





Jawans should get more nutrition as they are standing at the borders and defending the country

RAHUL GANDHI  
CONGRESS LEADER

Capital

# With 4,266 cases, Delhi reports second highest Corona spike

The number of Covid-19 tests conducted in the national capital also soars to 60,580, a new record

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

**D**elhi today recorded 4,266 new coronavirus (Covid-19) cases, which was the city's second highest single-day Covid figure so far.

The national capital had yesterday recorded 4,308 fresh coronavirus cases - its highest single-day Covid spike so far.

However, the number of tests conducted for detection of coronavirus infections in Delhi today shot up to 60,580, which was a new record till date. Yesterday, 58,340 coronavirus tests were conducted in the city.

With today's fresh Covid cases, the cumulative total of such cases in the national capital rose to 2,09,748, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

Delhi's Covid-19 death toll went up to 4,687, including 21 fresh fatalities taken into account today, the health bulletin said.



Health workers in a mobile van take swab samples from residents of the Azadpur market area for Covid testing, in the Capital on Friday.

The number of recovered Covid patients was 1,78,154, including 2,754 recoveries during the past 24 hours. The recovery rate however fur-

ther came down to 84.93 per cent.

The health bulletin stated that the number of active cases in the city was 26,907.

The patients undergoing treatment on home isolation numbered 14,571. There were 8070 patients who were hospitalised, the bulletin said.

The number of containment zones or coronavirus hotspots in Delhi also increased to 1,329.

Yesterday, 28 fresh Covid fatalities were recorded. The number of containment zones stood at 1,272. The recovery rate had then dipped to 85.36 per cent.

Today was the third successive day that Delhi reported over 4,000 fresh Covid cases. The national capital had on 9 September reported 4,039 Covid cases and tally breached the two lakh mark. It was then the first time since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic that over 4,000 cases were recorded in Delhi in a single day. However, on 9 September also, a record 54,517 Covid tests - the highest till then - were conducted in the city.

Amid fresh spell of coronavirus surge in Delhi, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier announced that his government will ramp up Covid testing in the city in order to identify, isolate and treat

Covid patients. He had said that the Delhi government will double the Covid tests to 40,000 per day in the city.

The CM has now also directed authorities to increase the number of ICU beds in city hospitals and take steps to contain the spread of the coronavirus infection.

Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain had yesterday told reporters that the plasma therapy will continue to be used in Delhi as it was proving to be effective in people who were at stage one or two of the Covid treatment, but not at stage three or those on ventilators.

"Delhi recorded highest spike in cases so far. But, it is also because we have gone aggressive on testing with over 54,000 tests, highest ever in Delhi. And, we had set a target of 40,000 tests per day. So, we do not want to leave any infected person in tracing," Jain had then said, adding that the Delhi government's target was to ensure "zero mortality".

## Range Rover hits cyclist to death, businessman held

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

A 28-year-old businessman has been arrested for the death of a cyclist whom he had hit with his Range Rover car on Monday night. The accused has been identified as Sonit Jain, a resident of Greater Kailash I. The accused took the injured cyclist, identified as Sanjeev Awasthi, to a hospital in South Delhi but he left after the man was declared "brought dead," said the police.

Police have recovered the luxury SUV from Jain's residence in Greater Kailash I. According to police, Jain allegedly misled the hospital authorities by hiding the details of the accident site. Police started investigating the matter after the victim's brother-in-law, Anupam Shukla, filed a complaint stating that Sanjeev Awasthi, 38, was missing since 7 September, said the police.

He said Awasthi worked at a private company in old Faridabad, police said. According to the complainant, Awasthi, a resident of Sarita Vihar, used to come home daily around 6.30-7.00 pm by cycle but on September 7, when he did not return home, they started searching for him, police added.

The next day, they found his damaged cycle, bag and footwear on Mathura Road - Badarpur flyover, said police. The police

cracked the case by checking the footage from all CCTV cameras along Awasthi's route to work in old Faridabad, starting with the one outside the Moolchand Hospital. "We could see that the victim had been brought to the hospital in a Range Rover by a young man," a police statement read. The police checked the vehicle's registration number and found that the vehicle was registered in the name of a private company in West Delhi's Karol Bagh.

"On further investigation, the company's owner home address and that of the driver was found in Greater Kailash. Sonit Jain was arrested and the vehicle, Range Rover SUV, was also seized," a police statement read.

According to the police, Jain has confessed that he went to Faridabad on 7 September. Police said the accused reached the Badarpur flyover around 7.15 pm when a cyclist, Awasthi, came in front of his car and was hit.

The police said Jain told hospital authorities that the accident took place near Okhla Mandi because he did not want to disclose his Faridabad visit to his family. A case under section 365 (kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine person) of IPC was registered at the Badarpur police station, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) RP Meena said.

## Sisodia plans world-class institutions for skill devp & entrepreneurship

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia visited the polytechnic institutes at Dwarka and Rajokri today. He inquired about the educational activities functioning, and requirements of both the institutions and directed them to adopt the courses that meet the market requirements.

Hesiod, Both the institutes have good infrastructure and capable faculty. Courses of these institutes have become irrelevant due to their inadaptability with the changing times."

"We have to lift the capital city as well as the nation from the economic downturn by developing skills as per the new market demand," he said.

During his visit to the Integrated Institute of Technology, Dwarka, Sisodia focused on the importance of these institutes. The heads of these institutes explained about their courses to Sisodia through a PowerPoint presentation.

Sisodia said, "Delhi has laid a strong foundation in school education. Now, concrete steps are being taken to lift the capital as well as the



Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia visits Polytechnic Institutes at Dwarka and Rajokri in the Capital on Friday.

nation from the economic downturn by encouraging skill development and entrepreneurship."

The Deputy CM said, "Technology is constantly changing across the world. The industry needs manpower equipped with state-of-the-art technology. We have to keep our courses dynamic so that with

changing needs, we can make amendments in our courses to fulfil the market needs."

Sisodia said, "Delhi has achieved great success in terms of school education. Now, our next step is to establish world-class institutions for skill development and entrepreneurship. For this, we are taking suggestions from all the

ITIs, polytechnics and skill development centres of Delhi."

In 2019, the Delhi Skills and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) Bill was passed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly. Sisodia has announced that focus on skill education will be his prime agenda during his second term as Education Minister of Delhi.

### Delhi Metro: Magenta Line, Grey Line resume services

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

The Red Line of the same station on regular days busting with a sea of commuters.

As she descended the squeaky clean escalator, she fished out a small sanitiser bottle and disinfected her hands.

"My daughter is coming from Badarpur after writing her B.Ed exam."

She will be coming by the last metro. She is 22 and born and raised in Delhi, and very bold to travel alone, but I am a mother and life is so uncertain these days," she said, adding that it was her first ride in the metro post the lockdown.

At Kashmere Gate, Rajiv Chowk and Central Secretariat stations, three major interchange facilities, infamous for their swirling crowds with passengers jostling for space to board or alight a train, hardly one or two passengers were seen exiting the coach.

Trails of sanitising chemicals left behind on the floors of platforms typified the health emergency the capital is battling since March 1 when the first novel coronavirus case was reported in Delhi.

Round steel benches at platforms remained unoccupied at majority of the stations as commuters preferred to stand while waiting for trains to avoid surface contacts,

while commercial advertisements on small and big screens have been replaced by health advisory videos.

On Thursday, Red Line, Violet Line and Green Line were made operational.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has appealed to people to use the rapid transport only if urgently needed.

All our Customers, Constituents and Members of Public are here by informed that our Agents Training Institute at Noida would be closed w.e.f 13.09.2020.

Zonal Head

## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF  
SH. ARVIND BANSAL  
ACJ/CCJ/ARC-South East  
Saket Courts, New Delhi  
Dt. 09.09.2020

In the matter of:  
Sh. Pratul Bahadur Mathur, s/o Late Sh. Ramesh Bahadur, r/o House No. D-3/3204, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110073.

Versus

1. The Sub Divisional Magistrate (S/E), Anjar Colony, New Delhi.

2. Sh. Ramesh Bahadur, s/o Late Sh. Ramesh Bahadur, r/o A-118, Gf. Sushant Lok Phase-3, Sector-57, Gurugram, Haryana-122011.

3. Dr. Alok Bahadur Mathur, s/o Late Sh. Suresh Bahadur Mathur, r/o B-2/95, Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi-110029.

4. Sh. Atul Bahadur Mathur, s/o Late Sh. Suresh Bahadur Mathur, r/o B-2/95, Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi-110029.

5. Smt. Viral Mathur, w/o Sh. Vijay Shankar Mathur, r/o H. No. 350, Hauz Khas Apartments, Delhi-110016.

Respondents

Whereas, an application U/s 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by Pratul Bahadur Mathur, successor of Late Sh. Kailash Devi for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts/securities of deceased.

And whereas the said applicant will come for hearing on 08-10-2020 at 10.00 am.

Therefore, the public at large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the said applicant, he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and time.

Given under my hand and seal on 09-09-2020.

ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East) Saket Courts, New Delhi Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF  
SH. ARVIND BANSAL  
ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East)  
Saket Courts, New Delhi  
SS-162/2019  
Rohini Shukla

Versus

State — Respondents

Whereas, an application U/s 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by Rohini Shukla, successor of Late Sh. Bhawan Prakash Shukla for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts/securities of deceased.

And whereas the said applicant shall come for hearing on 25-09-2020 at 10-00 a.m.

Therefore, the public at large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the said applicant, he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and time.

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We support the youth who are speaking out in creative ways such as 'Rashtriya Berozgar Divas'

PRIYANKA GANDHI  
CONGRESS LEADER

# No QH during one-day Delhi Assembly session; Opp upset

Demanding longer session and discussion on various crucial issues, BJP MLAs protest exclusion of Question Hour from 14 Sept session for which every MLA will have to undergo a Covid test

APARAJIT CHAKRABORTY  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

**W**hile expressing displeasure over the exclusion of the Question Hour from the one-day special session of the Delhi Assembly, which is scheduled to be held on 14 September, the Opposition BJP legislators have demanded the inclusion of short duration discussion regarding various public interest issues during the session.

The BJP MLAs placed their demands before the Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, seeking at least a three-day session instead of the scheduled one-day session among other things.

"The session should be at least for three to five days when it is going to be held after seven months. There are issues galore that we want to highlight before chief minister Arvind Kejriwal during the session," Leader of the Opposition (LOP) in the Assembly Arvinder Singh said. The BJP legislators have sought discussions on several important issues including "the surge in Covid-19 cases, deteriorating health care condition to fight the pandemic, dearth of public transport system, waterlogging, acute drinking water crisis, huge power bill, lack of funds to pay the salaries to the employees of three municipal corporations, no salaries to the teachers working in col-



Delhi Assembly.

FILE PHOTO / SUBRATA DUTTA

leges run by the Delhi government and many other important issues that are causing more trouble for Delhiites during the pandemic," said Bidhuri.

"We have requested the Speaker for including short duration discussions under Rule 55 of the Rules of the Procedure," the LOP said.

The Assembly is meeting

on 14 September and there will be no Question Hour. The Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party government is running away from answering question of the Opposition by reducing the session to barely few hours, BJP MLA P Sharma alleged, pointing out that "one day session is very inadequate time to raise all important matters".

The Speaker said on Friday that there will be no Question Hour during the one-day session on 14 September and that every MLA attending the session will be tested for Covid-19.

The sitting of the session will commence at 2 p.m. and will be adjourned at around 6 p.m. An important Bill, Goods and Service Tax

(Amendment) Bill is likely to be placed during the session, according to an official of the Assembly Secretariat, who refused to divulge details of the Bill.

The session could have been at least for three days, when all legislators will have to undergo the Covid-19 test before attending the session, Bidhuri said.

## Amarinder govt has 'failed miserably' in handling Covid pandemic: Sukhbir

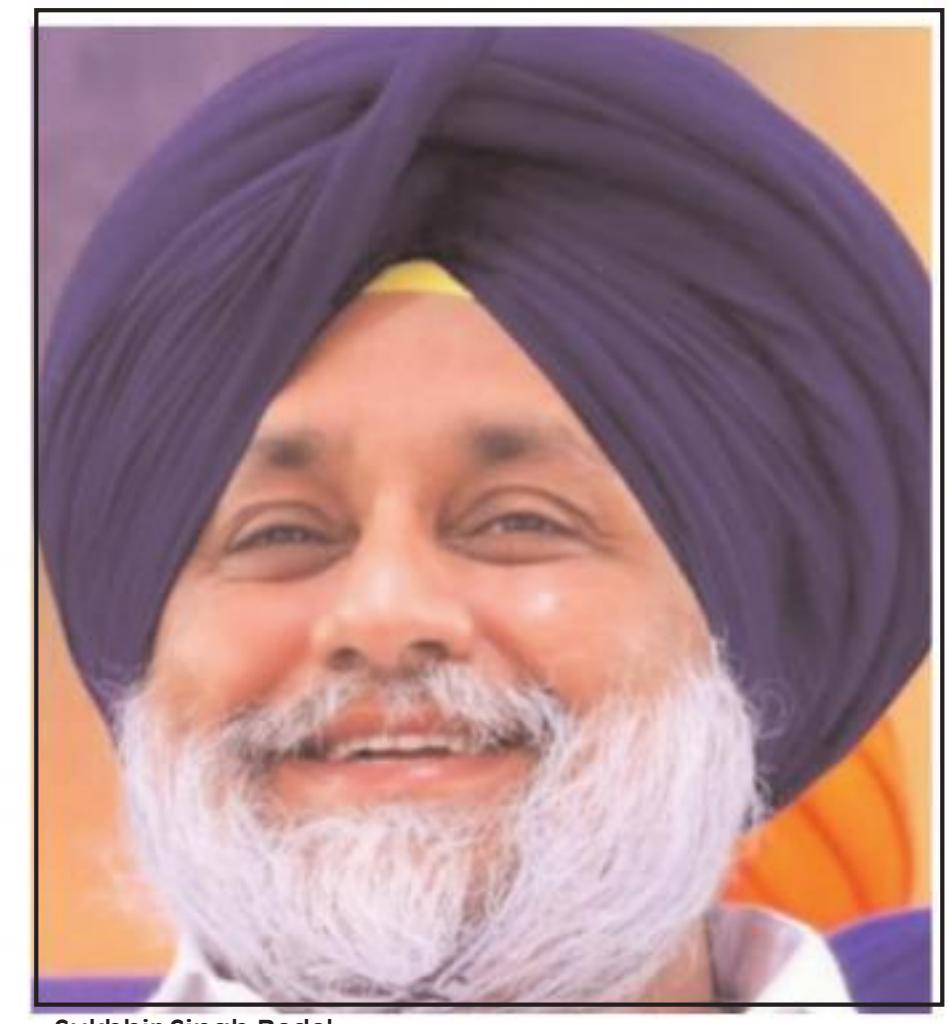
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 11 SEPTEMBER

With Punjab witnessing a spike in Covid-19 cases in the past one month, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukbir Singh Badal on Friday said the Congress government has "failed miserably" in handling the Covid pandemic in the state.

He said Punjab had surpassed Maharashtra and Gujarat by recording a fatality rate of 2.95 per cent with 2,150 casualties. The SAD president said while senior leaders in other states were camping in the worst-affected areas to grapple with the crisis, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh was trying to control it through remote control from the comfort of his farmhouse.

"Chief Minister Amarinder however only believes in rattling off statistics about coming deaths instead of coming out with solutions to forestall them. It is this attitude, which also witnessed crores being spent on a self-proclamatory Mission Fateh propaganda exercise, which has spelled doom for Punjab and Punjabis," he said.

Badal said the Congress government's strategy to counter Covid had been criticised by its own health advisor Dr K K Talwar who had indicted the government for not conducting contact tracing of Covid positive cases in July and for failure to manage micro-containment zones. "It is because of these fail-



Sukbir Singh Badal

ures that more than one thousand persons died due to Covid in August and now ten districts of the state are recording cases in three figures.

The situation is now getting out of control with the pandemic claiming eighty to hundred persons every day," the SAD chief said.

Stating that the Congress government was yet to learn any lessons from its failures, Badal said the government was now engaging in propaganda about supply of Oximeters to people instead of ensuring supply of oxygen in both government and private hospitals.

"Hospitals are facing a huge shortage of liquid oxygen with the demand going up to 100 metric tonnes against a supply of only 15 metric tonnes.

Instead of raising this supply and ensuring oxygen supply to hospitals is put on the priority list, Amarinder Singh is indulging in theatrics about distribution of Oximeters," he added.

The SAD leader also castigated health minister Balbir Singh Sidhu for attributing the high mortality rate in Punjab to lifestyle of Punjabis instead of admitting his failure to control the situation.

## Delhi riots: Court asks police to sensitise IOs after factually false statement filed

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

A court here has directed Delhi Police to sensitise investigating officers (IOs) about the diligence to be maintained in riot cases after a factually false statement was submitted before it in a case related to the communal violence in north-east Delhi in February.

The false statement was filed by an IO in his reply to a bail application of a man arrested in the case related to ransacking of a shop during the riots in Jyoti Nagar area.

The police had stated in its reply that there was an eyewitness who had seen accused Yogender Singh at the scene of the crime, but the court found from the charge sheet that the witness nowhere has identified Singh at all and only Head Constable Ravinder identified in

him. Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat granted bail to Singh on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 30,000 with a surety of like amount and said the IO has to be careful in what he wrote.

"The reply of the IO had stated that Aslam was an eye witness who has given a statement under section 161 (examination of witness by police) Code of Criminal Procedure that he has seen accused Singh at the scene of the crime while entering his house.

The assertion in the reply is factually false as reflected in the charge sheet. The Investigating Officer has to be careful in what he writes.

"Copy of this order be sent to the Joint Commissioner of Police (Eastern Range), Delhi, so that the Investigating Officers are sensitised about the importance of the reply and the diligence to be maintained in

all cases and particularly in riot cases," the court said in its order passed on September 10.

It further said complainant Gulam, whose shop was allegedly ransacked by the mob of rioters, was not an eyewitness to the incident.

"The prosecution has relied upon the statement of an eye witness Mohd Aslam, identifying Singh, however on perusal of the charge sheet, the witness nowhere has identified the present accused at all. Only Head Constable Ravinder has identified him.

"Considering the period of incarceration, the fact that the charge sheet has been filed and in the totality of the facts and circumstances of the case, bail application stands allowed," it said.

It further directed Singh to not leave the jurisdiction of Delhi/NCR or indulge in

any kind of criminal activity.

The court said Singh should not tamper with evidence and attend court on every date of hearing or as directed.

During the hearing, Singh's counsel Bilal Anwar told the court there was no incriminating evidence against him in the case and was falsely implicated.

Special Public Prosecutor Rajeev Krishan Sharma, appearing for the state, opposed the bail plea saying witness Mohd Aslam had seen Singh at the scene of the crime while entering his house.

Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on February 24 after violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

### STREET SHOW



The All India Anti Terrorist Front members display bangles for Maharashtra chief minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and his party to protest against them over the row involving Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut and the Sena, at Chaura Maidan in Shimla on Friday.

LALIT KUMAR

## Covid rules apply to everyone, asserts Himachal Governor

ARCHANA PHULL  
SHIMLA, 11 SEPTEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatraya on Friday advocated that everyone in the state should follow the Covid-19 safety protocol.

"Everybody should exercise restraint to stay away from Covid-19. Rules are the same. They are no different for common man, political party or any other group. It will be good for the state if all of us follow discipline," he said, replying to a question on political leaders, across party lines, violating the Covid-19 safety protocol in public functions.

The Governor was sharing his experience with media persons on completion of one year of his tenure as Governor in the hill state at Raj Bhawan here.

Dattatraya said Covid-19 cases may increase in Himachal Pradesh, yet the important aspect is that it is still lesser in the hill state compared to other states in the country.

"Majority of our population is in rural areas. We



Pradesh, but the important part is that the majority of people have been cured and there have been very few deaths in HP. It's the same in the country," he said.

Dattatraya, who belongs to Telangana and was in active politics before he was appointed Governor last year, said his responsibilities changed on the constitutional post.

"Everyone used to say that my social activities will get limited as I will now be stuck to the Raj Bhawan protocol. But it's not like that. I did whatever I could do within the purview of the constitution to become a bridge between the Central and the state government," he said.

The Governor said he liked the people of the hill state, who are contented and peaceful. "I had heard a lot about Himachal before coming here. I found it more than that, what I had heard," he said.

He said one year in Himachal has been very fruitful. I could discuss and exchange ideas with the government, political parties of different ideologies,

and officers to work out ways as to how the state can progress," he said.

The Governor said since he belonged to South India, one of his priorities in Himachal has been to build linkages between the North and South from tourism point of view and cultural exchange. "I also focused on skill development, strategy to curb drug abuse among children, Swachhta Abhiyan and social harmony," he said.

He said the Prime Minister had particularly mentioned to him about natural farming in Himachal Pradesh when he came. "Accordingly, we are promoting natural farming in HP. I have personally interacted with farmers and it is doing very well," he said.

Dattatraya said he had been contributing his ideas in education and health as well by visiting various schools and health institutions and interacting with people.

He said he is committed to put every effort to help Himachal Pradesh in its journey to development. "I want the youth in Himachal should leave drug abuse and be a participant in development in Himachal. The Central and state government programmes for skill development will have to be implemented more seriously for rehabilitation of such youth," he said.

**Bandaru Dattatraya says everyone, whether political leaders or common people, should follow the Covid-19 safety protocols**

able to visit the tribal areas of the state due to Covid-19, however.

But I keep meeting tribals also to know their problems and take them at different levels, wherever I can," he said.

Dattatraya said even in Covid-19 lockdown period, he stayed connected to all sections of society through telephone and video conferencing.

He said he is committed to put every effort to help Himachal Pradesh in its journey to development. "I want the youth in Himachal should leave drug abuse and be a participant in development in Himachal. The Central and state government programmes for skill development will have to be implemented more seriously for rehabilitation of such youth," he said.

should not be fearful and should rather focus on taking all the precautions till the vaccine comes. The state government has taken timely steps to contain the Covid-

19 spread. The cases may still increase in Himachal



# Govt lists 23 new Bills for Parliament Monsoon session

Govt plans to pass a Bill providing for preventive measures against violence on healthcare personnel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

**T**he government has listed 23 new Bills, including 11 which seek to replace ordinances, for introduction in Parliament's Monsoon session beginning Monday.

One of the ordinances the government plans to pass as a Bill during the 18-day-long session relates to providing preventive measures against violence on healthcare personnel.

The ordinance makes acts of violence and harassment against healthcare personnel deployed in combating Covid-19 non-bailable offence with maximum punishment of seven years imprisonment and Rs 5 lakh fine.

It also protects the healthcare fraternity, including doctors, nurses and ASHA workers.

Another ordinance to be replaced by a Bill relates to reduction in the salary of MPs by 30 per cent for a period of one year beginning 1 April, 2020. The amount will be utilised in the fight against coronavirus.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 seeks to replace an ordinance issued recently to provide for the creation of an ecosystem where the farmers and traders enjoy the freedom of choice relating to sale and purchase of farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels.

**The Jammu and Kashmir Official Language Bill, 2020 will be introduced in the session**

The ordinance also promotes an efficient, transparent and barrier-free interstate and intra-state trade and commerce of farmers' produce outside the physical premises of markets or deemed markets. Among the Bills which the government has listed for introduction is the The Jammu and Kashmir Official Language Bill, 2020. As per the Bill, Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi, apart from the existing Urdu and English, will be the official languages in the union territory.

According to a Lok Sabha

bulletin, the lower house will also take up discussion and voting on the First Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2020-21.

It will also take up discussion and voting on the Excess Demands for Grants for the year 2016-17.

According to the document, The Multi State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2020 has also been listed for introduction. The proposed Bill seeks to rationalise government role and increase the members' participation in the working of the multi-state cooperative societies, to increase public faith in these societies and create a conducive environment for their growth and development.

The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 seeks

to permit non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) other than NBFC Factors (whose principal business is factoring) to undertake factoring business as well. It also seeks to permit Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) entities to act as agents for financiers for filing of registration of charge with the central registry as this will lead to operational efficiency.

Another bill listed for introduction is The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

The proposed bill aims at complete mechanisation of sewer cleaning and to provide better protection in work, and compensation in case of accidents.

## Medical superintendent demanded sexual favours, alleges Raipur PG student

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
RAIPUR, 11 SEPTEMBER

A postgraduate student of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical college in Raipur has alleged that a former medical superintendent of the hospital attached with the college, demanded sexual favors in lieu of passing her in the exam.

The allegations come close on the heels of another scandal involving a director of medical education recently. A woman who is a student of MD final year approached the state commission for women recently and lodged her complaint after the medical college administration failed to act on her plaint. She alleged that Dr. Vivek Chowdhary, the former med-

## Mandatory for RS members to get Covid test done before Parl session

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu today underwent Covid-19 test to prepare himself for the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, beginning next Monday.

A Rajya Sabha advisory has informed all members of the House that it is mandatory for each member to undergo Covid-19 test (RT-PCR) before attending the Monsoon Session.

The Members have been asked to get their test done within 72 hours before the commencement of the Session at any hospital or laboratory authorised by the government. For the convenience of the members, three test Centres started functioning in Parliament House from today. SNS

## Guntur collector orders doctor's arrest after tiff over Covid handling

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, 11 SEPTEMBER

The district collector of Guntur ordered the arrest of a government doctor, that too, under the stringent Disaster Management Act, after he objected when the IAS officer blamed doctors for the rise in Covid-19 cases.

The health officer of a primary health centre, Dr Somla Naik, was released after the government doctors' association intervened but Opposition TDP jumped on the controversy, condemning the arrest and accusing the government of suppressing voices raising questions over the handling of the pandemic. The

incident has also thrown light on the unusual powers enjoyed by the collector under the Disaster Management Act.

The public spat occurred during a review meeting over Covid-19 at Narasaraopet held by the district collector Samuel Anand. Apparently, the collector expressed his displeasure at the medical officers, blaming them for the spread of the virus. Dr Somla Naik of Nadendla PHC objected and said: "We are working overtime to handle it despite lack of facilities." In an outburst, he asked who the district collector thought he was to lay the blame on the doctors for the situation. "How dare he ask me who

are you? Arrest him immediately. Arrest him under Disaster Management (Act) sections. Take him away," a furious Anand was heard shouting in video footage that went viral. As the doctor walked off, he was taken to the office of the deputy superintendent of police. He was later released following intervention of other doctors and reportedly apologised for using inappropriate language against a senior officer. TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu pointed out the arrested doctor belonged to a Scheduled Tribe and added that the government failed to handle the pandemic but is now blaming doctors for it.

## Man arrested for murdering female Bengali professor

DEHRADUN, 11 SEPTEMBER

A 45-year-old man was arrested, in Dehradun on Friday, in connection with the murder of a retired Bengali female professor. According to the Dehradun Police theory nabbed Tanju Ashwal had a physical relationship with 67-year-old Putul Ghose. He murdered the lady due to social shame and fear.

Putul Ghosh, daughter of Amar Kumar Ghosh and a resident of 24 Convent Road (Kolkata), came to Athurwala in Dehradun six years back. Putul became lonely after her uncle, who used to stay in her house, died about seven months back. Putul was found dead in her Athurwala home on 9 September. Arrested Tanju Ashwal operates a hardware shop and is bachelor. He came in contact with the Bengali professor after the death of her uncle. In his confession, Tanju claimed that the lady used to ask him to do 'wrong works.' In a move to hide social shame he killed the Bengali lady. The cops recovered 139 grams of gold items from Ashwal, which was gifted by the lady professor. Inspector Mahaveer Singh Rawat said, "We arrested the accused from Jollygrant chowk. In police interrogation, the accused admitted having love relationship with the lady."

The police theory has many gaps. The motive of the killer remains confusing. The Bengali professor was killed brutally, as she was badly injured on her back and face with a stick. Experts believe that other reasons could be there behind the gruesome murder. SNS

## Kerala: All-party meet for cancelling bypolls

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 11 SEPTEMBER

An all-party meeting convened by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday, decided to request the Election Commission of India to call off the bypolls to the Kerala Assembly from Kuttanad

**The bypolls to the Kerala Assembly from Kuttanad and Chavara constituencies, scheduled to be held in November**

and Chavara constituencies, scheduled to be held in November, considering the fact that the newly-elected

members would get a term of just around four months.

The meeting, held via video conferencing, also decided to request the state election commission to postpone the elections to local self-government (LSG) organisations in the state scheduled for November this year in the wake of rise in Covid-19 cases.

## Madras HC issues notice to AR Rahman over tax evasion case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, 11 SEPTEMBER

The Income-tax department moved to Madras High Court against musician AR Rahman for alleged tax evasion.

The allegation Rahman is that he has routed an income of over Rs 3 crore, through the AR Rahman Foundation (his charitable trust) to evade tax. The Income tax department has found discrepancies in Rahman's tax filing for the year 2011-12.

The I-T department challenged the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal's September 2019 verdict setting aside the order of the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax in Chennai.

The court has sent a legal notice to Rahman seeking his response regarding the case filed by the Income tax department.

According to the I-T department, Rahman had signed an agreement with UK-based Libra Mobiles to compose exclusive ringtones for the

company. He was to be paid about Rs 3.47 crore for the contract in the 2011-12 assessment year. Rahman, however, directed to pay the amount directly to the foundation, senior lawyer T R Senthil Kumar, appearing for the department, told a bench of justices TS Sivagnanam and V Bhavani Subbarao. This amounted to diversion of funds.

The I-T department filed a case saying the foundation did not have a Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) license at that time to receive payment from a foreign organisation.

In February this year, the Union government granted the AR Rahman Foundation the FCRA license, allowing the non-profit organisation to receive foreign funds.

Since the contract was signed by Rahman, he should have first received the amount and then transferred it to the foundation. Therefore, the amount should be considered as income taxable in his

hands, it said.

Rahman moved the appellate tribunal against the I-T department's claim. The tribunal said the Centre had given "post facto approval" for the contribution. Hence, the amount is not taxable.

Rahman along with his family members founded AR Rahman Foundation in 2009 to "help children from underprivileged backgrounds through music, education and leadership building."

Rahman has faced income tax related trouble in the past.

The Madras High Court in February this year stayed an order by Commissioner of Goods and Service Tax and Central Excise, accusing the music composer of evading the tax to a tune of Rs 6.70 crore, from April 2013 and June 2017.

The GST Council had accused the music composer of not paying the service tax on the payments that he had received for his work.

## Aero India-21 to be held in Bengaluru

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

The 13th edition of Aero India-21 will be held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, from 3-7 February, 2021, the Defence Ministry announced today.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Aero India 2021 website <https://aeroindia.gov.in> at New Delhi today giving the go-ahead for space booking.

Aero India 2021 website will be a contactless online interface for Asia's largest Aerospace and host all online services related to the event for both the exhibitors and visitors, besides hosting informative content about Ministry of Defence's recent policies, initiatives as also product profile of indigenous aircraft and helicopters.

Exhibitors will be able to register and book space online as per their requirements on a first-come first served basis, and make all payments online on the Aero India website.

Protocols that will be implemented to ensure a safe event will also be available.

The website will be interactive and aims to provide the first of the numerous contactless experiences at the show and will help build the participants' confidence towards the event being cognizant and in conformance with prevailing pandemic related guidelines and safeguards.

During his recent visit to Russia, the defence minister had referred to the Aero India-21 show and invited defence ministers and industry delegations of Russia and the Central Asian Republic countries to participate in the show.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE					
SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	RO NO. PRDH-Adv. No.: -11/2021/7923516800000/82748 WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING OF GOVT. ITI AT SIKRONA IN FARIDABAD DISTRICT (PDG, CCTV CAMERA SYSTEM, EPABX & LAN SYSTEM) + 2 OTHER WORKS	11.09.2020 21.09.2020	92.02 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> Pwdo-eed-gurgaon@hry.nic.in 0124-320874
2	FOREST DEPARTMENT BHIWANI	LOOSE STONE WALL CAMPA IN ARAVALLI HILLS, TOSHAM BLOCK + 4 OTHER WORKS	10.09.2020 25.09.2020	1.24 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> TENDER NO 2020_HRY_14348-1 + 4 OTHER dfo.bhiwani@yahoo.com 01664-242430
3	FOREST DEPARTMENT SIRSA	LABOUR RATE CONTRACT TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF INTERLOCKING PAVERS PATH AT FOREST COMPLEX SIRSA	CLOSING DATE 16.09.2020	25573	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> 01666-243307 forest.sirsa@yahoo.com
4	FOREST DEPARTMENT CHARKHI DADRI	RANGE OFFICE CONSTRUCTION AT BADHRA + 1 OTHER WORK	05.09.2020 18.09.2020	17.88 LACS	<a href="http://haryanaprocurement.gov.in">http://haryanaprocurement.gov.in</a> dfocharkhidadri@gmail.com 01250-297241
5	FOREST DEPARTMENT PANCHKULA	SUPPLY OF FEED AT PIPLI ZOO KURUKSHETRA AND CROCODILE BREEDING CENTRE, BHARU SAIDAN DISTRICT KURUKSHETRA	11.09.2020 21.09.2020	EMD 1.13 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> Assistant Conservator of Forests(WL) Head quarter O/o PCPF & CWLV Haryana Panchkula
6	BPS GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, KHANPUR KALAN, SONIPAT	E-TENDER CMC OF TWO CENTRAL STATION WITH 12 MONITORS	14.09.2020 07.10.2020	5,000.00	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> TENDER NO 2020_HRY_143447 bpsgmc.purchase@gmail.com
7	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT JAGDHARI	SPECIAL REPAIR OF HKB REST HOUSE AND BEHIND PARK AT HATHNIKUND BARAGE. + 8 OTHER WORKS	09.09.2020 24.09.2020	EMD 1.33 LACS	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a> 01732-237837/xenwsjg1@gmail.com
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ FATEHABAD	CONST. OF AANGANWARI AT VILLAGE DULT & DHANI DULT BLOCK BHUNA DISTT. FATEHABAD. + 5 OTHER WORKS	12.09.2020 25.09.2020	84.22 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> 01667-230855
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE BLOCK BARWALA, BHITWANI	MATERIAL TENDER	10.09.2020 29.09.2020	2 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> 9812818880 bdpotosh@gmail.com
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE BLOCK BARWALA, DISTT HISAR	SUPPLY OF VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS IN ALL VILLAGES OF BLOCK BARWALA DISTT HISAR. (GROUP-I TO GROUP-12)	11.09.2020 25.09.2020	6.95 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> 9555225121 bdpo.barwala@hry.nic.in
11	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	CONST. OF GOVT. VETY. HOSPITAL AT VILLAGE SHAHZADPUR BLOCK SHAHZADPUR DISTT AMBALA + 1 OTHER WORK	11.09.2020 25.09.2020	29.01 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> 9171-2551368/pxreeng.amb



I am confident that with his youthful thinking, Chirag will take the party and Bihar to new heights. I firmly stand by all the decisions of Chirag.

AMIDST A RIFT WITH THE JANATA DAL (UNITED) AHEAD OF THE BIHAR ELECTIONS

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2020



A vendor displays a pair of ducklings for sale in a plastic bag at the 100-year-old Pallavaram market that reopened in Chennai on Saturday. ■ AFP

**Assam relaxes quarantine period:** Assam relaxed the 10-day quarantine norms for people who travels outside Assam and returns within 96 hours provided that he or she gets a rapid coronavirus test done upon return and tests negative. Assam reported 2,739 Covid cases in the last 24 hours. ■ SNS

**NATL Law exam:** The Supreme Court on Friday gave a go ahead to National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, to conduct separate exam NLAT-2020 scheduled on Saturday, but asked it not to announce the results till the pendency of the plea. A bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah sought response from the university within three days. The top court will conduct further hearing on 16 September. ■ PTI

**ED questions Kerala minister:** Kerala higher education minister KT Jaleel was interrogated by the Enforcement Directorate(ED) on Friday at its Kochi office in connection with the gold smuggling case. The allegation against the minister is that he received legally untenable aid from the UAE Consulate. ■ SNS

**Gujarat announces first heritage tourism policy**

**Historical monuments and other structures built before Jan 1950, can be developed into hotels, the govt said**

AHMEDABAD,  
11 SEPTEMBER

Notwithstanding that there is no let-up in Covid-19 pandemic, the Gujarat government today announced its first 'heritage tourism' policy.

Under this 'heritage tourism' policy, announced by chief minister Vijay Rupani, the state's historical monuments like palaces, forts and other structures built before January 1950, can be developed into hotels, museums, banquet halls and heritage restaurants.

Throwing these heritage places open for international and national visitors would boost the state's tourism sector, the announcement said.

A similar conversion of heritage places as tourist destinations in neighbouring Rajasthan decades back had seen a great success.

The new 'heritage tourism' policy is expected to create local level employment and give a boost to the state's tourism industry, the chief minister said.

Nearly a decade back, the Gujarat Government had roped in superstar Amitabh Bachchan for a series of tourism advertisements titled "Khusboo Gujarat Ki" but many tourists who rushed to the state had returned disappointed due to lack of infrastructure.

Under the new 'heritage tourism' policy, the Gujarat Government will provide an assistance of Rs 5 to 10 crores to new or existing heritage hotels for renovation and expansion. Gujarat is home to world heritage sites like Rani ki Vav stepwell in Patan, Champaner complex near Halol and also the Sarkhej Roza and Sidi Saiyad ni Jali sites in Ahmedabad.

But, still, the state lags behind in tourist footfalls due to poor marketing and lack of proper infrastructure. ■ SNS

# Raghuvansh writes to Nitish after quitting RJD

Raghuvansh wants MGNREGA law amended, benefits extended to farm sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA, 11 SEPTEMBER

After exiting the RJD on Thursday, former Union minister Raghuansh Prasad Singh wrote to Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar seeking extension of MGNREGA benefits to the farm sector, a step being seen as an attempt by the veteran socialist leader to cosy up to the ruling JD(U).

In a letter to Kumar Singh, one of his most virulent critics while in the RJD, said the MGNREGA law needed to be amended and its benefits extended to the farm sector.

Since its launch in 2006, the rural employment guarantee scheme has aimed to provide livelihood security in rural areas by guaranteeing at least 100 days of minimum wage employment, mostly in the construction of durable assets such as roads, canals and ponds.

Several chief ministers have often sought extension of the benefits of the scheme to the farm sector.

In his letter posted on Facebook, the former Union minister also asked Kumar to facilitate the return of the begging bowl of Lord Buddha from Kabul. He also demanded that the chief minister unfurl the national tricolour at Vaishali every Republic Day. Vaishali, the parliamentary constituency Singh represented for five successive terms before his defeat in 2014, is considered the first republic in the world.

Singh had resigned from the RJD, the main Opposition party in Bihar, on Thursday, triggering speculation about his joining the ruling JD(U). However, RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, serving time in jail in four fodder scam cases in Ranchi, had rejected his resignation.

## Nitish's falling popularity leaves BJP in dilemma

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, 11 SEPTEMBER

Even as the BJP projects JD(U) president Nitish Kumar as NDA's chief ministerial face for Bihar once again, an internal survey by the party has left the saffron camp in a dilemma just ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls.

The reason behind this predicament is the fast falling popularity graph of the Bihar chief minister.

The whole story came to light after the BJP conducted a three-day internal survey over what the general voters think about Nitish. According to the survey conducted by a 90-member BJP team involving party legislators, general secretaries and other top officials, the common voters are hugely annoyed with the performance of Nitish. Informed sources said the masses have lost faith in the chief

minister owing to his frequent flip-flops in recent months.

First, he annoyed the voters when he broke away from the BJP and formed his government with opposition support after winning the 2010 assembly polls in alliance with the BJP.

Hardly had the masses forgotten this incident when the chief minister repeated the same mistake once again. This time again, he broke away from the Grand Alliance and formed his government with the support of the BJP while he had won 2015 assembly elections in alliance with the RJD and the Congress.

"These two incidents have not gone down well within the masses. Now the people doubt his credibility," said a BJP leader wishing not to be quoted.

This has also come to light in the survey, sources added, that Nitish personally has been "soft" on his

attacks on RJD chief Lalu Prasad. While the BJP hits Lalu and his party hard, Nitish has not been so harsh in his attacks on Lalu.

If the survey is to be believed, the masses are also not happy with the performance of Nitish especially in the past five years. Reports said the BJP has now apprised the top party leadership about this survey.

In another setback to Nitish, his recent virtual election rally on 7 September recorded more "dislikes" than likes. According to reports, Nitish's virtual rally across various social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter got more than 27,000 dislikes against around 10,000 likes. These two developments don't augur well for the CM with the Assembly elections coming so closer. The elections are slated to be held in October/November.

upper castes plump for the BJP or the Congress.

Singh, who as the Union Rural Development minister piloted the NREGA Bill, urged Kumar to bring an ordinance to amend the relevant law to extend its benefits to the farm sector. He insisted that the ordinance be brought before the model code of conduct for election kicks in. Assembly elections are likely in Bihar in October-November, and once the model code comes into force, no policy decision can be made.

Singh, who is admitted to the AIIMS, New Delhi, because of post Covid-19 complications, has still not made it clear whether he will stay in the RJD or shift to the JD(U).

The departure of Singh from the RJD is being seen as a major "psychological setback" for the party as a sizeable section of his Rajput castemen still backs the opposition party while all other

"The issues he has raised in his letter to the chief minister are undoubtedly worth consideration," JD(U) spokesman Rajiv Ranjan Prasad said.

"One thing is clear that Raghuansh Babu was humiliated and insulted in the RJD and he swallowed it during his long stint in the party he nursed with his blood and sweat," Prasad said.

He said Singh's decision to quit the RJD had left a "big hole in the party's sinking boat".

Before Singh, seven MLAs and five MLCs, including those belonging to the Yadav caste and Muslims, the bedrock of the RJD's support base, had resigned and joined the JD(U).

## FARMERS' OUTCRY



Farmers shout slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a "Jai Bharat Andolan" demonstration, against agriculture-related ordinances brought by the Union government, outside the central jail on the outskirts of Amritsar on Friday. ■ AFP

# Rapid antigen tests can be no more than adjunct to RT-PCR in corona battle, observes scientists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

Rapid antigen tests (RATs) for Covid-19 are cheaper and deliver quicker results but should be no more than an adjunct to the more reliable RT-PCR tests because of the potential for false negative results, say scientists.

The Union Health Ministry's move on Thursday to direct all states and union territories to mandatorily retest all symptomatic negative cases of RATs with RT-PCR is the right strategy they said.

The ministry noted that symptomatic cases tested negative by RATs are not followed up by RT-PCR testing in some large states. The idea is that no positive Covid-19 cases are missed.

Labelling RATs spuriously comforting, immunologist Satyajit Rath said it is also known that there are false negative outcomes in the tests.

ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) knew this all along and advised RAT-neg-

ative symptomatic people to be re-tested with RT-PCR tests, the scientist from New Delhi's National Institute of Immunology (NI) told.

Virologist Shahid Jameel added that RATs have a field sensitivity of 50 to 60 per cent and show many false negatives. If someone has symptoms, he/she should be retested. This is the correct thing to do, Jameel told.

The CEO of DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance, a public charity that invests in building biomedical sciences and health research framework, said RATs give results in 30 minutes and help in many situations. They can, for instance, be done before patients see doctors in hospitals, he added.

Though not foolproof, this is one way to protect the doctor at least 50 to 60 per cent of the time. The other advantage is low cost compared to RT-PCR, said Jameel.

In June, the ICMR recommended the use of RAT kits for diagnosis of Covid-19 in

containment zones and healthcare settings in combination with the RT-PCR test, citing high specificity but relatively low sensitivity of RATs.

The apex health body then said RAT kits will allow faster diagnosis without laboratory examination.

The RAT tests were nonetheless introduced because RT-PCR tests were not available in large enough numbers, especially since they needed a lot of equipment and high skill levels to be performed, Rath said.

Since June, India's Covid-19 graph has spiked sharply. On Friday, the caseload crossed 45 lakh and the death toll climbed to 76,271 with a record 96,551 infections and 1,209 fatalities being reported in a day.

According to Rath, RT-PCR tests are more expensive than antigen tests, which are better than nothing and that was the apparent alternative a few months ago.

While rapid antigen tests

detect viral protein, the RT-PCR tests detect viral RNA or its genetic material. RT-PCR tests 'amplify' viral RNA while detecting it, but antigen tests do not do any such amplification of the detected viral protein, the experts noted.

Because of this amplification step, RT-PCR tests for viral RNA are more sensitive than antigen tests, they said.

There are not enough RT-PCR tests and they take a long time to do in specialised centres. So the world is using RT-PCR tests for the same reason that India is using them, and with similar somewhat spurious comforting rationale, Rath explained.

He said there are far less expensive and cumbersome ways of detecting viral RNA than RT-PCR without losing the sensitivity advantage, but very few companies are making those sorts of kits.

RAT tests detect the 'most' infectious people because people who are RAT-negative but RT-PCR test-positive have low amounts of virus. This

# India, US ask Pakistan to punish perpetrators of 26/11, Pathankot

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

A Sales, US State Department Coordinator for Counter terrorism, led their respective delegations at the talks.

Both sides denounced the use of terrorist proxies and strongly condemned cross-border terrorism in all its forms.

They exchanged views on threats posed by UN-sanctioned terrorist entities and emphasised the need for concerted action against all terrorist networks, including al-Qaida, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar-e-Tayiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, a joint statement said.

The two sides also shared information about their priorities and procedures for pursuing sanctions and designations against terrorist groups and individuals, particularly in the light of recent legislative changes in India.

There was a joint commitment to strengthen cooperation on information sharing and other steps to disrupt the ability of international terrorists to travel, consistent with the important provisions and obligations outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2396.

The two sides also highlighted their efforts to address some of the world's most pressing counter terrorism challenges, including countering the financing and operations of terrorist organisations, countering radicalisation and terminating the use of the internet, cross-border movement of terrorists and prosecuting, rehabilitating and reintegrating returning terrorist fighters and family members.

The two sides discussed mutual legal and extradition assistance, bilateral law enforcement training and cooperation.

## J&K Lt Gov revamps monitoring system following complaints

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 11 SEPTEMBER

government (at the top) and districts and even further downwards to the tehsils and blocks (at the bottom).

Following large scale reports of officers not responding to grievances of the common public in Jammu and Kashmir, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday revamped the system by launching the Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS).

The system is being

launched on pilot basis in Jammu, Srinagar and Reasi districts.

Sinha has been receiving complaints that the online complaints on government's grievance cell were not being attended by the concerned officers and at times they totally failed to respond to such complaints as a result of which there was disillusionment among the aggrieved people.

Sinha announced the new system in a press conference in Srinagar. In a significant step towards making the existing grievance redress mechanism more robust and efficient, Sinha said the revamped system shall decentralise the handling and redressal of public grievances by making District Collectors / Deputy Commissioners as the primary level of receiving, disposing and monitoring grievances. As such, the existing portal has now been integrated downwards to the district level by mapping another nearly 1500 public offices in 20 districts of the Union Territory (UT).

From existing 250 to

proposed 1500 offices, which is the widest possible coverage that has been conceived and enabled in the online management of public grievances in J&K making it the first online grievance management system in the country that is linked with Central

General public is hereby informed that one unknown female, Age about 45-50 years height 4'9" shallow complexion, built thin, round face wearing grey salwar and kurta was found dead on 25.08.2020 in front of Dilshad Garden, Metro Station under GT Road flyover Delhi.

UNKNOWN

In this regard a DD No. 75-A, Dated 25.08.2020 has been lodged at PS Seemapuri, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in GTB Hospital mortuary for identification.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the following S.H.O., PS Seemapuri, Delhi

davp 21359/11/0008/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

General public is here by informed that one Boy Namely: Vikash S/o: Sh. Vishnu R/o: VPO-Bathwara, Rajgarh, MP, Age: 6 Years at the time of missing, Height: 2.1/2', Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Blue Colour Shirt and Hawai Chappal, has been missing since 06.12.2015 from in front of Gauri Shankar Mandir, Chandni Chowk Road, Kotwali, Delhi.

In this regard a FIR No. 1142/15, U/s 363IPC Dated 12.12.2015 has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Boy but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this Boy kindly inform to the following S.H.O., PS Seemapuri, Delhi

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

SHO P.S. Kotwali, Delhi

Ph. 011-23814838, 9811329220  
DP/430/N/2020

Debt Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

## More whimsy

There was a collective sigh of relief on Friday morning over the West Bengal government's eleventh-hour decision to withdraw the second successive lockdown on Saturday in the face of demands by candidates for this Sunday's NEET examination for admission to medical colleges. Such whimsy borders on tokenism, for travel schedules thrown out of kilter by the earlier announcement cannot always be revised at such short notice. It is fervently to be hoped that the charade of lockdowns is over, as hinted at by the Chief Minister. Reports suggest that similar appeals were made by Alimuddin Street, and Mamata Banerjee may well have found merit in the submission of the CPI-M leadership. If indeed the rate of afflictions is the benchmark to evaluate the effectiveness of a lockdown, the seven lockdowns in August and the proposed three in September have been quite ineffective. Altogether, a cruel irony in the season of the pandemic, if ever there was one. Indeed, on Thursday evening ~ on the eve of the lockdown rerun ~ Bengal suffered the steepest single-day surge till date, with the afflictions far above the forbidding 3000-mark. The state registered 3107 fresh cases and as many as 53 deaths in the course of the day. For more than a month, such grim statistics have been a distressing curtain-raiser to every lockdown. There ought to be an incisive prognosis of the relentless surge in the periphery of Kolkata despite the fact that the number of containment zones has come down to one... from 38 in the month of May. A lockdown is a feeble response to the forbidding enormity of the surge. It is hard not to wonder whether the unstated objective is to give the organised sector a three-day-long weekend ~ either Saturday, Sunday and Monday as it was last week, or Friday, Saturday and Sunday as initially planned this week. With 12th being a second Saturday, bank employees can rest assured of a three-day break in the manner of state and central employees. Withdrawal of the second lockdown, therefore, shall not impinge on the respite schedule. In parallel to the rhetorical discourse on life and livelihood, banking operations in Bengal were virtually disrupted in recent weeks... with the timing curtailed from six hours to four ~ 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ~ and regularisation of the five-day week throughout the month. These are matters that come within the remit of the Reserve Bank of India, and not the state administration. And yet, Nabanna had its way. Addressing the issue is more than a mere administrative intervention. The medical fraternity must of necessity be involved. Regrettably, since 25 March this segment has been accorded a relatively secondary rating in the overall construct.

No less a matter of concern is the wasted year in terms of education, with schools, colleges and universities closed for close to six months. Little or no effort has been made to regurgitate the search of learning. The state government's frequent declarations on lockdowns are reminiscent of the frequent bandhs during the peak of the Singur and Nandigram movements (2006-07).

## A fire now

Beirut, the volatile capital of Lebanon, is burning and for the second time in a span of 40 days. It is rather intriguing that Thursday's eruption also happened at the Port of Beirut, the site of last month's catastrophic explosion which killed 200 people and caused devastation in parts of the embattled city. The residents are in a state of shock and awe. Intriguing too must be the timeline. The port was devastated in the explosion on 4 August when no less than 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate exploded. The chemical had been lying unattended for years and was a disaster waiting to happen.

The blast was devastating and blew up windows, doors and walls miles away, and was felt as far away as the island of Cyprus. Negligent nonchalance is the thread that links the two disasters in two months. While the storage of ammonium nitrate had ignited the explosion in August, Thursday's fire started at a warehouse where oil and tyres are kept in the duty-free zone. This isn't a casual eye-witness account, but the version of the Lebanese army. Gross negligence is the new danger that the country has had to countenance. It has happened at a critical juncture, specifically when panicked residents are struggling to get over last month's catastrophic explosion in the city's nerve-centre that killed a large number of port employees and as many as ten firefighters. The explosion in August, attributed to the government's negligence and mismanagement, has been the single-most destructive blast in the history of Lebanon. Albeit on a smaller scale, a not dissimilar mishap has now occurred. There is speculation in Lebanon that Thursday's fire could be an attempt to remove evidence of last month's explosion and the fear that more chemicals might be present in the wreckage of the port. The Lebanese army recently claimed to have discovered more than four tons of ammonium nitrate near the port.

It is pretty obvious that the the port needs safety measures to be put in place and for hazardous material to be stored with greater care. French and Italian chemical experts, working amidst the remains of the port, have identified more than 20 containers carrying dangerous chemicals. Clearly, no lessons were drawn from the accident in August. The Lebanese are quite totally bamboozled and are uncertain whether the fire has been the fallout of excessive heat or "some other mistake". Beirut has arguably paid the price twice for such "mistakes". Overall, though, the Lebanese have been victims of poor governance, and while protests had followed the August blast, only cosmetic changes took place. These do not come close to addressing a problem that is endemic.

# China's Games

A carrot-and-stick approach is needed – one that would allow the Games to go forward on the condition that Beijing make specified compromises on key human rights issues involving the widespread detention of Uighurs and increasingly aggressive measures to bring its 60 million Christians to heel



The next Olympic Winter Games are scheduled to take place in Beijing in February 2022. While the Olympics are a promotion of global peace and unity, the Communist Party of China's human rights abuses against Uighur Muslims and Chinese Christians are a stark contrast to the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) stated ideals of building a peaceful, better world.

The CCP's misdeeds against its citizens of the Islamic and Christian faiths must compel the IOC and global community to demand needed changes in order for the Games to go forward in Beijing.

This is to say nothing of the CCP's violation of Hong Kong's autonomy through the recent imposition of its security law on Hong Kong, nor of its role in hiding initial information about Covid-19 from the World Health Organization and obscuring the outbreak.

The CCP's egregious behaviour demands a rethink as to whether or not the 2022 Winter Games should be held in Beijing absent a major course correction of the regime towards the treatment of its Muslim and Christian populations.

A carrot and stick approach is needed – one that would allow the Games to go forward on the condition that Beijing make specified compromises on key human rights issues involving the widespread detention of Uighurs and increasingly aggressive measures to bring its 60 million Christians to heel.

Understandably, critics of imposing new conditions for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics argue that there are no viable replacement venues at present, that the IOC does not have a history of showing concern over human rights and that the IOC is relying on the scheduled Beijing Games to protect it from further financial losses after taking a hit from the cancellation of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games due to Covid-19.

Besides, some assert, often times the fix is in as the IOC will award venues to the countries that bribe, wine and dine the most lavishly. The human condition, it is argued, is the last thing on the minds of IOC decision makers and it will be no different with Beijing in 2020.

For its part, the CCP contends that demands to improve the plight of Uighurs and Chinese Christians – accompanied by criticism of Beijing's recent crackdown in Hong Kong – are an intrusion into China's internal affairs and are inherently hypocritical. Why confront China over these issues while not applying the same standards to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympiad amid prolonged US social unrest involving African Americans and law enforcement?

While all human suffering is bad and efforts must not be

spared to help each community in crisis, the "whataboutism" typically employed by Beijing deflects from the point at hand: the egregious abuses against the Chinese people – Uighurs and Christians in particular – which constitute some of the most shocking and pressing human rights issues of our time and are not absolved by American shortcomings.

The IOC's failure to look past human rights violations, while nothing new, must change this time around. Given the revelations in recent years of China's crimes against its Uighur and Christian citizens, the IOC and the global community must demand specific changes in the CCP's behaviour in order to allow for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games to proceed.

What should these changes be?

- Closing the system of Uighur detention and re-education camps.

- Ending the forced sterilization of Uighur women and accompanied mandatory abortion and birth control measures aimed at slashing the birth rates of China's Muslim population.

- Shutting down the systematic tracking, surveillance and arrests of Uighur civilians.

- A cessation of the ongoing campaign to demolish churches,

annotate Chinese Bible scripture, imprison Christian pastors and remove the crosses of hundreds of churches throughout China. Detractors may argue that such demands are unwarranted and that prospects for progress are improbable. Yet, we can learn from recent history as to how effective human rights advocacy can involve a give-and-take approach.

During the Reagan Administration's arms control negotiations with the Soviets, Secretary of State George Schultz was known to demand targeted human rights concessions from Moscow as part of the overall disarmament talks.

His advocacy was chastised by some as being naïve, irrelevant to the mission at hand and even reckless. Yet, sometimes Secretary Schultz's bids paid off and yielded humanitarian concessions by the Soviets, saving lives.

Given the scope and severity of the CCP's abuses against Uighurs and Christians, it is appropriate and justified for the world community to use the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics as leverage for demanding progress on key humanitarian fronts. The United States and a coalition of sister democracies ought to lead this effort.

Otherwise, we may want to take a step back and ask ourselves if societies built upon universal ideals and the rule of law are content with allowing the CCP's power and wealth to bully and intimidate the world into subservience and silence.

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

**ASIAN VOICES**

## The parties must go on

The recent Republican National Convention in the US was scandalous for many reasons – from the misuse of the White House as a campaign prop (in violation of the Hatch Act and long-standing norms) and the brazen mendacity of its speakers to the parade of Trump family members. Amid the tawdry spectacle of the GOP being transformed into a subsidiary of the Trump Organisation, one shocking aspect stood out: The party offered no platform. The Republicans' only purpose, apparently, is "to enthusiastically support the President's America-first agenda."

On one level, eschewing a policy platform can be read as a smart strategy to insulate the party from Donald Trump the person. In the event that Trump is defeated in November, members of the GOP establishment can wash their hands of it, claiming that it was only an unpopular leader who lost; the party's long-standing principles remain sound. But a more plausible interpretation is that the toxic mix of polarization and hyperpartisanship in America has reached a new level of concentration. Having been completely hollowed out, at least one of the country's main political parties no longer fulfills its basic democratic function. That function requires parties not only to offer the electorate a choice, but also to determine how political battles will be waged. By appealing to some groups more than others, parties draw lines in the sand; and by focusing on some political fault lines over others, parties assemble coalitions that

**H The Korea Herald**  
could have looked quite different had the emphasis been placed on various other equally salient issues. The point of democracy is not to forge consensus on every issue, but rather to manage conflicting interests and commitments. But democracy can break down when parties or politicians openly demonize or deny the legitimacy of other contenders for power. Such tactics have long been the specialty of right-wing populists, who wage culture wars in an effort to reduce all political conflict to questions of belonging. Hence, rather than engage with his opponents' arguments, Trump simply smears all critics as "un-American." As the political scientists Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson have shown, the GOP's propensity for culture warfare owes much to the fact that its economic policy agenda is profoundly unpopular.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**RAYCHAUDHURI MIRA** (September 12, 1997) — **RAYCHAUDHURI DR. SATYAPRASAD** (January 3, 1986). — Fondly remembered by Mala, Bijoy, Ajoy and their families.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

### Powerful coin

SIR, The Supreme Court's recent handling of the case of civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan has stirred the conscience of the entire nation. It was perhaps one of the most high-profile cases the apex court has heard in recent times. Justice Mishra, who retired recently, said that the court was showing "magnanimity" to Bhushan by not imposing a severe punishment. However, it would have been truly magnanimous had the SC declared the entire case null and void. By punishing Bhushan with a fine of 'Rupee One', Justice Mishra has actually initiated a nationwide movement in his support as people who stand up for democratic principles will be happy to drop a 'One Rupee' coin in the SC's kitty. Perhaps this coin, which has the least purchasing power, has suddenly become a powerful symbol of a resilient

and new India waiting for change.

Yours, etc., Ranganathan Sivakumar, Chennai, 9 September.

#### NOBLE NCERT

SIR, By virtue of my long stint in NCERT, I would like to share one of my memorable experiences with our countrymen which I think more appropriate and holistic in the era of global warming. It is needless to mention the true dedication of NCERT in the field of educational research, training and extension of education. Its philosophy is already engrained in its logo. But the tradition, which I feel proud as well as humble is the plantation of a "tree" on the day of superannuation. Each employee will invariably plant a tree as per his own choice and nurture that as far as practicable. I have not seen this type of noble idea in

other government organisations. It resembles a lot of significant things, compulsory afforestation, attachment with the plants, concern for the environment and wild life as it has been mentioned in the Article 51(A) in our Constitution.

Every year, there is a sufficient number of staff who retire from many government organisations, PSUs and also from other sectors. They receive the requisite retirement benefits. Can't we expect this good custom to be adopted in all offices, PSUs, banks in all the states of our country?

Yours, etc., Ramdas Ray, Bhubaneswar, 9 September.

#### SCHOOL FEES

SIR, Students of the Delhi Board English-medium schools in West Bengal are facing a very painful situation in West Bengal. Many of these schools did not implement the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations; they now want to raise the fees to

pay their staff. It is really high time for the Government of West Bengal and the ICSE and ISC Council to look into the real conditions of these schools run by different minority religious organisations under the safeguard of Article 30 of the Indian Constitution. The founder entities of these schools had agreed in writing to pay salaries and dearness allowance equivalent to state government schools before obtaining the "No Objection Certificate" from the Government. The teachers and the staff were for long receiving their DA from the State Government. But some of these institutions stopped receiving the school DA from the government after they gave a written undertaking that they would pay the equal amount of D.A. from their own fund.

Now these schools want to increase the fees in order to pay their staff. It is really high time for the Government of West Bengal and the ICSE and ISC Council to look into the real conditions of these schools run by different minority religious organisations under the safeguard of Article 30 of the Indian Constitution. The founders of these schools had agreed in writing to pay salaries and dearness allowance equivalent to state government schools before obtaining the "No Objection Certificate" from the Government. The teachers and the staff were for long receiving their DA from the State Government. But some of these institutions stopped receiving the school DA from the government after they gave a written undertaking that they would pay the equal amount of D.A. from their own fund.

cannot afford the hike. Calcutta High Court had set up a two-member committee, headed by Professor Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University, to probe the income and expenditure of the schools that wanted to raise fees. Promptly enough, some schools appealed to the Supreme Court and got an order passed, stating that the order of the Calcutta High Court would not be

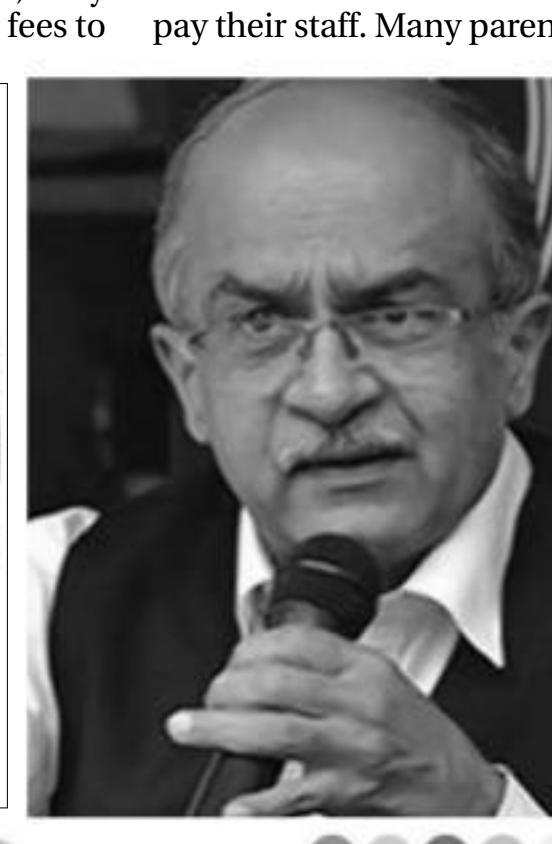
given effect to till the High Court hears their modification petition. Some of these schools do not have proper classrooms, libraries, laboratories, staff-rooms, classrooms, playgrounds and qualified teachers. These schools do need Government inspection periodically to see whether or not they are maintaining the proper requirements.

Yours, etc., Bikash Naskar, Basanti, 11 September.

#### TAKE A BREAK

SIR, It was a bit of a surprise that Novak Djokovic of Serbia, has been defaulted, the tennis equivalent of ejection from the ongoing US Open (Djoker sent packing from US Open); September 8. As it had happened, the No.1 seed was trailing 5-6 in the opening set of the tournament, which is being played now in the Arthur Ashe stadium in New York. At that point of time, as he walked on the sideline for a changeover, Novak suddenly hit the ball at the backline, which unfortunately hit the throat of the lineswoman standing there. She was hurt and slumped to her knees. The tournament referee, the Grand Slam supervisor and the chair umpire discussed the issue with Djokovic on the sidelines. The player, though he defended himself by stating that the act was unintentional and tendered an apology for the same, was given the 'go-away' signal. He also forfeited his tournament earning of \$250,000. This is a very unfortunate day for the tennis world. Incidentally, Novak Djokovic had earlier contracted Covid-19, along with his wife and one of his coaches. Prior to that, he had taken part in a series of exhibition matches which he organised in Serbia and Croatia in June, with zero social distancing. A few players who took part in the series also tested positive with the viral infection. Djokovic has also gone on record to say that his body belongs to him and nobody can insist on inoculating him with a Covid-19 vaccine. Such statements in this time of the pandemic border on fanaticism. It looks as if the tennis-great really needs some psychological advice. He should realize that once a person gets infected, he increases risks for others. Novak Djokovic has nothing more to achieve in the tennis world. He needs rest, and, he should restrain himself from erratic behaviour. Our good wishes to this great tennis player are always there.

Yours, etc., Ashok Kumar Ghosh, Kolkata, 8 September.



## 'Police leadership mishandled Delhi riots'

**F**ormer Delhi Police commissioner **NEERAJ KUMAR** had a remarkable career as an IPS officer. During his 37-year-long stint with the country's elite police service, he served in Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Goa and with the CBI. A 1976 batch IPS officer, Kumar retired as the Delhi Police chief in 2013. A substantial part of his tenure was with the CBI where he unearthed the UTI scam, exposed several terror outfits, and probed the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts. His book 'Dial D for Don', published in 2015, was a bestseller in which he recounted the stories of eleven police operations that he conducted during his posting in the CBI. He represented India at the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime at Vienna. He also represented India at Vienna during deliberations of the United Nations Manual on Kidnapping & Extortion, 2014. He was handpicked to be the Conference Secretary when the World Interpol Conference took place in New Delhi in October 2007. In a freewheeling interview with **VIJAY THAKUR**, Kumar candidly shared his thoughts on a range of crucial issues. Excerpts:

**Q. Despite efforts to modernise the Indian police force, our police hardly match up to the police force of the Western world. Our police is overburdened, stressed and ill-equipped. What does it lack?**

A. Over the years our police has changed a lot. It is more qualified and tech-savvy now. These days police officers investigate in a more professional way. Yet it needs to change its mindset. Most of the police force still has a colonial mindset and considers the public as their subjects. A police officer must remember he is not here to rule but to maintain the rule of law. Secondly, our Public Relations Department is very poor and unprofessional. And this changes the public perception about the police. About a decade ago, I went to Scotland Yard, whose police force is considered to be one of the best in the world. It has one-tenth of Delhi Police's strength. I was shocked to see that there were 67 public relations professionals working round the clock for Scotland Yard. They were not from police but professionals who had worked in various media organisations. They keep analysing public perceptions, keep them updated on police achievements. And the result is there. Forget how they work — they have a very

good image and people like them. Indian police have to change their communication skills and mindset. Police officers must remember it is people's police and is answerable to them, and the police PR department must form a bridge between people and police to change people's perception.

**Q. But changing public perception alone would not help as the police force is still ill-equipped and has a corrupt image. Your comments?**

A. There are many reasons for corruption. You are right... the police force is ill-equipped. Government is not meeting its minimum investigation requirements. I give you an example. If a Sub Inspector finds an unclaimed body in his area, he might try to throw it out of his jurisdiction. This is because he is not paid sufficient money for disposing it. Once a body is found, it is the responsibility of the Investigating Officer to get the post mortem done and perform last rites. Unfortunately, most of the money he spends goes from his pocket or he has to find 'other sources of income'. Another example I would give is of a vehicle stolen in Delhi but recovered in Nagaland. No one wants to know how a cop brings it back and how much he spends for its transportation. Similarly, while conducting investigations, he has to spend money from his pocket to get information etc. So, from where he would recover all this money? The list of such problems is long and everyone knows it. Tell me, how can a honest police officer pay these expenses? The answer is obvious.

**Q. What immediate reforms would you suggest in the police force to make it humane and efficient?**

A. Well, the list is long. However, I would recommend two immediate changes which do not need even a single rupee. First, do not assess a police officer on the basis of crime figures in his area. If we do that, it puts pressure on police officers to keep crime figures under check. He would manipulate the figure, under-report it or will not report it at all. Let all crimes be reported and registered. Assess a police officer on how he handles law and order and investigates crimes, and not on the basis of reporting of crimes. Trust me, half of the problems would be solved. Most of the complaints against police is against non-reporting of crimes. So, public perception would thus change.



Second reform required all over the country is that one should not fight over jurisdiction. Wherever a case is reported, it may be registered and sent to the police station concerned after the preliminary process. If today Asaram Bapu is in jail, it is because of this. The victim reported the matter to her father in UP and the latter registered a zero FIR in Kamala Market police station in New Delhi. Delhi Police got the medical examination of the victim done and sent her to Jodhpur where the crime took place. Now if the victim had gone straight to the police in Jodhpur, her case would have never been registered because of Asaram's influence there, leave aside conviction. But once the FIR was registered in Delhi, the local police in Jodhpur had no option but to investigate and arrest the accused.

**Q. Delhi Police earned a bad name over the February 2020 Delhi riots. How do you see it?**

A. When we analyse the North-east Delhi riots, we find that it was a culmination of mishandling of many incidents, right from Jamia to JNU to Shaheen Bagh. It was a reflection of poor police leadership. Rather, I

would say there was barely any leadership then in Delhi Police at the top level. Then police commissioner Amulya Patnaik could not give clear instructions to his subordinate officers, there was hardly any planning, and police did not follow any SOPs. It was then in fact a free-for-all in Delhi. Police officers at the ground level did not know what to do. Handling such incidents is no rocket science. In fact, previous Delhi Police commissioners have handled worse situations than this in a more professional and efficient way. It depends upon how the top leader behaves. Force is as good as its leader. There is an old saying in the Army: There is no bad Army, there are bad Generals. So, I have no hesitation in saying that Delhi riots were the culmination of mishandling of many incidents, failure of intelligence, and lack of proper planning. When the police chief was changed, the results were visible on the ground. Look at the post-riot handling of the Delhi police — it was excellent, good mob management, good scientific investigations and so on. The force was the same. The only change was that leadership was changed with S N Shrivastava replaced

ing Patnaik.

**Q. Another case which has damaged the police image is the Sushant Singh Rajput death case in Mumbai. What is your take on it?**

A. I must accept that the Mumbai police has not acted properly. First, it did not communicate with media, which it normally does in such sensitive cases. After all, we all work for the public, it is our job to convince them and clarify if they are doubting our intentions. Unfortunately, for reasons best known to them, this time there was a huge communication gap. As a result, rumour-mongering started and the media made it a movement. Then the case was registered at Patna, which further damaged their image. Mumbai Police committed another blunder: Instead of explaining its legal position to the Bihar police and media, it preferred to fight with the Bihar police. And when an IPS officer came to investigate, he was quarantined. Had I been the commissioner of Mumbai Police, I would have sat down with the Patna police officer, helped him and explained the legal position to him. I could have politely told him that this was not his jurisdiction. But Mumbai Police made a mockery of the entire police force and failed to keep the confidence of the public and media.

**Q. What about police-politicians nexus? The allegations regarding such nexus are emerging in the Sushant case as well.**

A. I must admit that the situation is very bad all over the country when it comes to the nexus between police, politicians, bureaucrats, and now criminals. In fact, criminals these days have become politicians and common people are suffering the most. It is also an open secret that police are not allowed to work independently. If they do not toe the political line set for them, they are in trouble. Though most of my services were with Delhi Police and the CBI, I also had stints in Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa. There used to be a day-to-day interference in these states. And it would continue. Politicians are public representatives and we need to listen to them as well. But we are taught how not to yield to pressure and maintain a balance. A police officer has to follow the rule of law and always remember he is answerable to the Constitution of this country, and should not compromise with any illegal act or unlawful orders.

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

According to General Sykes, the progress of civil aviation at Home has not been quite so poor as has been imagined. The Controller-General of Civil Aviation gave statistics showing the number of flights, the mileage flown, the number of passengers, the weight of goods transported, the number of aerodromes licensed and of machines registered, and the value of air-borne imports and exports. The figures, it must be admitted, make a brave show. The fact that only one fatality is recorded amongst 70,000 passengers in a year is a noteworthy tribute to the safety which has been attained in air travel; and the statement that 114 aerodromes have been licensed indicates that the development of civil aviation at Home is going on in earnest. General Sykes noted the establishment of the air services between Paris and London, and between London and Amsterdam, since August, 1919, when international flying was first permitted; while a third service to the Continent between London and Brussels is shortly to be inaugurated. It appears, therefore, that civil aviation at Home is going ahead at a better rate than some critics have admitted. It might have been hoped that India, with its climatic advantages, would have taken the lead in this work; but India has not yet developed the facilities for aircraft construction and research which render independent progress possible; and, so long as we have to import machines instead of making them, the advance of civil aviation in this country will be handicapped.

### NEWS ITEMS

#### SIR JAGADIS BOSE

Professor Partick Geddes' biography of Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose is published today by Messrs. Longman. It is entitled "An Indian Pioneer of Science." A popular exposition of his successive discoveries brings down the story to his admission to the Royal Society and a great tribute is paid by individual leaders in science in controversy of Prof. Waller's opposition. The biographer emphasises the fact that in discussions over the nature and final value of the extraordinary results of Sir J.C. Bose's researches there has never been any kind of misunderstanding or collision between East and West. The biography is remarkable as a record of success, of persistent industry and idealism in overcoming the severest obstacles from youth up. Sir J.C. Bose is leaving for Paris today to address the Physiological Congress.

#### EXODUS TO AFGHANISTAN

A special train from Larkana carrying a Hijrat party of 500 men and 200 women and children headed by Mr. Jan Mahomed, barrister-at-law and a landlord of Sind and Maulana Taj Mahomed, a descendant of a Pir family was timed to arrive at Lahore at seven in the evening but on account of the reception given to the party at wayside stations specially at Multan the train did not reach Badami Bag, a suburban railway station of Lahore till 2 A.M. today. Throughout the evening and night large crowds of Mahomedans thronged the station premises where the Punjab Khilafat Committee under the guidance of Maulvi Zaffer Ali, of the Zemindar, made arrangements for their entertainment. The Lahore Seva Samiti and the Punjab National Volunteers, captained by Ata Mahomed Jan also attended.

#### "HELD UP" AT A DANCE

In the very early hours of Saturday morning W. Fitzimmons, recently returned from Busra, was arrested in the compound of the Clem Browne Institute at Sealdah in the midst of a dance on a charge of causing a disturbance at the Institute by threatening to shoot with a revolver. One W. Montehero was arrested along with Fitzimmons on charge of driving a motor car without a license. The two were charged before the Police Magistrate of Sealdah. It is alleged that on Friday last Fitzimmons had the worst of a fight with some members of the Institute, and had to leave in a motor car. He is returned to the Institute within half an hour, whipped out a revolver and threatened to shoot those with whom he had had the quarrel. Montehero was released on bail and the hearing adjourned.

#### FRUITLESS JOURNEY TO ENGLAND

The P. and O. Coy's steamer Morea brought to Bombay a very aggrieved family. The husband, of Russian extraction, and said to have been resident in Bombay fourteen years, went to London by the Morea on her last trip, accompanied by his wife and two sons, his intention being to enter the two latter in a school and to return with his wife to India. His passport was duly endorsed by the Bombay Passport office "Traveling to England," and it also contained an endorsement from the Russian Consul at Calcutta, "Good for leaving India." For some reason this did not meet with the approval of the authorities in England. The man and his family kept on the Morea a fortnight, back to India.

## A trend-setter on the fringe

MAHENDRA P LAMA

ating degree that made the university a new flag bearer of both the University Grants Commission and the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the government of India.

Many of the core contents in the recently announced New Education Policy 2020 of the government of India have so many striking similarities with what Sikkim University has already done. While stating education as the great leveller and as the best tool for achieving economic and social mobility, inclusion and equality, the Policy puts teachers at the centre of the fundamental reforms because 'they truly shape the next generation of citizens'.

This new policy amply highlights multidisciplinary and holistic education across the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities and sports. For this to be realised, emphasis is placed on pedagogy with increased emphasis on communication, discussion, debate, research and opportunities for cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking. It amply highlights experiential learning and stresses reduced curriculum content, limiting each subject to its core essentials to make space for critical thinking, and is based more on a holistic aptitude, inquiry, discovery, discussion and analysis. Key concepts, ideas, applications and problem-solving should be the mode of teaching and learning with strong interactions based on fun, creativity, collaboration

and exploration. The aim will be to increase the gross enrolment ratio in higher education from 26.3 per cent in 2018 to 50 per cent by 2035.

Sikkim University, located in the periphery far away from New Delhi, did exactly what the New Education Policy now propagates as the conspicuous way forward. In some cases, more daring innovations and transforming practices were put in place by this infant university. Several multidisciplinary schools like that of Sustainable Development and Human Security, Global Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, Indigenous and Folk Studies and Languages were set up, for which the University Grants Commission sanctioned a record of more than 200 faculty positions at one go.

Besides setting up new departments like those of Ethno-Botany and Social Medicines, Microbiology, Mass Communication and IT, Mountain Music, China Studies, and Horticulture and Floriculture, several five-year integrated programmes were floated. Besides Nepali, provisions were provided for the three indigenous languages — Bhutia, Lepcha and Limbu — up to the doctoral degree.

The semesters are named Spring and Monsoon, and the results are declared within 20 days of the last day of the examinations. We regularly visited colleges and schools to train teachers to teach students 'why math-

ematics' rather than the orthodox 'what is mathematics'. In a place where once-a-year examinations were held, continuous evaluation with a credit-based grading system was intricately put in place. Students and teachers made compulsory open class presentations. We asked for three years from students, and promised them 70 years of highly productive lives. Within three years, most of these students coming from all backgrounds became confident, informed, empowered and forward-looking.

All the courses are interdisciplinary, and students can jump from one discipline to another. After completing one year of regular education, they can go out, work, experiment, and come back within 10 years to complete the degree. The curriculum was developed by the best interdisciplinary national and global faculty with the set content of 30 per cent theories, 40 per cent examples, and the final 30 per cent from field exposures. To supplement classroom teaching, compulsory inter-school and interdisciplinary one-month field study projects known as Winter Sojourn and Oral History were introduced. These became very popular as they studied water to pass time games, trafficking to women vendors, tea and cinchona to cardamom and ginger, and climate change, disasters and communities to cultural and intellectual heritage.

Unprecedented practices like zero corruption, no peons, she first, no mention of category remarks against

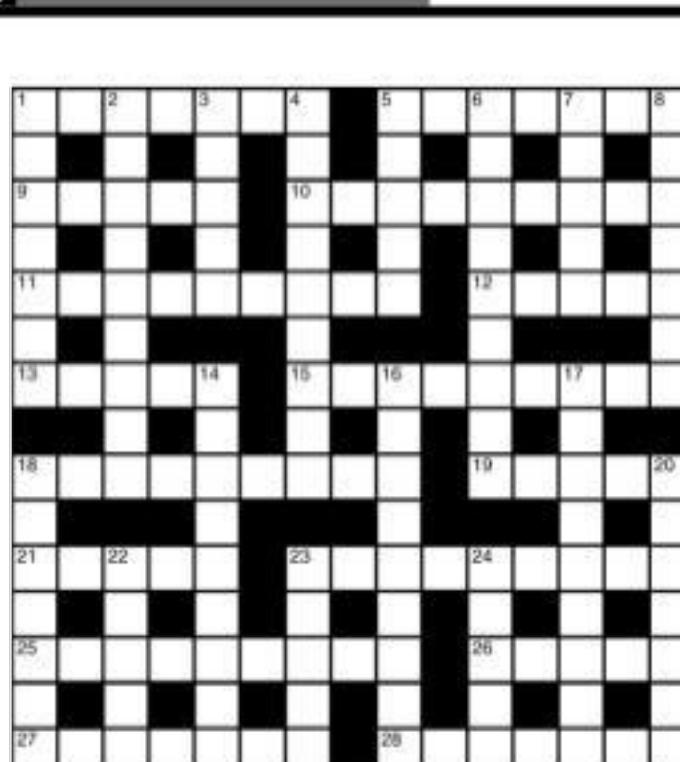
affirmative action based induction, taking laboratories to the communities, printing degree certificates at the security press of Nashik and digitised library access made the university a reservoir of ideas, innovations and prolific activities.

Besides global and national lectures, visits by widely known personalities from all fields from across the world, interconnection with global universities, fortnightly management staff meetings, student admission centres all over the country and in the neighbouring nations, ethnic and biodiversity museum and community radio project were widely acclaimed by the regulatory agencies and other institutions.

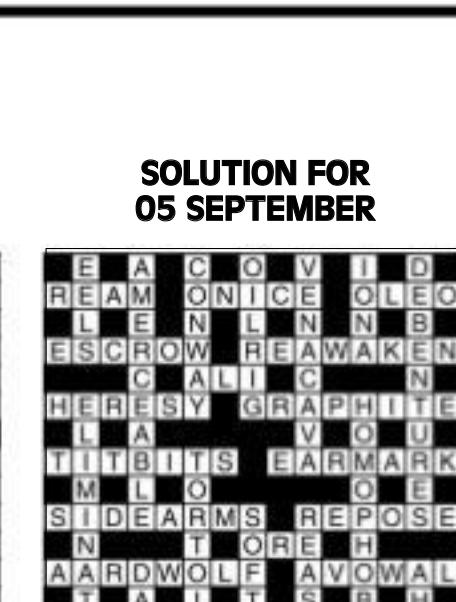
The appointment of the faculty members was done by the most eminent domain experts. While briefing the panel of experts before the interview, the first point the vice-chancellor made was that he had no personal candidate, and hence the selection process must be detached from any consideration other than merit and professionalism. Delivering the first convocation address in 2010, the president of India declared Sikkim University the future leader of the entire Himalayan region. Father of Green Revolution Prof MS Swaminathan injected all the finer nuances of science and scientific temper as the founding chancellor of the university. Thus, the periphery was transformed as the centre by a subtle yet far-reaching instrument of education.

The Kathmandu Post/ANN

### CROSSWORD



#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



#### SOLUTION FOR 05 SEPTEMBER

#### ACROSS

- 1 Excellent finishing, not starting (7)
- 5 Eve's birthplace just before Jesus born, in fashion (7)
- 9 Join together touring a region of South East England (5)
- 10 Filling up again, could be a long ride? (9)
- 11 Sort of tin can or bottle, ultimately — this? (9)
- 12 Relative peace finally found in European city (5)
- 13 Charge that may be electrical (5)
- 15 Badger used to rat, disconcerted (9)
- 18 Doctor gathering clothes for later time? (9)
- 19 Finish off with hair in
- 21 Rate of workforce's retirement? (5)
- 23 Part of shell in 11 at sea (9)
- 25 Six on the table? Stir broiled meat? (9)
- 26 Indian condiment absorbed by chapati, a restaurateur recalled (5)
- 27 Most uninspiring airport tax originally (7)
- 28 Gospel backfiring on church body (7)
- DOWN
- 1 Strikes hit workers initially involved in courses (7)
- 2 Notes praising evolution of pangolins (9)
- 3 Juliet's predecessor somewhere in Asia (5)
- 4 Item designed for light

#### SWITCHES 10 (9)

- 5 Measure big cheese (5)
- 6 Nomadic tribesman controlling vital area? (9)
- 7 Whisper main number of forty-five? (5)
- 8 Genius, good man inspired by old oath (7)
- 14 Monotreme's dicky ticker (9)
- 16 Motherese's discombobulated triplets (9)
- 17 Springer pants for putting on again (9)
- 18 Detected without 1 Across (7)
- 20 Drink upset duck (7)
- 22 Right, second right, then a left (5)
- 23 Build boat (5)
- 24 Vessel a swine almost capsized, circling river (5)

NO 28071





Startups should focus on three Ps ~ product, process, people ~ for promoting Aatmanirbhar Bharat

PIYUSH GOYAL  
UNION COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

## THUMBNAILS

**Foldable smartphone:** Smartphone maker Samsung on Friday announced that it will open pre-booking of its category-defining foldable device, Galaxy Z Fold2 5G ~ from 14 September. The phone, priced at Rs 1,49,999 per unit, comes with a stunning and bold design that transforms mobile experiences, the company said. With a larger cover screen and massive main screen, Galaxy Z Fold2 5G combines solid design and expert craftsmanship with intuitive new features, it added.

SNS

**BEL foray:** BEL has expressed its interest to foray into space electronic systems, small and micro satellite and rocket manufacturing segments. BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited), a Navratna PSU under the ministry of defence, is already a major player in ground segment of satellite communication. "BEL desires to enter into space electronic systems, manufacture of small and micro satellite and address launch vehicle segment jointly with Indian private industry," the company said in its annual report.

PTI

**Multi-cap MFs:** Markets regulator Sebi on Friday tweaked asset allocation framework for multi-cap mutual funds, asking such funds to have a minimum corpus of 75 per cent invested in equities as against the present mandate of 65 per cent. Further, such funds will have to make a minimum investment of 25 per cent each in equity and related instruments of large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap companies, the Sebi said in a circular.

PTI

**Rupee fall:** The rupee settled 7 paise lower at 73.53 against the US dollar on Friday as forex market sentiment turned lacklustre looking at geopolitical developments and mixed global cues. Weaker American dollar and lower crude oil price, however, lent some support to the rupee, helping it restrict losses to some extent.

PTI

# Industrial production declines 10.4% in July

Mainly due to lower output of manufacturing, mining and power generation

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

Industrial production shrank by 10.4 per cent in July, mainly due to lower output of manufacturing, mining and power generation sectors, official data showed today.

Explaining the reasons behind the fall in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the ministry of statistics and programme implementation said a large number of industrial units were not operating from the end of March due to the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of Covid-19.

"This has had an impact on the items being produced by the establishments during the period of lockdown," it said in a statement.

It further said industrial activity is resuming with the lifting of restrictions.

The ministry added that it "may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the Covid-19 pandemic."

According to the IIP data, factory output had registered a growth of 4.9 per cent in July

## POOR SHOW



► As per the data, manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the IIP, recorded a decline of 11.1 per cent in July as against a growth of 4.8 per cent in same month last year.

► Similarly, mining sector output fell 13 per cent in July as against a growth of 4.9 per cent earlier.

► Power generation shrank by 2.5 per cent as against a growth of 5.2 per cent a year ago.

However, it said the index for the month of July 2020 stands at 118.1 as compared to 108.9 in June, 89.5 in May and 54 in April.

According to the IIP data, factory output had registered a growth of 4.9 per cent in July

2019.

Meanwhile, the fall in IIP for June has been revised to (-) 15.7 per cent from the provisional estimates of 16.6 per cent contraction released last month.

As per the data, manufac-

turing sector, which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the IIP, recorded a decline of 11.1 per cent in July as against a growth of 4.8 per cent in same month last year.

Similarly, mining sector output fell 13 per cent in July as against a growth of 4.9 per cent earlier.

Power generation shrank by 2.5 per cent as against a growth of 5.2 per cent a year ago.

Output of capital goods, which is a barometer of investment, fell by 22.8 per cent in July as against a contraction of 7 per cent a year ago.

Consumer durables output also declined by 23.6 per cent, as against a contraction of 2.4 per cent in July 2019.

Consumer non-durable goods production grew by 6.7 per cent, as compared to a growth of 8.5 per cent a year ago.

The IIP for April-July period has contracted by 29.2 per cent, according to the data. It had registered a growth of 3.5 per cent during the same period last fiscal.

Moody's revises Airtel rating outlook to stable

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

Moody's Investors Service today revised Bharti Airtel's credit outlook rating to stable from negative on account of easing of competition in the telecom sector, increase in 4G customer base and mobile services rates from December.

It also considered options given to the company to make payment of pending adjusted gross revenue in installments while revising the outlook.

"Moody's Investors Service has affirmed Bharti Airtel Bal corporate family rating and senior unsecured rating as well as the backed senior unsecured notes issued by Bharti's subsidiary, Bharti Airtel Int'l (Netherlands) B.V. At the same time, Moody's has changed the rating outlook to stable from negative," Moody's said in a statement.

Credit rating indicates ability of a company to pay back debt.

"The ratings affirmation and change in outlook to stable reflect improving profitability at Bharti's core Indian mobile business, because of a moderation in industry competition, an increase in its 4G customer base, and a tariff hike from December 2019," Moody's senior V-P Annalisa DiChiara said.

Moody's projects 11.5% contraction of GDP in fiscal year 2020-21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

was one of the sharpest among all major G-20 economies. We now expect real GDP to contract by 11.5 percent in the fiscal year starting April 2020, much weaker than our previous forecast of a 4 per cent contraction," Moody's said.

The rating agency expects growth to rebound to 10.6 per cent in fiscal 2021, reflecting a strong statistical base effect from the low GDP levels of 2020 as economic activity gradually normalises.

The sharp decline in growth will result in materially weaker government revenue. Combined with increased fiscal expenditure in response to the coronavirus outbreak, this will contribute to a wider general government fiscal deficit, which we now expect to reach 12 per cent of GDP in fiscal 2020, it said.

Moody's expects the Central government and states to run fiscal deficits close to 7.5 per cent and 4.5 per cent of GDP, respectively. This will drive a substantially higher debt burden, the agency added.

"The collapse in GDP

## Gujarat tops in developing startup ecosystem: DPIIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

Gujarat has again emerged as the best performer in developing startup ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs, according to the ranking of states and union territories by the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT).

Gujarat was categorised as the best performer among all states and one union territory (UT) Delhi, barring north-eastern states and other UTs.

Among all the north-eastern states except Assam and all UTs barring Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands has emerged as the best performer.

A total of 22 states and 3 UTs participated in the exercise.

To establish uniformity and ensure standardisation in the ranking process, states and union territories have been divided into two groups. While UTs except Delhi and all states in North-East except Assam are placed in category "Y", all other states and UT of Delhi are in category "X".

Releasing the rankings today, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said that it will help in further promoting the startup ecosystem by the Centre, states and UTs.

He said that for funding of the startups, the "fund of funds" is supporting them and many public sector undertakings are coming forward with dedicated funds for startups.

"I am also very keen that

Indian industry, Indian investors, high net worth individuals, possibly mutual funds, insurance companies should also very seriously consider participating in this very exciting journey that our Indian startups are going through," he said.

He also suggested startups to focus on three Ps ~ product, process, people ~ to focus on promoting Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

DPIIT secretary Guruprasad Mohapatra said that over 36,000 startups are recognised by the department so far.

All the states are taking steps to promote the growth of budding entrepreneurs, he said, adding the startup ecosystem in the country has led to creation of over 4 lakh jobs.

## BHEL loss widens to ₹893 cr in Q1

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

State-run engineering firm BHEL's consolidated net loss widened to ₹893.14 crore for the quarter ended June as coronavirus-induced lockdown had an adverse impact on its operations. The consolidated net loss of the company was at ₹218.93 crore in the quarter ended 30 June 2019, BHEL said in a regulatory filing.

According to the statement, total income of the company stood at ₹2,086.43 crore in the June quarter this year. BHEL had posted a total income of ₹4,673.38 crore in the year-ago period.

It stated that the group's operations and financial results for the quarter have been very adversely impacted by the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of Covid-19.

## Guidelines for appointing chief compliance officers in banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 11 SEPTEMBER

The RBI today laid down guidelines for appointment of chief compliance officer (CCO) in banks to ensure uniform approach with regard to compliance and risk management culture across the banking industry. According to an RBI circular, the CCO should be appointed for a maximum fixed period of three years in the rank of a general manager or not below two levels of the rank of CEO.

"Such an independent compliance function is required to be headed by a designated CCO selected through a suitable process with an appropriate "fit and proper" evaluation/selection criteria to manage compliance risk effectively," the RBI said.

Observing that the banks follow diverse practices in this regard, the RBI said guidelines are meant to bring uniformity in approach followed by banks, to align the supervisory expectations on CCOs with best practices.

As per the guidelines, a CCO "may be transferred/ removed before completion of the tenure only in exceptional circumstances with the explicit prior approval of the board after following a well-defined and transparent internal administrative procedure".

The CCO, it added, should be a senior executive of the bank, preferably in the rank of a general manager or an equivalent position (not below two levels from the CEO). The CCO could also be recruited from the market.

Further, there shall not be any "dual hatting", the RBI said. In other words, the CCO shall not be given any responsibility which brings elements of conflict of interest, especially the role relating to business".

Roles which do not attract direct conflict of interest like role of anti-money laundering officer can be performed by the CCO in those banks where principle of proportionality in terms of bank's size, complexity, risk management strategy and structures justifies that.

Also, the CCO should not be a member of any committee which brings his/her role in conflict with responsibility as member of the committee, including any committee dealing with purchases/ sanctions, it said.

## IRCTC stake sale: Deadline for merchant bankers extended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

The government has extended the deadline for merchant bankers to bid for managing IRCTC stake sale by 4 days till 14 September.

The department of investment and public asset management (Dipam) has initiated the process to sell 15-20 per cent stake in Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp (IRCTC) via offer for sale (OFS) and had last month invited bids from merchant bankers by 10 September.

The last date of submission of bids has been extended till 14 September, the Dipam, which manages the government share sale, said.

The government currently holds 87.40 per cent stake in IRCTC. To meet Sebi's public holding norm, the gov-

ernment has to lower its stake in the company to 75 per cent.

Shares of IRCTC closed at ₹1,374.35 apiece, up 0.27 per cent over the previous close on BSE.

IRCTC ~ the only entity authorised by Indian Railways to provide catering services to railways, online railway tickets and packaged drinking water at railway stations and trains in India ~ had listed itself on the stock exchanges in October 2019. The company had raised Rs 645 crore through the IPO.

IRCTC OFS would help the government inch forward in meeting the Rs 2.10 lakh crore disinvestment target. Of this, Rs 1.20 lakh crore will come from disinvestment of public sector undertakings and another Rs 90,000 crore from stake sale in financial

institutions.

The government has already concluded the OFS of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL), which together fetched around ₹5,000 crore to the exchequer.

The government is also looking at launching initial public offering (IPO) of Indian Railway Finance Corp Ltd (IRFC) and had in January filed draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) for IPO of over 140 crore equity shares.

The Union Cabinet had in April 2017 approved listing of five railway companies. While four of them ~ IRCON International Ltd, RITES Ltd, Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd and IRCTC ~ have already been listed, IRFC is likely to be put on the block this fiscal.

Passenger vehicle sales last month stood at 1,24,715 units as compared with 1,09,277 units, up 14.13 per cent.

## Passenger vehicle sales up 14% in August

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

Passenger vehicle wholesales in India rose by 14.16 per cent in August to 2,15,916 units driven by pent-up demand, industry body Siam said today.

According to the latest data by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam), passenger vehicles wholesales stood at 1,89,129 units in the same month last year.

Passenger vehicle sales have returned to positive territory in August after nine consecutive months of decline. It was in October last year that the segment had posted a marginal growth snapping 11 continuous months of decline in sales.

Passenger car sales last month stood at 1,24,715 units as compared with 1,09,277 units, up 14.13 per cent.

Similarly, utility vehicle

sales increased by 15.54 per cent to 81,842 units last month as against 70,837 units a year ago. Sales of vans also saw an increase of 3.82 per cent at 9,359 units as compared with 9,015 units in August 2019, Siam said.

Similarly, two-wheeler sales also rose by 3 per cent at 15,59,665 units as compared to 15,14,196 units in the same month last year.

Motorcycle sales stood at 10,32,476 units as against 9,37,486 units in August 2019, up 10.13 per cent.

Scooter sales were, however, down by 12.3 per cent at 4,56,848 units as against 5,20,898 units in the same month last year, Siam said.

Three-wheeler sales also remained in slow lane last month with a massive 75.29 per cent dip in offtakes at 14,534 units as compared with 58,818 units in August 2019, it added.

"We are beginning to

observe growth which is instilling confidence back into the industry, especially in the two-wheeler and the passenger vehicle segments," Siam president Kenichi Ayukawa said.

He, however, added that the growth achieved in passenger vehicle and two-wheeler segments last month was on a low base of August 2019.

"It is to be recognised that the base figures in August

2019 itself was very low, as industry had shown a growth of about 32 per cent for passenger vehicles and 22 per cent for two-wheelers in 2019, over 2018," Ayukawa noted.

Still growth in passenger vehicles and two-wheelers indicates trends of recovery for the industry, though it is on the backdrop of pent-up demand and beginning of a festive season this month,



We have lost an efficient police officer

WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE  
ON THE DEATH OF STATE ARMED POLICE OFFICER DEBASREE CHATTERJEEThe Statesman  
NEW DELHI SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

09

# Odisha CM announces 300 cr package for flood hit farmers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 11 SEPTEMBER

**O**disha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today announced a special package of Rs 300 crore for livelihood support to the farmers affected by recent floods (last week of August).

The package included input subsidy, pulse seed minikit, subsidy on pump sets, sprayers etc.

The government has also declared that short term farm loans will be converted to medium term loans.

Agriculture input subsidy will be provided to the small and marginal farmers who have sustained crop loss of 33% and above are to get Rs. 6,800/- per hectare of land in rain-fed/non irrigated areas, Rs. 13,500/- per hectare in areas under assured irrigation, and Rs. 18,000/- per

hectare for all types of perennial crops.

At least 20,000 pulse seed minikits will be provided to the farmers during Rabi 2020 while they will get 50 percent subsidy on pump sets, power sprayers etc.

One lakh farmers will be trained on seed treatment programmes with free supply of seed treatment chemicals/bio-pesticides to cover one lakh acres for increasing production in Rabi crop.

Special assistance will be provided to the farmers with higher subsidy around 75% on Certified Quality Seeds, stated the note on the package announced today.

Farm mechanisation subsidy of Rs.10 crore will be disbursed to the affected districts.

One lakh farmers will be provided with vegetable kits to



meet their immediate needs at the Rs.130/- per kit while 75,000 farmers will get quick growing fruit species at Rs 160/- for backyard gardens.

The government said Short Term Kharif loans advanced in the food affected areas having crop loss of 33% and above shall be converted into Medium Term (Conversion) loans . Affected farmers shall get fresh finance for rabi cultivation

from next month. Assistance for replacement of animals shall be provided towards loss of animals @ Rs 30,000/- per milch cow and buffalo, Rs. 25,000/- per draught animal (upto 3 animals), Rs 16,000/- per calf (upto 6 animals), Rs.3,000/- per goat (upto 30 animals), Rs 50/- per poultry bird (maximum Rs 5000/-).

Financial assistance of Rs.12,200/- per hectare will be provided to fish farmers (Freshwater/ Brackishwater) for repair of damaged fish ponds/dykes.

Weavers' and handicraft artisans will be provided Rs.4100/- for replacement tools/equipment.

Works under MGNREGA will be intensified to provide wages and employment by way of repair of roads, canals, cowshed, fodder cultivation etc, said the government.

Two more Odisha Ministers tests COVID + Ve

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 11 SEPTEMBER

Food Supply Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain and Women and Child Development Minister Ms. Tukuni Sahu were the latest to test positive for COVID-19 on Friday. Six Ministers of the Naveen Patnaik government have contracted the virus till date.

As many as 23 MLAs including the Ministers have got infected with novel coronavirus so far while three parliamentarians have contracted the virus so far.

Sahu and Swain apart, Ministers Sushant Singh, Arun Sahoo, Padmini Dian and Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi have also tested positive. Three MP's Suresh Pujari, Ms. Manjula Mandal and Ramesh Majhi are also infected.

Sanitation workers engaged in core sanitation work will be identified to extend risk and hardship allowance, health and life insurance, 90 per cent grant in housing, purchase of two wheelers. They will get PPE, ESI, family pension.

A dedicated corpus fund initially with Rs. 50 crore will be created. A State Commission for Core Sanitation Workers will also be constituted.

The Scheme will be implemented in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha.

About 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families covering one lakh population are likely to be benefitted under this scheme.

Manual scavenging has been the starker example of discrimination in the name of caste, practiced in India, relegating the less privileged to

perform the sanitation work noted the CM.

In spite of the nation making several strides in various sectors, competing with the best in the world, these underprivileged people were made to render this invaluable service to the society for generations, deprived of safety, dignity and a decent livelihood, apart from suffering social stigma and exclusion, he said.

Minister Jena described GARIMA as a comprehensive package institutionalizing and regulating the core sanitation services, financial benefit and social security to the workers and their families.

Mr G. Mathi Vathanam, principal secretary H&UD said the Urban Management Centre will provide technical support for implementation of the scheme.

## COVID infection among servitors of Jagannath Temple, Puri

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 11 SEPTEMBER

got infected have been subjected to COVID tests. The crux of the problem is that the servitors shall from localities scattered across the temple town. The infections are sourced from earlier positive cases from their localities.

The temple still remains out of bounds for the devotees since 21 March to contain the spread of the disease.

As the surge of infection goes unabated, the temple administration is not in favour of reopening the temple in the

immediate future, said officials.

Prior to the devotee-less Rath Yatra and Bahuda Yatra during June last, the Puri district administration had carried out COVID tests of the servitors and close family members twice. During the tests conducted ahead of the festival, only a couple of servitors had tested positive. But the rate infection among the servitors has steadily risen since then as Puri town witnessed a spike in positive cases.

In an attempt to keep the servitors free from infection, an exclusive testing centre is functioning at the Hindi Vidyapitha in the town for the servitors and their family members.

There has been a steady spike in infection in Puri district with the COVID tally currently remaining at 5,838. Today 279 positive cases were detected from the district.

## Odisha sees 3996 new COVID cases, 14 deaths

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 11 SEPTEMBER

The strict adherence to 3Ts norms of Test-Track-treat is paying dividends even though there has been unprecedented 25% growth of infections and alarming rise in fatality in the current month, according to health and family welfare department officials.

As many as 35,556 infections have been detected from 1 September till today, a growth of 25.54 per cent while 102 fatalities were recorded in the past 10 days - 17 per cent rise in Odisha's overall COVID death toll.

A total of 2,359 new cases were detected in quarantine centres while 1,637 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing.

Khurda district that includes the capital city of Bhubaneswar reported the highest number of new cases at 606, followed by 354 in Cuttack and 279 in Puri.

## Covid spread in Bhubaneswar continues

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 11 SEPTEMBER

the quarantine centres has become a major cause of worry for city's COVID managers.

Of the fresh infections, 301 were local contact infections while the remaining 112 cases were sourced from quarantine centres.

In the current month, as many as 4,993 infections have been detected.

The rapid rise in cases of local contacts from outside

There are now 34,458 active COVID-19 cases in Odisha which is 24 per cent of total infections reported so far in the State.

The state has so far tested over 23,23,641 samples for COVID-19, including 50,044 on Thursday.

12 infections were sourced from Laxmi Sagar while Kalininga Nagar accounted for 9 positive cases each.

Two private hospitals accounted for 4 infections while seven policemen tested positive.

Of the total tally of positive cases, 5,110 are active cases while 10,184 have recovered from the contagion till date. 58 patients from the city have succumbed to the virus.

with 89 cases reported less than 100 infections for the fifth day in a row.

Of the infected persons, 67.8% are men while women constitute 32.2% of total patients. 55.1% of the total patients are in the 15-40 age-group.

## IMD yellow warning for 21 districts in Odisha

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 11 SEPTEMBER

rience light to moderate rainfall it said.

The twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar are likely to witness partly cloudy sky with moderate rain or thunderstorm, said the forecast.

The IMD officials said the yellow alert indicates the weather could change for the worse, causing disruption in day-to-day activities.

## Odisha woman footballer turns brick kiln worker

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 11 SEPTEMBER

Let down by the government and sporting bodies, a State-level woman footballer in Kendrapara district, widely regarded as the nursery of Odisha's women soccer, is toiling out at a brick kiln unit to eke out a living.

The 26-year-old Sujata Mallik from Demala village under Aul block represented State's junior and sub-junior teams for over a decade from 2005 to 2017.

She could not make it to the senior team and retired from the game in 2017. Then began her agonizing tale of struggle

income. I am working as a daily wager in a local brick kiln unit. I am earning Rs 400 on days when I work at the unit', Mallik, a left-half in the junior and sub-junior team narrated.

"Football has given me name, fame and recognition. But it did not provide me the opportunity of a decent living", Mallik narrated with a tinge of emotion.

It's a classic case of how our sports stars are treated by authorities concerned. People and the sports administrators here have the habit of forgetting the heroes once they are past their prime, she lamented.

## Truck owners paralyze fertilizer transport at IFFCO

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
PARADIP, 11 SEPTEMBER

who had been engaged for transport of gypsum.

It is learnt that a Kolkata based transport agency Review Retail Transporting Ltd (RRPL) had been successful in the tender process and secured the order to transport or shift gypsum from its plant site to Nigrundi, Manguli Chhok of Cuttack at the rate of Rs 250 per metric tons (PMT). RRPL has in turn involved Nirakar Construction Agency, Paradip which has claimed that local truck owners have been transporting fertilizers and gypsum from IFFCO plant site to different destinations of Odisha under mutually fixed freight rates since long.

Transport of fertilizers and gypsum of IFFCO has severely hit because hundreds of trucks carrying cargo are stranded at the plant site due to road blockade by the activists of JCC.

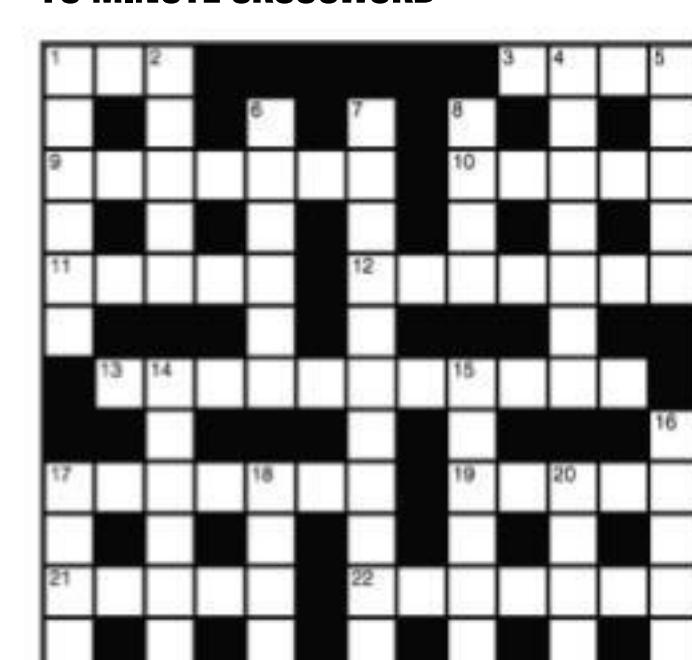
detained their three tellers. Asutosh Swain, managing partner of Nirakar construction agency has lodged an FIR against activists Jagannath Truck Owners Association Manoj Kumar Swain and others.

JCC have claimed that local truck owners have been transporting fertilizers and gypsum from IFFCO plant site to different destinations of Odisha under mutually fixed freight rates since long.

Transport of fertilizers and gypsum of IFFCO has severely hit because hundreds of trucks carrying cargo are stranded at the plant site due to road blockade by the activists of JCC.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



### SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Little devil (3)	1 Part of a shoe (6)
3 Praise (4)	2 Fold (5)
9 Refuge (7)	4 Generally (2,1,4)
10 Retinue (5)	5 Thick (5)
11 Milky coffee (5)	6 Be present at (6)
12 Planet (7)	7 Leading contestant (5-6)
13 In difficulties (4-7)	8 Pace (4)
17 Percussion orchestra (7)	9 Plants (6)
19 Small ruff (5)	10 Long-stemmed vegetable (6)
21 Pungent (5)	11 Serious (5)
22 Hug (7)	12 Board game (4)
23 Merit (4)	13 Move on all fours (5)
24 Amateur (3)	

### By arrangement with The Independent

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

### BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



### DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



### NEED TO KNOW

#### HOSPITALS

2258622, 22585007

#### RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

• Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

• SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886,

54959, 5676747

• ISBT (General Inquiry):

23868836, 23865181

• Haryana Roadways 23861262

• Himachal Pradesh 2371473, 2325320

• Jammu &amp; Kashmir 278

• PAR SCORE 185-195 by JUDD

by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL TIME: 25 MIN

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

FOR WORKERS 71

REKNITS 81

BEREAVE 86

MARTING 60

PAR SCORE 180-190 by JUDD

TOTAL 278

Instructions Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the words given below. Add points of each word, using scoring table. Add



Donald Trump deliberately misled Americans on the coronavirus

DEMOCRATIC VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE KAMALA HARRIS

REFERRING TO THE US PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON THE ISSUE REVEALED IN A FORTHCOMING BOOK

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	24°C	16°C
LONDON	19°C	9°C
DUBAI	34°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	15°C	04°C
NEW YORK	24°C	17°C
MOSCOW	13°C	09°C

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

## THUMBNAILS

A herder looking after sheep in Tongliao in China's northern Inner Mongolia region. AFP

**Police officers terminated:** Four Houston police officers have been terminated after an internal investigation determined they did not use reasonable force when they fired their weapons 21 times at a man who had been experiencing a mental health crisis, killing him in April after he was already injured and on the ground. AP

**Nurse loses appeal:** A German federal court has rejected a former nurse's appeal of his murder conviction and life sentence for killing 85 patients by deliberately bringing about cardiac arrests. Niels Hoegel was convicted in June 2019. On Friday, the Federal Court of Justice said it had thrown out his appeal in a 1 September decision. AP

**Floyd's death trial:** Attorneys for four former Minneapolis officers charged in the death of George Floyd say that each client should get his own trial, as the officers try to diminish their roles in his death by pointing fingers at one another. Prosecutors say all four officers should be tried together because the nature of the charges and evidence is similar. AP

**Scientists develop new tool to monitor Covid mutations**

MELBOURNE, 11 SEPTEMBER

Scientists assessed the genome data of more than 1,20,000 samples of the novel coronavirus, and have developed a new tool to monitor mutations in the virus that may make it difficult to develop vaccines and drugs for Covid.

According to the researchers, including those from the University of Melbourne in Australia, ensuring treatments remain effective as the virus mutates is a huge challenge for scientists across the world.

They explained that mutations in an organism's genetic material are natural 'errors' in the cell replication process that may give the virus new 'powers' of survival, infectivity, and virulence.

The new tool, dubbed COVID-3D and described in the journal *Nature Genetics*, harnesses genomic and protein information about the virus and its mutations to aid drug and vaccine development.

It contains information about all the protein structures that coincide with the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2's genome, including every known genetic mutation and its resultant variant protein structure, the study noted.

"Although the SARS-CoV-2 virus is a relatively new pathogen, its ability to readily accumulate mutations across its genes was evident from the start of this pandemic," said David Aschner, a co-author of the study from the University of Melbourne. AP

# Charges, sanctions revive spectre of Russian interference in US poll

Russian national charged for plot to sow distrust in political process; Microsoft warns hackers targeting campaigns

US President Donald Trump claps as he arrives for a campaign rally at MBS International Airport in Freeland, Michigan. AFP

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 11 SEPTEMBER

**T**he Trump administration on Thursday charged a Russian national in a sweeping plot to sow distrust in the American political process and imposed sanctions against a Russia-linked Ukrainian lawmaker accused of interfering in the US presidential election.

Those actions, combined with a Microsoft announcement on hacking attempts targeting US political campaigns, parties and consultants, underscore the extent to which the same cyber intrusions and foreign influence operations that defined the 2016 White House race remain a persistent concern today.

They also reflect a dichotomy in the administration, with officials taking aim at Russian interference in the political process even as President Trump expresses doubt about Russian meddling.

In the case of the sanctions,

officials denounced audio recordings that had been released by the Ukrainian parliamentarian and promoted by Trump on Twitter.

The criminal charges accuse Artem Mikhaylovich Lifshits of serving as a translation manager in a Russian effort that since at least 2014 has tried to disrupt the political system in the US and other countries and spread distrust about candidates.

Members of the initiative, known as Project Lakhta, travelled to the US to collect intelligence and operated bogus social media accounts that could pump out messaging to millions of Americans on divisive social issues.

The group operated through entities including the Internet Research Agency, the Russian troll farm charged by special counsel Robert Mueller with stirring up discord before the 2016 poll, according to a criminal complaint charging Lifshits with using stolen identities to open fake accounts at banks and dig-

## Biden family selling country to China: Trump

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 11 SEPTEMBER

US President Donald Trump has accused his Democratic challenger Joe Biden of being "weak" on China and that his family was "selling" the country directly to the Chinese military.

Democratic Party's presumptive nominee Biden and his Indian-American running mate Kamala Harris are challenging President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence in the November 3 Presidential election.

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Thursday, Trump said, "Biden is weak on China. Yesterday, it was revealed that a fund partly owned by Joe Biden's son, Hunter, facilitated the sale of a Michigan auto parts producer to a leading Chinese military defense contractor." Hunter Biden owns 10 per cent of Shanghai-based private-equity firm

ital currency exchanges. The goal of the department where Lifshits worked was to sow discord, incite civil unrest and polarize Americans with social media posts that touched on hot-button topics including gun rights, immigration, the Confederate flag and race relations, prosecutors say.

Project Lakhta members did not exclusively adopt one ideological viewpoint; rather, they wrote on topics from varied and sometimes opposing perspectives, a Secret Service agent wrote in an affidavit supporting the complaint.

Project Lakhta members also developed strategies and

## Biden supporters release remix of Bollywood song to woo Indian-American:

Democratic Party members have released a musical video remix of popular

"Chale Chalo" song from the superhit Bollywood movie, "Lagaan," to woo Indian-American voters ahead of the US presidential election.

"Chale Chalo, Chale Chalo, Biden ko Vote do, Biden ki Jeet Ha, Unki Haar Haan," says the lyrics of the song sung by Silicon Valley-based Bollywood singer Titli Banerjee and released by entrepreneur couple Ajay and Vinita Bhutoria. AP

Bohai Harvest RST. The president charged reporters that they were not reporting on the Michigan transaction. "You don't want to write about that, do you, Biden spent his entire career selling Michigan jobs to China," he said. "Now the Biden family is selling out our country

directly to the Chinese military. He didn't have a job. Now, all of a sudden, he's selling companies from Michigan to China," he said. Trump also accused Democrats of undermining his efforts to bring out vaccine.

**Trump rules out extension of TikTok deadline:** US President Donald Trump on Thursday ruled out extending the September 15 deadline for Chinese video-sharing social networking platform *TikTok* to either change its ownership to an American company or shut it down. In an executive order last month, Trump had set September 15 as the deadline for the Chinese app to either change its ownership to an American company or shut it down. In the initial stages, Microsoft was said to be involved in negotiations with ByteDance, the Beijing-based internet technology company which owns *TikTok*.

Penned by American journalist Bob Woodward, the book *Rage* to be launched on September 15 has stirred several controversies around Trump's presidency, weeks before the US election.

According to the excerpts of the book released by *The Washington Post*, Trump during an interview with Woodward said, "I have built a nuclear - a weapons system that nobody's ever had in this country before. We have stuff that you haven't even seen or heard about. We have stuff that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and (Chinese President) Xi Jinping have never heard about before. There's nobody - what we have is incredible."

"Woodward writes that anonymous people later confirmed that the US military had a secret new weapons system, but they would not provide details, and that the people were surprised Trump had disclosed it," *The Washington Post* said.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Trump denied having talked about classified information about US nuclear weapons. PTI

'US has incredible nuclear weapon systems that no one knows'

WASHINGTON, 11 SEPTEMBER

President Donald Trump has said the US has some "incredible" nuclear weapon systems that nobody knows about but refuted allegations of leaking classified information about them to a renowned investigative journalist in his upcoming book.

Berlin state prosecutors said in a tweet that their office had been commissioned to provide legal assistance to Russia and information on Navalny's state of health, subject to his consent.

The office said it would provide no further information on the request at this time.

German chemical weapons experts have determined that the 44-year-old

was poisoned with a Soviet-era nerve agent, prompting Berlin to demand that Russia investigate the case.

Germany's Defence Ministry has said the data about Navalny has already been provided to the Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, of which Russia is a member.

Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, said Friday the agency was best equipped to handle an issue that was not a bilateral German-Russian problem."

This is about a crime that took place in Russia that is internationally prohibited the OPCW is the logical point of contact, he said.

On Wednesday, the Russian Foreign Ministry invited German Ambassador Geza Andreas von Geyr to reaffirm Moscow's demand for Germany to provide Russian authorities with the medical data, including biological materials, the results of samples and tests to allow Russian experts to study and check them. Russian doctors previously said they had found no sign of Navalny's poisoning. PTI

## CALIFORNIA FIRE BECOMES DEADLIEST OF 2020

**WILDFIRES ARE RAGING IN SEVERAL STATES IN THE WESTERN U.S., SCORCHING AN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF LAND, FORCING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES AND KILLING AT LEAST 23 PEOPLE ACROSS OREGON, WASHINGTON AND CALIFORNIA. BUT THE IMAGES AND WORDS THE PUBLIC SEES VARY GREATLY BECAUSE OF THE LEVEL OF ACCESS GRANTED JOURNALISTS.**

**'EVACUATE NOW: WILDFIRES GROW IN OREGON AS 500K FLEE'**



A Northern California wildfire that destroyed a foothill hamlet has become the state's deadliest blaze of the year with 10 people confirmed dead and the toll could climb as searchers look for 16 missing people.

The smoke made for poor visibility and fire helicopters couldn't fly Thursday. In most parts of the state, red flag warnings of extreme fire danger because of hot, dry weather or gusty winds were lifted.

On Thursday, Butte County sheriff's Capt. Derek Bell said seven bodies were discovered, bringing the total to 10 in two days. At least four people with critical burns were hospitalised.

More than 2,000 homes and other buildings had burned in the fire, which began several weeks ago as a lightning-sparked collection of fires northeast of San Francisco.

The blaze is among 29 major wildfires burning from the Oregon border to just north of Mexico. More than 12,500 square km have burned so far this year more land than Rhode Island, Delaware and Washington, D.C., combined and fall is typically the worst season for fires. At least 4,000 structures have burned across California.

## Britain recovery continues but risks loom, notably over Brexit

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, 11 SEPTEMBER

The British economy recouped further lost ground during July after a swath of virus restrictions on businesses were lifted, official figures showed. However, it still has to make up around half the output lost at the peak of the lockdown and now faces renewed risks related to Brexit.

The Office for National Statistics said the British economy grew by a monthly rate of 6.6 per cent as many sectors started reopening after months of being idle during the lockdown. The hospitality sector, which includes hotels, pubs and restaurants, reopened at the start of July, for example.

Other sectors, such as manufacturing and house-building also continued their recovery, though industrial production and construction remain below their pre-crisis levels. July's increase means that the British economy has now grown for three months in a row in the wake of April's dramatic 20 per cent slide. Overall, the British economy remains 11.7 per cent smaller than it was in February before the full economic impact of the pandemic was felt. Economists think the pace of the recovery will mod-

erate following a recent pickup in new virus infections that has seen the re-imposition of lockdown restrictions on social gatherings, for example.

The looming end of a salary-support scheme and heightened uncertainties over a trade deal between the UK and the EU are also expected to weigh on growth and, as a result, most economists think the economy will end the year around 8 per cent smaller than it was before the pandemic.

We're likely to see the pace of expansion slow in August and September and stall as we head into the winter as the 'mechanical rebound' ends and unemployment rises, said James Smith, developed markets economist at ING.

Concerns over a post-Brexit deal have become a particular concern over the past few days amid a souring in relations between the UK and the EU. The announcement from the British government that new legislation breaches elements of the withdrawal agreement, which allowed for the country's smooth departure from the bloc at the start of the year, has prompted a furious reaction from the EU and raised the prospect of an imminent collapse in the talks.

The agreement we have negotiated in record time and in challenging circumstances goes far beyond the existing EU deal, as it secures new wins for British businesses in our great manufacturing, food and drink, and tech industries," said Britain's international trade secretary, Liz Truss. The government said U.K. businesses will benefit from tariff-free trade on 99% of exports to Japan and that it will give British businesses a gateway to the Asia-Pacific region. AP

## Biden & Pence attend NY memorial; US remembers 9/11 as pandemic changes traditions

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK, 11 SEPTEMBER

even victims' families can attend, though small groups can visit the memorial there later in the day.

Trump and Biden are both headed at different times to the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Trump is speaking at the morning ceremony, the White House said. Biden plans to pay respects there in the afternoon after attending the observance at the 9/11 memorial for the first time.

In New York, a dispute over coronavirus-safety precautions is leading to split-screen remembrances Friday, one at the 11 September memorial plaza at the World Trade Centre and another on a nearby corner.

The Pentagon's observance will be so restricted that not



Still, 9/11 families say it's

important for the nation to pause and remember the hijacked-plane attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people at the trade centre, at the Pen-

tagon and near Shanksville on September 11, 2001, shaping American policy, perceptions of safety and daily life in places from airports to office buildings.

I know that the heart of America beats on 9/11 and, of course, thinks about that tragic day. I don't think that people forget, says Anthoula Katsimatidis, who lost her brother John and is now on the board of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum.

Friday will mark Trump's second time observing the 9/11 anniversary at the Flight 93 memorial, where he made remarks in 2018. Biden spoke at the memorial's dedication in 2011, when he was vice president.

The ground zero ceremon-

y relatives read the names of the dead, often adding poignant tributes.

Thousands of family members are still invited. But they'll hear a recording of the names from speakers spread around the vast plaza, a plan that memorial leaders felt would avoid close contact at a stage but still allow families to remember their loved ones at the place where they died.

But some victims' relatives felt the change robbed the observance of its emotional impact. A different 9/11-related group, the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, set up



You are saying about the extrajudicial killings. But who had initiated it? It started during the tenure of Ziaur Rahman..

BANGLADESH PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA

SPEAKING ON EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO STOP SUCH PRACTICES

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

11

# Afghanistan govt, Taliban set to begin peace negotiations today

Talks to try to end the long civil war were agreed as part of a withdrawal deal that the USA signed in February

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD, 11 SEPTEMBER

The Afghan government and the Taliban will open peace talks on Saturday, trying to reach a power-sharing deal as American troops leave the country after nearly two decades.

The negotiations to try to end the long civil war were agreed as part of a withdrawal deal that the US signed with the Taliban in February, but have stalled for months over details of a promised prison exchange.

After several mass releases of Taliban fighters, the final stumbling block had been six insurgent prisoners held for killing French, Australian and American citizens.

Those governments had objected to the men's release, but agreed a compromise that will see them held under house arrest in Doha. On Thursday they were flown to Qatar, and the start of talks was announced.

The Taliban delegation is

## USA will reduce its troop strength in Afghanistan to 4,000: Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 11 SEPTEMBER

The United States will reduce the number of its troops in Afghanistan to 4,000 in a very short period of time, President Donald Trump said Thursday as he announced withdrawal of forces from other countries as well.

"A lot of progress is being made in Afghanistan. But we'll be down to 4,000 soldiers in a very short period of time," Trump told reporters at a news conference at the White House. Likewise, in Iraq, the US will be down to about 2,000 soldiers in a

very short period of time. In Syria, US troops are only guarding oil. "I think a small number -- but they're guarding the oil. We're helping the Kurds, and we're making their lives much more pleasant because of the fact that we have the oil," said the president.

Trump also announced that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will be departing this evening on a historic trip to Doha for the beginning of intra-Afghan peace negotiations.

The start of these negotiations beginning September 12 follows intense diplomatic efforts, including the

headed by the group's deputy leader, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, who a decade ago was jailed by Pakistani authorities for trying to open peace talks

with Afghan authorities. He was released in 2018.

Religious scholar Mawlawi Abdul Hakim Haqqani will also take a senior role in negoti-

US-Taliban Agreement and the US-Afghanistan Joint Declaration, which were agreed to in February.

"We've been negotiating with them for quite some time, getting along with them, moved a lot of soldiers out," he said. Afghan negotiations, he said, are a result of a bold diplomatic effort on part of his administration in recent months and years. "The United States will play an important role in bringing the parties together to end the decades-long war; it's been going on for almost 20 years, long before I got involved, I can tell you that," he said.

tiating on behalf of the Taliban and is thought to carry weight with fighters on the ground.

The Afghan government delegation is led by Abdullah

Abdullah, who for several years served as "CEO" in a government of national unity under president Ashraf Ghani. His team is a mix of government and opposition figures, with former intelligence chief Masoom Stanekzai serving as chief negotiator.

Any progress is likely to be slow, as the two sides attempt to bridge the gap between the Taliban's vision of Islamist rule and the democratic system enshrined in the current constitution. The differences are particularly deep and visible when it comes to women's rights. There will be four women on the government's side of the table -- one still bearing injuries from a recent assassination attempt. There are no women on the Taliban's negotiating team.

When the group was in power, women were banned from education, most work, and even from leaving the house without a male guardian. Many Afghan women fear that the rights and freedoms they have fought for since 2001 will be traded away if the

Taliban come into government. Taliban negotiators have repeatedly said that they respect women's rights under Islam, but in many areas of the country under their control, girls often struggle to get an education, and few women work outside their homes.

Critics of the negotiations say they fear the Taliban have little real interest in a negotiated settlement, and are just looking to buy time, pointing to sustained attacks on Afghan forces that have continued in the run-up to negotiations.

Talks will formally start 19

years and one day after the 9/11

attacks on America. The Afghan

conflict that began in their

aftermath was just the latest

iteration of a long civil war that

has engulfed the country since

1979.

Those years have seen shifting alliances, so some of the groups that the US has been fighting for the last 20 years were supported in the 1980s with American cash and weapons in their fight against the Soviet-backed Afghan government of the time.

on Tuesday and Wednesday night, Greek officials said the blazes were deliberately set by some of the camp's residents angered by isolation orders issued to prevent the spread of the coronavirus after 35 residents were found to have been infected.

They slept in the open for a third night, some cutting down trees and using salvaged blankets to make rudimentary shelters to protect them from the night-time chill and the scorching day-time sun.

Others used tents or had just sleeping bags to protect them from the elements.

The camp had been under a lockdown due to last until mid-September after the first

virus case was identified in a

Somali man who had been granted asylum and left the camp but later returned to

Moria from Athens.

Defence chiefs of China, Philippines discuss disputes

MANILA, 11 SEPTEMBER

The Philippine defense chief told his Chinese counterpart on Friday that Manila will adhere without any possibility of compromise to a 2016 international arbitration ruling that invalidated most of Beijing's rival claims in the South China Sea, according to a Philippine statement about the meeting. But the statement was later withdrawn and the contentious comment removed.

Chinese Gen. Wei Fenghe is in Manila for talks with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and President Rodrigo Duterte. His visit follows a series of protests by the Philippines over China's increasingly aggressive actions in the busy waterway.

The territorial disputes between the countries remain unresolved, although their ties have improved greatly under Duterte, who has sought investment, infrastructure funding and military assistance from China.

After the defense chiefs met, the Philippine defense department issued an initial statement saying Lorenzana had reaffirmed Philippine adherence without any possibility of compromise to the arbitration ruling that invalidated China's territorial claims in the sea on historical grounds.

China refused to participate in the arbitration by a UN-backed tribunal, and then dismissed its ruling as a sham and continues to defy it. The statement said the Philippine military will continue to conduct routine, legitimate maritime patrols in the West Philippine Sea and challenge any activities that infringe on Philippine sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction, using the Philippine name for the portion of the South China Sea closest to it.

## FEELING SQUEEZED



Palestinians pray next to a mock coffin, representing the Arab League, during a protest against the normalization of ties between Israel and the UAE, in the village of Kfar Qaddum in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, on Friday.

## Nepal's ruling Communist Party resolves differences between Oli and Prachanda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KATHMANDU, 11 SEPTEMBER

Nepal's ruling Communist Party on Friday resolved the protracted differences between Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and his opponent Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" by agreeing to a power-sharing deal, ending the months-long dispute in the party, according to a senior party official.

The 13-member powerful Standing Committee meeting held at the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar also decided to resolve the border issue between Nepal and India through political and diplomatic means, Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) spokesman Narayan Kaji Shrestha said.

During the meeting, the work division between Oli and Prachanda was settled. Prachanda will serve as executive chairman of the party



with full power and handle the party's affairs, while Oli will focus on the government affairs, the official said.

"The party will be run on the basis of its established guidelines. However, the government is required to hold consultation with the party while deciding on issues of national importance," said Shrestha, adding that the party leadership will not interfere in the day-to-day affairs of the government.

It was decided to hold the Unity General Convention of the party in Kathmandu from April 7 to April 12 next year. A meeting of the party's Central Working Committee has been called for October 31.

The meeting unanimously endorsed a 15-page proposal prepared by Oli and Prachanda aiming at resolving the intra-party feud in the CPN.

The proposal for consensus was prepared by the duo on the basis of a report submitted to them by a party panel that was formed to resolve the internal dispute which had surfaced after the dissident group leaders, including Prachanda, demanded

Oli's resignation. Prachanda and senior leader Madhav Kumar Nepal had asked for Oli's resignation from both as the party's chairman and as Nepal's prime minister after he accused the dissident leaders of conspiring against him to topple his government.

In June, Oli claimed that efforts are being made to oust him after his government redrew the country's political map by incorporating three strategically key Indian territories.

India termed as "untenable" the "artificial enlargement" of the territorial claims by Nepal after its Parliament unanimously approved the new political map of the country featuring Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura areas which India maintains belong to it.

The meeting has also decided to resolve the issue between Nepal and India through political and diplomatic means, Shrestha said.

## Covid-19: Myanmar bans flights, travel from Yangon

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
YANGON, 11 SEPTEMBER



New roadblocks were set up Friday in parts of the city, with some smaller streets closed while main roads remained open. As the country's commercial capital, Yangon is a transportation hub and transit point.

Some might think that these rules and regulations are too restrictive," said the country's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.

"However, if we all obeyed

these restrictions strictly for

two or three weeks, we can arrive at a situation when this disease would be under control.

The Health Ministry on Friday announced 115 new confirmed cases, bringing the total to 2,265, including 14 dead. The Yangon regional government said the number of locally transmitted cases there from Aug. 24 to Tuesday totaled 656.

Stay-at-home orders issued for parts of Yangon this month, and for all of Rakhine state in August, call for partial lockdowns, with limited trips such as those for food.

The Election Commission this week also banned political campaigning in the locked-down areas ahead of Nov. 8 polls.

The new ban on domestic flights follows attempts to trace the thousands of people

who have flown from Rakhine since Aug.

But only about half of whom had reported themselves to authorities. In an unusual move to track them down, the names of the errant travelers were published in newspapers.

In her Thursday speech, Suu Kyi warned of the seriousness of the situation, pointing out that the rate of both infections and deaths was faster than in March and April when the disease first hit Myanmar.

The other thing I have noticed is that among some of those infected, some are teenagers," she said.

That is why we should deeply understand that Covid-19 does not discriminate whether you are old or young, or whether you have underlying health problems or not.

Fire at Beirut port brought under control

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIRUT, 11 SEPTEMBER

Smoke billowed from the port in Lebanon's capital on Friday hours after firefighters said they were able to bring under control a huge fire that terrified the city's residents five weeks after a massive blast killed 192, wounded 6,500, left a quarter million people homeless and caused damage worth billions of dollars.

The fire led authorities to order the removal of all dangerous materials from the country's ports and airport to avoid more such incidents that have traumatised the nation of 5 million. Military police have already opened an investigation into the fire.

It wasn't clear what caused the fire that broke out on Thursday afternoon and covered the city with dark smoke and toxic fumes. No one was hurt by the fire, the second at

the port this week. The head of Lebanon's Civil Defence said on Friday the fire was extinguished and firefighters are working to cool down the area of the fire. Many Beirut residents opened their apartments windows and hid in corridors fearing a repeat of the August 4, blast that killed 192, wounded 6,500, left a quarter million people homeless and caused damage worth billions of dollars.

The explosion of nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate stored at the port for six years forced the government to resign six days after. The port explosion is still under investigation and negligence and mismanagement appear to be a main reason. Corruption is widespread in Lebanon, where the ruling class made up of sectarian

## France tries forcing change on Lebanon's politicians

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIRUT, 11 SEPTEMBER

investing little on infrastructure, failing to build a productive economy and pushing it to the verge of bankruptcy.

Anger over corruption and mismanagement has come to a peak after the giant Aug. 4 explosion at Beirut's port, caused by the detonation of nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate that politicians allowed to sit there for years.

Nearly 200 people were killed and tens of thousands of homes were damaged. Another large fire erupted at the port on Thursday, only further traumatizing and frustrating Beirutis.

Poet and journalist Akl Awit wrote in An-Nahar newspaper that he strongly opposes outside interference, but the political elite brought it on themselves. This is a class that does not care about law, constitution, judiciary, morals,

and perhaps eventual accountability. They are known to give empty promises whether to their people or the international community, said Elias Hankash, a legislator from the right-wing Kataeb party who resigned from parliament following the port explosion. Regrettably maybe President Macron does not know whom he is dealing with. Resistance to reform can be startling. In 2018, a France-led conference pledged some USD 11 billion in aid to Lebanon. But it came with conditions of reforms, including audits and accountability changes that could have hurt the factions' corrupt patronage engines. Politicians were unable to pass the reforms to unlock the desperately needed money.

Late last year, Lebanon's economic house of cards collapsed into its worst financial crisis in decades. The local currency has crashed, throwing more than half the country's 5 million people into poverty.

It. In his 2 September visit, Macron came in with a strong push for change. He met with officials from the eight largest political groups.

They were given a so-called French Paper, which lay out a draft program for the new government on everything from how to deal with Covid-19, to investigating the port explosion, rebuilding the port, fixing the electricity sector and resuming talks with the International Monetary Fund.

It reminded many of the nearly three decades when Syria dominated Lebanon, particularly of Rustom Ghazaleh, the late Syrian intelligence general who ran day-to-day affairs in the country and would often summon its politicians to his headquarters in the border town of Anjar. Syria's domination ended in 2005 after nationwide protests

broke out following the assassination for former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

During those years, Syrian intelligence agents were known to drive around Beirut and Lebanon in French-made Peugeot cars. A memo that circulated on social media after Macron's visit showed him and Ghazaleh grinning over a Peugeot.

This time, the owner of the car factory himself came. The big boss came to form a government, it read. On Wednesday, authorities met one key demand by Macron, launching a forensic audit into the central bank to know how billions of dollars were wasted. The factions also quickly agreed to name Lebanese-French citizen Mustapha Adib, Lebanon's ambassador to Germany, as the new prime minister.



French President Emmanuel Macron (R) receiving Lebanese Maronite Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros al-Rahi at the Pine Residence, the official residence of the French ambassador to Lebanon, in Beirut during his visit to the country this month

conscious, earthquakes or even about bankrupting people, he wrote.

This class only wants to stay in power ... (It) understands





For more updates

Kuldeep Yadav's (in photo, left) underwhelming show let Kolkata Knight Riders down in last year's IPL, but the team's chief mentor David Hussey believes that the Indian left-arm wrist spinner is at the "top of his game" this season and will be a consistent performer. "I personally believe after the last eight-nine days of training camp, he's at the top of his game. And he's bowling has a nice rhythm, and with lots of revolutions on the ball," the 43-year-old Australian said.

www.thestatesman.com

**THUMBNAILS**

FIFA endorses app: A smartphone app developed by the international soccer players' union allowing professional players to anonymously report match-fixing approaches was endorsed by FIFA on Friday. The "Red Button" whistleblower app ensures anonymity to protect players who otherwise may fear consequences to their career or personal safety, FIFPro said in a statement.

**19-year-old rugby player dies:** Teenage rugby league player Joel Dark has died in hospital five days after collapsing following a head injury in his senior debut for a club in Newcastle, north of Sydney. The New South Wales Rugby League, which runs the sport in the state, confirmed Dark's death in a statement on Friday.

**Kulkarni meets Rijiju:** Former India spinner Nilesh Kulkarni on Friday said he discussed with sports minister Kiren Rijiju about the development of sports in the country in a recent meeting. Kulkarni's International Institute of Sports Management (IISM) was bestowed with the 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award' for the work done by it.

**Contract extended:** Promoted Premier League outfit Leeds United on Friday confirmed manager Marcelo Bielsa has signed a one-year deal ahead of the club's first Premier League game for 16 years. "Leeds United are pleased to confirm Marcelo Bielsa has signed a new one-year deal with the club to remain as head coach for the 2020-21 season," Leeds said in a statement on their official website.

**Confirmation awaited:** Yuvraj Singh and the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) are waiting for the Indian cricket boards nod that would allow the swashbuckling all-rounder to stage a comeback in domestic competitions, a year after quitting the game, PCA secretary Puneet Bali said on Friday.

**Women's representation:** The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on Friday said it would be aiming to raise the women's representation in its administrative structure by at least 25 per cent in the next few months. In an Executive Council meeting held on Thursday, it was proposed and agreed upon that women's representation should be raised significantly in the BFI set-up.

**Title defence:** Football fans around the world will be putting their game face on as the much-awaited Premier League returns for a new season. The stakes are high for defending champions Liverpool who are primed to scale the summit again as the Reds square off with newly-promoted Leeds United in the season opener on Saturday.

**AGENCIES**  
SEOUL, 11 SEPTEMBER

When the decision was made in 2013 to split the Asian Champions League into east and west geographic zones, it was unthinkable that a team from one half of the continent could book a place in the grand final long before some clubs on the other side had started the group stage. Such a lopsided scenario will likely become a reality in 2020.

The 32 teams from top leagues in Asia started the continental competition in February, but the tournament was suspended the following month because of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the vast distances in Asia and many varied experiences in terms of infections

**TOP OF THE GAME**

and restrictions for the coronavirus, it was impossible for a while for games involving international travel to take place.

After a delay of six months, the Asian Champions League is back. Well, at least half of the league will be back in action next week. Competition in the western zone restarts Monday with clubs from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan meeting in the regional 'hub' of Qatar, where all of the games will take place. The group stage and the first of two play-off rounds will be finished by the end of September. The winner of the western zone is expected to be known when the top two teams play off at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium on Oct. 3.

That's six weeks before

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## Azarenka beats Serena, to meet Osaka in US Open final

AGENCIES

NEW YORK, 11 SEPTEMBER

**V**ictoria Azarenka (in photo, right) stunned Serena Williams 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the semifinals of the U.S. Open on Thursday, denying the American the chance of winning a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title on home soil this year.

Azarenka will play Japan's Naomi Osaka on Saturday in her third final at Flushing Meadows, having lost the previous two to Williams in 2012 and 2013.

Azarenka said her mental game had been crucial in beating the 38-year-old Williams, who needed a medical timeout to have her left ankle retaped in the third set due to Achilles trouble.

Two-times Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka reached the U.S. Open final for the second time in her career with a thrilling 7-6(1) 3-6 6-3 victory over American hope Jennifer Brady on Thursday.

Brady arrived at her first Grand Slam semi-final without having dropped a set in New York and did not show any nerves but Osaka's firepower allowed her to get by the 28th seed. Fourth seed Osaka, who won the first of two consecutive Grand Slam titles two years ago in New York, fired 35 winners and had 17 unforced errors as steady rain pounded on the roof of an otherwise quiet Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Serena Williams already



was struggling to keep up in a fast-paced U.S. Open semifinal when she stopped behind the baseline after a third-set point and leaned over.

She held that pose for a bit, then clutched at her left ankle and asked for a trainer.

While Williams took a medical timeout for a tape job, her latest bid for a 24th Grand Slam singles title seemingly slipping away, her opponent, Victoria Azarenka, sat in a sideline seat, eyes closed, calm and composed as can be. After a delay of about five minutes, action resumed, and while Williams raised the force of her shots and volume of her shouts,

it was Azarenka who finished off a 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory to return to a major championship final for the first time since 2013. "It's been seven years? That's my favorite number. I guess that's meant to be. I'm very grateful for this opportunity," said Azarenka who won the Australian Open in 2012 and 2013 and lost to Williams in the U.S. Open finals each of those two years. "On the road to the final, you have to beat the best players and today was that day."

The loss left Williams just short of No. 24 yet again. She was beaten in the finals of four of the preceding seven Slams, including at Flushing Meadows

in 2018 and 2019.

With her 39th birthday a little more than two weeks away, the question will become: How many more chances will Williams get? This was Williams' fourth consecutive three-setter in New York and although she was far better at the outset Thursday, racing to a 4-0 lead inside of 15 minutes, Azarenka eventually did get going.

Evidence of Azarenka's brilliance: She compiled 12 winners and merely one unforced error in the second set, then continued her baseline mastery in the third, especially with her backhand. That carried her to her first win against Williams

in 11 career Grand Slam matchups between the pair.

Azarenka has won 11 matches in a row; Osaka's streak is at 10 after her 7-6(1), 3-6, 6-3 win over Jennifer Brady in a hard-hitting semifinal filled with fast serves and strong forehands.

Azarenka and Osaka were supposed to play in the final of the Western & Southern Open -- a hard-court event moved from Ohio to New York this year as part of a two-tournament controlled environment with the U.S. Open amid the pandemic -- but Osaka withdrew because of an injured left hamstring.

She had that leg taped Thursday during her high-quality semifinal on the court where she beat Williams for the 2018 title. Osaka served at up to 120 mph; Brady reached 117 mph. And they pounded the ball once it was in play, too, particularly off the forehand side.

They combined for 70 winners -- 35 apiece -- to just 42 unforced errors, each as good as the other, and it took a bit of luck to swing things after 1 hour, 45 minutes.

That's when, at 2-1 in the third set, Osaka earned her first break point with a backhand that clipped the net tape and trickled over. She was able to convert the chance when she hit a deep return of a 110 mph serve, and Brady's backhand in response was called long -- although a television replay showed it actually caught a piece of the back of the baseline. Brady did not challenge the ruling.

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### BCCI AGM postponed indefinitely

NEW DELHI, 11 SEPTEMBER

an AGM by September 30 of each year. "Owing to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, the Registration Department, Tamil Nadu Government, in their press release No. 557 dated 29th July 2020 have extended the period for a registered society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975, to conduct an AGM by three months, from September 2020 to December 2020," said Shah in the letter, seen in IANS. "We also sought legal opinion regarding the applicability of the press release and the Notification on BCCI, and as per their view the same is applicable and BCCI is not required to conduct its AGM by 30 September 2020," he said.

## Messi staying at Barca 'fantastic', says coach

AGENCIES  
BARCELONA, 11 SEPTEMBER

Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman has hailed the news that Lionel Messi (in photo) is staying with the team for the coming season after the Argentine kept the club on tenterhooks by trying to force a move away for free last month. Barca's all-time top scorer confirmed last week that he would remain at the club where he has spent his entire career for the coming season and began training with new coach Koeman for the first time on Monday.

"It's great, everyone knows he's the best player in the world, so to have that player in your team is exceptional," Koeman told the club's official media channel on Friday, speaking for the first time since the Messi saga began. "For us it's now very important to have Leo in the best conditions to play, there's no question about his quality and it's fantastic that he'll be part of the season with Barcelona, everyone is really happy about that."

before the break, while Ruiz-Atil looked lively.

Lens should have made it 2-0 midway through the second half, but forward Simon Banza fluffed a close-range header. PSG had long spells on the ball but hardly threatened. We struggled to create chances, we were missing players, Tuchel said. His side now has a hectic schedule ahead with a home game against Marseille on Sunday followed by Metz at Parc des Princes on Wednesday.

last month's Champions League, where they were thrashed 8-2 by Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals.

"It's good to have a friendly, all the players will have 45 minutes to reach the intensity levels we want to see," added Koeman.

The score is not the most important thing but we've spoken about tactics, what we need to do when we have the ball and how to press the opponent when they have the ball. It's these tactical details that we'd like to see tomorrow."

Messi could make his first appearance since ending the speculation when Barca play Gimnastic de Tarragona in a friendly on Saturday. The Catalans are missing the first two weekends of the new La Liga season due to playing in

'Morgan, Cummins will be available for first match'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ABU DHABI, 11 SEPTEMBER

Star recruits Eoin Morgan (in photo) and Pat Cummins will be available for Kolkatta Knight Riders' IPL opener on September 23 after authorities in Abu Dhabi have agreed to shorten the quarantine period from 14 to six days, according to franchise CEO Venky Mysore.

Mysore said negotiations were still on with the Abu Dhabi authorities to further shorten the quarantine period.

"While they are still negotiating with the authorities, we are reconciled to the fact that we may have to quarantine our three players," Mysore was quoted as saying.

squad in the UAE capital a day after the third and final ODI on September 16 in Manchester. They are arriving on a chartered flight. Abu Dhabi has strict rules around people entering the emirate from outside -- at present a 14-day quarantine is mandatory. But the report said concession has been made in allowing players to train after six days as long as they remain inside the team bubble. Dubai has no mandatory quarantine period unless the person tests positive. So, those players travelling to Dubai will be available to their teams from day one of arrival.

This was also possible since these players have come from another bio-bubble (in Manchester), the report said.

## Asian Champions League set to restart after 6-month delay

AGENCIES

SEOUL, 11 SEPTEMBER

When the decision was made in 2013 to split the Asian Champions League into east and west geographic zones, it was unthinkable that a team from one half of the continent could book a place in the grand final long before some clubs on the other side had started the group stage. Such a lopsided scenario will likely become a reality in 2020.

The 32 teams from top leagues in Asia started the continental competition in February, but the tournament was suspended the following month because of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the vast distances in Asia and many varied experiences in terms of infections

and restrictions for the coronavirus, it was impossible for a while for games involving international travel to take place.

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