suri, Dean Dr Manju Gupta, and Dean Law Dr KS Bhati.

Samson said that in addition to the spread of infection during the epidemic, the infection of language flexibility has also spread. Giving an example, he said that nowadays many new words like covid diet, covid tac, covid team et al have been derived by adding Covid prefix in the language. Bhati said that the judicial system has also adopted some new words like virtual courtroom, e-filing et al.

Interactive session



KIIT College of Engineering organised a five-day online workshop in collaboration with All India Council for Technical Education on human value, ethics, morals, behavioural sciences, and attitude recently. It was attended by more than 100 students from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Amity University, KI Mangalam, GD Goenka, IITM, and TCS Gurgaon IVM.

Padma Shri SN Subbarao (founder of National Youth Project), PS Grover, former dean and director, Delhi University, K Shiv Prasad, principal secretary transport commission, Punjab, and Dr Rajesh, chairman, Happiness Curriculum spoke on moral values and wisdom-based education, positive thinking and social media change, stress management, behaviour change, meditation and the importance of relationships.

In-depth learning



The University of Sheffield, UK is inviting applications for MSc molecular and cellular basis of human disease course starting in September 2021. This 12-month course would offer specialist practical and lecture modules on the mechanisms behind human disease. Students will get training in the skills every professional scientist needs, such as research ethics and literature analysis. Holders of a three-year bachelor degree with a minimum of 65 per cent or first class from a reputable university in a biomedical-related subject can apply. Medical students, who wish to intercalate their studies, are also accepted. For details visit: <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2020/molcular-and-cellular-basis-human-disease-msc>



OSAKA'S PROTEST

Fourth-seeded Naomi Osaka reached the semi-finals of the Western & Southern Open and withdrew a few hours later in a call for racial justice, drawing quick support from other players. Soon after as a result of her protest, the whole tournament was put on hold for a day.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Lyon reaches final: Lyon reached the final of the women's Champions League for the fifth straight time after Wendie Renard scored with a 67th-minute header to secure a 1-0 win over Paris Saint-Germain. Lyon will seek its fifth consecutive title in Sunday's final against Wolfsburg, which defeated Barcelona in the other semifinal on Tuesday.



Pogba Covid: France midfielder Paul Pogba was left out of the national team squad on Thursday after testing positive for COVID-19. The Manchester United player was replaced by 17-year-old Eduardo Camavinga for upcoming Nations League qualifiers against Sweden and Croatia.

Goodbye to Tests: Australia limited-overs captain Aaron Finch has conceded that his Test career appears over, saying it is unrealistic for him to play red ball cricket again. Finch, who is in England for a limited-overs series, said he may not get enough first class games to stake claim for a spot in the Australian Test side.

DC replace Roy: Uncapped Australian left-arm seamer Daniel Sams, the top wicket-taker in last year's Big Bash League (BBL), will replace England opener Jason Roy in the Delhi Capitals squad for the upcoming IPL. Roy has pulled out of the upcoming T20 series against Pakistan due to a side strain, which effectively ruled him out of the IPL.

Bravo's feat: Dwayne Bravo made history on Wednesday by becoming the first player to reach 500 T20 wickets and 100 Hero CPL wickets, his brother Darren hit a quick-fire 23 off 13 balls with two sixes to help Trinbago Knight Riders chase down the revised 72-run target in nine overs with six balls to spare.

Gareth Barry retires: The Premier League's record appearance-maker has finally retired at the age of 39. Gareth Barry, who played 653 games in the Premier League, spent the past three years at West Bromwich Albion, which earned promotion to the top division last season.

Messi's departure jeopardises Barcelona's restructuring plan

AGENCIES
MADRID, 27 AUGUST

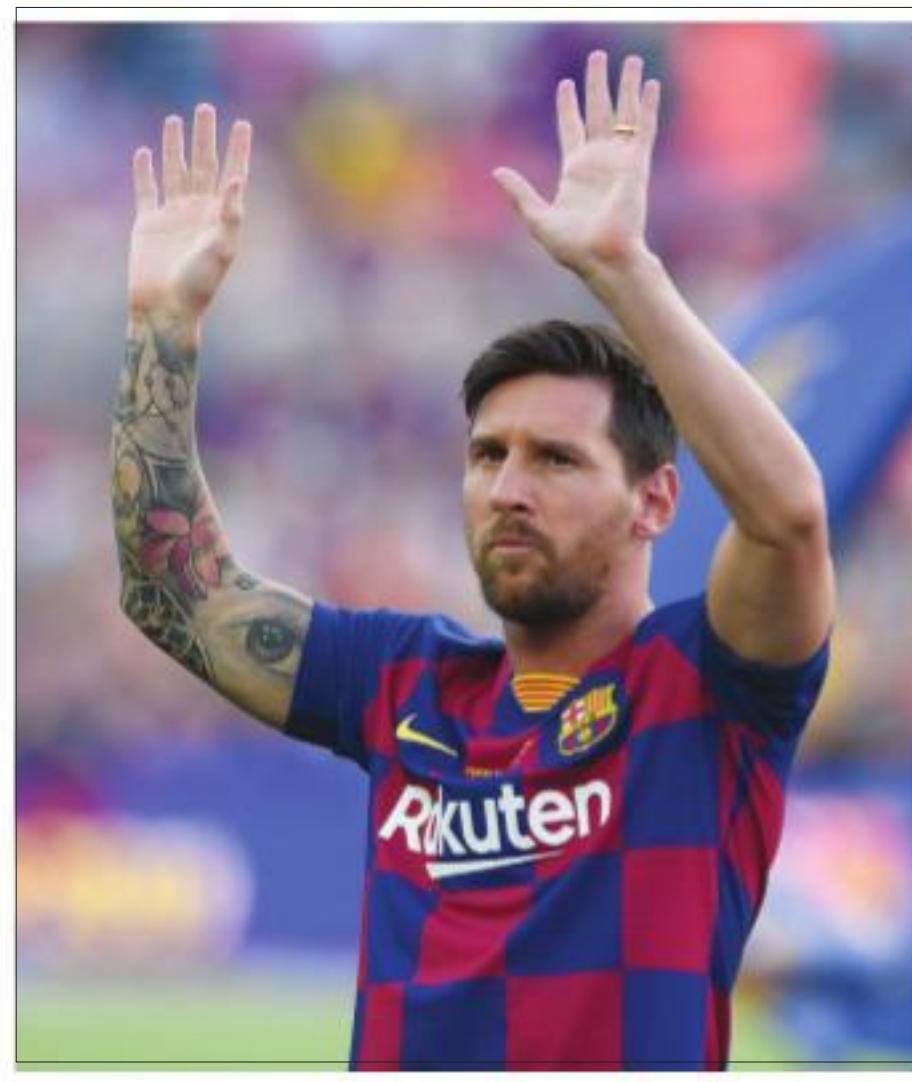
Lionel Messi's surprise decision to leave Barcelona has dealt a blow to the club's restructuring project even before it began.

Shortly after the humiliating 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League, Barcelona said it wanted to make profound changes to the first team.

Barcelona was basing its revamp on Messi, hoping he would help the team rebuild with new players and a new coach. But the type of changes the team began implementing may have actually turned him away.

Messi hasn't been happy with club directors all season, and he apparently also didn't like when incoming coach Ronald Koeman began telling some key players they were not in his plans.

What might have upset him the most was the decision to get rid of Luis Suarez, Messi's longtime teammate and friend. Messi's and Suarez's families are



close and often spend vacation time together. This year, they were seen on a boat off the coast of Ibiza enjoying the Balearic Islands.

Other players reportedly

not wanted by Koeman include Arturo Vidal, Ivan Rakitic and Samuel Umtiti. Spanish media said the coach intended to keep Gerard Pique and Sergio Busquets, but there were still

doubts about the future of other players who had been with Messi for a long time.

With its aging team, Barcelona endured one of its toughest seasons, the first without a title since 2007-08. After the loss to Bayern, the club also announced a wide-ranging restructuring of the club. Koeman was immediately brought in to replace coach Quique Setin, and new presidential elections were called for next March.

The squad changes quickly began, but the decisions apparently were being made with the understanding that Messi would still be on the team. Both Koeman and club president Josep Bartomeu said the project revolved around the Argentina forward.

Even after the surprise burofax announcement made by Messi saying he wanted to leave after nearly 20 years with the club, Barcelona was not giving up on him.

Ramon Planes, the club's technical director, said on Wednesday that Barcelona wanted to rebuild for the future together with the best player

in history. Newly arrived forward Francisco Trinco, one of the many youngsters the club is counting on amid its revamping process, was hopeful he would still get to learn from Messi.

Of course I want Messi to stay, but let's see what happens, he said after being officially introduced.

Messi hasn't left yet, and Barcelona isn't ready to let him go, either.

Barcelona claims the contract clause invoked by Messi which allowed him to leave for free after the season had already expired when he made his decision, meaning his contract wouldn't end until June 2021. Messi will contend the clause was valid until the end of the season, which was moved back this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A lengthy legal battle would further hurt Barcelona's restructuring project, as would Messi's departure without any financial compensation.

With the new season a few weeks away, little is still known about what Barcelona will look like.

'Dinda exit results from unequal battle'

PULAKESH MUKHOPADHYAY
KOLKATA, 27 AUGUST



A very serious element in Bengal's contemporary cricket culture is administrative laxity when it comes to cracking down on a player's questionable conduct until anyone important enough not to be messed with finds himself taken on, an Eden Gardens insider told *The Statesman* today, explaining Ashok Dinda's (**in photo**) exit.

The new-ball bowler was handed his no objection certificate yesterday by the Cricket Association of Bengal in accordance with his request after a season in which he had been at odds with his own team, providing headline material for the wrong reasons.

"He'd long been at it, eventually coming to be looked upon as a rogue element who never mended his ways because players were coddled by the highest officials in the institution who weren't personally affected by the stresses and strains within the team. They tend to be indulgent. Dinda allowed himself the adventure of clashing with someone whom

the CAB found serviceable enough where keeping a tab on the team was concerned, allegedly playing a very vital role. Dinda would have thought he'd get away with it as in the past but he'd gone way above his limits and retribution followed," the source, insisting on anonymity, revealed.

A former chief selector said that Dinda had been a "bad influence" on the Bengal squad despite his bowling skills and acumen and no matter where he ended up, his association with them might not last a very long time as it's foreign to his nature to be like the rest of the boys.

"I remember him storming up to the manager even as the state squad practised at the Eden Gardens and

gruffly asking for additional money if a competition other than the routine ones was to be played in," the erstwhile selector, speaking on condition of anonymity, disclosed, adding: "I asked the manager how a player could do this whilst his peers tuned up. He said he knew the player would find support in officialdom all right."

According to him, things have long been the same since Jagmohan Dalviya, who seldom failed to side with a player irrespective of why he had been hauled up in the first place. Dinda, he said, had gone a bit too far and copped it but there were others who had been trouble some enough but they were aware of the limits on player power even in the dressing room. Dinda could be unrestrained in terms of his emotional outpourings in success and failure, which was not appreciated by everyone. They did not see an attention-seeker in him but an aggressor.

When he found himself out of the team in the previous season, he was viewed as someone who had gone up against someone who could never have lost the bout. It was as simple as that.

"It will be a great spectacle," he said, adding, "It will be enjoyed by all on television, which too will be

'IPL will be a great spectacle'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 27 AUGUST

Reflecting the buoyancy in the Indian Premier League ahead of its 19 September start in West Asia, Mr Satish Menon, chief executive officer of Kings XI Punjab told *The Statesman* today that it was all set to be "better than".

Even more importantly perhaps, he was very confident that IPL franchises would "make money" all right despite the very hurtful knocks it had taken from the Covid-19 pandemic which had caused it to be put off, the interregnum punctuated with uncertainty amid widespread talk that the worldwide coronavirus situation was so bad that the IPL might come a cropper this time around.

Without quite understandably going into details, the former first-class cricketer said that the tournament's "larger interests" had influenced the decision to move it to the United Arab Emirates.

"It will be a great spectacle," he said, adding, "It will be enjoyed by all on television, which too will be

happy with its takings."

Mr Menon, though, said he was not aware of different quarantine rules in the entities that made up the UAE disrupting the franchises' practice schedules.

"I can tell you only about our team and they have had no problems. They are there in West Asia and they have no problems."

"There's a lot of speculation about so many things but the tournament will be immensely enjoyable," Mr Menon said.

Scheduled to fly to West Asia in the first week of September, he said that he knew nothing about the UAE cricket board's reported plan to fill up to 35 per cent of the stands during IPL matches.

"I haven't heard anything like this so far. Whatever it is, we shall go by the rules laid down by the Board of Control for Cricket in India and its UAE equal," Mr Menon said.

According to him, the IPL's contours and its substance in the future will have to be decided on by the BCCI in the post-Covid-19 world. "It's not for us to talk about that," he said.

#SyedModiInternational & #IndiaOpen stand cancelled for this year. The safety of players & other stakeholders connected to the game is paramount. We hope to return in 2021," the Badminton Association of India tweeted.

According to BWF's adjusted calendar the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals will be followed by the HSBC BWF World Tour, which will resume with a two-week European leg in Odense, Denmark.

"Both of these tournaments DANISA Denmark Open I and Denmark Open II will be Super 750 events."

The BWF calendar will take a two week break to allow the players time to follow the necessary quarantine rules as they move to the next tour -- Asia -- where back-to-back Super 1000 events will be held.

"The total BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2020 in Aarhus, Denmark will remain part of the international tournament calendar and will proceed on the planned dates of 3-11 October 2020.

"All remaining HSBC BWF World Tour tournaments on the calendar will no longer take place at the dates and locations originally listed."

The badminton season has been on hold after the All England Championship in March.

"...after weighing the concerns of COVID pandemic it's been decided that both Asian leg tournaments are yet to be announced," BWF said.

In May, the BWF had unveiled a revised international calendar but it couldn't be started due to the global health crisis which is showing no signs of abating.

Djokovic advances, defending champ Medvedev ousted

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, 27 AUGUST



Only a dozen unforced errors. Every shot crisp in windy conditions. Top-ranked Novak Djokovic (**in photo**) had all parts of his game working while advancing to the semi-finals of the Western & Southern Open.

Djokovic had no problems with his creamy neck or the swirling winds during a 6-3, 6-1 victory on Wednesday over Jan-Lennard Struff that was by far his best showing of the week.

So far, no rust at all after the long layoff from competitive tennis.

"Everything was worked on in the last six months. I had plenty of time," Djokovic said.

"I worked on every single thing. It's great it's paying off so early after the break."

Djokovic tested positive for COVID-19 after exhibition matches he organized in Serbia and Croatia in June with no social distancing.

In his match Monday against Ricardas Berankis, Djokovic had his sore neck massaged twice by a trainer during a 7-6 (2) 6-4 victory that included seven double faults. The neck has gotten better, and so has his overall game.

court in frustration at the end.

"Even in the third set I had my chances and didn't take them," Medvedev said.

Bautista Agut reached his third Masters semifinal and his first since 2016. He needed a set to adjust to the breezy, cooler conditions on court.

"It's never easy to come back and play good at first," he said.

"I have to be patient, to try to enjoy every single match I play here after six months without competing. Just pleased and happy to be in the semifinals."

Medvedev hoisted the champion's Rookwood Pottery cup last year in Mason, Ohio, where the tournament is held annually. This year's event was moved to the US Open site in Flushing Meadows because of pandemic precautions, creating a two-tournament event without spectators.

Enjoy opening but open to finisher's role: Rahane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Ajinkya Rahane "enjoys opening" in the shortest format but a packed Delhi Capitals top-order could mean a potential "finisher's role" for India's Test vice-captain which he is not averse to exploring during the upcoming Indian Premier League in the UAE.

Rahane, who joined Delhi Capitals this year, may find it difficult to find a slot in the top order as Shikhar Dhawan and Prithvi Shaw are set to open the batting with Shreyas Iyer, Shimron Hetmyer and Rishabh Pant being next in line.

Asked about his role in the team, Rahane said: "I don't know. We have to wait and watch as we start our practice sessions, then only we will have that communication."

"I have opened throughout my career and I have enjoyed that. But (it is) completely up to the team management as to what role they want to give me in the team. I will 100 per cent do that," the 32-year-old told mediapersons in a web conference on Thursday.

So, does he think that a finisher's role in T20 can work for him? The senior batsman said he is open to the idea. "If I am told to bat at No 5

or 6, I will definitely take it as it will be a new role for me and help me explore my game. So if you ask me, my answer is yes, I am ready," said Rahane, who is only 12 runs short of career 5000 runs in T20 cricket (4988 from 196 games).

But will two to three weeks of net sessions be enough to help him acquire the mindset of a finisher? Rahane said five to six sessions along with proper communication from the team management about the assigned role should be enough.

However, he agreed that field restrictions work to the advantage of top-three in white ball cricket.

"Frankly speaking, when you have two fielders outside the circle, you have the freedom to express yourself. Also the field is completely spread in T20 cricket (after first six overs). Till no. 3, you can play with freedom... You get 15 to 20 runs and you are on," he said.

He is still not over the pain of missing out on last year's World Cup and didn't hide his disappointment about not being India's no. 4 in England. "I was actually thinking I would be there at the World Cup as no. 4. That's gone now and the goal is to make a comeback into the ODI team and do well in white ball cricket."

Injured Roy to miss T20s against Pak

MANCHESTER, 27 AUGUST

England will be without one of its most explosive batsmen for the upcoming Twenty20 series against Pakistan after Jason Roy was ruled out of all three matches because of a left side strain.

The opener was hurt during practice at Old Trafford on Tuesday, and a scan on Wednesday revealed the injury.

Roy will remain with the England squad and look to recover in time for the white-ball series against Australia in Southampton starting Sept. 4 with the first of three T20s.

England captain Eoin Morgan said no player will come in as a replacement for Roy ahead of the first T20 against Pakistan on Friday.

"Given that we have a lot of flexibility, particularly with our all-rounders in Joe Denly, Moeen Ali and our batters that we have in the squad, we don't feel a need to pull anybody in," Morgan said on a video call on Thursday. "At the moment we don't anticipate it being anything serious (for Roy) but we want to give him every chance to be fit for Australia for both series, the T20s and 50-over."

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